







## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

## SITUATION VACANT

Drect posing!!! Showroom, Bill Collector, Tele Caller, Banking, Delivery, Peon, 7086254153, SV/P/A2675/1

**REQUIRED FLUENT ENGLISH SPEAKING CANDIDATES FOR INTERNATIONAL CALL CENTRES IN GUWAHATI, MUMBAI & PUNE, NIGHT SHIFT ONLY, SALARY 15 K ONWARDS + INCENTIVES+ FOOD & ACCOMMODATION, PH: 9085122244, 7670022245, 825282132, SV/P/A2653/1**

Wanted a Head Mistress for reputed Delhi based Play School in Dujian. Only married lady with kids shall be considered for this post. Kindly call your resume with detailed testimoniels accompanied by a cover letter stating your aptitude for the post to playgroupdsh@gmail.com within 15 days of this advertisement for more info contact + 91 995783463, SV/1713/1

Vacancy for the post of Peon at "Panache Score" Qualification under Metric can apply. Interview as on Tuesday to Saturday. Time: 2 pm to 5 pm. Contact: 901035091, Address: R.G.B. Main Road, New Ambika Petrol Pump, SV/P/A1591/

Need Courier Marketing Executive (M), Courier Manager (M), Office Staff (M), Receptionist (F), Ph: 08095334679/795112678, SV/P/A1321/

Need transcriptionist in Guwahati with knowledge of Assamese, Bangla or any other major Indian languages. We pay Rs. 250/- per audio hour. Please apply to career.megsan@gmail.com, SV/P/1409/1

Accounts Officer 3 Nos. Sales Trainer, Warehouse Executive, Contact: 84034533/32/7002673591, SV/P/A178/1

SBI Life requires retired Officials, Teachers, Financial Agents, Housewife. Earn unlimited your spare time, Ph: 703614612, SV/P/2629/1

Required Dealer/RM/SRM for a reputed Stock Broking Company for its Guwahati Branch. Salary negotiable. Please contact +91-8638379366, 739943686, SV/P/2627/1

Required Receptionist and Marketing Officer for a construction company at Guwahati. Email: Id: ictar@instgroup.com. Contact No: 8811092347, SV/P/2645/1

Required experienced Salesman/ Accountant for a FMCG distribution firm, mail resume at partner\_sesenterprises@gmail.com, Cell: 7638077657, Timings (9 am to 2 pm), SV/P/1420/1

Required Faculty for Biological Science (Eligibility: BSc/MSc (Zoology) Interested candidates may walk in for interview between 11 am - 2 pm on 17th July, 2017 at Career Knockers, Jayanta Commercial Complex, 2nd floor, GNB Road, Gaushali Club, SV/P/1420/9/1

St. Paul's Junior College, Barpeta Town, Faculty required for Chemistry. Qualification- M.Sc. Contact No.: 995436026/06, 9435480632. Send the Bio-data in WhatsApp or Email- sunil.kumar21@yahoo.in, Director, SV/P/1421/2

Female Front Office Executive required for a car rental agency at Guwahati. Must be fluent in English, Good Handwriting. Must have Computer knowledge. Call 9435014262, SV/P/A2648/1

**ONLY 30 POSTS, A REPUTED TRAINING INSTITUTE OF NORTH EAST INVITING APPLICATION FROM ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES FOR SHORT TERM CAREER ORIENTED COURSE IN THE FIELD OF AGRIC AND ALLIED SECTOR, ELIGIBILITY-GRADUATE, LAST DATE TO APPLY- 20 JULY 2017, CONTACT- 8822726821, SV/P/A2649/1**

Green Fields Agro one of the prominent Agri Based Firm looking for the following post in Nagaon District. 1. Marketing Executives - 2 posts, 2. Sales Executives - 4 posts. Qualification- Graduate (Agric preferred), Experience - Minimum 2 years in the same field. Send your updated CV to greenfieldsagro2017@gmail.com. Last Date: 22 July '17. SV/P/A2652/1

Only female graduate 30+ age having school going kids join us as Liting Planning Officer. Monthly fixed salary plus incentives. Call 9706030361/9401815919, SV/P/1422/1

Requirement in Multinational Cosmetic Health Sector 10+2 & Graduates, selection on 21/7/2017. SV/P/A2654/1

Urgently required: IT Executive, Salary negotiable. Contact: 8256022233, E-mail: hr.excel@nexccl.in, SV/P/1424/1

Experienced Home Tutor for (XII-XI), Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, P.C.M. Point, 9678990167, SV/P/A2500/30

Physics Home Tuition (Exp. faculty Board, IEE, NEET (XI and XII), Contact: 8011099117, TUITION/P/A2635/1

We provide examinations (male/ female) Teacher for Home Tuition class (I-XII), Blaze Institute (2008), #957411779, TUITION/P/A2635/1

Required an Accountant in a reputed construction firm in Silukhuri, Guwahati. Cont: 9707181102, SV/P/1489/1

Hombased Dataentry Handwriting & Datotyping. Earn- 15000/- Minimum Registration, Guwahati (T&C). 970641101976572292, SV/P/PA1279/

**RESUME BUCKET REQUIRED CANDIDATES FOR DIFFERENT COMPANIES FOR VARIOUS VACANCIES AT GUWAHATI (PEON, HELPER, RECEPTIONIST, ACCOUNTANT, HR, ADMIN, HARDWARE & NETWORKING ENGINEER, DRIVER, SALES & MARKETING EXECUTIVES & HOTEL INDUSTRY STAFFS.) NO REGISTRATION CHARGES (FREE JOB), PH: 8253828132, 7670022245, SV/P/A2506/3**

Urgently required Retired Person & House wife for multi national company. Contact- 86381- 93211 & 954516757, SV/P/AP1245/

Urgent requirement of retired bankers for part time job as a Financial Advisor for Guwahati location. Ph: 9127064930, SV/P/PA041/7

Urgently required female home tutors for class I-XII, (for any subject) Mo. 98643-12777, Tutor/P/1393/9

Require Science and Assamese Tutors for Home Tuition. Contact: 9706098613, Tutor/P/2A55/9

In fond requirement of retired bankers for part time job as a Financial Advisor for Guwahati location. Ph: 9127064930, SV/P/PA041/7

Urgently required Zooology faculty for NEETI Coaching @ a premier institute, Jaiakbari. Call: 8011072690, SV/P/A2647/1

Learn spoken English & English Grammar with Hem Ch. Dutta, result guaranteed @ Kolaz, Chandmari, Ph: 9706971268.. SV/P/A2249/1

**COMPUTER** Spoken English? Learn from Hemanta Deka (Senior most), IRIM (Since: 1991), Panbari, 9843039850, SV/P/PA041/7

Urgently required Zooology faculty for NEETI Coaching @ a premier institute, Jaiakbari. Call: 8011072690, SV/P/A2647/1

**CORRIGENDUM** As per govt order No. ASE/31/2013/125A/X, dt. 14.07.2016, Applicants must have Bengali (MILL.) in H.S.C. Exam. The last date of submission of Application is 18/07/17, 2016 or on 19/07/2017 at 11 am onward. Principal S.P.H.S. School, Dhurbi. Phone No. 9508708855, Corri/SV/T/1701

**TUITION** "Subham Tutoring" provides experienced Male/Female Home Tutors. (Science/ Arts/ Commerce) (X-XII). Mo: 8135803113, Tutor/P/12958/19

Equestrian Classroom Coaching/ Home Tuition (Class IV to XII). Ph: : 73390-50644, 97060-5064, Tutor/P/13836/5

Infoaction provide best home tuition from I-XII (All subjects). # 9864434574, 9706374069, No advance payment. Tutor/P/A2096/30

**100% GUARANTEED BY REPUTED EXPERIENCE HOME TUTOR PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY & MATHEMATICS (VI-XII), MOTION.** Tuition/P/A2519/8

Physics, Chemistry, Maths (XI, XII) & Bio. Sc. Physics Major. Small group tuition. Also Home Tuition Adabari/Goruchur, 8753983155, Tuition/P/14135/12

**GYM**

Own a running AC Gym with imported machines. Investment 28 Lakhs. Call: 9401568824, Gym/P/14132/1

**LOAN**

BALANCE TRANSFER EXISTING HOME LOAN & SAVE INTEREST, LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY, SHREE VINAYAK & ASSOCIATES 94350-82555, Loan/P/A2433/8

Quick Housing Loan, Mortgage Loan at simple documentation only in Ghb. Ph: 708673526, Loan/P/A2353/8

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**COACHING**

Learn driving with Government Recognised School. Expert female instruction for ladies. Contact: Vishwakarma Car Driving Training Centre, 9864055991, 8486257447, Driving/P/13278/3

**DRIVING**

Learn driving with Government Recognised School. Expert female instruction for ladies. Contact: Vishwakarma Car Driving Training Centre, 9864055991, 8486257447, Driving/P/13278/3

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**GYM**

Own a running AC Gym with imported machines. Investment 28 Lakhs. Call: 9401568824, Gym/P/14132/1

**LOAN**

Quick Housing Loan, Mortgage Loan at simple documentation only in Ghb. Ph: 708673526, Loan/P/A2353/8

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Learn driving with Government Recognised School. Expert female instruction for ladies. Contact: Vishwakarma Car Driving Training Centre, 9864055991, 8486257447, Driving/P/13278/3

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:

9854993116, Driving/P/14139/1

**DRIVING**

Driving training with Technical and Mechanical for all car at Guwahati. Ajit. Phone:



## MESSAGE FORTODAY

*It is harder to heal than it is to kill.*

— TAMORA PIERCE

**The Assam Tribune****Manipur killings**

India is definitely not a banana republic where the security forces are given a license to kill innocent civilians in the name of maintaining law and order. Secret killings, extra-judicial killings can no way be justified in the country. While excess by the security forces in the name of maintaining law and order often make headlines but this time the question of extra-judicial killings has been raised. In a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court on Friday directed a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the alleged extra-judicial killings by the Army, Assam Rifles and the Manipur Police in the insurgency-torn Manipur. The Supreme Court passed the order in response to a petition filed by the Extra Judicial Execution Victims Families Association seeking probe and compensation in the alleged 1,528 extra-judicial killings in Manipur from 2000 to 2012 by security forces and police. The petitioner also highlighted that the security force personnel had escaped punishment because they operated under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA) that grants special powers to arrest, conduct searches, seizures and also provides immunity from prosecution. On April 20, the Army had told the Supreme Court that it cannot be subjected to FIRs for carrying out anti-militancy operations in insurgency-prone areas like Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur, while alleging local bias in judicial inquiries conducted against it in these regions, which have tarnished its image.

The Supreme Court order of CBI probe will help to establish whether the killings were genuine or fake encounters carried out by the security forces in the name of tackling insurgency. The security forces are mandated to restore law and order in the trouble torn areas of the country and to ensure that peace prevails. In the quest of tackling militancy, the security forces have no right to kill innocent citizens merely on the suspicion that they were the enemies of the State. And if it happens then democracy would be in grave danger. The security forces while taking steps to tackle insurgency must ensure that they do not resort to any steps which are not within the ambit of the law. The actions of the armed forces should not arouse doubts in the minds of the citizens. The CBI probe will help in unravelling the truth behind the Manipur encounter killings. The Supreme Court order itself will be a deterrent to the armed forces to ensure that fake killings in the name of tackling insurgency do not take place.

**Diplomatic solution**

The standstill between India and China at the Doka La area in the India-Bhutan-China tri-junction does pose a serious threat to relationships between the two nations. Appropriately the gravity of the situation has made the Government hold an all party meeting to apprise the Opposition of the developments, something the NDA Government is normally not in the habit of doing. Reportedly, there was bluster on the part of a few opposition parties and calls for a "tough stand" against China, but on the whole the Opposition supported the Government's stand that a solution had to be found through diplomatic and political channels. There has been an apparent effort to defuse the standstill at the political level, with India's Prime Minister arriving at some sort of understanding with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the G 20 meeting not to allow the situation to escalate. In the context of the current global situation, neither China nor India would gain in anyway if they were to engage in a conflict over the border dispute. On the contrary, China stands to lose much more than India, despite the saber-rattling she has been engaging in since the Doka La standoff, and appears to understand this reality, as shown by her willingness to engage in diplomatic engagements to avoid aggravating the tension at the border.

China, unlike India, is an authoritarian regime and confronts the kind of internal problems India does not. The Chinese leadership very well knows that to maintain rigorous control over her vast population, mere propaganda is not enough. The basic economic needs of the people have to be satisfied and at the current moment any distracting conflict would only come in the way of such an objective. It is clear to observers of the international scene that, with Donald Trump pulling the US out of the Paris Climate Deal and adopting a protectionist "America first" stance, a vacuum has been created as far as the leadership of the global community is concerned. The Chinese would dearly love to project themselves as the superpower which can fill that vacuum and lead the world on the trade and environmental front. A petty dispute with a neighbour would come in the way of such grandiose aspirations, something China would surely wish to avoid. Rather than becoming instruments of destabilization in an already unsettled Asia, both nations can serve as "pillars of stability," which Jinping had acknowledged at Hamburg. Thus any diplomatic effort between the two nations must not remain confined to tacking the stand-off at Doka La. On the contrary, this is an opportune time to thrash out the broader border dispute and strive towards a permanent diplomatic solution.

**The Assam Tribune****From THE PAST****REORGANIZATION OF ASSAM****APHLC Not To Cooperate With Mehta Committee**

From Our Special Representative

SHILLONG, July 15— The All Party Hill Leaders Conference which concluded its two-day session here to day endorsed the stand taken by the APHLC delegation to New Delhi not to participate in the Assoka Mehta Committee to find out an agreed solution for reorganization of Assam. The Assoka Mehta Committee, set up in the joint discussions between the hills and plains leaders in New Delhi on July 8 was asked to try for an agreed solution within August 31. The committee has proposed to hold three sittings two in Assam and one in New Delhi for this purpose and submit its recommendation within August 31.

The conference at the end of its session released a resolution passed unanimously in its time schedule of six months to reorganize the State of Assam. The conference urged upon the Government of India now to go ahead with the implementation of this proposal.

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 1967

**Higher GDP-tax ratio key to development****■ Pranjit Agarwala**

**T**he Indian economy today is the sixth largest in the world with an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Rs 122 lakh major economies and recognized as a newly industrialized nation. For the last two decades the country has had an average growth rate of 7% and in the last quarter of 2014 it surged ahead of China and became the world's fastest growing economy. Yet despite such remarkable economic performance India has not been able to improve its Human Development Index (HDI). According to the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) HDI report, since 2014 India has remained at the rank of 131 out of 188 countries.

HDI measures the level of socio-economic development in a country based on three factors—health, education and income. The health index is calculated by life expectancy; the education index is determined by the literacy rate and access to education. The income factor is calculated by per capita income based on purchasing power parity which indicates the general standard of living in a country. Even though India has improved its HDI classification from low in the 1990s to medium in 2015, progress has been painfully slow because government expenditure on building social capital has been inadequate given the extent of socio-economic deprivation.

South Asia which has the highest levels of malnutrition in the

tors to arrest jobless growth.

However, a low GDP-tax ratio and corruption have for long restricted government finances and obstructed fulfilling development targets. India's GDP-tax ratio of 16% is well below the ratio of emerging market economies (EME) and Organization of Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) countries' averages of 21% and 34% respectively. At the current GDP-tax ratio the

of social justice.

India has a low GDP-tax ratio because of a small tax base. Only 3% i.e. 3.5 crores of India's population pay income tax out of which the majority fall in the lowest income tax slab. But most significantly 75% of India's economy comprising 60% of its GDP is in the informal/unorganized sector and outside the indirect tax net. The fact that there are only 81 lakh registered indirect tax payers in the country gives

an idea of the magnitude of tax evasion and annual revenue loss incurred by the government. Moreover, tax evasion generates black money, fuelling inflation. In OECD countries less than 10% of the economy is in the informal sector.

The informal/unorganized sector is the backbone of the Indian economy. Comprising of small unregistered businesses, small and medium enterprises

the Goods & Services Tax (GST), besides converting India into one common market by subsuming a variety of central and state government cess and taxes, is to widen the indirect tax net by bringing a bulk of the informal/unorganized sector into the formal economy. GST is expected to make the tax system simpler and tax compliance better. Undoubtedly initially a lot of small businesses as well as trade and industry will suffer disruption. But in the long run once the teething problems are overcome and a predominantly informal economy is replaced by a more regulated economy, there will be a seamless flow of goods and services across India, reducing logistical costs, freeing prices from the cascading effects of multiple taxes and black money fuelled inflation, benefiting the ultimate consumer. Moreover, being a consumption end tax regional disparities will decrease.

Taxation is a key to long term socio-economic development. Advanced countries have ample resources for social security measures because of healthy GDP-tax ratios and high levels of tax compliance. A healthy GDP-tax ratio depends on the level of tax compliance in a country. India must therefore change from a corrupt and mainly non-compliant country to a clean and primarily tax-compliant nation. This is vital for the fiscal consolidation and sustainable economic growth of a developing country like India which with its high demographic dividend aspires to become the world's main source of skilled human resource.

**Bengali Hindus****■ Col Manoranjan Goswami (Retd)**

**N**dia is a vast country not just in size and population but also from the viewpoint of different languages and different religions. Assam is a state of distinctive history of the country. Among religious groups, Hindus and Muslims are of predominance and it is very rarely that history has ever seen severe conflict between these two communities.

In India we have 23 languages including 22 Scheduled languages and additional official language of English. 75,000 speak Portuguese and about 20% Dravidian languages. After the official language Act of 1963, English has been included as an official language. So, now in Assam, we have English, Assamese, Bengali and individual autonomous languages from place to place. English shall continue to be a part of official languages as per Clause II of Article 343 of the Constitution of India. Thus India is indeed a country of diversified languages.

Bengali Hindus have become a major factor to be "citizen of India staying in Assam", initially it was only till March 31, 1971, when anyone irrespective of religion and language came to India after 1971 war. This has been mentioned in Assam Accord in document signed by agitation leaders in 1985 in presence of the then Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi. This Assam Accord had the full support from all political parties in India, particularly Congress and BJP and particularly the active student group called AASU. It is also a fact that more than 850 deaths took place as a result of this agitation between 1979 and 1985.

There is also an important issue of Accord and it had the support of every active group in Assam. Every group wants independent status and recognition as is available in other

states in India. Apart from Assam Accord, there is one more problem specific to the state of Assam and it is the granting of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe status to select groups of communities, numbering six. We shall talk about it a little later.

The burning issue, which has still remained unresolved is the issue of granting Indian citizenship to the migrated Hindus from Bangladesh. Here comes the question of Bengali Hindus who were denied citizenship earlier because they came after March 31, 1971. The Assam Accord was very clear that irrespective of the language, anyone who has come to India after March 31, 1971 is not a citizen of India.

BJP government, surprisingly, after success in election announced that any Hindu who are persecuted due to Bangladesh war and settled in Bangladesh and then came to India subsequently, can claim Indian citizenship.

The provision of Assam Accord and distinct provision of Indian constitution (Section V), has made a departure on this issue of citizenship. The majority of Bengali population will now get Indian citizenship irrespective of their date of entry. This is a major departure and it has remained a conflict of language and religion in the volatile state of Assam. The major problem will be the language issue where Assamese may lose its majority status in the long run.

In Assam, another big issue as indicated above is the issue of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, whether we call it social need, or we call it constitutional compulsion. We are in the conflict zone now, as to who really dominates Assam—the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe group, the Bengali speaking group from Barak or the hill tribe zones

spread all over.

Unfortunately, our stronghold on the issue of Assamese language and literature, on which we have had a strong base, is also now dwindling with almost no existence of Sahitya Sabha. The Assam Sahitya Sabha was the custodian of Assamese literature for more than a century but unfortunately, it is also in the crumbling stage. Worst of all, even Assam's leaders, politicians or student groups have not been able to define the word Assamese mentioned in the Assam Accord of 1985. Even the phrase "constitutional protection of Assam" as again mentioned in the Accord has remained hazy and still unexplained in detail.

There were more than 10 meetings between government and student groups on implementation of Assam Accord but the problem have remained same with majority of Bengalis from Barak Valley or elsewhere coming under the protection of the proposed new Act by BJP.

The Assamese language may come under threat in a serious way unless we all sit together (not politicians only) and try to resolve the lost glory of Assamese language. This is also the time where conscious citizens of Assam (do not have to be SCs and STs only) must sit together and see what are the steps Government of India has readily taken about granting SC/ST status.

With regards to granting SC and ST status, people of Assam do not know what the actual status in the government file. Any tribe to be granted SC or ST, under beneficiary provision of constitution have to undergo severe social and educational test. My suggestion to the Government of Assam and Government of India will be, please come out clearly where do we really stand. For political parties, it seems like, it has become more of an election issue and slogan engineering.

With the country's overseas trade deficit likely to touch a staggering Rs 90,000 crore, I was feeling despondent about its prospects when a boxed item on the commercial pages caught my eye. It said that during 2016-17 India had exported human skeletons worth Rs 40 million an all-time record. So things were looking up after all and I decided to talk to the Chairman of the Skeleton Export Promotion Council (SEPC) about this notable milestone in the country's stepped up export drive. I caught up with him as he was leaving for his suburban cemetery office.

"I'm afraid I've to keep this interac-

tion brief," he said. "I've to rush to address the biennial conference of the eastern region Body Snatchers' and Grave Diggers' Association." I began by asking him if the country's economy was in such perilous strait that skeletons had to be exported.

"We're in a difficult situation," he said gravely. "We either export skeletons to earn badly needed foreign exchange or else as a sovereign independent country, we're gone. The choice is as stark as that."

"But why not export something like nuclear technology, computer software

**Export milestone****The last word**  
**S RAGHUNATH**

which will boost the country's prestige." You forget, my boy," said the SEPC Chairman "that we've to export what we're good at. Body snatching comes naturally to us and so why not export skeletons?"

"What are overseas markets like for Indian skeletons?" I asked.

"The markets are buoyant," said the Chairman, "foreign medical students simply love Indian skeletons for performing anatomical shenanigans and despite stiff tariffs and protec-

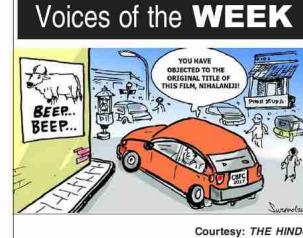
we're managing to hold our own."

"How do you honour top exporters of skeletons?" I asked.

"Well," said the SEPC Chairman, "an exporter who exports skeletons of c.i.f. value Rs 25 million during a fiscal can import, without customs duty, a complete set of graveyard digging tools." What are SEPC's long term goals?" I asked.

"Well," said the Chairman, "during the financial year 2017-18, we aim to export skeletons worth Rs 100 million."

"Re 100 million!" I gasped, "just how do you plan to reach that ambitious goal?" By exporting all the skeletons in the cupboard."



Courtesy: THE HINDU

We have requested the PM to release the flood damage repairing fund from the Centre, overdue to Assam from the year 2015-16 till date, immediately. — RIPUN BORA, President, APCC.

\*\*\*

"It can be a better Test team than any Indian team we have had ... there is a battery of pacers which can do well in all conditions. Their age is such that they are playing at the right time. — RAVISHASTRI, Coach, Indian Cricket team.

\*\*\*

"Government will deprovincialize the schools that were provincialized by manipulating the number of students. You (teacher) should be ready to face punitive action." — HIMANTA BISWA SARMA, Education Minister, Assam

\*\*\*

"In Assam, there are around 70 lakh Bangladeshi Muslim infiltrators. We demand that the Centre should detect and then deport all of them to Bangladesh." — PRAVIN TOGADIA, VHP leader

\*\*\*

"It appears that BJP will use 'mantras' to resolve people's problems and not take real steps." — AKHILESH YADAV, Chief, SP

\*\*\*

"Censor Board has no idea how much it is damaging India's image with their stupid demands, 'Pahalaj Nihalani is a disaster.'" — KABIR BEDI, Actor

\*\*\*

"Modi's policies have created space for terrorists in Kashmir. Grave strategic blow for India." — RAHUL GANDHI, VP Congress

\*\*\*

"I love this sport and until the passion is gone, I will continue to fight for God, my family, my fans and my country." — MANNY PACQUIAO, Boxer

## Free diabetes camp launched

GUWAHATI, July 15: A month-long awareness and medical camp on diabetes and hypertension was launched at Hayat Hospital today. The camp was inaugurated by SBI Chief GM PVSLN Murty. Addressing the gathering, Murty said awareness is the first dealing with life-style diseases like diabetes.

Dr Mihir Saikia, former head of department of Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, said one can keep diabetes under control by taking healthy food and doing regular exercise.

Assam Medical Council's registrar Bhavani Prasad Chakraborty also spoke on the occasion. The Hospital's newsletter *Hayat Mirror* was also released on the occasion. - Staff Reporter



A delegation of Assam Police Service Officers' Association meeting Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at his residence and handing him over a cheque of Rs 3 lakh for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, in Guwahati on Saturday. - UB Photos

## Satyarthi for protecting children from traffickers

SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, July 15: With the State reeling under one of the worst flood situations of recent times leaving lakhs of people affected and displaced, Nobel Laureate child rights crusader Kailash Satyarthi has demanded steps to protect the poor and desperate parents who are often conned into selling their children in such situations.

He urged the stakeholders to adopt measures so that unsupervised elements, especially traffickers, do not succeed in taking advantage of the situation and coerce poor and desperate parents, besides the susceptible

young girls and boys.

Satyarthi, founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), a movement dedicated towards protection of children and ensuring them education, and is credited to have rescued and rehabilitated thousands of children across the country,

directly affected during the current wave of flood in Assam.

"Let us protect them," the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner told *The Assam Tribune* during an exclusive communication. Satyarthi further said that since floods devastate people almost every

livelihood opportunities to displaced people," Satyarthi said.

"It is very depressing to see that Assam is being ravaged again by floods. Natural disasters always lead to human suffering. It is children who become the most vulnerable victims," he opined, adding, "Many lose families, homes, schools and a sense of safety. They become prey to vicious child trafficking gangs who already operate with impunity in many parts of east and north-east India."

Satyarthi further said, "It is, however, heartening to see the Chief Minister taking prompt and proactive steps to help the victims. I hope the entire State administration follows it up."

### Flood-induced humanitarian crisis

urged the government to do everything possible to ensure that the tragedy does not end as a humanitarian disaster.

As per an estimate of the Save the Children, an international non-governmental organisation, nearly six lakh children have been directly or in-

directly affected during the current wave of flood in Assam.

"Two urgent steps need to be taken. First, rehabilitate and protect children who have been orphaned or separated from families. Second, provide

relief and rehabilitate those affected must be institutionalised.

"Two urgent steps need to be taken. First, rehabilitate and protect children who have been orphaned or separated from families. Second, provide

## Bhadra Krishna Goswami feted

GUWAHATI, July 15: A felicitation volume on the life and works of Bhadra Krishna Goswami, chief adviser and former president of Asom Satra Mahasabha was released on Friday evening by Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora, former president of the Asom Sahitya Sabha at a function held in a hotel here.

Releasing the 630-page volume edited by Prof Pona Mahanta, Dr Bora described it as a document of high standard which should be preserved. Earlier, the function was inaugurated by DN Chakrabarty, who highlighted the contribution of Goswami to the socio-cultural life of the State over the years.

Goswami, who turned 85 was felicitated on the occasion by 21 organisations including the Guwahati Press Club and the Media Trust. The function was attended by Kanaklata Deka, Bhadra Krishna Deka, former Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, Khagen Deka, Lilan Mahanta, Hem Bhai Prabhat Mahanta among other dignitaries. The Guwahati Satra Mahasabha presented a borgat on the occasion.

- Staff Reporter

### Retired teachers' memo on pay

GUWAHATI, July 15: All Assam Retired Teachers-Employees Association has submitted a memorandum to the Anomaly Committee of the Seventh Assam Pay Commission.

The association's president Pradeep Kumar Bora and general secretary Khagen Deka said that the previous pay commission had recommended the same hike for both working and retired teachers-employees. The Seventh Pay Commission has recommended different hikes for the two sections. The association opposed this 'discrimination'.

In the memorandum, the association also listed a few other demands. - Staff Reporter

<b>MBBS BDS</b>	<b>MBBS ABROAD</b>
<b>SPECIAL GUIDANCE FOR NEET ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE</b>	
Approved by WHO and Recognized by MCI	
• MAHARASHTRA • KARNATAKA	• CHINA • RUSSIA
• TAMILNADU • DELHI	• NEPAL • PHILIPPINES
• NCR • UP	• UKRAINE • BANGLADESH
SIKISM IMAGE CONSULTANCY EDU. PVT. LTD.	
Gauhati Off.: Auditorium Campus, Rangmanch Path Housing Colony, Rukmin尼 Nagar, Dispur, Gauhati	
Ph: 94353-44388 / 9435341610 <a href="http://www.imageconsultancyedu.com">www.imageconsultancyedu.com</a>	

<b>APOLLO HOSPITALS CHENNAI COLORECTAL CLINIC</b>
Dr VENKATESH MUNIKRISHNA MRCR(EFRCS) Colorectal, CCTUK
Will be available only for consultation at Guwahati
on 22nd July'2017
Patients Suffering from Piles, Constipation, Colorectal Cancer, Anal Lump, Rectal Bleeding, Anal Pain & Anal Fistula can register their names at:
<b>The Apollo Clinic</b>
Kanchan Road, Opp. Bora Service G.S.Road Guwahati - 7
Ph: 0361-2461473 / 1474, 6085616000, 9864112000

We accept all Public Sector & Private Health Insurance Policies. For processing of your Insurance coverage please carry valid address proof, Insurance Card, Proof of Identity & Policy documents.

<b>NORTH EAST CANCER HOSPITAL</b>
Jorabat, Guwahati - 23
Contact: +917399478888, +919435707661
Email : <a href="mailto:nechi.info@gmail.com">nechi.info@gmail.com</a>
<b>Comprehensive Management of Cancer under one Roof</b>
<b>&gt; RADIOTHERAPY</b>
<b>&gt; CHEMOTHERAPY</b>
<b>&gt; SURGERY</b>
<b>&gt; PET-CT SCAN</b>
Visit us at : <a href="http://www.nechi.in">www.nechi.in</a>

<b>PLASTIC PACKAGING UNIT</b>	
"JOBS THAT TAKE YOU AHEAD OF THE PACK!"	
Exciting opportunities in a large-scale RIGID PLASTIC PACKAGING INDUSTRY for GUWAHATI"	
<b>ASSISTANT / DEPUTY MANAGERS PRODUCTION &amp; ELECTRICAL</b>	<b>MANAGERS/ASS'T MANAGERS / OFFICERS</b>
• MAINTENANCE	• PURCHASE & STORES
Qualification: B.E. / B.Tech	Qualification: B.Com
Electrical / Mechanical / CIPET	• FINANCE & ACCOUNTS
• SHIFT ENGINEERS	Qualification: B.E. / B.Tech
• PRODUCTION, ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE & QUALITY ASSURANCE	SHIFT ENGINEERS
Key Skills: Sound Knowledge of Injection molding / Blow molding / ISBM	Production, Electrical Maintenance & Quality Assurance
Excellent Compensation! Attractive Perks!	Key Skills: Sound Knowledge of Injection molding / Blow molding / ISBM
Bonus! Leave! Medical etc	Interested candidates should apply with detailed resume by email within 7 days. Interviews immediate
<a href="mailto:rigidplasticsguwahati@gmail.com">rigidplasticsguwahati@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:rigidplasticsguwahati@gmail.com">rigidplasticsguwahati@gmail.com</a>

<b>DIMORIA COLLEGE, Khetri KAMRUP(M)-782403</b>
<b>ADMISSION NOTICE</b>
For M.A./M.Sc SEMESTER-I:2017
(M.A.) Assamese, Economics
Subjects: (M.Sc): Geology, Eco-Restoration, Environmental Management
Last Date of Form Submission 26.07.2017
Entrance Examination (M.Sc) 31.07.2017 (M.A.) 02.08.2017
Declaration of Selection List 07.08.2017
Admission (Arts) 10.08.2017 (Science) 11.08.2017
Classes From 16.08.2017
Eligibility: For Assamese, Economics, Geology- Graduate with Major in relevant subject.
For Eco-Restoration, Environmental Management- All Science Graduates
For details and online forms visit: <a href="http://dimoriacollege.org">dimoriacollege.org</a> , Email id: <a href="mailto:dimoriacollege.khetri@rediffmail.com">dimoriacollege.khetri@rediffmail.com</a>

<b>GAUHATI UNIVERSITY</b>
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GOPINATH BARDOLI NAGAR, GUWAHATI-781014, ASSAM
Fax: 0361-2700311 website: <a href="http://www.gauhati.ac.in">www.gauhati.ac.in</a>
<b>COUNSELLING for B.Tech. Admission (Based on CEE Marks)</b>
Date: 19th July, 2017, Wednesday, 11 a.m.
Venue: Gauhati University Institute of Science and Technology
Branches: (i) Biotechnology (ii) Computer Science and Engineering (iii) Electronics and Communication and Engineering (iv) Information Technology
The detail information sheets can be downloaded from the GU website <a href="http://www.gauhati.ac.in">www.gauhati.ac.in</a> . Director, GUIST

<b>State Bank of India RETAIN ASSETS CENTRAL PROCESSING CENTER SWAGOTA SQUARE, 4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, ABC POINT, BHANGAGARH, GUWAHATI-781008</b>
Phone: 0361-2465652, Fax: 0361-2465668, Email: <a href="mailto:agmrcg.zgwg@sbini.co.in">agmrcg.zgwg@sbini.co.in</a>

**Notice u/s 13(2) of Securities and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Hereinafter called the "Act")**

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrowers Shri Pranab Kumar Mahanta, Sri-Skrishna Kanta Majhi and Smt. Priyanka Mahanta, Shri Pranab Kumar Majhi have not paid the amount of principal and interest of the loan amount obtained from the bank and the loans have been declared as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to 1) Shri Pranab Kumar Mahanta 2) Smt. Priyanka Mahanta under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned unsevered and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor/ Legal Heirs	Details of Properties/Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice	Date of NPA (As on the date of publication of this notice)
1) Shri Pranab Kumar Mahanta	Equitable Mortgage over plot of land measuring 1/6 Acres with a 14x 22' 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor residential building construction covered by Dag No 180/0/424/3494(N), K.P.Patta No.59/O/141/551(N) of village Falaknagar, Morigaon, District Bongaigaon bounded by North-Dag No.180, South-Dag No.180, East-Dag No.180, West-Road	03.07.17	Rs.11,27,101.00 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred One Only)
2) Smt. Priyanka Mahanta			

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and/or their Guarantor(s) and/or their Legal Heirs (wherever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: 14.07.2017 Place: RACPC, Guwahati

Authorized Officer  
For, State Bank of India

<b>FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA</b>
E-Tender Extension Notice (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
E-Tender No. LTPS/GM/2017-18-(Ph-1)/754, dt. 24/04/2017
<b>NAME OF WORK:</b> Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Audio-Visual System in the Conference Hall at GM Office of LTPS, APGC, Mabiala.
This is to inform that the due dates of the above mentioned e-tender are hereby extended as mentioned below:
1. Last date of online bid submission : Up to 15.30 Hrs. of 01/08/2017.
2. Date of Technical bid opening : At 16.00 Hrs. of 01/08/2017.
3. Date of price bid opening: At 16.00 Hrs. of 09/08/2017.
All other terms and conditions shall remain the same.
For details please visit <a href="http://www.apgc.etenders.in">https://apgc.etenders.in</a>
Sd/- General Manager Lakwa Thermal Power Station
SA/2017/48



A fruit seller selling pineapples at Ganeshguri in Guwahati on Saturday. - UB Photos

<b>OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC REGISTRAR GAUHATI UNIVERSITY GOPINATH BARDOLI NAGAR GUWAHATI-14, ASSAM, INDIA</b>
<b>COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR AYURVEDA &amp; HOMEOPATHY [CEEAH-2017]</b>
The admission to 1st year BAMS/BHMS courses for the session 2017-18 in Govt. Ayurvedic College, Guwahati and 3 (three) Homeopathic Medical Colleges in the state will be held through Common Entrance Examination for Ayurveda & Homeopathy [CEEAH-2017] which will be conducted by Gauhati University.
The application form for admission to various courses of BAMS/BHMS courses in Govt. Ayurvedic College, Guwahati and 3 (three) Homeopathic Medical Colleges in the state will be applied online at the Official Website of Gauhati University ( <a href="http://www.gauhati.ac.in">www.gauhati.ac.in</a> ) for appearing in the Common Entrance Examination for Ayurveda & Homeopathy [CEEAH-2017] which will be conducted by Gauhati University.
The process of online application will be open from 17th July, 2017 to 25th July, 2017. Further instructions will be available during the Online Application Process. Details need not require submitting any hard copy of the Application.
Admit Cards/Hall Tickets may be downloaded from the website ( <a href="http://www.gauhati.ac.in">www.gauhati.ac.in</a> ) from 26th July, 2017 to 31st July, 2017.
CEEAH-2017 will be based on the NCERT syllabus adopted by AHSEC, Assam. The examination will be MCQ Type and comprise of a Single Paper of 3 (three) hour duration with the following distribution.
a) Physics 60 questions b) Chemistry 60 questions c) Biology 60 questions
2 (Two) marks will be awarded for every right answer. There is no negative marks for wrong answer.
For any other relevant information, students may refer to the Information Booklet uploaded in the Website ( <a href="http://www.gauhati.ac.in">www.gauhati.ac.in</a> ).
The CEEAH-2017 will be held on 6th August (Sunday).
Sd/- Academic Registrar Gauhati University Guwahati-14

## Aryabhata Centre's orientation prog

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 15: A two-day orientation programme for the new coordinators of the Aryabhata Science Centre was organised at the Regional Science Centre here on July 12 and 13, said an official release here today.

The programme was inaugurated by former Director of the North East Space Application Centre (NESAC), KC Bhattacharyya.

In his speech, Bhattacharyya spoke on the solar system and also on Aryabhata, the first in the line of great mathematicians from the classical age of Indian mathematics and astronomy. Dr RK Barman, Head of the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC), Science and Technology Division, and Basudev Mandal, Project Coordinator of the Regional Science Centre were also present in the inaugural session.

In all, 21 new block coordinators of the Aryabhata Science Centre from the districts of Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Cachar, Chirang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Sonitpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri took part in the programme.

Dr AK Mishra, ASTEC Director, addressed the concluding function of the programme as the chief guest. In his address, Dr Mishra underlined the role of the Aryabhata Science Centre in removing superstition from the rural society of the State.

He also distributed certificates among the participants in the programme.



# Marooned visually challenged elderly couple rescued in North Lakhimpur

FARHANA AHMED

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, July 15: A visually challenged elderly couple, both in their late 70s, were rescued from a flooded house in a remote Lakhimpur village as the flood situation in the district looked up.

Padmeshwar Das and his wife Chobi Das, both visually challenged, were marooned in their hut at Amrola village in Lakhimpur district since several days now as the couple had no one to take care of them. Though their son is long deceased, the elderly couple were looked after by their daughter and son-in-law. Their daughter, it may be mentioned, had to stay away due to her pregnancy, and their son-in-law too could not come due to the floods.

Fortunately, the crew of a

news channel first spotted the helpless couple today and they were subsequently rescued from the flooded village by Dr Joy Prakash Das, president of the District Congress Committee. The elderly couple were taken to Rajeey Bhawani by Dr Das, where they were taken care of by people with medicine, food and clothing.

However, there are thousands of people who are still marooned in many parts of the district. According to the district authority, about 65,688 persons have been affected by floods in 235 villages across North Lakhimpur. The district administration till July 13 distributed 38,39 quintals of rice, 1,251.23 quintals of pulses, 3,870.82 quintals of salt, 1,948 pieces of tarpaulin, 385 tube wells and 2,792.48 quintals of cattle fod-

der in the flood-affected areas. The NDRF and SDRF personnel from flood affected areas so far in Lakhimpur district and 20 flood relief camps have been set up in remote flood hit areas of the district. The district administration has also set up

227 healthcare centres for the flood victims in the district. However, many flood-affected areas are still out of the assessment of flood relief operations in Lakhimpur district.

Many villagers of Gossipaam, Gopsar, Kulamowa, Maazgaon, Jamuguri, Nahar-

bari and Bhekeli under North Lakhimpur Revenue Circle alleged that they had not been given any relief material. Villagers near Angarkhowa Chariali have been demanding the cutting off of dyke on the southern side of river Sonidri to release the stagnant flood

water of the Ranagandi. The Lakhimpur Deputy Commissioner Braun Bhuyan and Circle Officer Manjeet Borkakoti visited the affected area, but a rift among the villagers concerning the dyke has made the situation more complex.

## Governor reviews Dhemaji flood situation

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAJ, July 15: Governor Baruar Bora held a review meeting at 10 am today with the district administration officials, including the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police along with other officials of different departments.

He took stock of the prevailing flood situation in Dhemaji district and asked the Deputy Commissioner about the condition of the bridges in the flood-affected areas, including the Kunita RCC bridge and the situation in the flood-hit villages under Dhemaji, Sisiborgaon, Gogamukh, and Jona-



Purohit at the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project site, Saturday. — UB Photos

revenue circles.

Dhemaji Deputy Commissioner Roshni Aparanji Korati informed the Governor about the district administration's effective and expeditious

measures to reach out to the affected people. She also informed the Governor that more than 500 villages under 4 revenue circles in the district have been affected by the current wave of floods.

The Governor then discussed with Hari Prasad Mit, Executive Engineer of the Water Resource Department, Dhemaji Division, about the situation of the embankments in the district. Mit submitted a memorandum in this connection to the Governor, who subsequently directed the engineer concerned of PHE to supply adequate drinking water to the flood-affected in the districts without fail.

Later, the Governor visited the Kumata bridge and its dykes, Tengara bridge on Gilimara-Dhalukhaha PWD Road, besides flood-affected villages under Gogamukh circle and NHPC project at Gokamukhi in Lower Subansiri.

## ADVERTISEMENT

No.OPE44/2000/V-I/91

Applications are invited in Standard Form of application for the post of Head Assistant in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara in the Scale of Pay Band I-A (Grade 10) and Grade II Posts, Rs. 8700/- plus other allowances as admissible as per rule for the time to term. None need apply who has not rendered at least 10 (ten) years of service as a Senior Assistant (including Supervisory Assistant) in any Deputy Commissioner's amalgamated establishment in the State of Assam. Preference will be given to a candidate having valid experience or qualification in different branches of Government's establishment. Application stating age, educational qualification, present and permanent address and experience in different Branches with the period of incumbency in each Branch (including contact number) should reach the office of the undersigned on or before 31st July 2017. The applications should be submitted through the proper channel. The candidate will have to appear for an interview at their own cost as and when called for.

No TA and DA will be admissible for the journey performed in this connection.

Sd/- Ghansham Das, IAS

Deputy Commissioner

Goalpara

Janasanayog/5280/17

## TENDER NOTICE

The Directorate of Geology & Mining, Assam invites sealed tenders papers affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & twenty five paise) only of tenders from reputed manufacturers, dealers or authorized firms or persons for supply of the following items.

Tender No. GMET/2017/299

date 15/07/2017,

1. Computer peripheral.

2. Survey &amp; Geodetic Equipments etc.

3. Welding, Field equipments and other miscellaneous equipments.

Tender papers can be collected from this office on any working days w.e.f. 18-07-2017 to 31-07-2017 at a cost of Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten only) per tender only as cost of tender papers in favour of the Directorate of Geology & Mining, Assam, Kaliapara, Guwahati - 781019. The technical bid and financial bid may be enclosed separately for every tender.

The last date of submission of tender papers is 31-07-2017 up to 1.00 PM. The tenders will be opened on the same days after 2.00 PM in presence of authorized representatives from each of the tenders. Date of last date of submission of tender papers 31-07-2017 to be decided by Govt. Holiday/Bandha the tender will be open on

(N.B:- in case of software the authorization certificate should be attached with the bid)

Sd/- Director

Directorate of Geology &amp; Mining, Assam

Kaliapara, Guwahati-19

Janasanayog/1775/17

**OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR**  
**RASHTRIYA MADHYAMIK SIKSHA ABHIJAN, ASSAM**  
Kaliapara, Guwahati-781019

## e-Tender Notice

This is an invitation to submit a proposal for implementing 'Tele-Education in Government and Panchayat Schools across Assam' in a phased manner through e-procurement system of Govt. of Assam i.e. <https://assamtenders.gov.in> for eligible class of work, tender terms and conditions etc. The tender document can be purchased by registering at <https://assamtenders.gov.in> from 15-07-2017 to 16-08-2017, 14:00 hours and making payment of Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten only) per tender. The tender document can be purchased only in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favor of Mission Director, RMSA, Assam payable at Guwahati.

The tender is to be submitted online through the e-procurement portal of Govt. of Assam i.e. <https://assamtenders.gov.in> on or before 16/08/2017 at 14:00 hours.

Design, Installation, Operation & Management, Maintenance of the above works on turnkey basis.

Details of tender:

- The tender document (EMD) INR 20,000.00

- The form of contract will be a Pure Contract.

- The details of the work and requirements are provided in the tender document. The Project has to be submitted as described in the tender.

- The tender shall have following components (i) Eligibility Document, EMD & Tender fee (ii) Technical Bid & Commercial Items (iii) Financial Bid

- Last Date/Time for Submission of Bids: 16/08/2017 at 2.00 PM

- Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 16/08/2017 at 3.00 PM

- All tenders received in response to this tender competition must be submitted by e-mail to [rmasam2009@gmail.com](mailto:rmasam2009@gmail.com) as per the date and time mentioned in the tender for receiving quotations.

RMSA, Assam reserves the right to amend or cancel the tender without assigning any notice or reason. In the event of non-availability of sufficient bidder (or less than three bidders), the authority has the right to select bidder without prior notice.

Janasanayog/87/17

Sd/- Mission Director, RMSA, Assam

## Over 70,000 affected by deluge in Jonai

ANN Service

JONAI, July 15: The flood situation at Jonai sub-division of Dhemaji district has improved considerably as water levels in the rivers and streams have started receding since the last three days.

Floods caused by Lai and the Brahmaputra inundated many human habitations under Bahir-Sille, Bahir-Jonai,

Rayang-Bijupur, Gali-Sikari, Ramdhama, Misamora and Sonkong Samapcha under Jonai revenue circle. Thus, the first wave of flood affected 70,300 people in the circle, while it inundated 12,215 hectares of standing crops.

However, the sub-divisional administration has not yet opened relief camps anywhere, and distributed relief material among the affected families.

## 346 Dhubri district villages hit by floods

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, July 15: Although the water level in most of the rivers have receded, however, all of them are still flowing much above the danger level. Till date, three flood-related deaths have been recorded throughout the district.

Even now, 346 villages have been submerged throughout the district, of which 114 villages are under Dhubri Circle.

have been established and 20 engine boats engaged in rescue operations. In Athani Revenue Circle, 3 relief camps have been established and 7 machine boats engaged by the administration for rescue operations.

Meantime, many among the flood-hit people complained that relief supplies were too meager and they were suffering due to lack of proper drinking water facilities.

## Dibrugarh pays homage to RG

BUREAU

DIBRUGARH, July 15: The 40th death anniversary of Singapuri Radha Govinda Baruah, popularly referred to as 'RG', was observed here today at a solemn ceremony at the Lakshminath Bebarah Park.

The function was organised by the Dibrugarh R G Baruah Memorial Committee.

Those who garlanded RG's bust at the park and offered floral tributes included the committee's president Dr Kamini Ranjan Baruah, secretary Ron Duarah, members Dipon Baruah and Kalyan Sonowal and leading citizens Dr Sunil Kumar Borthakur, Joy Chandra Gogoi and Anila Devi Das, among others.

GOLOKA CHINPEL

Mukti Shilpa Kendra, Golokapura, Golokapura

Stg. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 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, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865,


**WEATHER  
NORTHEAST**

**Forecast for North Eastern States:**  
Moderate to heavy showers is very likely to occur in places over Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya & Assam and light to moderate rain/thunderstorms is likely to occur at a few places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya.

**Warning:** Nil

**Temperatures :**

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	34.8	27.2
Tazpur	33.9	26.1
Silchar	35.5	25.0
Dhaka	34.0	24.4
Jorhat	34.4	26.7
N Lakhimpur	36.5	23.0
Shillong	26.8	15.4
Imphal	30.9	23.2
Itanagar	35.2	24.0
Aizawl	NA	22.0
Agartala	32.2	26.4
Kohima	26.3	18.8
Pasighat	34.3	24.9
Cherrapunjee	25.7	16.7

**New case of swine flu confirmed in Manipur**

IMPHAL, July 15: Manipur Health Minister L Jayentakumar on Saturday announced that a 45-year-old man from Imphal west district has been confirmed to be suffering from swine flu.

Jayentakumar appealed to the people not to panic, saying that the disease has been overcome in the past. "Now people are more conscious and aware of the disease."

The Minister said: "The person was admitted in a private hospital on July 4 on being suspected of suffering from swine flu. His samples were sent to Mumbai for analysis on July 10 and on July 14 he tested 'positive' for the disease. The patient is lodged in the ICU of the private hospital."

He said that all government and private hospitals in the State have been instructed to be prepared to cope with any situation, adding that health officials are in close contact with the private hospital where the swine flu patient is lodged. The Minister said that the Health department has done everything possible to prevent an outbreak of the disease.

Directors of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences and JN Institute of Medical Sciences, RK Dinesh and Deven Laishram respectively, said that isolation wards have been opened for suspected patients of this disease. However till date, no patient has been admitted. Government sources said that as Manipur has been reeling under floods, proper attention has not paid to preventive measures against swine flu. Rearing of pigs is a common practice in the hilly and valley areas of the State. - IANS

**Landslide hits NH-2 in Nagaland**

KOHIMA, July 15: A major portion of the National Highway 2 between Nagaland and Manipur was completely washed away today after a landslide occurred near Viswema village in Nagaland's Kohima district, police said.

The landslide occurred in the morning about 200 meters away from Viswema village, a police officer said. Traffic movement came to a standstill since 70 meters of the road was washed away by the landslide. National Highway 2 happens to be the lifeline of Manipur since all goods vehicles, passenger vehicles and supplies reach the State through this route.

The villagers have constructed a temporary footpath after the landslide so that people could cross the affected portion. The villagers also started helping stranded motorists by carrying their baggage from one side to the other. Efforts were on to repair the road with the help of Border Road Task Force, the police officer said. - PTI

## Mizoram sees quantum jump in Excise revenue

**CORRESPONDENT**

AIKAWA, July 15: Mizoram has witnessed manifold increase in Excise revenue since the lifting of the 17-year-old total prohibition of liquor in the early 2015.

According to Statistical Handbook of Mizoram 2016, the revenue earned from liquor sale increased to Rs 607.90 lakh in 2015-16 from Rs 458.93 lakh in 2014-15.

The revenues were earned

## Congress to launch stir if Tripura blockade continues

AGARTALA, July 15: The Opposition Congress in Tripura on Saturday threatened to launch a State-wide agitation if the Left Front Government does not intervene to stop the road and rail blockade by a tribal party that has led to shortage of essential items in the State as it entered the sixth day.

A 12-member Congress delegation led by former Minister Lajmi Lamu Akhil Kumar Shukla and chief Aikhl Kumar Debarma told that if the blockade continues, they would organise State-wide agitations to restore normalcy in the interest of the people.

"For the past six days the IPFT (Indigenous People's Front of Tripura) leaders and members are blocking the vital national highway and the lone railway line caus-

ing serious distress to the people. The Left Government has remained a silent spectator," Nag told the media after meeting the Director General of Police.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has told the IPFT leaders that if the party is voted to power in the 2018 Assembly elections in Tripura, it would create a 'Tribal Autonomous State Council' to give more autonomy to tribal areas.

"The BJP if voted to power, will replace the TTAADC by a State council through which tribal people can get more benefit in real terms," the saffron party's tribal wing leader Jishma Debarma told the media.

Opposing the BJP's proposal, the ruling CPI-M (Communist Party of India-Marxist) State secretary

Bijan Dhar said there is no provision of 'Autonomous State Council' in the Constitution.

"The BJP is behind the road and rail blockade agitation to get political mileage before the Assembly election. The party is trying to fool the tribals by proposing a vague offer," Dhar told reporters.

However, the BJP leaders denied the CPI-M's accusation.

The six-day long blockade of National Highway-8, the life line of Tripura, and rail blockade, called by the IPFT to push their separate State demand, has worsened the severe crisis of essentials even as the agitators vowed to continue the strike.

The tribal party's general secretary Mevar Kumar Jamatia and its youth wing president Dhaman-

joy Tripura are in New Delhi since Thursday to meet with Central Ministers and officials.

"We have met senior Home Ministry officials and expect to meet Union Minister of State Kiren Rijiju on Monday or Tues-

day," Jamatia told IANS over phone.

"The road and rail blockade would continue until we get a clear-cut promise from the Central Government to resolve the matter.

According to IPFT president Narendra Chandra Debarma, in Agartala at least 17 persons, including women, have fallen sick at the blockade site.

The indefinite blockade has caused a crisis in supply of essentials, food grains, fuel, basic goods

and other items in the markets of Tripura. The bordering northeastern State mostly depends on the northern and south Indian States for food grains, fish, essentials and other basic items.

The IPFT has sought the Governor's intervention and a tri-partite meeting between them, the Centre and State Government to resolve the matter.

The IPFT since 2009 has been agitating for a separate State carved out by upgrading the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAACD) areas.

The politically important TTAADC constitutes two-thirds of Tripura's 10,491 sq km area, which has 12,16,465 (mostly tribals) of the State's 37 lakh population residing in it.

The Left Front Government led by Manik Sarkar, which is strongly opposed to both the demand and the stir, has taken unprecedented security measures in and around the Baramura hill ranges, through which the NH-8 and the lone rail way line passes.

INPT president and former extremist leader Bijoy Kumar Hrangkaw said that Tripura is the "Twipraland" and tribals are living here for decades and there is no need to split the State.

"To protect the interest of the tribals, TTAADC can be more powerful with the increase of financial support, prolongation of inner line permit for the outsiders, more land rights to the tribals and all-round development of the concerned areas," Hrangkaw said. - IANS

### Rape-tainted MLA removed from both panels of Assembly

SHILLONG, July 15: Rape-accused Meghalaya MLA Julius K Dorphang who was earlier this month appointed member of two committees of the State Assembly have been removed from both the posts.

Assembly Speaker Abu Taher Mondal said the Assembly has rectified the notification in which Dorphang was included in the two committees of the House.

He said, "The Assembly office has decided to modify the earlier notification issued on July 7 in which Dorphang was appointed member of two committees of the House on Privileges and Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

The term of two committees is co-terminus with the term of the current Assembly or till its dissolution, he said.

Dorphang, who led an armed insurgent outfit until he gave up in 2007, was replaced by Independence Day awardee Dr. S. M. Samdani in the Privileged Committee while Kenneth R Sangma was made member of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Mondal said.

The decision came after stiff opposition by women's organisations including the Meghalaya State Commission for Women against the appointment of Dorphang in the committee.

State Commission for Protection of Child's Rights (SCPCR) chairperson Meena Kharlong, who is the main complainant in the case, had also expressed her strong opposition on the matter.

Two FIRs were registered allegedly raping a 14-year-old. - PTI

## Rijiju meets farmers in flood-hit Arunachal



ALO (Arunachal Pradesh), July 15: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju today met farmers in Arunachal Pradesh where floods have caused heavy damage to crops and assured them of all help from the Centre and the State Government.

Rijiju along with a Central team, visited the deluge-affected Aalo area in West Siang district and assessed the situation in villages there. The Minister of State for Home met the farmers who have lost their standing crops, houses and family members, and listened to their grievances in the presence of district management.

"I assure you all possible help from the State as well as from the Centre. Due to very bad weather, sometimes it becomes difficult to visit each and every area to assess the damage but the government has

been monitoring the situation very closely and no one would be left behind," he said.

Rijiju also talked to senior officials of the district management and took stock of their response and preparedness. He asked authorities to expedite the distribution of medicines to the villagers as there was a looming threat of a malaria outbreak.

Farmers, who had gathered in a large number, personally briefed the Minister about the entire situation and sought relief.

"I want to assure the farmers that they would be compensated by the government for their damaged crops. The Centre as well as the State Government is looking into the loss," he said.

The Minister said he has asked the administration to prepare a de-

tailed report of the damage so that further assistance could be provided soon.

"The Centre released funds for the State Government day before yesterday. The State Government is also working round the clock with authorities to restore roads, connectivity and essential supplies as landslides and rains have caused heavy damage. I am personally visiting the farmers so that the ground situation can be assessed," he said. Rijiju asked the villagers that in this difficult time, the government was with them as he oversaw relief operations in affected areas in the entire region.

The State Government has been assessing the extent of damage and loss to farmers after weeks of heavy rains caused landslides which left a trail of destruction in the State,

several major roads in Arunachal Pradesh have been damaged due to landslides with district officials working round the clock to restore the roads.

Floods and landslides triggered by incessant rain last week have completely cut off many district headquarters in the state from the rest of the country, officials said.

The State capital was virtually cut off with its lifeline NH-415 getting washed away at the entry point, while the alternate road via Jatinga remained blocked leaving only one road open through Hollong on route Lakhimpur district in Assam, they said.

Rijiju has asked the district authorities to submit a detailed report of loss and damage so that further action can be initiated accordingly. Major rivers in the State are still flowing above the danger level while surface communication was disrupted at many places along the NH-415 that links Assam with Arunachal Pradesh, officials said.

Officials said 15 granaries and several houses have been inundated by waters of Yomgo river while a poultry farm was also badly affected. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also spoken to Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu over phone and assured full support from the Centre and said that the country is with the State during these trying times.

Rijiju is accompanied by Vikram Singh Garai, Joint Secretary (Niti Aayog); L Ravi Joseph, IG, NDRF; Ravinder Singh, Consultant (Landslide & Avalanche), NDMA; and Gopinath Chhawanya, Director, MHA. - PTI

## Indo-Bangla border peaceful despite lingering problems

**RAJU DAS**

SHILLONG, July 15: With tension brewing in the western and northern sectors bordering Pakistan and China, the relationship at the Indo-Bangla border is now more than cordial and provides stability in the sub-continent.

Although there are some lingering border problems between India and Bangladesh like crossing over of militants, anti-social elements, smuggling and border crimes, but both New Delhi and Dhaka have not let these problems come in the way while strengthening relations.

This bonhomie was visible today when the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) held the first joint press conference here at the end of the four-day bilateral border coordination meeting.

BSF's Inspector General (Meghalaya Frontier), PK Dubey and BGB's Additional Director

General, (Sarai Region,) Mohd Zahid Hasan spoke about the problems openly, as well as the cordial relationships the two forces share.

India, Bangladesh shares common culture, history and heritage. We share common pain and pleasure. We cannot forget the supreme sacrifice of the people of India in achieving Bangladesh's freedom," Hasan said.

He went on to add: "we are required to take certain decisions without depending too much on the higher ups. This should be our attitude."

Meghalaya shares a 443-km border with Bangladesh. There are patches, which is yet to be fenced. It is these gaps that criminals and militants take advantage of maintaining peace and tranquility along the border areas."

Hasan said that all the current and pending border issues were discussed during the conference.

The confidence in the relationship could be further understood from Dubey's statement when he said, time has come to take decisions at the ground level, to solve minor problems, without

always seeking approvals from higher ups.

"It is important to believe in dealing things at the ground. Referring issues to Ministry or headquarters is very easy thing to do. Taking a decision requires a little courage and conviction," Dubey said.

He went on to add: "we are required to take certain decisions without depending too much on the higher ups. This should be our attitude."

Meghalaya has a 443-km border with Bangladesh. There are patches, which is yet to be fenced. It is these gaps that criminals and militants take advantage of maintaining peace and tranquility along the border areas."

The confidence in the relationship could be further understood from Dubey's statement when he said, time has come to take decisions at the ground level, to solve minor problems, without

always seeking approvals from higher ups.

Apart from the church, the main opposition Mizo National Front has been organising rallies against the opening of liquor shops with an aim to stir Christian sentiments.

Sale of liquor has faced stiff opposition from the influential Mizoram Presbyterian Church, the largest denomination in the Christian-majority State, which has successfully obstructed the government's plans to open liquor shops in a number of locations in Aizawl.

The MNF alleged that hundreds of people have died after the opening of wine shops.

## Khandu launches 'Smart Classroom' under CM's Adhunik Shiksha Yojana

**CORRESPONDENT**

ITANAGAR, July 15: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu today launched the 'Smart Classroom' project under the Chief Minister's Adhunik Shiksha Yojana at the Govt Higher Secondary School in Itanagar.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister exuded hope that with the introduction of 'Smart Classroom' using the integrated community computer sets, known as K-Yan (Knowledge Yan), it would give a big push to State's education sector ushering in a bright future for the coming generation.

He informed that the 'Smart Classroom' project was undertaken through a tri-partite agreement between State's Education and IT Departments and EdCIL (India) Limited, a Govt. of India enterprise. As per the agreement, the project would be introduced in the State-run primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools in the coming three years.

In the first phase, 713 government schools across the State, including 100 higher secondary, 182 secondary, 178 upper primary and 253 primary schools will be covered, informed the Chief Minister. So far, 21 master trainers and 1,097 teachers have been imparted training on 'Smart Classroom' project.

The Chief Minister said it needs some time for the teachers to familiarize themselves with the electronic teaching devices and might face some prob-

lems. But with time such trivial issues can be overcome when we understand the myriad advantages the use of technology in classroom teachings offers.

Khandu appreciated the efforts of EdCIL and State Education Department for creating a rich content of information in the K-Yan device as teaching aid for students from Kindergarten to Class XII.

He informed that content for Hindi teaching will be completed by August this year.

The teaching device uses rich multimedia platform that can display visual contents using videos and pictures, which will empower both teachers and students in their teaching-learning process.

He announced that from this year onwards, board exams will be introduced for class V and class VIII. Through such system, he hoped that it would bring in sincerity among teachers, students and parents. He said that education cannot be left alone to teachers and students but emphasized on the role of parents as well. He said a collaborated effort of teachers, students and parents is must for quality education for children.

Speaking on the occasion, Assembly Speaker Tenzing Norbu Thongdok said that education has come a long way from traditional classrooms teaching to the introduction of smart classrooms.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowdhury Mein emphasized on backup plan for successful implementation of smart classrooms and assured State Government's support in creating such infrastructure and facilities.







## Tejaswi skips govt function attended by Nitish

PATNA, July 15: The acrimony between the JD(U) and the RJD seems to have reached a flashpoint with Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejaswi Prasad Yadav today skipping a government function, which was attended by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The organisers initially covered the nameplate of Tejaswi, the special guest at the function, whose seat was next to the Chief Minister's, but later removed it. The function was held to mark the World Youth Skill Day.

The matter did not end here. Kumar, who was sitting next to Labour Resources Minister and RJD leader Vipin Prakash, subsequently swapped his seat with JD(U) minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, who was sitting on his right. This was seen as an attempt by the Chief Minister to maintain a distance with the RJD

minister.

The episode was captured in still as well as video cameras of the electronic media to show how the acrimony between the two Grand Alliance partners was growing with every passing day in the wake of the CBI registering an FIR against Tejaswi and others in connection with a land-for-hotels scam case.

The developments on the dais at the newly-built Gyan Bhawan here came a day after RJD chief Lalu Prasad rejected the CBI's report in his papers, a move seen as being dismissive of the CBI putting pressure on the Deputy Chief Minister to quit.

When the reporters bombarded the Chief Minister with questions on Tejaswi skipping the function, he said firmly and extended Skill Day greeting to the scribes. Labour Minister

Vijay Prakash, who is from the RJD, said, "I do not know why Tejaswi did not come to the function."

On Kumar "distancing" himself from Prakash, minister Jai Kumar Singh of the JD(U) claimed that the Chief Minister

### JD(U)-RJD rift widens

changed his seat to have a "better view" of the television screen.

With both the JD(U) and RJD hardening their stand, the rift within the Grand Alliance in the wake of the CBI lodging an FIR against Tejaswi, Lalu, Rabri Devi and others, was seen as being dismissive of the CBI's report in his papers, a move seen as being dismissive of the CBI putting pressure on the Deputy Chief Minister to quit.

When the reporters bombarded the Chief Minister with questions on Tejaswi skipping the function, he said firmly and extended Skill Day greeting to the scribes. Labour Minister

everything in detail at an RJD rally on August 27.

He had also said that he would like to see the ruling coalition to grow from strength to strength.

JD(U) Deputy Leader in the Assembly Shyam Rajak, however, said, "Everybody must maintain transparency in public life.... Otherwise, the people would show them the door."

On Lalu's ruling out Tejaswi's resignation, Rajak, who was earlier in the JD(U), said, "He (Lalu) is an elderly and experienced leader. I once again say that everybody in public life should maintain transparency."

JD(U) chief general secretary KC Tyagi told PTI that Kumar, at a party meeting on Tuesday, had spoken on the importance of morality in politics and stressed on "politics of principles."

The Chief Minister had cited the examples of LK Advani and Sharad Yadav quitting following the hawala case to emphasise that in case of an FIR or a charge sheet, the accused must come clean, he added.

Tyagi, however, said Kumar had not fixed any time-frame for Tejaswi to come clean.

On Tuesday, senior JD(U) leader Ramai Ram had said that a four-day time period, which expired today, was fixed for Tejaswi to give an explanation on the accusations.

Meanwhile, RJD spokesman Manoj Jha blamed the media for triggering the crisis in the Grand Alliance. "After creating political turbulence, now a nameplate has been made a door... I have 100 out of 100 of the media...," he said on Tejaswi skipping the function. - PTI

## Panchayat office torched in Darjeeling

DARJEELING, July 15: A panchayat office was set on fire and a government vehicle was damaged at Kurseong in Darjeeling as the GJM-led indefinite strike demanding a separate State entered its 31st day today.

"The allegation levelled against us that we are getting support from Maoists is completely false.

We challenge the State Government to prove the allegation," GJM youth wing chief Prakash Gurung told reporters. He also accused the State Government and police administration of violating human rights in the

JD(U). Earlier in the day, GJM supporters took out a rally in the Chowdhar area and shouted slogans in support of a separate Gorkhaland. Processions were also taken out by activists of several political parties dressed in traditional Nepali attire. - PTI

**Half-way mark of Ujjwala scheme reached**

## President hands over free LPG connection to Bengal woman



President Pranab Mukherjee distributing an LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Jangipur in Murshidabad district of West Bengal on Saturday. Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan and Jangipur MP Abhijit Mukherjee are also seen. - UNI

JANGIPUR (West Bengal), July 15: President Pranab Mukherjee today handed over a cooking gas connection to a woman here to mark meeting half the target of distributing five crore free LPG connections to women from poor households.

In India every year, the indoor and near-home pollution generated by burning wood and cow dung is the leading cause of premature death in India after high blood pressure.

Mukherjee handed over the indoor gas connection to Gauri Sarkar at his Jangipur house, which took the number of free connections provided under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana scheme so far to 2.5 crore.

The Government is targeting increasing LPG usage to cover 80 per cent of the households by March 2019, against 72.8 per cent as on April 1. It has earmarked Rs 8,000 crore to provide free LPG connections to women from families living below the poverty line (BPL).

"Have been lucky to have a team of dedicated officers who made #25CrUjjwala possible. Happy to share a frame with some of them at Jangipur," Pradhan said in another tweet along with a picture of the President and the beneficiary.

"Double Delight Moments for these PMUY Beneficiaries at Jangipur. Getting freedom from Smoke & Smelling frame with Hon'ble @RashtrapatiBhvn," he said in another tweet.

Earlier, Jangipur MP and Pranab Mukherjee's son, Abhijit Mukherjee, welcomed the guests for the distribution ceremony at Jangipur Bhawan. - PTI

"So now curbs are being made about uploading a trailer on the Internet. Wonder where is all this going. Mr Nihalani's attack," Ghosh said.

"The CBF cannot dictate if I post a trailer on the Internet. It is not against the law," Ghosh added when contacted by PTI.

## Trailer of *The Argumentative Indian* uploaded on Facebook

KOLKATA, July 15: Director Sunan Ghosh has uploaded the trailer of his documentary on Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen on Facebook in defiance of the Censor Board, which has not certified the film.

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) chief Pahlaj Nihalani has objected to four words - "cow," "Gujarat," "Hindutva" and "Hindi India" - in the film, *The Argumentative Indian*.

The trailer does not contain the words, but Nihalani has reportedly refused to allow even the release of the preview because the film, which was due to hit the screens yesterday, has not been cleared.

Ghosh said he decided to share the trailer with the public because he was not allowed to release the film. "The 14th of July we were supposed to release our film *THE ARGU-*

*MENTATIVE INDIAN*. Of course we were not allowed to. We had prepared a trailer for the release. Please share if you like it. The Tagore poem is recited by Victor Banerjee," Ghosh posted on his Facebook page yesterday.

"And I am indebted to the countrywide support from the people and media," his post said. He posted again today with the link of a news report quoting Nihalani as saying that uploading the trailer without certification of the film is "illegal."

"So now curbs are being made about uploading a trailer on the Internet. Wonder where is all this going. Mr Nihalani's attack," Ghosh said.

"The CBF cannot dictate if I post a trailer on the Internet. It is not against the law," Ghosh added when contacted by PTI.

## Momo festival returns with a bang in Delhi

NEW DELHI, July 15: The city's annual momo festival is back – this time with over 100 variants of the round, steamed South Asian delicacy.

From mayo to garlic chutney, and *bhel chat* to beetroot, the three-day festival that began on Friday, has momos for everybody. Twenty-five-momo kiosks have been set up to offer anything – from momo burgers in creamy sauce to Italian momo pizzas.

"Being one of the best street

food items for Delhiites, the restaurants and vendors serving momos are experimenting with different food items and with this festival, they get recognition on a larger scale.

"We will soon be taking it to other cities," says Shantanu Verma, founder of GoBuzziinga, which is organising the festival.

With Yudin-Darjeeling Steamers offering 'open momos', visitors can customise the dumplings with stuffing of their choice, along with four differ-

ent sauces. "We are trying to mould this dish from our native land into a healthier option," says Shivangi, the owner of the stall.

Poku, that draws its inspiration from Himachali cuisine while experimenting with European dishes at the same time, is serving soft dumplings coated with Italian white and red sauce. *Pand* Kumar co-founder of Poku, said that "such festivals help us promote our brand."

The festival is set to continue till July 16. - PTI

"During such festivals our

joint grabs much more eyeballs and there is possibility of doing better business. We try experimenting with momos in every possible way to give our customers a unique experience," added Kumar.

From spicy lemon momos to sweet *pan* and shrimp and *acharai* momos, the festival has a good balance of steam, fried, *tandoori*, gravy, vegetarian and non-vegetarian options.

Influenza-A (H1N1)/Swine flu Helpline numbers:

0361-2235577, 2261630

You can also dial 104 (toll free)



National Health Mission, Assam

● Sample collection - Sample testing facilities available in the State

● Isolation and treatment of cases in designated hospital

● To initiate immediate preventive and control measures by the State/District Rapid Response Team to prevent further spreading

**CAPSULE****Jaitley call to industry**

LUDHIANA, July 15: Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today urged the profit of their profits on corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. "There are villages which have seen a lot of change and a lot of effort for the first time. I want to electrify all the villages by 2018. I appeal to all the corporate house, industries and businesses to spare 2 per cent of their profits for social work and help us in making India developed," Jaitley said. — PTI

**Influential brand**

NEW DELHI, July 15: Google has been ranked as the most influential brand in the country by PwC's Avneeta and Reliance Jio figure in the top ten, according to a study by global research firm PwC. Google is followed by Microsoft and Facebook at the second and third places, respectively. Others in the top ten are SBI (5th), Amazon (6), Samsung (7), Airtel (8) and Flipkart (10). — PTI

**Bank of India**

KOLKATA, July 15: Bank of India (BoI) will hold its annual reporting losses in last two consecutive fiscals, excepts to return to black in the second quarter of current fiscal. "Our operating profit is very robust and net interest income is strong. But we had been making losses as we were making higher provisioning for NIPAs. We hope to make net profits in the second quarter of current fiscal", MD and CEO of BoI DB Mohapatra told reporters here today. — PTI

**ICICI Lombard**

NEW DELHI, July 15: ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company has filed draft prospectus with SEBI to dilute around 19 per cent stake through a rights issue. The offering promoter ICICI Bank said on Friday. ICICI Lombard, a joint venture between ICICI Bank and Canada-based Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd, will be the first private general insurer to go public with an IPO. — PTI

**Highways can be used for laying fibre optic cables, oil/gas pipes: Gadkari**

NEW DELHI, July 15: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said the country's about 2-lakh kilometres of highways can be used for laying fibre optic cables and gas pipes, which will help the Road Ministry earn additional revenues.

Speaking at INFOCOM 2017, organised by ABP Group and Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises here, the minister said the Road Transport Ministry has around 2 lakh kilometres of highways and it has offered the use of this entire stretch for laying fibre optic cables and oil and gas pipes.

This could earn the ministry some revenue that can be utilised for constructing and maintaining roads, the Road Transport and Highways Ministry said in a statement.

For building and maintaining a competitive edge over the world, there is a need to leverage technology to get the maximum returns from assets, Gadkari said. Speaking about the road transport sector, the minister said that very soon the process for driving licences will be entirely computerised.

"The fitness of a person for issuing driving licence will be decided through a computer programme with no human interference. This will greatly enhance safety on roads by ensuring that licences are issued only to deserving drivers," Gadkari said. The statement quoted the minister as saying that e-tolling rolled out by his Ministry last year has helped cut down the traffic congestion at toll plazas on the National Highways. — PTI



Union Minister for Railways Suresh Prabhu launching the integrated mobile application 'Rail SAARTH' for passengers, in New Delhi on Friday. Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain and the Member - Traffic, Railway Board, Mohd Jamshed are also seen. — PTI

## Legal services by advocates covered under GST: CBEC

NEW DELHI, July 15: The tax department today clarified that legal services provided by advocates are covered under GST but the liability to pay the tax is on the client.

After the Delhi High Court sought clarification whether legal services provided by advocates and law firms will be covered by the reverse charge mechanism under the goods and services tax (GST) regime, the CBEC issued a statement saying, "There is no change made in taxation of legal services in the GST era."

Legal services, including representation services, provided by advocates are covered under reverse charge of GST," it said.

Reverse charge means the liability to pay tax is on the recipient of goods/services instead of the supplier.

Legal service, CBEC said, has been defined to mean any service provided in relation to

### Liability to pay tax is on the client

to advise, consultancy or assistance in any branch of law, in any manner and includes representational services before any court, tribunal or authority.

This applies to "an individual advocate including a senior advocate and a firm of advocates."

"Legal services provided by either of them are liable for payment of GST under reverse charge by the business entity," the statement said. "It therefore follows that legal services, which include representational services, provided by advocates are under reverse charge."

## CCI orders fresh probe against GAIL

NEW DELHI, July 15: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Friday ordered a fresh investigation against state-owned GAIL (India) for alleged abuse of dominant position with regard to supply of natural gas.

This is the second time in less than one year that the company has come under the lens of the watchdog for alleged unfair business practices.

After finding prima facie evidence of competition norms violations, the CCI has ordered the probe based on a complaint by Rajasthan-based TMT bars m-

### 'Unfair' business practices

er Shri Rathi Steel (Dakshin) Ltd. It was alleged that GAIL abused its dominant position by incorporating unfair terms and conditions in the Gas Sale Agreement (GSA).

For this case, the regulator considered the market for supply and distribution of natural gas to industrial consumers at Alwar in Rajasthan as the relevant one.

Shri Rathi Steel had entered into a GSA pact with GAIL in March 2009.

The watchdog said the conduct of GAIL in implementing such Top (Take-or-Pay) liability from 2015 onwards appears to be a modus to ensure de facto exclusivity of the contractual arrangement.

"This, besides prohibiting the buyers from shifting to alternative buyers or terminating the GSA in the event of closure of their business, also appears to create entry barriers for alternative suppliers to enter the market or build up a

viable customer base," it said in a 13-page order.

It is observed that imposition of Top liability as per contractual terms cannot per se be regarded as abuse of dominant position, the CCI said.

However, the "same being imposed in an exploitative manner without justification or to ensure de facto exclusivity thereby hindering potential entries or expansion of competitors warrants investigation under the provisions of the (Competition) Act prohibiting abuse of dominant position," it noted. — PTI

## New telecom policy likely before March 2018: Sinha

NEW DELHI, July 15: Union Minister Manoj Sinha on Friday said the new telecom policy is likely to be announced before March 2018 which will focus on 5G technology ecosystem, data security and privacy and other key areas in the sector.

"Whether it is broadband spectrum, internet adoption/availability, data protection or cyber security, what was applicable five years back is no more relevant in today's context and new policies will need to be futuristic," Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha said at a 'Broadband India' Forum event.

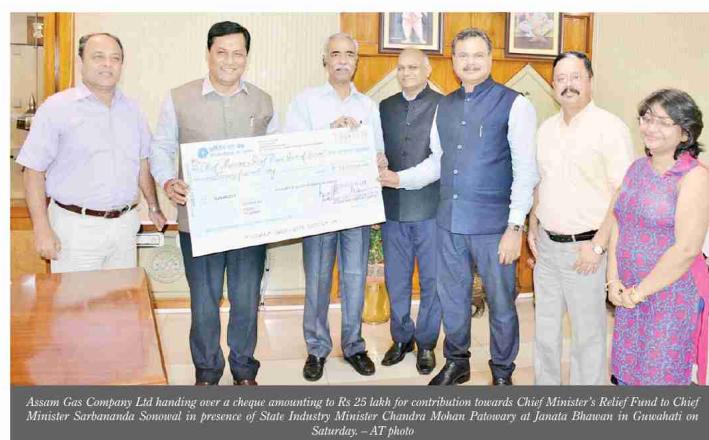
He said while the buzz today is 4G, the government is gearing up for the introduction of 5G services. "We need to think of prepare for an ecosystem where Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are mainstream and connectivity is seamless, designed to improve the quality of e-governance and education

as well as to enable financial inclusion, smart cities and an intelligent transportation system, amongst other things," Sinha said.

When asked if the new policy can be expected by March next year, Sinha said "may be before that".

Sinha released a joint study by ICRER and Broadband India Forum on impact internet application on GDP. As per the study, a 17 per cent increase in the total internet traffic in India during 2015-16 contributed to an increase of Rs 7 lakh crore in GDP, of which at least Rs 1.4 lakh crore was due to internet-based app services.

This puts the internet's contribution to India's GDP at about 5.6 per cent in 2015-16. The contribution is estimated to grow to nearly 16 per cent of the country's GDP by 2020 or Rs 36 lakh crore (\$534 billion), of which apps will contribute about half, the study said. — PTI



Assam Gas Company Ltd handing over a cheque amounting to Rs 25 lakh for contribution towards Chief Minister's Relief Fund to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in presence of State Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary at Janata Bhawan in Guwahati on Saturday. — AT photo

## General insurers begin FY18 on strong note, Q1 premiums up 22%

MUMBAI, July 15: The gross written premium (GWP) collection of the general insurance industry grew to Rs 33,303 crore in the first quarter, up 22 per cent from Rs 27,310 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, as per the data from the regulator IRDAI.

Having crossed Re 1.27 trillion in fiscal 2017, the industry is now eyeing to touch Re 1.5 trillion business in the current financial year.

However, the Q1 figures do not include the crop insurance seg-

ment that has driven the industry growth by adding over Rs 20,000 crore in fiscal 2017. Crop insurance for the current fiscal will start shortly with kharif sowing.

Still, the industry may not repeat the business growth history in this year, as it grew 30 per cent last year.

"The industry will not grow in the same pace as it did last year, when Prime Minister Faisal Yusuf (PMFBY) was launched. We expect the PMFBY premium to be Rs 28,000 crore as against

Rs 21,000 crore last fiscal," Sanath Kumar, National Insurance Company Chairman and Managing Director told PTI.

According to Kumar, "The industry growth should top 20 per cent in the current fiscal too."

National Insurance has won some tenders in kharif from some States, but the accounting of the premium will take some time, he said, adding, "it has come through the portal from banks and also that of non-loanee farmers. It should

be possible to account from August," he said.

Premium, Kumar said, has gone up in the health, motor and to some extent in fire as well.

But Rikhil Shah, Chief Financial Officer at SBI General Insurance, thinks the industry to fare better, saying "given the way the industry is moving, we could see a repeat of last year's performance this fiscal as well."

Talking about SBI General's performance in Q1, Shah said,

"We grew at 33 per cent and our profit is in line with what we had budgeted for this year."

During this year, he expects to grow around 35 per cent and achieving our budgeted profit.

R Chandrasekaran, Secretary General, General Insurance Council, said if the present growth momentum continues, the industry may cross Rs 1.5 trillion by this year. Unlike crop insurance, industry growth is likely to come from segments like motor, health

and personal accident. "We expect the motor, health and personal accident segments to continue to drive growth this year as well."

Mukesh Kumar, Executive Director at HDFC Ergo said.

Commenting on Q1 performance of HDFC Ergo, he said, "We have had a good beginning in Q1. Including our subsidiary HDFC General, we grew 72 per cent, taking our market share to 5.25 per cent from 4.85 per cent in the March quarter." — PTI

## US, Somali forces conduct airstrikes against Al-Shabaab



MOGADISHU, July 15: The US military confirmed on Friday its special forces conducted airstrikes in southern Somalia earlier this Thursday but did not say the number of

militants who were killed in the operation.

The US Africa Command (AfriCom) spokesman Patrick Barnes said the airstrikes which were conducted in Kunyo Barrow targeted the militant group which he said, presents a threat to Americans and American interests, Xinhua reported.

"The US forces conducted an advise and assist mission against Al-Shabaab with members of the Somali National Army July 12 in Kunyo Barrow," Barnes told Xinhua. "I can also tell you that there were no US

casualties during the operation. Because it was a Somali-led operation, you will have to contact Somalia National Army officials for further details," Barnes said.

The US forces, in cooperation with Somalia government, are conducting operations against Al-Shabaab in Somalia to degrade the Al Qaeda affiliate's ability to recruit, train and plot external terror attacks throughout the region and in America.

"We continue to support our Somali and regional partners to systematically dismantle this Al Qaeda affiliate, and help them to achieve stability and security throughout the region as part of the global counterterrorism effort.

## 'N Korea likely has more plutonium than previously thought'

SEOUL, July 15: New images of North Korea's main nuclear facility show that the isolated regime has apparently produced more plutonium for its weapons programme than previously thought, a US monitor said, as tensions soar over Pyongyang's ambitions.

The respected 38 North website, a monitoring project linked to Johns Hopkins university, said Friday that thermal imagery of the Yongbyon nuclear complex appeared to show that Pyongyang had reprocessed spent fuel rods at least twice between last September and June this year.

"The Radiochemical Laboratory operated intermittently and there have apparently been at least two unreported reprocessing campaigns to produce an undetermined amount of plutonium that can further increase North Korea's nuclear weapons stockpile," it said.

North Korea deactivated the



Yongbyon reactor in 2007 under an aid-for-disarmament deal, began renovating it after Pyongyang's third nuclear test in 2013.

Increased thermal activity was noted at Yongbyon's plutonium enrichment facility but it was not clear whether this indicated a push to increase supplies, possibly for weapons, or if it was part of maintenance operations, the website said.

The researchers also said that analysis of thermal patterns from a probable isotope/tritium production facility at the site suggested that the plant was likely not producing tritium.

Tritium is a key component used for making sophisticated thermonuclear weapons with far greater yields than those made with only plutonium and uranium.

North Korea has conducted five underground nuclear tests since 2006, and carried out its first suc-

cessful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile last week.

North Korea's foreign ministry spokesman said Friday "the resounding success" of the test demonstrated Pyongyang's ability to "annihilate the US by a single blow to the very heart of its mainland in case it fails to act at discretion".

The United States is inviting its "ultimate doom" by pushing for ramped up UN sanctions against the North, the spokesman was quoted as saying by Pyongyang's state media.

North Korea, which says it needs nuclear weapons to defend itself against the threat of invasion, is subject to multiple sets of United Nations sanctions on its weapons programmes.

The latest launch triggered a new round of condemnation and anger, with the US and allies seeking tougher measures at the Security Council. — AFP

## Thousands march in Hong Kong in memory of Liu Xiaobo



HONG KONG, July 15: Thousands took to the streets of central Hong Kong tonight holding candles as they marched in memory of pro-democracy Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo.

Veteran activists led the solemn gathering which wove its way from the commercial heart of Hong Kong Island to China's liaison office, with some marchers in tears.

Liu's ashes were buried at sea today, depriving supporters of a place to pay tribute following his death Thursday from cancer while in custody on the mainland.

Hong Kongers have already held

"With the disqualification of the lawmakers yesterday, it's like this time is decaying," she told AFP.

"While we still have the chance, I want to play some kind of role."

The city is ruled under a "one country, two systems" deal granting it freedoms unseen on the mainland, guaranteed in the handover agreement when colonial power Britain returned Hong Kong to China in 1997. But Beijing stands accused of increased interference in a range of areas, from politics to media and education.

Marchers of all ages carried floral wreaths and white chrysanthemums, bowing three times in front of a makeshift memorial to Liu outside the liaison office, a traditional sign of respect at funerals.

Some brought their children and grandchildren with them. Steven Wong, 45, had travelled from Singapore to attend the march, saying he had respected Liu for many years.

Wong was born and grew up in Beijing and was a high school student there in 1989, the year of the brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in the city's Tiananmen Square. — AFP

memorial events but today's was by far the largest.

It came the day after four pro-democracy legislators were disqualified from Hong Kong's parliament, worsening fears that freedoms in the semi-autonomous city are under serious threat from an ever more assertive Beijing.

"Loving a country is wanting it to make progress," said lawmaker Emily Chau, 24. "But this is how he was treated for being so loyal to the country." Chau said she feared Hong Kong's freedoms were also now in jeopardy.

Police said there were several wounds from a sharp weapon on Sheikhi's body. — PTI



People walk with their St Bernard dogs to the Great Saint Bernard mountain pass in the south-western Swiss Alps, Switzerland on Friday. In 2005, the non-profit Barry Foundation in the south-western town of Martigny took over the breeding kennel from the Great Saint Bernard Hospice to continue the 300-year-old tradition of breeding the famous dogs, which return to their origin on the mountain pass during the summer months. — UNI



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shakes hands with Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper (L) at the National Governors Association summer meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, US on Friday. — UNI

## 'Sectarian attacks in India might indirectly help al-Qaeda'

WASHINGTON, July 15: Rising sectarian attacks in India might help drive support to al-Qaeda, a top US expert has told lawmakers, noting that the terror group is trying to reassess itself in the Indian subcontinent.

"Rising sectarian attacks in India might help drive support to al-Qaeda," Katherine Zimmerman, research fellow, American Enterprise Institute, a top American think-tank, told members of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence during a Congressional hearing on al-Qaeda threat.

"Al-Qaeda reconsolidated in the Maghreb and Sahel after the rise of ISIS. It remains embedded in the insurgencies, and it is looking to reassess itself in the Indian subcontinent through Punjab," she said.

"The senior leadership is no longer concentrated in Afghanistan-Pakistan, nor is it synonymous with what the Obama administration once dubbed al-Qaeda core."

Al-Qaeda's senior leadership is found today in Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan and beyond," Zimmerman said.

"The old leadership continues to provide strategic guidance, Ayman al-Zawahiri issues overall direction to the network, and leadership at-

ttraction has compelled al-Qaeda to renew a deeper blemish than we knew it was there before," she said.

Responding to questions, Zimmerman said it is important to closely monitor the situation in the Indian subcontinent, which is in-

creasingly restive.

"Recognising that we have key interests in the broader stability of the region," she said.

"I think there's no question it's a concern if you look at the increasing levels of violence that have been perpetrated by groups associated with al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent, as well as ISIS in Bangladesh," said Seth Jones from the Rand Foundation in response to another question.

"We have a range of the conditions.

"We've already talked about on this committee, on this panel, weak govern-

ance, economic challenges, opportunities for fighters, and its proximity to both Pakistan and Afghanistan active war zones that make Bangladesh of concern," he said. — PTI

## Raul Castro debunks harsher US tone under Trump

HAVANA, July 15: Cuban President Raul Castro denounced President Donald Trump's tougher line on relations with Havana today, calling it a setback but promising to continue working to normalize ties between the former Cold War rivals.

Castro's comments to Cuba's National Assembly were his first on Trump's June announcement of a partial US detente achieved by then-President Barack Obama.

They contained echoes of the harsh rhetoric of the past.

"Any strategy that seeks to destroy the revolution either through coercion or pressure or through more subtle methods will fail," Cuba's president told legislators.

He also rejected any "lessons" on human rights from the US, saying his country "has a lot to be proud about" on the issue.

Surrounded by Cuban-American exiles and Cuban residents in Miami, Trump announced last month that the US would impose new limits on US travel to the island and ban

any payments to the military-linked conglomerate that controls much of the island's tourism industry.

He said the US would consider lifting those and other restrictions only after Cuba returned fugitives and made a series of other internal changes including freeing political prisoners, allowing freedom of assembly and holding free elections.

Trump's policy retained elements of Obama's reforms but tightened restrictions on travel and employed harsh rhetoric on human rights.

On Friday in Washington, the Trump administration said it was suspending for another six months a provision of the US embargo on Cuba.

The State Department said it told Congress that it will keep suspending a provision of the Helms-Burton Act that deals with property seized from Americans. The provision lets Americans use US courts to sue non-American companies that operate and deal with property confiscated after Fidel Castro's revolution.

Speaking to the National Assembly, Castro called the Trump administration's policies a "setback," though he reiterated his government's position that it would work to normalize relations with Washington.

Earlier in the legislative session, Economy Minister Ricardo Cabrisas announced that Cuba's economy is growing again after a dip last year. Cabrisas said the economy grew around 1 percent in the first half of 2017. That puts GDP growth on track to hit 2 percent for the year. — AFP

## Indian students worry about physical safety in US: survey

WASHINGTON, July 15: Indian students have a "high level of concern" about potential study in the US and a large number of them worry about their physical safety and about the feeling of being welcomed, according to a new survey.

The Institute of International Education (IIE) suggested that the final outcome of the US Supreme Court order in June that temporarily upheld President Donald Trump's executive order to restrict entry of nationals from six Muslim-majority countries to America weighs on their mind.

With over a million international students pursuing higher education in the US and contributing more than USD 36 billion to the American economy, the stakes are high, it said.

Founded in 1919, the IIE is a US-based

not-for-profit working to build peaceful and equitable societies by advancing scholarship, building economies and promoting access to opportunity. It focuses on International Stud-

ies regarding enrolment of students from the Middle East, followed by India.

Thirty-one per cent of institutions are very concerned that Middle Eastern students who have accepted offers of admissions may not arrive on campus in the fall, and 20 per cent are very concerned that Indian students may not arrive on campus, it said. "This uncertainty raises valid concerns as to whether students from the Middle East may be deterred from US study," it added.

"Securing and maintaining a visa is reported as the top concern among these students and was reported by 46 per cent of institutions, while feeling welcome in the United States was an almost equal concern, with 41 per cent of institutions noting so from their conversations with students," it added. — PTI



International Exchange and Aid, Foreign Affairs, and International Peace and Security.

The IIE said that the survey results indicate the highest level of institutional concern



## Kids



## Entertainment



## Movies



## Weight and 'watch'

A study finds out the reason behind women falling prey to eating disorders

**A**woman's desire to diet and seek a slim body may depend on the attractiveness of a romantic partner, a study has found, highlighting the fairer sex's risk of developing eating disorders.

The study showed that women who were evaluated as less attractive were more motivated to diet and be thin if their husbands or partners were more attractive than them.

Conversely, this extra motivation to diet did not exist among the women who were more attractive than their husbands.

For men, their motivation to diet was low regardless of their wives' attractiveness or their own, the researchers said.

"The results reveal that having a physically attractive husband may have negative consequences for wives, especially if those wives are not particularly attractive," said Tania Reynolds, doctoral student at the Florida State University.

The study, published in the journal *Body Image*,

offers productive insights about relationships in which a woman fears she will fall short of her partner's expectations.

Understanding the predictors that increase a woman's risk of developing eating disorders and other health problems could lead to earlier assistance.

"It might be helpful to identify women at risk of developing more extreme weight-loss behaviours, which have been linked to other forms of psychological distress such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse and dissatisfaction with life," Reynolds said.

"If we understand how women's relationships affect their decision to diet and the social predictors for developing unhealthy eating behaviours, then we will be better able to help them," she added.

For the study, the team examined 113 newlywed couples – married less than four months, average age late 20s, living in Dallas area – who agreed to be rated on their attractiveness. IANS

## Infotainment



## Regional



## Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, July 16, 2017:

This year you'll want to get plenty of exercise to work through stress and minimize tension. You will feel a lot better if you develop a strong exercise routine. Practicing supporting yourself more often. If you're single, you could consider some fun activities, at the beach or maybe even the gym. You probably will meet that special someone sometime after summer. If you are attached, the two of you decide to participate in a new activity that will help you both relax. ARIES proves to be provocative when brainstorming.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Affectionate; 3-Adventurous; 1-Difficult.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) You are likely to get under your skin.

Tension builds to establish more defined boundaries. You might not be able to get past an obstacle or some kind of resistance at the moment, but eventually you will. Tonight: Go for the gusto, if you want.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)

You care about pulls away from a loved one who might be upset. Try to put a halt on this situation before it affects your relationship. You can talk to the other person tomorrow. Tonight: Not to be found.

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

You might be letting loose and enjoying this part of the weekend. Your frustration might emerge when visiting with a friend who can be a bit rigid. The smart play is to postpone plans, especially if you feel your volatile energy emerging. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

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

You might want to join others for brunch at a favorite spot. You might not believe how fun it will be. You'll probably want to make this type of event a regular happening. Do not worry about what others think. You call the shots. Tonight: Catch up on others' news.

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

You have the capacity to embrace very different scenes. Open up to an adventure that is exciting and new. As a result your mind will be exposed to very unique ideas. A friend might want to expose you to another way or style of living. Tonight: Buy some tickets to a concert.

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

You who clearly wants to be in control will find that you are capable of being very satisfying to a provocative situation. One-on-one relating can be very satisfying because of your social skills. This person you are spending time with is fiery and dynamic. Tonight: Get cozy.

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

You who are being shared by a strong-willed partner. Recognize that this person is reflecting his or her own inner tension. Reach out to someone at a distance who is controversial yet always makes you laugh. Tonight: Go along with another person's request.

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

You are balancing a lot of different needs, including your own. Stay cool, and don't lose your temper; otherwise, you will have others running away from you! A loved one also might be handing an issue regarding your joint finances. Tonight: Remain level-headed.

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

You are coming up with several relevant solutions. Are you willing to try one out? You actually could be delighted by the results. In any case, the willingness to take a risk and be open is what counts. You finally seem to be getting in tune with living. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

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

You have the capacity to be a rigid thinking, which could be a liability for you. Be more willing to get involved in an activity with which you have little expertise. Remain open to the results. Take up a new hobby. Tonight: Time for some fun.

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

You might call on your friends to see what your friends are up to. You might decide to join a loved one on a fun adventure, but perhaps you would prefer being in a group setting. What is wrong with trying to squeeze in both? Tonight: Visit with a neighbor whom you rarely see.

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

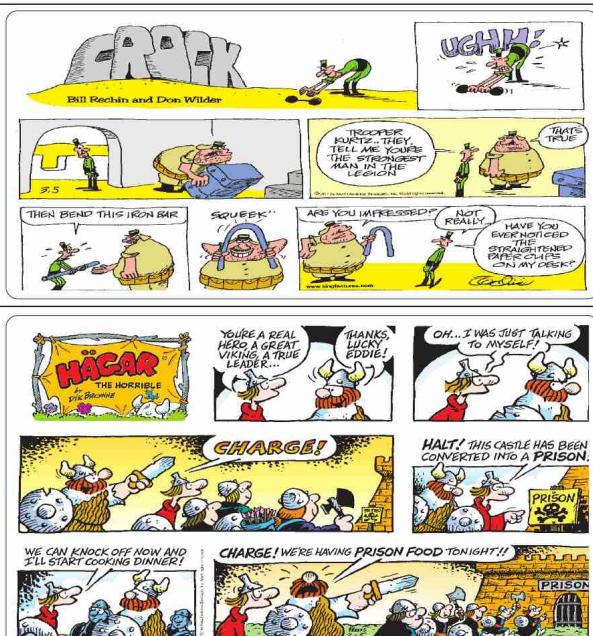
You decided to treat a friend to a special day. Some of you will indulge your love of shopping, whereas others can be found at an amusement or water park. You will be over-the-moon happy when you finally get to do what you love. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

\*\*\*

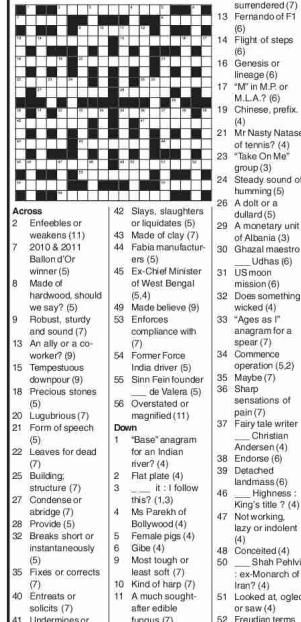
Thought for the day

*It is the settled will of the majority of people in Scotland that they want not just the symbol, but the substance of the return of democratic control over internal affairs.*

- DAVID STEEL



## Tribune SUNDAY CROSSWORD – 987



## SOLUTION TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



# US House passes defence Budget; seeks stronger ties with India

WASHINGTON, July 15: The US' annual defence Budget of about USD 621.5 billion for the 2018 fiscal has been passed by the House of Representatives and among other things it seeks advancing of military cooperation with India, already a major defence partner of America.

An amendment on enhancing cooperation with India was moved by Indian-American Congressman Ami Bera and was adopted by a voice vote by the House as part of the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) 2018, beginning October 1 this year. The NDAA-2018 was passed by the House 344-81.

The India-related amendment passed by the House requires the Secretary of Defence, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop a strategy for advancing defence cooperation between the two nations," Bera said.

and India is the world's largest democracy. It is vitally important to develop a strategy that advances defence cooperation between our two nations," Bera said.

"I am grateful this amendment passed and look forward to the Defense Department's strategy that addresses critical issues like common security challenges, the role of partners and allies, and areas for collaboration in science and technology," he said.

"Cooperation between the US and India enhances our own defence and our ability to meet the evolving security challenges of the 21st century," Bera said.

Following the passage of the National Defence Authorisation Act, the Secretary of Defence and Secretary of State have 180 days to develop a strategy for advancing defence cooperation between the United States and India.

N D A A needs to be passed by the Senate before it can be sent to the White House for the US President Donald Trump to sign into law.

As passed by the House, NDAA-2018 asks the State Department and the Pentagon to develop a strategy that addresses common security challenges, the role of American partners and allies in the India-US defence relationship, and the role of the defence technology and trade initiatives.

It also asks them to address how to advance the communications interoperability and security memorandum of agreement and the basic exchange and cooperation agreement for geospatial cooperation.

The previous NDAA-2017 had designated India as a major defence partner which brings India at par with closest American partners in terms of defence trade and technology transfer.

Meanwhile, a senior defence official yesterday said that India and US defence relationship is on positive track.

"(As) we look at the global order, and when we look at the evolving security environment within Asia, India's rise and role (is) evolving, (and) we see the United States and India increasingly viewing the region in the same way, and our interests are very much aligned," said Cara Abercrombie, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for South and Southeast Asia. - PTI

The India-related amendment passed by the House requires the Secretary of Defence, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop a strategy for advancing defence cooperation between the two nations," Bera said.

"The United States is the world's oldest democracy

## Trump admin moves SC over travel ban ruling

WASHINGTON, July 15: The Trump administration has asked the Supreme Court to block a federal judge's ruling that weakened the president's ban on travellers from six Muslim-majority nations by expanding the list of family relationships with US citizens that visa applicants can use to get into America.

In a filing before the US Supreme Court late evening yesterday, the Department of Justice sought to overturn the ruling of a federal judge in Hawaii this week which sought to limit the number of people affected by the travel ban. The Supreme Court is currently not in session, but can take emergency cases.

US District Judge Derrick Watson this week had ordered the Trump administration not to enforce the ban on grandparents, grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins of people in the US.

"Common sense, for instance, dictates that close family members be defined to include grandparents," Watson said in his ruling. Watson had also ruled that the government may not exclude refugees who have formal assurance from a resettlement agency in the US.

Opposing the Hawaii court ruling, US Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the district court has issued decision that are entrusted to the executive branch, undermined national security, delayed necessary action, created confusion, and violated a proper respect for separation of powers.

"The Supreme Court has had to correct this lower court once, and we will now reluctantly return directly to the Supreme Court to again vindicate the rule of law and the executive branch's duty to protect the nation," Sessions said. "Once again, we are faced with a situation in which a single federal district court has undertaken by a nationwide injunction to micromanage decisions of the co-equal executive branch related to our national security," he argued. - PTI

## Russia lobbyist at Trump Jr meeting denies spy past

WASHINGTON, July 15: A Russian-American lobbyist revealed to have attended a meeting by Donald Trump Jr seeking damaging information on Hillary Clinton has strongly denied working for Russian intelligence.

It emerged yesterday that Rinat Akhmetshin, a Washington lobbyist with dual citizenship, accompanied Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya to the June 2016 meeting, at which Trump Jr expected to receive secret information that would hurt Clinton in the 2016 election.

Several US media described Akhmetshin as former Soviet counterintelligence officer who is suspected by some US officials of having ongoing ties to Russian intelligence.

But the lobbyist rejected that allegation as "maliciously false," telling AFP he "never worked for any intelligence service."

The June 9 meeting has become the focus of allegations that the Trump election campaign collaborated last year with a covert effort by Moscow to turn voters away from Clinton.

Those allegations are cur-



meeting was pitched to Trump Jr, the eldest son of President Donald Trump, as a chance to obtain dirt on Clinton, allegedly supplied by the Russian government.

"If it's what you say I love it," Trump Jr said about the offer in an email to entertainment promoter Rob Goldstone, the person arranging the meeting.

The encounter was also attended by Trump campaign

manager Paul Manafort and son-in-law Jared Kushner, underscoring how important the campaign apparently thought it could be.

One year on, emails showing the younger Trump's willingness to meet the lawyer are viewed in some quarters as a possible "smoking gun" in the ongoing federal investigation into whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russia to get the Republican elected.

Accompanying Veselnitskaya at the meeting were Zubair Mahmood Hayat, a 61-year-old human rights activist died due to multiple organ failure following a battle with liver cancer on Thursday.

Family members and friends

of Liu Xiaode to him at a private ceremony in northeast China's Shenyang city, an official told a media briefing in the city.

Liu's body was cremated in accordance with the will of his

family members and local customs, State-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Prior to the cremation, a simple ceremony was held with the attendance of Liu's wife Liu Xia and his friends.

## ISIS' Afghan branch leader killed in US strike

WASHINGTON, July 15: The US forces have killed the head of Islamic State's Afghanistan branch in a strike on the terror group's headquarters in Kunar Province, the Pentagon has said.

The killing of Abu Sayed, the emir of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria - Khorasan Province (ISIS-K), marked the third within a year that the terror group's Afghanistan branch has lost its leader.

"US forces killed Abu Sayed, the emir of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria - Khorasan Province (ISIS-K), in a strike on the group's head-

quarters in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, on July 11," Pentagon Spokesman Dana White said.

The raid also killed other ISIS-K members and will significantly disrupt the terror group's plans to expand its presence in Afghanistan, White said.

General John Nicholson, who leads US forces-Afghanistan, said, "We will continue until they are annihilated. There is no safe haven for ISIS-K in Afghanistan."

The US has been hitting ISIS targets in the war-torn country regularly and in April it dropped the largest non-nuclear bomb it has ever used in combat. The deployment of the so-called Mother Of All Bombs (MOAB) killed at least 95 jihadists, according to reports. - PTI

## Eight-legged tiny animal will outlive the Sun: study

LONDON, July 15: The tardigrade - an eight-legged micro-animal - has been named the world's most indestructible species, after scientists discovered that the creature will survive until the Sun dies.

Researchers from University of Oxford in the UK found that the tardigrade will survive the risk of extinction from all astrophysical catastrophes, and be around what it would take to kill the tardigrade, and wipe out life on this planet.

The research, published in the journal Scientific Reports, implies that life on Earth, in general, will extend as long

as the Sun keeps shining.

It also reveals that once life emerges, it is surprisingly resilient and difficult to destroy, opening the possibility of life on other planets.

Tardigrades are the toughest, most



resilient form of life on Earth, able to survive for up to 30 years without food or water, and endure temperature extremes of up to 150 degrees Celsius, the deep sea

and even the frozen vacuum of space.

The water-dwelling micro animal, also known as the water bear, can live for up to 60 years, and grow to a maximum size of 0.5 millimetres (mm), best seen under a microscope.

Researchers, including those from Harvard University in the US, have found that these life forms will likely survive all astrophysical calamities, such as an asteroid, since they will never be strong enough to boil off the world's oceans.

These potential events were considered as part of their research, including: large asteroid impact, and exploding stars in the form of supernovae or gamma ray bursts. "Without our technology protecting us, humans are a very sensitive species," said Rafael Alves Batista, post-doctoral research associate at Oxford University. - PTI



Liu Xia, wife of deceased Chinese Nobel Peace Prize-winning dissident Liu Xiaobo, and other relatives stand next to his coffin during his funeral in Shenyang, China in this photo released by Shenyang Municipal Information Office on Saturday. - UNI

## 'RAW operating from Afghanistan to create tension'

ISLAMABAD, July 15: Pakistan is aware of the threats emanating from hostile intelligence agencies, especially India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), against the country and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a senior Pakistani Army officer has said.

According to Dawn News, Chairman Joint Chiefs of the Staff Committee, General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, said on Saturday RAW was operating from Afghanistan and other locations to create unrest in Pakistan, especially in Balochistan.

Their designs (and) oblique actions to sabotage CPEC are also well known," he said while attending a ceremony at the Pakistan Naval Academy near Karachi.

Accompanying Veselnitskaya at the meeting were Zubair Mahmood Hayat, a 61-year-old human rights activist died due to multiple organ failure following a battle with liver cancer on Thursday.

Family members and friends

of Liu Xiaode to him at a private ceremony in northeast China's Shenyang city, an official told a media briefing in the city.

Liu's body was cremated in accordance with the will of his

family members and local customs, State-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Prior to the cremation, a simple ceremony was held with the attendance of Liu's wife Liu Xia and his friends.

## Nobel laureate Liu cremated; China says wife 'free so far'

BEIJING, July 15: China's Nobel Peace Prize laureate and prominent dissident Liu Xiaobo was cremated today after succumbing to cancer while in custody, even as Beijing said his wife was "free so far" but must "avoid trouble" amid international pressure to let her leave the country.

The 61-year-old human rights activist died due to multiple organ failure following a battle with liver cancer on Thursday. Family members and friends of Liu Xiaode to him at a private ceremony in northeast China's Shenyang city, an official told a media briefing in the city.

Liu's body was cremated in accordance with the will of his

family members and local customs, State-run Xinhua news agency reported.

China's media outlets, all controlled by the ruling Communist Party, mostly ignored the news on Liu.

The death of Liu, who was sentenced in 2009 to 11 years on charges of sedition and incarceration since then has brought the focus to the future of his activist wife Liu Xia, who has also been confined to house detention.

Liu Xia, who was also an artist, poet and a long-time associate of Liu in his uncompromising fight for democracy in China, was allowed to be with him after he was granted medical parole last month.

After Liu's death pressure was mounted by the international community on China to allow Liu Xia to travel abroad to receive the Nobel Prize awarded in absentia to her husband in 2010. It was symbolically presented to an empty chair.

Asked about Liu Xia's condition, Zhang said, "Liu Xia is a Chinese citizen, and Chinese relevant departments will protect her legal interests and rights in accordance with the law." - PTI

**অসম চৰকাৰ**  
ASSAM GOVERNMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

**অটল অমৃত অভিযান**

**সম্পর্কীয় এক গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ জাননী**

**অসম চৰকাৰৰ স্বাস্থ আৰু পৰিয়াল কল্যাণ বিভাগ**

**এই অভিযানৰ অন্তৰ্গত ৬টা বোগ**

- বৃক্ষ বোগ
- হদবোগ
- কৰ্কট বোগ
- নৰজাতক বোগ
- মানৱিক বোগ
- ভাইয়ে পোৰা

উল্লেখযোগ্য যে ২ লাখ টকাৰ পৰ্যাপ্ত চিকিৎসাৰ সদাচাৰ উপৰাক্ষেত্ৰে নিৰ্দিষ্ট চিকিৎসাৰ পৰ্যাপ্ত চিকিৎসাৰ বাবে লাভ কৰিব। এই সুবিধা অসম চৰকাৰৰ তালিকাভুক্ত চিকিৎসালয়ত আৰুনেন কৰিব। এই আচାৰিৰ সুবিধা দৰিদ্ৰীৰ মধ্যে বৰাবৰ আৰু বৰ্ষাক আৰু ৫ লাখ টকাৰ পৰ্যাপ্ত চিকিৎসাৰ সদাচাৰ উপৰাক্ষেত্ৰে নিৰ্দিষ্ট চিকিৎসাৰ পৰ্যাপ্ত চিকিৎসাৰ বাবে লাভ কৰিব। এই সুবিধা অসম চৰকাৰৰ তালিকাভুক্ত চিকিৎসালয়ত (Empanelled hospital) চিকিৎসা কৰা নৈমিত্তিক ক্ষেত্ৰত প্ৰযোজন।

বিষয়ঃ “অটল অমৃত অভিযান”ৰ সৰিশেষ তথা তালিকাভুক্ত চিকিৎসাৰ আৰুনেন প্ৰতি [www.nrhmassam.in](http://www.nrhmassam.in) ত উপলব্ধ হ'ব।





## 2 WOMEN PLUS

**Ratan Bhattacharjee** writes about the talkative gender.

# The Assam Tribune Sunday

## 3 MY SPACE

**Navanita Varadpande** reveals her love affair with words.

## Chronicle of war

**ARUNIL KONWAR** describes how the Allied forces and the Japanese battled it out in Kohima and Imphal in World War II.



The Far East was a place of as much warfare as that of the famous Western Front, during the Second World War. Among all the battles in the eastern theatre, the Battle of Kohima and Imphal were together considered as one of the greatest battles of all time.

On March 15, 1944, the Japanese 31st Division crossed the Chindwin River, in Myanmar, and began moving North-West. The left wing of the division was commanded by Major General Shigesaburo Miyazaki, who had advanced his units ahead of the main force. They were surprised by Indian troops on March 20, 1944, and clashed against them in the Battle of Sangshak for the next six days. During the battle, the Allied forces faced severe water shortage. Despite having the easiest route to their destination, Kohima, the troops were soon overrun and were ordered to withdraw.

The siege on Kohima began on April 6, 1944. The Allied troops were being continually shelled and mortared by the Japanese. The Allies were slowly driven into a small perimeter on the location of Garrison Hill. They did have artillery support from the 161st Brigade (part of the fifth Indian Division), but the latter were cut off 3.2 kilometres

away, at the village called Jotsoma.

Some of the heaviest fighting took place at the North end of Kohima Ridge, around the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow and the tennis court. It was known as the Battle of the Tennis Court, where the area became a no man's land. The Japanese and the Allied defenders of Kohima had dug in on opposite sides, so close to each other that grenades were thrown between the trenches. The defenders' situation was desperate, until hope showed light with troops from the 161st Indian Brigade, arriving to relieve the garrison.

Later, the British fifth and sixth Brigade relieved the 161st Indian Brigade on April 11 and 15, respectively. The sixth Brigade provided artillery, air and armour support to break through the enemy lines, until the road between Jotsoma and Kohima were secured.

On the nights of April 17 and 18, the Japanese captured the 161st Indian Brigade's bungalow area. The fighting continued in Kohima with little or no progress until April 26, when a British attack took over the clubhouse above the Deputy Commissioner's Bungalow. Upon the Allied coun-

ter-attack, the Japanese began to go defensive.

Monsoon had arrived and made things difficult. Despite the hard weather, the British fourth Brigade had reclaimed parts of the Kohima Ridge on May 4, 1944. Strategic positions within Kohima, like Jall Hill, Kuki Picquet and the Food Supply Depot were slowly recaptured. The last Japanese positions on the ridge to be captured were the tennis court and the gardens above the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow. The Allies had failed several attempts to outflank the position. On May 13, 1944, the British bulldozed a track to the summit of the area. A Lee tank was introduced and crashed down onto the tennis court, destroying the Japanese trenches and bunkers within. The Japanese finally decided to retreat due to lack of supplies. The British 31st RGP Brigade had cut their supply lines and prevented them from foraging in the hills, East of Kohima.

With their simultaneous defeat in Imphal, the Japanese forces of the 31st Division finally retreated, allowing the Allies to recapture the whole of the Kohima Ridge.

On June 22, 1944, a major victory was celebrated between the fifth Indian Infantry Division and second British Division at the place called Milestone 109, 48 kilometres South of Kohima. Both divisions consisted of troops from their respective battles in Kohima and Imphal.

The battle is often referred to as the Stalingrad of the East. In 2013, the British National Army Museum voted the battle of Imphal and Kohima to be Britain's Greatest Battle.

The War Cemetery in Kohima

was built as a memorial for the Allied soldiers who had died in the decisive battle.

On the memorial of the second British Division in the cemetery, there is a carved inscription, known as the Kohima Epitaph.

It reads with the eternal pride of the soldiers:

"When you go home, tell them of us and say,

For your tomorrow, we gave our today..."

(arunikonwar@gmail.com)

(farming) techniques and Vedic modalities have helped farmers from all over the world to produce organic food. There has been an enhancement of crop yield without the aid of fertilisers or pesticides. In fact, the empowerment in Shiv Yog cosmic energy is to transform agriculture and economy in the North-East region as can be seen in its tie-ups with the Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat, and the Biswanath College of Agriculture, AAU, Jorhat, and Biswanath College are conducting continuous research on Shiv Yog Krish and finding exceptional results.

Shiv Yog is a framework of practices that can be used to achieve numerous objectives such as reduction in soil erosion, enhancement in the quality of produce, increase in crop productivity and the reduction in usage of chemicals as well as their harmful effects. Using ancient methods that channelise cosmic energy towards all life forms, farmers can be taught to maximise productivity," says Simanta Bijoy Deb, the State coordinator of Shiv Yog North-East.

Thousands of Indian agriculturists and researchers have come together to accumulate an extensive body of data that proves the significance and benefits of Shiv Yog for agriculture without a doubt. Many agricultural universities have conducted extensive tests on the influence of Shiv Yog on agricultural produce and yield.

A high-level government team from Arunachal Pradesh visited and appreciated the Biswanath College of Agriculture for their research work on Shiv Yog. Even the History Channel did a coverage on this research. In January 2017, at the State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI).

Through Shiv Yog Cosmic Healing, the field of agriculture has also benefitted a lot. Its Krish

## 4 IN BLACK AND WHITE

**Jahnavi Barua** resists roles imposed by others.



### UP CLOSE

**Parinita Datta**  
parinitadatta@gmail.com

## Eco endeavour

**NISHA BORA'S unique Assamese enterprise wins global recognition.**

**N**isha Bora is thrilled to bits. Ehrhino Paper (which is a brand under Ehrhino Eco Industries Private Limited) started by Nisha and her father M.C. Bora (of Guwahati) has occupied the third spot in the 'Climate Change and Environment Award' category as part of the Global Sourcing Council's (GSC's) Sustainability-Focussed 3S Awards, 2017. Ehrhino Eco Industries has its unit at Chaygaon in the Kamrup district of Assam and makes paper from natural waste, including dung. The award ceremony was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on May 17, 2017, and there were over 77 valid entries from 22 countries.

Nisha, who was in New York to receive the award, says, "It is an honour to get such a prestigious award and is also a strong validation of our mission. Winning an award at this level is a privilege and a fantastic opportunity to network, establish our credibility and find allied thinkers across industries. One of the key outcomes from it has been the cross collaboration opportunities that have arisen as a result. At Ehrhino, we are fortunate to be in a position to be able to participate in this process."

Talking about Ehrhino, Nisha states, "Ehrhino is a social business which aims to work towards the sustainability of the bio-diverse forest systems of North-East India. We make paper from natural waste, including dung. This paper is manufactured and developed into office and personal stationery and branding collateral. The Indian Rhino and the Asian Elephant are both under threat due to habitat loss and



Ehrhino paper bags

man-elephant conflict. The communities who live in the forest areas and were traditionally highly protective towards the animals, are turning against them due to financial and space constraints. By providing alternative sources of livelihood, creating pride around the species and preserving the natural habitat of the animals, we aim to mitigate this threat."

She further adds that by drawing the attention of the international community of conscious consumers to these animals, Ehrhino aims to support a movement in support of the animals and, by extension, of the community that "we rely on to protect them". The two words 'elephant' and 'rhino' have been combined to make the name 'Ehrhino' and the whole idea was conceived by Nisha's father, M.C. Bora, a retired mining engineer. El Rhino Eco Industries Private Limited started operating in the year 2014 and as Nisha says, "After my father retired from Coal India in 2004, he developed an increasing concern about man-elephant conflicts coming to a head and increase in incidences of rhino poaching. His paper-making journey began with a chance reading in a magazine about elephant dung paper, followed by visits to paper makers and lots of trials and errors in his kitchen mixer-grinder. Once it became crystal clear that technology to make tree-free paper sustainably was possible, the idea became a project."

Nisha, who basically operates from Mumbai and travels to Assam "once in two months", looks into the business development strategies, visioning and hiring part of the company.

Ehrhino's objective is crystal clear: To help the community earn money from the animals so that they see the animals as allies, not enemies. Nisha sums up by saying that their future plans include scaling up their operations in Assam. "Only when the business is healthy and profitable, can the actual benefits accrue to the local community in the way that we have envisaged. We are at a stage where, having established our credibility with the wider universe, we are seeking to create on-ground collaborations that will make a strong impact at the micro level. We are also working on some exciting new innovations and cross-category expansion. During three years we have worked with over 50 artisans to reduce poverty, created 200 ambassadors and influenced 800 community members to support the endangered species," she concludes.



**The practice of Shiv Yog Krish is set to benefit the farmers of the North-East immensely, reports BIDISHA SINGHA.**

## Healing the harvest

**Worldwide followers**  
The founder of Shiv Yog, Avdhoot Shivanand is the Father of Sacred Ancient Science, and pioneer of integrative Shiv Yog Health-care Science and an internationally recognised authority in the field of Cosmic Healing Science. He has been felicitated for imparting unique healing wisdom towards improving chronic ailments such as diabetes, cancer and auto-immune disorders in all seven continents by governments of a number of different countries, including the USA, Mauritius, Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa, UK, Malaysia, Austria, Singapore, Canada, India, Australia. From a small gathering of a few scores in the hinterland of Rajasthan, the beneficiaries of Shiv Yog have now expanded to more than 30 countries and it is followed by more than a million seekers around the globe.

### Benefiting agriculture

Through Shiv Yog Cosmic Healing, the field of agriculture has also benefitted a lot. Its Krish



Nisha Bora with her father M.C. Bora

## WOMEN PLUS

Ratan Bhattacharjee

rprofratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

## Who talks more: men or women?

**Women talk more, but they talk more significantly.**

It is taken as a common stereotype that females talk more than their male counterparts. Research led by Jukka-Pekka Jyrne, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at Harvard School of Public Health, and Professor David Lazer at the Northeastern University collected data to prove this point. This may encourage some male senators in California who stopped Senator Kamala Harris, Democrat, California, from talking too much. Even Arianna Huffington, an Uber Director, was stopped from talking too much by her male counterparts like David Bonderman who even resigned from the Uber Board in California to prove his point that women talk too much and their number should not be increased in the board.

Let us examine the scientific explanation before we probe into the social perspectives. Researchers in Maryland University have found that women have higher levels of FoxP2 protein. Previously, it was claimed that women speak 20,000 words compared to 13,000 words by men

a day. Girls learn speaking earlier than boys. Studies have shown that the female love of chit-chat begins at a young age. They produce their



**More work implies more talk. Even at the workplace, women have to face male domination and if they are not vocal, they may be oppressed even more and their mouths will be shut by their arrogant male counterparts.**

first words and sentences earlier, have larger vocabularies and use a greater variety of sentence types than boys of the same age. But this cannot justify the male domination on women.

Women talk more, but they talk more significantly, which is sometimes forgotten by the males. They protest and continue it bravely. We still remember how just hours after Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States, women started talking to the streets. They protested in their tens, their hundreds, and their thousands to take a stand for women's rights and make a show of solidarity. This is not to be dismissed as excess of language protein. Women protest against terrorism all across the globe.

Recently, women, in a show of solidarity with the victims of the London terror attack, gathered on the Westminster Bridge and interestingly, they were all Muslim women. Four days earlier, lone attacker Khalid Masood rammed a car into pedestrians on the bridge, killing three and leaving dozens injured. In Afghanistan, Malala Yousafzai is the greatest example of female language protein excess. She was then a 14-year-old girl who was shot and seriously wounded by the Taliban as she talked too much about promoting female education. She criticised the militant group who stood against the promotion of girl's independent growth.

Very recently, one interesting study revealed that Black women talk more than White women. It is an analysis of wireless bills by the Nielsen Co. There may be many explanations. But one is that many of the Black women do not have home phones. Thus, one event may be explained in varied ways. Why do women talk more at home: all husbands know that when they watch TV or are busy with FB and WhatsApp, the wives are to teach their children, help them do their homework and cook dinner. More work implies more talk. Even at the workplace, women have to face male domination and if they are not vocal, they may be oppressed even more and their mouths will be shut by their arrogant male counterparts. So, let the language protein flow some more in the women's body.

## RELATIONSHIP

Belen Chacon

You might not know it, but building healthy relationships with your co-workers is an important part of having a successful career. Co-workers spend ample amounts of time together, and sometimes develop personal relationships on top of their professional ones. This can be good for businesses because it can help companies create higher performance at the workplace.

Because everyone has their role to play in a company, it is important for everyone to get along – not just for the sake of the work environment, but for the sake of the company and its success, too. But how do you build relationships with co-workers to begin with? Here are some ways:

**Be honest and communicate**

When it comes to building relationships with your co-workers, be open and honest.

Be honest with your co-workers about having a social relationship and communicate that you want to get to know them better in order to work better as a team. Some people see work as a place to show up, do what they are supposed to do, and go home. Others see it as a place to spend half of their waking life and an opportunity to build social relationships.

**Be likeable**

Sometimes, being open and honest about building a relationship with your co-worker won't get you the

**Ways to build healthy relationships with colleagues**

response you are looking for. However, don't completely write-off someone who isn't interested in befriending a relationship.

Even if they don't want to engage and build a friendly or social relationship, you may end up excluding them or devaluing them, and that ends up creating a negative relationship and possibly hurting the company.

**Be observant**

Some people might now know an appropriate way to build a good relationship with a fellow employee.

If you are unsure about inviting a co-worker to grab some dinner after work, or go out for a run over the weekend, why not start small and ask them out to lunch? You

don't have a whole lot to lose and, if you have a good time, it can become a regular thing and help you grow as co-workers.

**Find a common interest**

For some, it can be a little awkward to get to know a complete stranger. However, at one point, most of the people who we consider close friends were strangers to us. This can provide some relief if you are feeling uneasy about befriending a co-worker you don't know.

A common interest can be a good foundation for a positive relationship. **Don't be afraid**

Though it might be easier to build a relationship with a co-worker who holds the same working

tus as you, it doesn't mean you cannot try to build a relationship with a co-worker who outranks you – or even one who outranks – in the company.

Mentor relationships in the workplace benefit both parties, and the company gains when more employees are engaged and supporting each other.

Ranking in companies do change.

The person who was once in charge of you may not be if you are someone who plans on growing within the company. If the ranks between co-workers are reversed, having already established a positive relationship makes the transition run more smoothly.

**Fish head with rice**

Ingredients:

- Aromatic (Joha) rice ..... 1 cup
- Fish head ..... 1 large, cut into 4
- Tomatoes (ripe), chopped ..... 2
- Turmeric powder ..... 1 tsp
- Mustard oil ..... 4 tsps
- Cumin seeds ..... 1 tsp
- Bay leaf ..... 1
- Cardamom pods ..... 2
- Cloves ..... 2
- Cashew nuts ..... 10
- Onion, sliced ..... 1
- Garlic paste ..... 1 tsp
- Ginger paste ..... 2 tsps
- Cumin powder ..... 1 tsp
- Hot water ..... 2 cups
- Pure ghee (optional) ..... 1 tsp
- Salt ..... to taste
- Oil ..... for frying
- Method:

Wash the rice and soak in cold water for 20 minutes. Clean the fish heads and sprinkle with turmeric powder and salt and leave to marinate for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, wash, peel and cut potatoes



into wedges and sprinkle with salt and turmeric powder. Heat some oil in a deep pan. Fry the potatoes until golden and set aside.

In the same oil, fry the fish head, until golden brown. Remove, gently break with a spatula. In a separate pan, heat four tablespoons of mustard oil. Tip in the onions and fry, until golden-brown.

Add the ginger and garlic paste and sauté until aromatic. Reduce heat and add bay leaf, chilli, cinnamon and cardamom and sauté briefly. Stir in the tomatoes and cook, covered, until softened.

Add turmeric and cumin powder and mix well. Drain the rice and add to the pan. Stir gently to coat with the spices. Add the fried fish head, cashew nuts and potatoes. Pour in the water and bring to a boil. Cover with a tight-fitting lid, reduce heat to medium and cook until all the liquid is absorbed and the rice is cooked through. Drizzle with pure ghee and serve hot.



Sharmin Pasha is a food writer currently based in Dubai, UAE, where she teaches privately-organised cooking lessons on different techniques of cooking. She also hosts an informative page featuring Assamese recipes on Facebook, which was created to showcase the culinary treasures of Assam to the world and to preserve ethnic recipes for generations to come.

**Mango pudding**

Ingredients:

- Mango puree ..... 1 cup
- Aromatic (Joha) rice ..... 5 tsps
- Milk ..... 1 litre
- Sugar ..... 6-8 tsps
- Raisins, chopped ..... 1/4 cup
- Cashews, chopped ..... 1/4 cup
- Saffron threads ..... 4
- Cinnamon powder ..... 1/2 tsp
- Sliced pistachio and rose petals ..... for garnish

Method:

Wash and soak the rice in cold water for 30 minutes. Drain the rice and grind it to a granular paste.

Add a few tablespoons of cold milk into the ground rice and mix to a smooth paste. In a heavy-based pan, bring the remaining milk to a boil. Pour in the rice and saffron powder and cook on low heat, stirring continuously, until the mixture begins to thicken.

Add the sugar and cook, stirring until the mixture is thick enough to coat

the back of the spoon. Turn off the heat and stir in the saffron strands.

Allow to cool for a few minutes and then mix in the mango puree, chopped nuts and raisins. Transfer into individual earthen containers or pudding bowls. Chill in the refrigerator until cold.

Serve, decorated with rose petals and pistachios.



## ALPHALIFE

Rashmi Narzary

rashmi06narzary@gmail.com

## La Bella Umbrella

**Umbrellas can be as unpredictable as the weather.**

**'Y**ou see,' he told her,

'Only recently did I realise how much skill, poise and perfect timing are required for that accurate and graceful handling of an umbrella.' She nodded, wondering in amusement and sadness, that he was yet to possess any of those virtues and as a result, whenever he used an umbrella, he rarely benefitted from it. Whenever there was harsh sunshine and he opened his umbrella, he reached home tanned. Whenever there was rain and he opened his umbrella, he reached home drenched. Anyway, and whenever there was someone on the street he was trying to avoid by opening the umbrella to shield his

face, the person invariably called, 'Hey! Long time no see, fellas!' And he owed all of it to the erratic umbrella behaved, some of which he shared with me, and I'm sharing with you, all, friends!

**The Praying Umbrella:**

It is that behaviour of an umbrella when, at the time when it is required the most over the head during a heavy rain along with wind, the umbrella itself decides to say a prayer to save itself from getting wetter, by raising its spokes heavenwards, as we would raise our arms. In the process, the whole umbrella closes upwards and the person is left holding the handle.

**The Cup Umbrella:** Almost like the Praying Umbrella, here too the erring spokes reverse but don't shut down completely. They rather open the wrong way up, to stay like a cup over the head and collect all the rainwater only to drop all of it on you when the cup can no longer hold the free flowing water.

**The Garfield Umbrella:** Now this is the one that refuses to open when you are on the verge of alighting from a car or a bus or whatever. One foot is already on the ground and you press and pull whatever knob or lever releases the roof of the umbrella, but the umbrella remains obstinate as ever in its intentions. And all this while, the wind keeps sending rainwater into the vehicle, to the annoyance of those sitting inside. *Bah!* Then at other times, the Garfield Umbrella refuses to close down when you are on the verge of boarding a bus, a car or...

**The Coconut Palm Umbrella:** This is an obedient, folding Umbrella where the foldable stick elongates the moment you press the open button. Well, the obedience ends there. The roof of the umbrella refuses to open up and sits hugging itself at the top of the stick, bent over two-three folds up there, looking like a coconut palm.



**The Tortoise Umbrella:** This is that unpredictable behaviour of the prankster umbrella which, after behaving otherwise well and protecting you from rain and sun for a while, suddenly decides to play a prank and closes down with your head inside its canopy, like a tortoise's shell over your head. And makes you stagger momentarily.

**The Nargis Umbrella:** The credit for this umbrella behaviour, however, goes not to the umbrella but to the user. Because here, though the sun beats down upon the face from the front or the rain pours down upon the head from above, the user yet holds the umbrella to protect herself from neither sun, nor rain. She instead supports the umbrella's stick on her shoulder and holds the roof like a knapsack upon her back.

No, that's not all. She then also twirls the stick from time to time, making the umbrella go *whirr* like a Ferris wheel upon her back. Just the way Nargis did while romancing Raj Kapoor!

**Points to ponder**

- The noble among the clan, however, have served as a walking stick to the aged and shooting stick to the lone walker in a wooded path
- That's a complicated spelling, U-M-B-E-R-L-L-A! Learn it early, learn it correct
- Did you know that Parasol is the more stylish cousin of Umbrella? Hey, now you do!

**Summing up**

At an age when you no longer hope to enhance your learning skills nor gain newer virtues to use an umbrella with grace, heck! Just go buy yourself a raincoat instead. To protect yourself from the rain. As for protection from the sun, there are hats, scarves and the all-glamorous sunscreen lotion. I am allergic to sunscreen and hats! And so I look forward to your suggestions for sun-protection...!

## FICTION

Indrani Raimedi

indrani.raimedi@gmail.com

**W**hen she was four, Shweta's class teacher wrote a note asking her parents to meet her. Her father had a meeting, so her mother went. The teacher showed Kavita a series of drawings Shweta had done at the art workshop. She had used only black crayons. They were always the same. Three stick-like figures, a man, a little girl standing upright, and a woman face down. The lines were stark, urgent, angry, sometimes even causing the paper to tear. Even the sun was black.

"Mrs. Chowdhury," The teacher said gently. "Is everything alright at home?"

Kavita stared at the drawings, stunned.

"Of course," She stammered. "We're fine. She's just a bit moody."

"Our school counsellor made an evaluation.

Something is disturbing the child."

"We give her everything she wants." The teacher said. "It's not that. Children need a safe environment. Is there something going on at home that we should know? Please, Mrs. Chowdhury, we have to help your daughter."

"I have nothing to say," Kavita said. "Please don't tell this to her father. That's a request."

\*\*\*

Then Shweta was eight. They went on a holiday to Goa. Deep Chowdhury was in an expansive mood. He had just clinched a lucrative deal. He put on bright fluorescent bermudas and ventured far out into the sea. He was a tall, obese man, with powerful biceps and thinning hair. Kavita, dressed in a loose top and sarong, sat quietly in the sand. Shweta licked an ice-cream, looking out to the sea. Her father was just a dot. The waves could pull him away. But soon he was swimming back towards them, his eyes set on her mother.

"Get back, get back to the hotel."

"But we've just come, Papa."

"Get back; that's an order."

In that beautiful hotel room fitted with glowing lamps, paintings and curios, Deep Chowdhury grabbed Kavita by the hair and hurled her across the floor. She fell like a floppy rag doll, blood already oozing from her cut lip. A large purple bruise would flower around her left eye, almost shutting it. Shweta whimpered in one corner, pale, her hands icy. She could see her mother's legs exposed. Right up to her thighs.

"There, look at her, dressed like a whore," Deep spat at his wife.

The holiday ended.

\*\*\*

Near their apartment block was a park. There were flowering shrubs, a fountain, a cobbled walkway looped in a circle. In the evening senior citizens walked there, and children played on the



## The colour of pain

swings. Shweta was now twelve, quiet, bespectacled, old beyond her years. She had no friends, because she was afraid the secret would escape her lips. That they would pity her, her mother. So she brought her books to the park instead. Physics, chemistry, history, civics. She read them as if her life depended on them. And most of all she loved Geography, to lose herself in strange distant lands and cross the borders of countries with her forefinger, to know that there are millions of people different from her and her circle of pain, guilt and despair. She was never Daddy's girl because she flinched when he tried to hug her and she was not Mummy's girl too because she had not been able to save her in all these years. So she bought her mother band aids, gaze and ointments. These were what her mother needed most of all.

\*\*\*

Then Shweta was 16 and appeared for her school finals and topped in the State. This quiet, bespectacled girl faced the news cameras and acknowledged messages of congratulation that flooded around her. Deep Chowdhury's chest puffed up with pride. Kavita wept but for once these were tears of joy

The Chowdhurys were invited by the students un-

ion to felicitate the toppers. There was a huge crowd in the auditorium. The family was ushered into the front. Many speeches were delivered. The toppers were described as harbingers of India's future. Then it was time for the felicitations. Shweta's name was called out. Clad in black trousers and a simple white top, her hair pulled back with a barrette, Shweta walked up to the stage and joined her hands in a *namaste*. Thunderous applause filled the hall. The chief guest ceremoniously handed her a scroll, a trophy and a cheque. The television cameras recorded those moments.

"Miss Shweta," the anchor said. "This is a special moment for your family. What would you like to say to them?"

Sweta stood there, blinking at the lights, overwhelmed by the question.

"I would..." - She stammered. "I would like to say not just to them, but to all parents that the most precious, the most precious gift you can give your child is peace."

Deep Chowdhury looked down at his watch. He fought down a desire to walk away. He looked at the figure on the stage... his daughter, and finally knew defeat.

## MIND MIRROR

Dr. Jayanta Das

The author is a senior consultant psychiatrist. This column is aimed at creating awareness about mental health and well-being. E-mail your queries to sundayreading@assamtribune.com

■ My 32-year-old elder brother is suffering from schizophrenia. How long does he have to take medications and is it treatable?

— Naina

Anus: Schizophrenia is treatable. One has to be on regular medications as advised by the psychiatrist and regular follow-up with the doctors is a must. Treatment is divided into two phases – acute phase (to control the current florid symptoms) and maintenance phase (to prevent further relapses in the future). With regular medication and treatment, one can live an absolutely normal life, carry on with daily routine activities, work and maintain a healthy family and social life. An important thing to remember is that even if florid symptoms are not present, daily medications have to be taken because regular medication in maintenance phases will help to

prevent relapse of symptoms. However, we cannot rule out the possibility of fluctuation or exacerbation of symptoms, even with regular

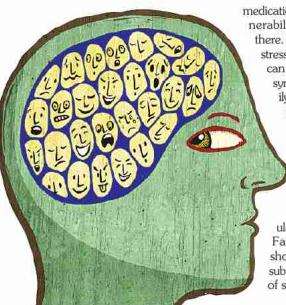
medication because the vulnerability will always be there. Sleep disturbances, stress or substance abuse can lead to relapse of symptoms. As a family member, you have to take care and keep a watch on him, whether medication is being taken or not, and take the patient to the doctor on regular follow-up visits. Family members should notice certain subtle signs of relapse of symptoms like sleep

disturbances, irritability, increase in anger, withdrawn behaviour, lack of motivation, etc.

■ My 22-year-old son, of late,

has become very irritable and his anger has increased. His interest in studies has decreased. He has started taking alcohol with his friends and last night his roommate told me that he also takes cocaine. He stays in a hostel. Kindly suggest.

Ans: Addiction is a serious issue and has to be handled with care. Treating only addiction of alcohol and cocaine by medication is not sufficient. We have to first assess which stage of addiction is the patient currently in and then plan out his treatment regime (both medically and from a psychiatric point of view) accordingly. Along with this, we also have to plan for his maintenance treatment so that the symptoms do not relapse in the future. While treating addiction, we also have to deal with various other factors (family issues, his studies or occupation-related issues, his relationship issues, his personality, any stressors, etc). Apart from the medication part, counseling/therapy is a must to increase his motivation level, to prevent relapse. So, proper evaluation by a psychiatrist and clinical psychologist is necessary.



## Understanding schizophrenia

It was alive, a human form springs up, and the word assumes an amazing proportion and like an elf delves into my being. As a child a daily dose of word play in the form of jumbled words had the same effect on me as a fidget spinner has. It would instantly calm me down as my eyes would glow with a feeling of achievement every time I deciphered a word. The favourite book that I had was my dictionary. The time I spent reading it was shocking. As I read the words, they would emerge out of the pages in the form of smoky rings, gradually taking on a human form! The word 'swashbuckling' happened to be one such word which literally galloped out of the sentence, on a stallion, tall, dark and 'drop-dead' cute! It remained in that form with me in the crevices of my mind for years. 'Obviously' was a word I would frequently use as it seemed to conjure up an

image of a smart girl, bespectacled and intelligently pretty, she just knew the 'obvious' that many failed to understand! Then came the much clichéd adjective 'awesome', the form that it took up was that of a 'dumb blonde' who had a twin sister of an expression called 'mind blowing'!

Authors like Roald Dahl and J.K. Rowling have given us a whole bunch of words that have mesmerised 'muggles' like me. The words are simply 'Whoopsysplunkers' (fantastic) and will be 'Time-Twiddlers' (immortal) for posterity!

Words have always been powerful, however, today they seem to be spilling all around me, in the form of sturdy, little 'Minion'-like creatures, flexing their muscles! Especially fuelled by the Twitterati, perhaps we can call it the age of 'perspectivism' – words en-

## People Speak

**Sunday Reading** invites all readers to speak out on vital issues that touch their lives. Our next topic is 'Why are our government leaders not motivated anymore?' Send us your responses, not exceeding 100 words, enclosing your name, address and passport-size colour photograph, latest by July 25, addressed to: **People Speak, Sunday Reading**, The Assam Tribune, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003 or e-mail us at sundayreading@assamtribune.com

Today's topic

**“ Why public protests are not effective? ”**

— Maini Mahanta, Journalist.



First and foremost, the effectiveness of any protest depends on the sensitivity of the concerned authority. They must have an understanding of the sentiments of the protesters as well as a clear perspective of the situation. Secondly, though democratic protest is a healthy sign of society, sometimes protests become violent, as protesters burn vehicles and vandalise shops, etc. Such behaviours are certainly unacceptable. The sadder elements withdraw from such protests.

In a democratic country, people must be aware of their rights and should protest if these are violated by the elected rulers. But such protests must be peaceful and orderly.

— Maini Mahanta, Journalist.

Protest is an act where people express their objection regarding an issue. Protests, nowadays, have become a common way to fulfil demands. People tend to go for protests on the streets, parks, etc., instead of a peaceful discussion. There are some situations where protests are for genuine reasons but the government doesn't pay much attention to them. At the same time, however,

there are some protests which are based on irrelevant issues. Moreover, political parties sometimes play a crucial role in such protests. They mislead the common people. People become aggressive and they create chaotic situations which leads to disturbance.

— Poonam Das, Tezpur University.

Article 19 (1) (b) of the Constitution of India entitles the citizens of India to assemble peacefully without arms. In a country governed by a democratic state mechanism, the citizens have every right to protest and enunciate their grievances, whether individual or communal, in a public forum. But, in most cases, what one gets to see in the name of public protests is mere hullabaloo. Pan-democracy ensues in most sites. Sometimes, one gets to see protesters coming out on the streets and creating road and railway blockages, which hamper the regular flow of life. Discipline should be one of the driving forces in any public gathering but in most cases, the public protesters forget it, which results in chaos and cacophony. Also, in most public protests, an acceptable solution is not chalked out at the end of discussion because the protesters chiefly use the occasion to vent their anger and fail to bring the discussion to the table.

— Mandeep Sarma, Dharapur, Guwahati.



Over-utilisation of the 'Right to Peaceful Protest' is most common nowadays, which violates law and order and crosses all limits of dignity. Moreover, among the participating rebels, most of them are unaware of the main objective of the protests, or they are not bothered about the end result as they are not the real victims of the reason of protest. Furthermore, sticking to a particular demand by protesters till the end can hardly be seen, which results in shift in focus.

— Abhijit Kalita, Guwahati.

Public protests are not effective because public memory is too short. Public protests remain effective so long as the media keeps it relevant in the public mind. In India, public protests are like sparks that never turn into a fire of protest. May be, we Indians are too forgetful about the misdeeds of the people who are at the helm of affairs, which leads to such types of failed protests. Public protest can become an effective medium of creating pressure on government regarding various issues that emerge in the society. What is required in this regard is a feeling of unity and co-operation in organising a successful public protest.

— Jnandip Bora, Maligaon, Guwahati.



joy the clout to turn the world chaotic.

It was one tempestuous night when the President of the United States of America, tweeted about the "constant negative press coverage". And with that the President, went to bed, leaving the inhabitants of Twitter in a fury. He was known for having jumbled words earlier, like 'unpresidented' and 'honered'. The distortion this time was so thorough that it was not immediately clear what the President was trying to say. In the wee hours of the morning, upon realising that he had made a typographical error (let's hope), Donald Trump deleted the tweet, only to add to the confusion by tweeting, "Who can figure out the true meaning of 'coverage'?"

Everybody went into throes of brain-cracking and meme-generating – and later it was assumed that Mr. Trump had probably meant 'coverage'. What do you reckon lies ahead for the coinage – maybe it will give rise to a productive suffix, no word in the English language ends in 'fele' as of today, or it may be an addition to the inter-

estingly creative Trumpian 'gobblefunk'!

Another word that recently caught the fancy of the world and mine too, was 'farago', used by Shashi Tharoor in one of his supremely viral tweets. His exasperation at being slurred and misrepresented resulted in this verbose response that made people scurry and look up the word in the dictionary! Well, it means 'cattle fodder' in Latin... some food for thought!

Before marriage I would test my husband's vocabulary to check whether he was 'wordy' enough to be married to me and tolerate my logophile passion. Fortunately he was patient enough to be subjected to the onslaught of word puzzles and pun quizzes and passed with flying colours! Thus with words I have wood, pursued and nued, but have always got my way out and danced with them the victor dance! Even Lord Byron would agree.

But words things and a small drop of ink. Falling, like dew, upon a thought produces that which makes thousands, perhaps millions think.

## MY SPACE

Navanita Varapande

varapande.navanita@gmail.com

## The clout of words

As I write a word or speak one out, it suddenly takes a form of its own. As if it was alive, a human form springs up, and the word assumes an amazing proportion and like an elf delves into my being.

As if it was alive, a human form

was, a human form springs up, and the word assumes an amazing proportion and like an elf delves into my being. As a child a daily dose of word play in the form of jumbled words had the same effect on me as a fidget spinner has. It would instantly calm me down as my eyes would glow with a feeling of achievement every time I deciphered a word. The favourite book that I had was my dictionary. The time I spent reading it was shocking. As I read the words, they would emerge out of the pages in the form of smoky rings, gradually taking on a human form! The word 'swashbuckling' happened to be one such word which literally galloped out of the sentence, on a stallion, tall, dark and 'drop-dead' cute! It remained in that form with me in the crevices of my mind for years. 'Obviously' was a word I would frequently use as it seemed to conjure up an

As if it was alive, a human form

# The roles you play

**T**here is a cousin I speak to every so often on the phone. The traffic in this city being what it is, we do not meet as often as we would like but compensate by connecting on the phone instead. I always look forward to our conversations and after we hang up I find myself feeling more energised. Perhaps it is because the content of our talk is so refreshingly different. She is a social anthropologist and a teacher and "critical thinking" is one of the subjects she teaches. I am a writer who once was a doctor and between the two of us we share many interests, one of which is human nature and the human condition. Our discussions range from contemporary Buddhism to the structure of the modern novel onto how to make the quickest fish in mustard sauce. This same cousin has now decided to put her thoughts down in a blog, aptly titled "The Critical Thinker" and her first couple of blogs, as expected, got me thinking, or more accurately rethinking about a matter I have always felt strongly about. The matter of roles that society imposes on people. While my cousin has written inclusively about the roles forced by gender, particularly on men, I reflected on the more universal and insidious roles imposed on men and women and boys and girls by social and cultural constructs. Ones that are not immediately visible but are no less stifling for that.

Twenty years ago I left my postgraduate studies in medicine in midstream – at that time, I thought it was a temporary break but over the years life intervened and it became a permanent one – and I can safely say that my decision was met with universal dismay, disapproval and even outrage, barring a couple of notable exceptions. I understood instinctively where the reactions were coming from. The generations of women that had come before mine, our mothers and grandmothers, had to fight for the right to study and work outside the home. I remember my grandmother telling me how her parents had to obtain special permission for her to study in an all boys' school, the Samata Boys' High School, as there were no girls' school at that time near where she lived. Women had struggled to arrive at a certain place and there I was, throwing it all

away. I can understand the anxiety behind the hostility. I was sometimes met with. With the relinquishing of my dream and future right to work, I was letting the side down. My perspective, however, was slightly different. While I was as committed, if not more, as the next woman to women's education and right to working outside the home I believed that if blindly pursuing that right was detrimental to any other critical aspect of my life, as it was at that point – and if I did not harm any person depending on me

## IN BLACK AND WHITE

Jahnavi Barua  
baruajahnavi@gmail.com



It is heartening that in today's climate children and adults alike increasingly possess the latitude and support to take on any role of their choice.

by taking that decision – I possessed the right to give up my work and pursue whatever it was I felt more important at that moment. It may not have been my first choice, leaving a hard-earned career behind, but if there was a difficult choice to be made I felt deserved the freedom to make it. Would there be repercussions for the family as a result of this? Yes, there would be, mainly economic, but we decided that there were things we could do without or cut back in order to gain something else more valuable. I did not believe then and still do not believe now in working outside the home simply for working's sake, to reinforce a stereotype, to be seen as a correctly modern woman, to carry on in a career unhappy but too afraid to quit risking being perceived as weak. Don't get me wrong, I am not advocating women confining themselves to the home; on the contrary, I am endorsing work-

ing, for all the right reasons, but I am also asking for the freedom of choice to stop and take a deep breath if a woman chooses to do so and if it is economically feasible for her family. I took a deep breath, raised a child and found a second career in writing, which while it does not support the family, is deeply satisfying in other priceless ways. Times had changed for women, even far back as the Eighties. I believed we had arrived at a safe harbour where we had choices our mothers could not dream of. To be anything we wanted, even a housewife. We could safely reverse roles previously played, but this was a line of thought premature for the times.

And how times have changed now, twenty years down the line. I find I am suddenly "cool", that all the decisions I had made – to focus on family, to exchange a traditional career for an unexpected creative one – are philosophies being taught all around the world. Corporate CEOs everywhere are giving up lucrative careers to become power yoga proponents and white water rafters; lawyers are exchanging files for artists' brushes. I no longer stand out and no longer have to give unsatisfactory, awkward explanations about why I am not a doctor. I have to, instead, get used to praise heaped on my insight and courage and vision. I am ambivalent about all the accolades, I did what I had to do at a difficult point in my life. I would not have left my work if I had suitable options, but having none I did what I had to do. All I wished for was support for my decisions and that is all I wish for women and men and especially boys and girls, today. The freedom to make their choices and not be judged for it. It is heartening that in today's climate children and adults alike increasingly possess the latitude and support to take on any role of their choice. Boys can aspire to be chefs while girls are piloting fighter jets and when they want to take a break from their lives the chef can go back to business school and obtain an MBA and the fighter pilot can take a sabbatical and do a course on creative writing instead. It is indeed, a wonderful world!

Jahnavi Barua is a writer based in Bangalore.

## 5 THINGS / Director's special

### "A part of my heart belongs to the North-East"

Award-winning filmmaker **BIDYUT KOTOKY** explains what he looks for when he decides on a film.

#### 1 I must be passionate about my subject

First and foremost, the subject I'm dealing with has to move me. If I am not convinced about a subject, how can I expect the audience to be convinced by the story I'm telling? And a part of my heart belongs to the North-East, hence, it is natural for me to be passionate about subjects from this region.



#### 2 Different subjects demand different budgets

Obviously, there are quite a few subjects that interest me. And I have a few scripts ready, dealing with different subjects. These demand different budgets. But yes, while deciding on which subject to tackle next, I let my head overrule my heart. I try to do a neutral self-analysis to ask myself whether somebody will feel comfortable enough to invest the required budget for a film to materialise as per my present standing.

#### 3 Actors must trust me

Same is the case with actors. While writing a script, I visualise certain actors for certain roles. Once the script is ready, again I try to let my head take a call regarding whether those bunch of actors will feel comfortable trusting me as a director.

#### 4 I need to listen to my inner voice

Subjects of certain scripts require more experienced handling by a director as compared to some others. During such occasions, I try to listen to my inner voice while deciding whether I'm matured or experienced enough to handle a particular subject at that point of time.

#### 5 The external factor

At least in the case of my first film – *Ekhon Nedekha Nadir Xipare* (As the River flows), I had also allowed an external factor take a call on selection of the script. Being a complete newcomer to the industry, the fear of my subject getting plagiarised while leaving it with an unknown, probable producer was quite real. Hence, I decided to go ahead with a story which was considered pretty risky at those times due to the prevailing political atmosphere – that way not many people would be interested in stealing my idea, or so I thought.

(As told to Indrani Raimedhi)

## FORECAST

JULY 17 – 23, 2017

### ARIES



(MAR 21– APR 19) Business partners would be enthusiastic about new plans and ventures. An unexpected visit by an old friend could give you a pleasant surprise. An improvement in monetary position is likely.

### TAURUS



(APR 20– MAY 20) This will be a good week for computer professionals as they realise their dreams. Friends and family members would encourage working harder. You are likely to raise capital.

### GEMINI



(MAY 21– JUN 21) Your professional front would require a persistent effort and ability to plan action quickly to sustain it. You are likely to hear good news from close relatives.

### CANCER



(JUN 22– JUL 22) Problems at the professional front could force you to compromise on your principles. You are most likely to face criticism because of careless behaviour at home.

### LEO



(JUL 23– AUG 22) An excellent time for developing professional contacts. An old friend makes a pleasant visit later in the week. Sound financial health would enable you to invest on lucrative schemes.

### VIRGO



(AUG 23– SEP 22) Deviation from your professional path would harm interests. Evenings enjoyed with family and close relatives brings immense pleasure. Your brilliant ideas would help in bringing financial gains.

### LIBRA



(SEP 23– OCT 22) Handle tough situations at the professional front carefully. You will have to depend on family's help for your needs. You could find yourself in an exciting new situation.

### SCORPIO



(OCT 23– NOV 22) Female colleagues would help in completing pending work. Sudden good news will bring good cheer for the entire family. Financial hassles will be eased out with the help of your friends.

### SAGITTARIUS



(NOV 22– DEC 21) Senior colleagues' cooperation brings success at the professional front. You are likely to plan a short trip with family. This will be promising week to earn profits in real estate and financial transactions.

### CAPRICORN



(DEC 22– JAN 21) Develop good adaptability to handle pressurised situations at the professional front. Good advice from family members will help in reducing mental tension. Long-term investment would enable to make substantial gains.

### AQUARIUS



(JAN 22– FEB 18) Make sure you keep the team spirit going to achieve higher professional goals. Be generous in your approach and enjoy lovely moments with your family and friends.

### PISCES



(FEB 19– MAR 20) Use your strong determination and decision-making trait to face unusual and challenging situations with confidence at the professional front. Outdoor activities will be tiring and stressful.

## MOVIE WATCH

Bidisha Singh

### Baby Driver

Cast: Ansel Elgort, Kevin Spacey, Lily James, Jamie Foxx.  
Director: Edgar Wright.



Critics rarely give great reviews to heist movies but this one's got everyone raving. It has also been touted as a better version of *The Fast and the Furious* franchise.

Ansel Elgort is Baby, the getaway driver for crime boss Doc (Kevin Spacey), who plans and recruits robbers for lucrative heists. Suffering from Tinnitus, Baby takes the help of music to drown out the constant ringing and his iPod playlist acts as the smashing soundtrack for this fast-paced, action thriller. Smart writing, some clever editing, and a killer soundtrack makes *Baby Driver* a must watch this summer.

## Weekly Top Grossers

- |                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Spider-Man: Homecoming        | 6. Cars 3         |
| 2. Despicable Me 3               | 7. The House      |
| 3. Baby Driver                   | 8. 47 Meters Down |
| 4. Wonder Woman                  | 9. The Big Sick   |
| 5. Transformers: The Last Knight | 10. The Beguiled  |

### The Beguiled

Cast: Nicole Kidman, Kirsten Dunst, Elle Fanning. Director: Sofia Coppola.



Directed by Sofia Coppola, daughter of Francis Ford Coppola, *Beguiled* is a period drama dating back to the times of the American Civil War. A girls' boarding school in Virginia, sheltered from the ongoing war, sees some excitement when a wounded Union soldier is taken in. And as the girls take care of him and vie for his attention, rivalries and sexual tension build up. With all their upper-class manners thrown to the winds, these women try their best to upstage each other, even resorting to slut-shaming. Coppola manages to build a world where female emotions are laid bare and carnal desires take over.

## ALL IS WELL

Tess Marshall

### Staying power

**Appreciate everything:** Learn to live in a state of gratitude. Acknowledge the value within and the value without. When you are fretting and fearful, stop and think of your best memories. Dwell on them for a while, remembering the joy and gratitude you felt. Bring those feelings into the present moment. The more you acknowledge gratitude, the happier you will become.

**Learn to live with less:** Most people blow their needs out of proportion. No matter how much stuff they have, there is an insatiable desire for more. They live in a constant state of dissatisfaction. Just think, how would your life change if you became satisfied with what you have? Get rid of clutter. Become aware of how much you bring into your home versus how much you carry out or give away. Stop wasting anything. Choose to lead a simpler life.

**Forgive yourself:** Forgive yourself for anything you could have done but didn't do. Let go of the mistakes you have made in the past. You've carried that ball and chain for too long; take it off.

**This too shall pass:** Nothing is permanent. Tough times offer us an opportunity to grow. The sun will rise and the sun will set. It always does. Think of all the things you've been through, and have not only survived, but have made you stronger in the process. Take one day at a time.

**Breathe:** When you catch yourself feeling fearful, worried and desperate, stop and take a deep breath. Bring yourself to the present moment, and remind yourself that you can choose to feel peaceful instead.

It's normal to be stressed, down and frustrated when you live in uncertain times. It's important to monitor your moods. If you find you can't shake anxiety and depression, you may need to seek the help of a professional. Be brave. Be bold. Take the necessary steps.

