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NEWS CAPSULE

Train accident

MANGALDAI, Aug 19: In a major train accident, at least 23 passengers were killed and over 60 injured when 14 coaches of the Purbi-Hardwar Utkal Express jumped the rails in Khatauli near here this evening, officials said. An ex gratia of Rs 3.5 lakh each has been announced for those killed. — PTI
(Details on Page 14)

Mishap claims 3

BISWANATH
CHARIALI, Aug 19: Three youths—Bhairab Krishna Nath, Nipu Dutta and Nipu Bhattacharya were killed when the car they were travelling in collided head-on with a truck near Chaidar College, Gopur around 11 pm last night. — Correspondent

One shot

MANGALDAI, Aug 19: Two motorcycle-borne gunmen shot dead Moktar Ali, a Congress party worker and ward member of Dahi gaon panchayat, at Alachowka under Mangaldai PS at 4:45 pm today. Ali was on the pillion of another bike. — Correspondent

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Sunday

- Predicting the deluge
Bikramji Goswami
- UP CLOSE
Tales from beyond
Dr. Darshara Goswami
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Floods damage border roads, fencing in Dhubri

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: At a time when Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal is pressing the Central agencies to expedite the process of completing the job of fencing the international border with Bangladesh to check infiltration of foreigners, floods and erosion have caused heavy damage to the border fencing and border roads in the Dhubri and Cooch Behar sectors under Guwahati Frontier of BSF in the last few days.

Severe floods have eroded the border fencing in several places, while border roads and the PWD roads leading to the international border were also damaged in parts,



affecting movement of the security forces.

According to information available with *The Assam Tribune*, the fencing between Chengamari and Krish-

ing of the garbage that will take some time as it can be done only after the water level recedes. Similarly, portions of the barbed wire fencing in some parts in those areas are still under water.

Border roads were damaged in seven places due to erosion but fortunately, it did not totally block the entire width of the roads. However, improvised fencing erected in the gaps, rivers and the Indian side of the international border roads were washed away in heavy floods, resulting in heavy loss of property, including barbed wire and coil.

Flod water was also flowing over the border roads in several parts and (See page 12)

Majuli protection work must: expert



Countering adverse impact of Subansiri project

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: The hydel projects on the Subansiri river may have disastrous impacts on the largest inhabited river island Majuli, which is an important seat of Vaishnavite culture of the State. To pre-empt such catastrophic consequences, the Union government should initiate urgent measures for sufficient bank protection works, which would be able to survive any probable Tsunami-like situation arising out of the failure of the Subansiri hydel projects' dams.

This is the observation made by Bharat Saikia, general secretary of the Majuli Island Protection and Develop-

Flood situation improves further

Death toll shoots up to 63 in current wave

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: The prevailing flood situation in the State has shown further signs of improvement with floodwaters receding in nine districts today, even as the cumulative figure concerning flood-related deaths during the current wave has shot up to 63.

However, 22,11,265 people are still reeling under flood in 1,791 villages under 50 revenue circles of 16 districts of the State. Of them, 68,014 people are still sheltering in 191 relief camps in 13 districts.

Sakia, in a recent letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, argued that the strongest measures for the safety and development of the downstream areas of Subansiri river should invariably include Majuli Island as a part of the composite package.

The north bank of the famous river island should be so protected that it could resist the tremendous thrust of the Tsunami-type flow of the Subansiri in any eventuality of the failure of the dams being built on the river, Saikia pointed out.

He said that a WRD scheme

for protection of the island's north bank with an estimated cost of Rs 338.75 crore, is (See page 12)



A girl dries her textbooks in flood-hit Bhatabori in Dhemaji, on Saturday. — UB Photos

During the current wave of flood, 4,33,918 flood-affected people had to take shelter in 923 relief camps, said the official flood bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) here this evening.

Between August 10 and the afternoon of August 18, the NDRE, SDRF, CRPF, Army, police, fire and revenue authorities personnel and the local community rescued 51,197 marooned people in 26 districts.

As of today, a total crop area of 1,18,362 hectares have still (See page 12)

State facing serious infrastructural problems

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: The floods have damaged around 1,389 PWD roads in the State between March 31 and August 18 this year and around 244 PWD roads have also been breached by the gushing floodwaters till yesterday. The floodwaters have also damaged around 52 PWD bridges and around 265 approaches to the PWD bridges, besides damaging around 151 culverts during this period, thus causing a serious infrastructural problem for road communication in the State, official sources here said.

During the current wave of flood, which started on August 10, around six breaches occurred in the PWD dykes till August 18. During this wave of flood, around 3,77 PWD roads, around 37 PWD bridge approaches to around 78 PWD bridges and around 51 PWD culverts were damaged, while around 60 PWD roads were breached, sources said.

According to preliminary

reports, between March 31 and August 18, around 3,423 houses were completely damaged, while around 23,512 houses were partially damaged by the floodwaters.

The preliminary official reports also stated that during the same period, a total crop area of around 3,82 lakh hectares has been damaged and around 12,000 big and small domesticated animals washed away by the floodwaters.

During the current wave of flood, around 2,52 lakh hectares of cropland have been affected by the floodwaters, sources said, referring to the preliminary official reports.

Busted city call centres linked to Mumbai conman

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: The two call centres busted in the Basistha area of the city are linked to Sagar Thakkar alias Shaggy, the alleged mastermind of a Rs 1,900-crore call centre scam, who was arrested by the Maharashtra Police earlier this month.

Sagar Thakkar, the alleged mastermind of the Internal Revenue Service call centre scam in which thousands of Americans were defrauded to the tune of \$300 million, was operating the extortion racket since 2013 through its call centres across the country. They had targeted at least 15,000 US-based tax payers, who were allegedly conned by Indian tele-callers who impersonated as Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Immigration and other federal officials and demanded payments for non-existent debts.

Basistha police has busted two such call centres, one located at Beltoya Tinali and another at a complex at Bhetpara. The tele-callers at the centres, in the guise of IRS officers, had conned gullible people of the United States. One centre was being run by the name R.K. Group of Enterprise.

Police were tipped-off about the fraud by an employee of the 'company', who had left the job about a month back.

The employees at the call centre were given well-prepared scripts while making calls to gullible people in (See page 12)

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Rail connectivity unlikely before Aug 28

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: Although restoration work is going on, many locations in the NR Railway network – like in Kishanganj, Kathua and Araria districts of Bihar – remain breached, and according to railway engineers, full connectivity cannot be restored before August 28.

To alleviate the problems of passengers wanting to leave from the Northeast or come in, and for movement of goods, the Kishanganj station has been made available for loading of goods and essential commodities, railway officials said. Merchants can now place indents for placement of rakes at Kishanganj, which will be able to carry goods to all parts of North Bengal, Assam and rest of the Northeast.

A direct train service has been started between Dalkhola and Dibrugarh, which is in addition to the presently running daily special trains between Dalkhola and Guwahati and Dibrugarh.

At the same time, Raiganj station (on Barsoi-Radikapur

(See page 12)

Why are you punishing me... it has gone viral in social media that even the PM is a liar!



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BJP becoming intolerant towards criticism: Cong

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) has alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party has become intolerant towards any criticism and it has virtually brought an end to the democratic process of debate and discussion to pave the way for a despotic rule.

The APCC allegation came in the wake of the BJP's dubbing the Congress' criticism of the State government as nasty politics. The Congress has been criticising the State government and the BJP for their failure to provide relief to the millions of flood-hit people and instead concentrating more on expansion of the State Ministry, holding organisational meetings, etc.

The APCC said that instead of the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Union Water Resources Minister and top BJP leaders visiting the State at this hour of its distress, the Chief Minister himself has been shuttling between Guwahati and New Delhi to brief the BJP central leadership and the Union government on the catastrophe the State is in.

The Congress will continue with its criticism of the State government and the BJP, without being dispirited by the BJP's attempts at maligning its image, until the problems of the State's people are addressed in right earnest, said the APCC.

KV Khanapara student council formed

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: The investiture ceremony of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Khanapara was held today, in which the student council was constituted to groom future citizens having excellence in academics, co-curricular and sports activities, as well as core human values.

The selection was done in a two-tier system by a committee comprising the Principal, the Vice Principal and others. The Principal later administered the oath to the council members. The chief guest of the occasion was Partha Pegu, Deputy Director of Sports, Govt of Assam, who also happens to be a KV alumnus.

Sonaram field no longer a 'playground'

A school playground is meant for children to play. But, the Sonaram High School playground is being used for organising different festivals, functions, political meetings and also for vehicle parking and this 'illegal' use of the school playground for other activities has been taking place for a long time.

When late Narendra Chandra Sarma was the headmaster of the Sonaram High School, he took keen interest in protecting the school field so that the students of the school can play there. He did not even allow first time drivers to learn driving on the field. In those days, rich and powerful people of the area had vehicles but they respected late Sarma's decision in this regard.

He only allowed the western part of the school for holding the Paschim Guwahati Bihu Festival. Nowadays, it is seen that on alternate days, the

LGBI Airport: sensitive zone or cattle grazing ground?

SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: Attracting tourists from across the globe may appear to be on the top of the State government's agenda, but the ground reality of the 'Awesome Assam' campaign may well leave the tourists miffed the moment they land in Guwahati. At least the early morning sights encountered by them on the Lokaprava Gogoi-Bardoli International (LGBI) Airport campus managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) indicate so.

Unbefitting of an international airport, the LGBI Airport, which is the primary international airport of the entire North East India, has apparently become a grazing area for ruminant animals. Right in front of the entry/exit gate, passengers are greeted with cow dung and stray cattle moving freely, leaving them disgusted.

Some recent pictures making the eyesore evident on the LGBI Airport campus have even shown the



cattle moving freely and having a leisurely morning walk, while the on-duty staff, apparently in deep slumber, were nowhere to be seen. This, certain quarters contend, also amounts to a serious security breach.

Worse, some of the cattle were seen discharging excreta making a mockery of the existing security, safety

and hygiene management right in the passage area.

Giving an account of the embarrassing situation they had to face after reaching the LGBI Airport recently, some visibly perturbed passengers said that they had a tough time outside the main departure and arrival gate after they saw an unhygienic and

annoying environment – akin to an unmanned cattle grazing field.

"It is a routine scene at the LGBI Airport in the morning hours. The stray cattle reach as close as the entry and exit gate of the main building of the airport. Nobody bothers to drive them away. It stinks," said a frequent flier, who encountered the deplorable state of affairs.

"How can stray cows and for that matter any animal, move so freely in a sensitive zone like airport? What kind of impression do the authorities concerned want to give to the tourists or any person travelling to this part of the world," wondered another passenger.

"We may have the biggest face to brand us as a tourist destination, but until we do not improve on our way of functioning, nothing would help," a Guwahati-based trader said.

An official of the LGBI Airport when contacted, said the matter would be looked into and responsibility fixed if any lapse is found.

North East Cancer Hospital observes 9th anniversary

CORRESPONDENT

JORABAT, Aug 19: The North East Cancer Hospital & Research Institute (NECHRI) celebrated its 9th anniversary today. It was established in 2008.

The doctors, nurses and other employees of NECHRI celebrated the day in an austere manner due to the sudden demise of Mini Lalukar of Ulubari, who was closely associated with the cancer hospital.

During the past seven months, the institute has successfully trained 250 beneficiaries towards a new livelihood opportunity through bee-keeping and honey processing after implementing Oil Jeevika, a CSR Project supported by the Indian Oil Limited, Duliaganj. Manoj Kumar Das, Director, IIEE, was also present on the occasion.

The students of the Sri Guru Nanak National High School, Guwahati, also celebrated World Honey Bee Day today on the school campus.

Students took part in essay writing and art contests on the topic of honeybee and its importance. They also spoke on the subject and participated in a cultural programme.

CAUTION NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF TRADE MARKS ACT, 1999

Our client namely Dynarof Pvt. Ltd. ('DRPL'), is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 having its Corporate office at 3rd Floor, Anil Plaza, Near ABC, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781005 and is the proprietor of Trademark 'DYNAROF' (Trademark) in relation to color coated galvalume/zincalume roofing sheets and other related goods. The said Trademark of DRPL is depicted below:



The said Trademark of our client DRPL is duly registered in India bearing registration No. 1297878 dated 20.07.2004 and No. 1297879 in class 06, and is pending registration vide application no. 2767774 dated 17th Feb 2017 in class 06 under the provisions of Trade Marks Act 1999.

Our client has filed a Civil Suit bearing No. TS No. 3/2017 before District Court, Guwahati against the following party who has been using the trademark 'DURAROOF' in relation to identical products i.e. color coated galvalume/zincalume roofing sheets:

1. Dura Roof Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office at Anandibhawan, Allahabad Bank Building, 5th Floor, SRCB Road, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati, Kamrup (M), Assam 781001 in (hereinafter referred to as 'DuraRoof')

DuraRoof is engaged in selling identical products in the market using deceptively similar trademark 'DURAROOF'.

Vide Order dated 02.08.2017, passed in the abovementioned suit, the Lt. Addl. Distt. Court-1, Guwahati District Court, has been pleased to restrain DuraRoof and its officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, franchisees, servants, licensees, affiliates and all others acting for and on behalf of DuraRoof from using the mark 'DURAROOF' and/or any other mark which is deceptively similar to DRPL's Trademark 'DYNAROF'.

Public Notice is hereby given that anyone using the mark 'DURAROOF' and any other trade mark/label which is identical with and/or deceptively similar to the afore mentioned Trademark 'DYNAROOF' would amount to infringement and/or passing off of our client's aforementioned registered Trademarks 'DYNAROOF' and any such person would render himself liable for legal proceedings for infringement of Trade Mark, Passing Off and Damages.

Criminal complaint accompanied with Police raids and seizures shall also be initiated.

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CBI DSP attempts to rape married lady, arrested

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: A Deputy Superintendent of Police of the CBI has been arrested by police here on charges of attempting to rape a young married lady who happens to be the wife of an India Revenue Service officer. The incident took place at the victim's official residence at the Brahmaputra Guest House located at Patharganj under Sastham Police Station.

On Friday around 11.30 am, the CBI DSP, identified as Pearson Shadang, barged into the residence of the IRS officer, who was then out on duty, and tried to rape his 23-year-old wife. When the lady screamed, orderlies posted with the IRS officer rushed to the place and nabbed the accused. Apparently, the accused was in an inebriated condition.

The DSP is at present posted at the Anti-Corruption Branch of CBI on Lodhi Road in New Delhi. Shadang (55), hailing from Manipur, was here for some work and was staying at the guest house.

'On receipt of the information, police from Sastham PS rushed to the guest house and nabbed the culprit. A case has been registered at Sastham PS (199/17) under sections 498/354/276/511 of IPC. The accused was today forwarded to judicial custody,' ACB (Noonmati) Purabi Mazumdar told *The Assam Tribune*.

Police sources said Shadang got introduced to the IRS officer's family a day before. On the day of the incident, Shadang even paid some money to an orderly of the IRS officer and sent him away. The DSP had also booked his flight ticket in a bid to escape after committing the crime.

The IRS officer is posted in Guwahati as an Assistant Commissioner. — Staff Reporter

PABINDRA NATH SARMA AND KUNJABALA DEVI MEMORIAL AWARDS

Entries are invited for the following journalism awards for reports published during the year 2016.

(a) **Pabindra Nath Sarma Memorial Award:**

For investigative journalism on Human Rights

(b) **Kunjabala Devi Memorial Award:**

For investigative journalism on Women's Issue

The awards instituted in memory of late Pabindra Nath Sarma, freedom fighter and lawyer, and his wife Kunjabala Devi, carry a cash prize of Rs. 30,000 (Rupees thirty thousand only) and a citation each.

The entries should reach the undersigned by 20th September, 2017.

The terms and conditions are as follows:

1. The competition is open to all journalists working full time or part time, for registered daily, twice-a-week and weekly newspapers published from the North East region in Assamese, English, Bengali or Hindi.

2. Investigative reports on human rights issues will include violations of human rights in any form, work rendered by individuals, organisations or NGOs for creating awareness and strengthening the system to address human rights issues and other issues. Unknown facts brought to light by investigative reporting will be more appreciated.

3. Investigative reports on women's issues will include crimes against women, injustice meted out to women, women's welfare work rendered by individuals or organisations, work done by NGOs for women's welfare, oppression of women and such other issues. Unknown facts brought to light by investigative reporting will be more appreciated.

4. The incidents/happenings covered by such reports must have the North East as locale.

5. News items/news stories appearing in the journalists' bylines are preferred. But if such reports are published without byline, the candidates/competitor must provide proof that the writing concerned is actually his/hers. All such entries published in newspapers must be authenticated by the Editor concerned.

6. Entries sent by the journalist himself/herself or sent by other sponsors will be examined by a panel of judges to be appointed for the purpose and the panel's decision will be final.

7. The entries should be photo copies of the articles/news items published during the calendar year 2016 that is, between January and December, 31, 2016. The dates of publication of the items must be mentioned.

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

Scope of bee-keeping to augment income highlighted

STAFF REPORTER/CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI/JALUKBARI

Aug 19: State Agriculture Minister Atul Bora today said that the farmers of the State must consider bee-keeping and honey production as a viable option for augmenting their income, which would reflect in the overall development of the State.

"Producing pure and organic honey by adopting the scientific methods of bee-keeping can go a long way in augmenting the farmers' income in State. As the allied activities of agriculture are gaining popularity worldwide, we need to explore the opportunities in this field," he stated while speaking as the chief guest of the World Honey Bee Day programme organised by State Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing today.

The programme was organised at the Momai Tamuli Barbaruha Training Hall, Khanapara, in collaboration with the Salt Range Pvt Ltd. An exhibition on bee-keeping and hon-

ey production was also held.

A number of bee-keepers from across the State attended the programme, where technical and interactive ses-

sions were organised to apprise them of the latest trends and methods in this field.

The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) also celebrated the World Honey Bee Day today at the Guwahati Press Club. The institute pledged to make a revolution by introducing bamboo-made beehive box, which can be an ef-

fective alternative to the expensive wooden boxes.

Speaking at the event, Dr Sriparna B Baruah, Head, Centre for Industrial Extension, IIE, said that as bamboo is easily available in abundance in the rural areas of NE region, it can be a better option for the bee-keepers of the region. She added that such bamboo boxes are suitable for the bees as bamboo maintains a healthy temperature inside the box, which increases production of honey.

The students of the Sri Guru Nanak National High School, Guwahati, also celebrated World Honey Bee Day today on the school campus.

Students took part in essay writing and art contests on the topic of honeybee and its importance.

They also spoke on the subject and participated in a cultural programme.

ATDC Chairman Jayanta Malla Baruah and Vice Chairman Navadeep Kalita at a photo exhibition organised by the UB Photos Institute of Photography at the Gauhati Artists' Guild, on Saturday. — UB Photos



ATDC Chairman Jayanta Malla Baruah and Vice Chairman Navadeep Kalita at a photo exhibition organised by the UB Photos Institute of Photography at the Gauhati Artists' Guild, on Saturday. — UB Photos

Citizens' voice

Citizens are requested to express their Guwahati-specific views within 100 words and mail the same to citizensvoice05@gmail.com

Is Guwahati now 'open defecation-free'?

We are very happy to see the initiatives taken by our government and the conscious citizens of Guwahati in educating the people on how to maintain a healthy life and make

**- Prakab Kumar Sarma
Student of 1967 HSLC batch
- Akhil Kumar Das
Santipur**

**- Dr PK Das
Rehbari**

MESSAGE FORTODAY

If you think of something, do it.

— LYDIA DAVIS

The Assam Tribune**Terror unlimited**

The nightmare of sudden and unexpected attacks by homegrown terrorists using unconventional methods and weapons is unlikely to end soon for the nations of the globe. It may be recalled that in July last year at Nice in France an Islamic fanatic had run a truck over people celebrating Bastille Day, killing and injuring scores. Since then copycats have hijacked this method to wreak mayhem in other parts of the world, including countries in the focus of anti-terrorist drive such as England, Germany, US and France. If any nation had imagined itself immune to such attacks, they were mistaken, as illustrated by the latest round of attacks in Spain and Finland. At Barcelona in Spain a van ploughed into tourists enjoying the sights, killing four and injuring many. The same group involved in that attack then went to Cambrils, a seaside resort and embarked on another terrorist assault, killing one and injuring 65 of which 17 are in a critical condition. The police had no hesitation in shooting down the five terrorists who had worn fake explosive-belts and taunted them, explicitly underlining the fact that they were bent on suicide. Reportedly the same group was associated with an explosion the previous night in the town of Alcanar, raising the possibility that this group was trying to make a truck bomb—had they succeeded the outcome may have been even more horrific!

Simultaneously, there has been a copycat knife-attack by homegrown Islamic radicals on unsuspecting civilians in the streets of the Finnish town of Turku, in which one person was killed and several wounded. Police had been able to capture at least one of the terrorists by shooting him in the leg, but the others so far have given them the slip. The phenomenon of lone wolf attacks being replaced by group attacks in both cases alerts us to the growing desperation affecting the Islamic State, which is on the verge of being eliminated in its home bases in Syria and Egypt. This has caused IS members to spread over a larger area which though not within their control is vulnerable to attack by their affiliates. Many of these had entered Europe in the guise of migrants and appear to be engaged in creating terror cells. Moreover, the social network has emerged as the most potent weapon in the hands of a terror-outfit like the IS and it can be used to radicalize vulnerable individuals even from outside its former bases. Thus the crystal ball does not hold any hope of immediate cessation of the seemingly unlimited terror the international community has been lately subjected to. On the contrary, the global fight against terrorism is likely to be of the long haul type, with sporadic but lethal attacks taking place which even the most vigilant nation cannot prevent.

Opposition's unity effort

A strong and vibrant Opposition is essential for any democracy. In contrast to a number of Third World countries which have endured long years of dictatorial or one-party regimes, sometimes even rule by military junta, India has been fortunate enough to enjoy a healthy democratic tradition since the time of Independence. Despite excesses and aberrations, like during the period of Emergency, our multi-party system has functioned remarkably well for decades. And that needs to be encouraged. That needs to continue. A strong Opposition is essential to create a system of checks and balances. However, in last two-three years, most of the Opposition parties in India have been fighting a rearguard action to simply hold on to what they have instead of acting in a strong and effective manner to confront the BJP-led NDA regime over its policies and programmes. Congress party, reduced to mere 44 MP's in the Lok Sabha in the 2014 General Elections, has yet to attempt a comprehensive plan to bounce back. The Left, long a major force in many states, has simply lost its way. Most other parties are restricted by geography to certain State or states. So the NDA, especially its major constituent BJP, are having a field day. Leave aside posing a serious challenge to the NDA electorally, the Opposition has not even been able to confront the ruling dispensation effectively inside Parliament as well in recent times.

It is not that the NDA regime has been very successful as far as governance and delivery is concerned. Its performance has been far from spectacular. Economic growth is sluggish, price rise continues to hurt the common people, far-right groups are gaining ground, agrarian distress continues and jobs remain scarce. And yet the Opposition is failing to present itself as an alternative to the NDA. Now it looks that rebel JD (U) leader Sharad Yadav is emerging as a centre of gravity for Opposition groups. Yadav hosted the 'Sanjhi Virasat Bachao' (Save our Composite Culture) meeting earlier this week which witnessed attendance by representatives of over a dozen Opposition parties. Whether such efforts will bear fruit or not in the long run cannot be said now. But it is imperative for the Opposition parties to have a common minimum agenda if they hope to present a formidable contest to the NDA in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Indian democracy will only gain by having a strong Opposition, both inside as well as outside Parliament.

The Assam Tribune**From THE PAST****Indo-UAR-Yugoslav Industrial Collaboration****Discussions Tomorrow**

NEW DELHI, August 19— Possibilities of greater industrial collaboration by India, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia will be discussed here from August 21, for ten days, by the working group set up by the tripartite meeting of the Ministers of these three countries. The working group will examine the possibilities of increasing the production of primary products, industrial raw materials, finished products etc.

The industries suggested for tripartite industrial cooperation are automobiles, commercial vehicles, passenger cars, jeeps, scooters, motor-cycles, mops, automobile ancillaries, dredgers, tractors, railway rolling stock and track material, heavy electricals and electronics, iron and refractories, petrochemical industries, fertilizers, automobile thresh, pharmaceuticals and leather industry. The group will identify the areas where intensive expansion of collaboration in production, industrial co-operation and specialization will bring about ultimately some sort of an international division of labour.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1967

'Niskama Karma' or 'Disinterested Action'**■ Dr Jyotsna Bhattacharjee**

An action performed with detachment and without any desire for results is known as "Niskama Karma" or "Disinterested Action". Such actions are performed with a sense of duty and not with the hope of some results. Such actions do not impose any bondage on the person concerned and he can attain liberation through such Niskama Karma. Some people believe that for gaining liberation one should renounce the world and take up sanyas. But *Bhagavad Gita* states that a person can obtain liberation through three methods—Jnana Yoga (knowledge), Karma Yoga (Activity) and Bhakti Yoga (Devotion). A person can attain "Mukti" or liberation by following any of these courses.

Bhagavad Gita is one of the most reverent religious texts of the Hindus and even in today's world many devout Hindus start the day by chanting some verses from the *Gita*. But *Gita* is more a philosophical treatise than a religious discourse, which throws light on such inscrutable metaphysical problems like the nature of the soul, God, and man's liberation. *Gita* is incorporated in the *Mahabharata*, the immortal creation of Maharishi Veda Vyasa. *Mahabharata* narrates the story of two branches of the same clan—Pandavas and Kauravas, who stand for good and evil respectively. Duryodhana, the Kaurava prince, was the embodiment of evil forces. He was determined to rob Hastinapur and Indraprastha from the rightful heir to the throne, Yudhisthira, the eldest Pandava, by fraud and hence the battle of Kurukshetra inevitably followed. Lord Sri Krishna, the God-

incarnate, was the guiding force of the Pandavas.

On the first day of the battle of Kurukshetra, when both the armies confronted one another, Arjuna, the third Pandava, requested his charioteer Lord Sri Krishna to drive the chariot to the centre of the battle field, from which spot both the armies were visible. Accordingly Sri Krishna drove the chariot to the middle portion of the battle field. When Arjuna looked at the enemy line, he was overwhelmed with grief, as he clearly realized that the enemies were none other than his own kith and kin. How could he possibly kill them? He thought that it was better to take up sanyas than bringing all that devastation to his own relations. Asserting that he would not fight, Arjuna laid down his Gandiva.

That was when his lifelong friend Lord Krishna took the role of a preceptor and Arjuna became his ideal disciple. Thus unfolded the great philosophical treatise the *Bhagavad Gita*, comprising 18 chapters, dealing with metaphysical realities like soul and God, as well as the duty of man, leading to the ultimate goal of liberation or "mukti".

The three main parts of the *Gita* are Karma Yoga (Action), Jnana Yoga (Knowledge) and Bhakti Yoga (Devotion). In the first chapter we find a grief-stricken Arjuna refusing to fight and from the second chapter Sri Krishna takes over to impart

lessons on various aspects of life and reality to show Arjuna the true means to attain liberation. He starts with his narration of the nature of soul and its characteristics, then explaining diverse aspects of man and the world goes to the final chapter on "moksha" or liberation. From his teachings we learn that there are three ways to attain liberation—knowledge, activity and devotion. Different commentators on *Gita* have emphasized one or the other

to the virtue of all the three means for attaining liberation, and hence all this confusion regarding which is the best.

Lokmanya Tilak in his "Gita Rahasya" states that in Sri Krishna's view "action" or "Karma" appears to be the best way to attain liberation. This was the result of his deep speculation on *Gita* and his thoughts and findings were expressed through his magnificent composition "Gita Rahasya", which was completed in five months—between November 1910 and March 1911, while he was confined in Mandalay prison.

Completing it he wrote, "I have just finished writing my book and I have given it the title "Gita Rahasya". In it I have expanded some original ideas, which in many ways, will be presented to the people for the first time. I have shown in this book how the Hindu religious philosophy help to solve the moral issues in everyday life."

Tilak speculated over the philosophy of *Gita* with a free and unprejudiced mind, and came to the conclusion that *Gita* advocates "Karma Yoga" more than the other two, that is "Sankhya" and "Yoga". With the help of knowledge and devotion, one may attain liberation, but even after that there should not be any recession of his activities. The liberated person, who performs "Niskama Karma" (disinterested action) with detachment, can never be bound by the world of Karma. Bondage is not a quality or characteris-

tic of Karma—rather it is the mental attitude. Explaining the matter, Tilak says that our mind due to activity, can be gradually diminished by controlling the senses. Through disinterested action or "niskama karma" the bondage of karma can be broken. After reaching Brahman or liberation the person becomes a "sthitapragya" (one who is not affected by prosperity or adversity). Then what is the supposed to do? Should he renounce all his activities as illusory—or should he go on doing his duty? That is a perplexing question. It is possible to justify one or the other of these apparently contradictory ways.

In the opinion of *Gita*, for the liberated person, action or inaction means the same thing—and it never affects him. One should do the duty, sanctioned by his caste (varna), without any desire for fruits. That way his action cannot bind him to the world and despite doing work like any other person, he remains free. Shirkirg one's duty is wrong according to *Gita*. That is why Lord Krishna urged Arjuna to fight, as it was his duty as a Kshatriya to destroy evil and establish virtue.

Sri Krishna said that it is impossible to abandon all forms of activity, as for our very subsistence we have to do some kind of work. But Arjuna was not so easily convinced—rather he was perplexed, since the Lord seemed to advocate and extol both the paths of knowledge and action for attaining liberation, the ultimate goal of mankind. If both the ways could lead to mukti or liberation then why was Sri Krishna asking him to indulge in bloodshed—and why did he ask him not to take sanyas?

Swachh Bharat**■ Abhijit Borah**

At the very outset a few good news. The overall telecom subscriber base of our country (2015-16) is about 1059 million for the year 2015-16 with most of them in the mobile phone category. The national tele-density has increased to more than 83% for this period. And to top it all, the internet subscriber base for the country has increased to about 345 million at the same time. These are statistics from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Secondly, the Forbes 2016 list of billionaires across the world includes more than 80 of them from the country—indeed a big achievement. And, a few years ago, we have launched the Chandrayaan and Mars missions also. Of late, we are also seriously considering launching services of bullet train which would cost us much more than a fort.

Against this backdrop, it is really difficult to understand why the nation has failed to take on the menace of cleanliness head on. Particularly so in case of the issue of 'open defecation' that is a nightmare of the people at any given moment of time. This is because by the Union government's own admission, 60% (59.43%) of the people of

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the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar and Puducherry have been able to maintain status quo in the situation with 'zero' change either way in the percentage of open defecation in this period. As against this, Rajasthan has been able to improvise quite a lot by achieving 22% (the highest) change for the period (78.32–48.27) followed by a few states having 15% change trailed by others ranging up to one per cent also.

Another noteworthy development in this regard is that five states out of the eight belonging to the North-Eastern Region (NER) have posted impressive developments for the better. This is, among the states—Manipur and Meghalaya this change is 15% each. Arunachal Pradesh has clocked 12% followed by Assam with 10%. And the most impre-

ssive even at the national level comes from Sikkim which has achieved 0.10% from just about eight per cent in this regard. Yet, at the national level, this change is only about eight per cent which is nothing to write home about by any standard.

On the other hand, another statement

made in the Parliament in April this year

claims that by March 2017 more than 63% households of the country had access to toilets—an almost 20% rise from 45% in 2014. However, here also, there are wide gaps among various states. For example, while Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala and Sikkim have 100% access, on a lower level it is just about 28% for Bihar and mixed ones for others. There are only five states with sub 20% achievement in households having access to toilets led by 10 states with

20% achievement in the target year.

According to UNICEF, open defecation refers to the practice whereby people go in fields, bushes, forests, open bodies of water, or other open spaces rather than using the toilet to defecate. The practice contributes close to 65,000 tonnes of faeces into the environment each day. Around half the population of the country practice this accounting for 90% of the people in South Asia. A major health threat to children it is the highest number of diarrhoeal deaths among children under-five in the world. Every year, diarrhoea kills 188,000 children under five in India.

more than 80% of the same. This means

that efforts must be really geared up for

the target of the Government by the

target year.

With great pain we have to say that once again a

doctor has been made scapegoat for the infrastructural

lapse and failure of the government.

— DR HARJIT SINGH BHATTI, president, resident doctors association, AIIMS.

"Floods hit the state earlier but this year the intensity

is more. Lakhs have been affected and over 100 people

lost their lives. This happened because the state

government failed to repair the embankments on time.

— TARUN GOGOI, Ex-CM, Assam

"India's 1-1 draw with Chile showed that despite

having started far away from the objective of the

tournament in relation to other teams, it is possible for us

to achieve success. — LUIS NORTON DE MATOS, coach,

U-17 football, India.

"It is both surprising and sad that PM Modi described

the death of children in Gorakhpur, a natural calamity. — MAYAWATI, president, BSP

you'll surely be dead and gone and

when the operator calls you, can you

hear your own voice even though you've long been dead."

"Fantastic," I said, "but AT&T's

space phone can also be used to monitor

on communications among intelligent

beings deep in outer space."

"Oh bosh," said the GT official,

"you just dial any number in the Fancy Bazaar

exchange area and you can overhear cry-

tal clear conversations among subscri-

ers in the Dis exchange area. Isn't

this a greater technological feat than

eavesdropping on conversations among

aliens in the Andromeda galaxy?"

A telephonic marvel**The last word****S RAGHUNATH**

The giant American telecommunications company AT&T has just unveiled what it calls a "space phone" in the atrium of its New York headquarters. This is a futuristic concept in long range communications and visitors will be encouraged to try it and establish contact with extra-terrestrial beings. It will also give people a rare chance to hear these voices long after the persons are dead.

I have been talking to a senior official of Guwahati Telephones (GT) and I casually told him about the space phone. "Oh stuff and nonsense," he said disdainfully, "what's the big deal about

it? We in GT have been operating space phones for so many years now that it's all old hat to us. I'm sorry, but I'm not impressed."

"You mean there are space phones in Guwahati?" I asked incredulously.

"Look," snapped

the GT official angrily,

"our space phone can

do what AT&T's con-

traption does and more. You just try

booking a lightning trunk call to Dis-

trupi which is few kilometres away

from Guwahati. The call will materialize,

if at all it does sometime during

the latter half of 2071 and by that time

you'll surely be dead and gone and

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Students of Sishu Niketan, Ananda Bazar, taking out a rally demanding boycott of Chinese goods, at Salbari in Baksa district, on Friday. — UB Photos

World Honey Bee Day observed

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMOOGA, Aug 19: National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (NABARD) in association with Surveyor, an NGO observed the World Honey Bee Day at Assam Forest Guard Training School (AGFTS), Makhum today.

The meeting held on the occasion was chaired by Yunush Salim, Superintendent of AF-GTS. Addressing the meeting as a resource person, Bina Gogoi explained the significance of the day. Nikhil Loadh, LDM and Sameer Mazumder, DDM, NABARD, Tinsukia were also present on the occasion. Akhil Chandra Baruah of Surjyoday explained the objectives of the meeting.

Earlier, Raju Nath of Surjyoday delivered the welcome address.

OBITUARY

Dr Sangeeta Das

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: Dr Sangeeta Das, daughter of AK Das, retired IGP and R Das and a resident of Japarigog here passed away on August 17 due to a sudden illness.

She was the assistant professor and head of the department, i/c of Department of Social Work in Mahapurusha Srikranta Sikandareya Viswavidyalaya of Guwahati campus, Rupnagar.

Maya Baruah

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: Maya Baruah, a resident of Japarigog, Panbari, passed away at a private nursing home on August 17. She was 72.

She leaves behind her husband, two sons and a host of relatives. Her death has been widely mourned.

Dharani KT Das

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: Dharani Kanta Das, an elderly citizen of Hengrabari area here passed away on August 17 last. In 1963, he joined the State PHE Commission as an overseer (junior engineer) and was posted in Shillong. He retired as an Assistant Executive Engineer from the same department.

Later he returned to Assam and became a permanent resident of Hengrabari area. He was actively associated with a number of social organisations. He leaves behind his wife, a daughter, a son and a host of relatives.

Ranesh Kr Chakravarty: a tribute

Ranesh Kumar Chakravarty passed away on August 2. He was a very helpful, cordial and jovial personality who could carve a niche in the heart and mind of anybody with whom he communicated.

A native of Hukam, Bilsapara in Dhubri district and a resident of Nabi Nagar, Guwahati, Chakravarty retired as the Deputy Manager of United India Insurance Company Limited in 2001. His life was exemplary for his commitment to work, ethics, morality, discipline, philanthropy and social re-

Flood situation improves in West Dhemaji

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAJI, Aug 19: The flood situation in West Dhemaji area has improved considerably following cessation in rainfall.

The level of floodwater has come down in all the flood-affected villages in the area.

However, a lot of inmates are still taking shelter in a shelter camp at Bordalami.

The Dhemaji district administration has taken appropriate measures for providing flood-relief to the affected people.

Army distributes flood relief

26th Manipuri Language Day to be observed today

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: Manipuri Sahitya Parishad, Assam Head Quarter, Silchar in collaboration with Manipuri Sahitya Parishad Assam, Kamrup District Committee is going to observe the 26th Manipuri Language Day on August 20 at the Guwahati Press Club here, stated a press release.

This is the day on which Manipuri language was included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India in 1992.

The programme will begin with flag hoisting of the parishad at 10:30 am by Dr

Karam Ibungthal, president, Manipuri Sahitya Parishad, Assam which will be followed by floral tributes to people who sacrificed their lives for their mother tongue. Dr Parmananda Rajbongshi, secretary general, Assam Sahitya Sabha will be the chief guest of the programme. A book written by M Bhagat will also be released.

The programme will be concluded with a Kavi Sammelan. It will be inaugurated by Kh Dilip Singh, president, Manipuri Sahitya Parishad, Assam, Kamrup District Committee.

Assistant Professor, Assam University, Silchar will deliver a talk on the Language Day as a resource person. Many delegates from Silchar, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Hojai are also expected to attend the programme. A book written by Lashiram Tarunkanta, Joint Director, Press Information Bureau, Govt of India and Dr Prithvirajit Birmani, Editor, *Echana & Arambol* will be the guest of the programme. Dr Houramam Rajmani Singh,

Prices of essential commodities fixed in Golaghat district

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, Aug 19: Due to the devastating floods in Golaghat district along with other parts of the State, the Golaghat district administration has kept a strict eye on the prices and storage of essential commodities. The Deputy Commissioner Gaurav Bothra took stock of the essential commodities with the Supply Department of the district along with the representatives of Chambers of Commerce at a review meeting held at the DC's Conference Hall on Friday.

According to a press release issued by the DIPRO Golaghat, in the meeting, the DC directed all the officials to keep a close eye on illegal price hikes and stock of essential items. He also urged the Chambers of Commerce to take steps so that there is no scarcity of essential commodities. The meeting also

finalised the prices of the essential commodities in the district and urged all to adhere to the prices in any circumstances.

The prices have been fixed as follows: Rice (puffed) Wholesale (WS) Rs 2400-2800 and Retail Sale (RS) Rs 26-30, Masur Dal (small) WS 7000 and RS 75, Masur (Medium) WS 6000-6500 and RS 65, Masur (Big) WS 5500 and RS 60, Moong Dal WS 7200 and RS 77, Boot Wool WS 7500 and RS 80, Boot Wool 6700 and RS 73, Bean WS 3300 and RS 36, Sugar WS 4400 and RS 48, Atta WS 1020 and RS 26, Maida WS 1050 and RS 28, Mustard Oil (Tin) Rs 110, Refined Oil WS 1100 and RS 80, Potato WS 1100 and RS 15 and RS 35. The release also stated that any complaint regarding prices and stock of essential commodities may be sent to the Supply Department (8638057859) immediately.

Along with white-washing of the Rudrapur temple that has been a major tourist attraction in the area, the NSS workers also planted tree saplings in the area and put up banners and signboards to create an opinion to make the area an eco-friendly and plastic-free zone.

Over 100 students fall sick in Ratabari

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Aug 19: At a time when the entire nation was jolted by the tragic incident of children dying in a hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur due to alleged medical negligence on Thursday over 100 students of Azad MV school in Ratabari constituency in Karimganj district were found in a serious condition after they

consumed deworming tablets. The cadres of NSUI have expressed deep anguish over the incident and bemoaned the Health Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday changing the minister of being responsible for the alleged incident.

Talking to this correspondent, Karimganj Deputy Commissioner Pradip Kumar Talukdar said, "around 35 affected students were treated at the Chorgola PHC and sent

back to their residences on Thursday. However, on Friday, five more students were taken to the Karimganj Civil Hospital for treatment. This is a case of possible negligence on the part of the teachers in giving the tablets to the students properly."

A magisterial probe has been initiated and the Joint Director of Health Services has been asked to collect a report of the validity of the med-



A submerged village at Mijika, in Biswanath Chariali on Friday. — UB Photos

Yeoman service by Tezpur College NSS unit

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, Aug 19: The NSS unit, Tezpur College organised a week-long village camp at Rudrapur village under Parbatia Gaon Panchayat from August 11 to 17.

During the programme, besides other works, the NSS workers of the frontline degree college distributed phenyl and bleaching powder among the people of the flood-affected areas and organised awareness programmes on how to maintain hygiene so that various diseases caused during the post-flood period can be fought.

Along with white-washing of the Rudrapur temple that has been a major tourist attraction in the area, the NSS workers also planted tree saplings in the area and put up banners and signboards to create an opinion to make the area an eco-friendly and plastic-free zone.

8516 hectares of agricultural land in Kamrup district affected by floods

CORRESPONDENT

BAHIATA CHARIALI, Aug 19: Approximately 8516 hectares of agricultural land of Kamrup district belonging to seven revenue circles, viz., North Guwahati, Hajo, Palasbari, Goalpara, Chambiali and Nagarbari have been affected by floods this year. This was informed by Vinod Sekhsaria, Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup at Dibrugarh on an interaction at 17 at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office at Amingaon.

The Deputy Commissioner also informed that though Baranadi, Puthimari, Kuli, Kokrajhar and other tributaries of the district are flowing above the ground level and had inundated courtyards of a total of 90 villages of those six revenue circles, the flood had not reached the shelter camp for flood victims set up so far. The district administration informed that a

total of 56,000 big and small animals have been affected by this wave of flood so the district administration had supplied 2682.57 quintals of fodder to those six revenue circles. Moreover, 14 teams of medical workers have been providing treatment to the people of those areas, by organising health check-up camps at different places. Eight teams of veterinary workers with mediapersons on August 17 at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office at Amingaon.

In the interaction session, Rabindra Dutta Choudhury, Project manager of district disaster management department reviewed the present flood situation of the district with slide exhibition, Munindra Nath Ngate and Gujanj Rai Choudhury, Additional Deputy Commissioners of Kamrup and Bhaben Bordoloi, Joint Director of Health Services, Kamrup were also present in the area.

At 2 pm, a seminar on the theme, "Need of vedic customs and role of purush and yajman" will be held under the chairmanship of Danda Dhar Sarma. The seminar will be inaugurated by Rajani Kanta Talukdar, principal of Pioneer Academy, Bezera where Dr Nitish Chandra Sarma and Pabitra Praj Dev Sarma will be the resource persons. At 3:30 pm, Sahitya Akademi Award recipient Suresh Sarma will distribute the Jyoti Nath Sarma and Rajani Kanta Goswami memorial annual Sanskrit award.

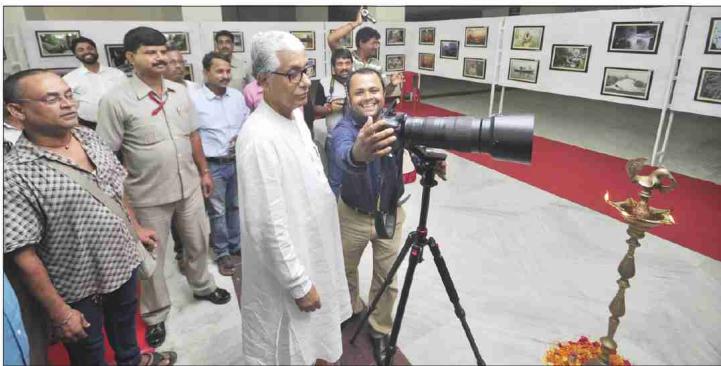
Boat clinics to the rescue in flood-hit areas



cation with the district administration, DHS and DDMA conducted health-cum-relief camps in the worst-affected areas and treated 1904 patients in 23 camps. This was stated in a press release.

Like in earlier years, the 15 Boat Clinic units put in their best efforts while providing health care services to the marooned people in the river islands or in the makeshift camps initiated by the district administration. Many units were unable to provide services immediately during floods, especially in Upper Assam as the Brahmaputra is more turbulent here and the district administrations put a ban on ferry movement till the river subsided to safe levels. The post-flood situation is very crucial as diseases become more prevalent, especially the water-borne diseases. All units have been continuously providing health care services, tirelessly, till date.

Priyanka Chakraborty



Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar inaugurating a function on the occasion of World Photography Day in Agartala on Saturday - UB Photos

Arunachal to have 9 IPPB branches

ITANAGAR, Aug 19: Arunachal Pradesh would have 9 branches of India Post Payment Bank (IPPB), a PSU bank under the Department of Posts. Out of the 47 IPPB branches for the North-east, Arunachal Pradesh would have 9, Director of Postal Services (Headquarter) Soni Kamei said here today. IPPB branches would be set up in all the district headquarters - Changlang, Pasighat, Roing, Ziro, Tawang, Namsai, Bomdila, Aalo and Itanagar.

"With the introduction of IPPB in the state, interior people who do not have bank accounts would be connected to digital banking facility," Kamei said.

IPPB has been launched on Jan-30 in Ranchi and Raipur with the objective of being present in all corners of the country by the end of the year. Kamei also released a special post card on Arunachal Pradesh. "The department of post's endeavour is to highlight all aspects of tourism in the State through this special post card," he said. - PTI

Turial project to be commissioned soon

AIZAWL, Aug 19: Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawa said the 60-MW Turial Hydro Electric Power Project would be commissioned in October.

Addressing the ruling Congress workers at Congress Bhawan here, Lal Thanhawa said that the 20-MW solar power project near Vankai village in Champai district would be completed next year.

He claimed the Congress would make a record by returning to power for the third consecutive term by winning the assembly election next year. -PTI

Crucial meet on Indo-Bangla railway project

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, Aug. 19: In order to push the Indo-Bangla railway project, a high-level bilateral meeting is scheduled to be held in Dhaka on August 28, official sources confirmed here on Saturday.

Officials from Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), North East Frontier Railway (NFR) and Tripura's Transport Secretary Samanjit Bhownik are likely to attend the meeting.

On Bangladeshi side, officers from Bangladesh Railways and Ministry of External Affairs will join the meeting. In the meeting, the progress of 15-km stretch of railway link between Agartala and Gangasagar (Bangladesh) will be reviewed.

Sources said land acquisition process has already begun in Bangladesh side, while the same process has gained ground on the Indian side too.

According to latest inputs, West Tripura district administration is planning to hand over required land to the NFR by early next month to undertake ground work.



IRCON has been assigned to execute the 15-km railway link on both sides and the DONER has already released fund to the tune of Rs. 98 crore to expedite land acquisition process.

"Once the required land is provided to us, the NFR will undertake construction of railway track on elevated corridor within a month," said an official of the NFR here. The entire project cost would be borne by the Centre.

New Delhi is keen to establish the rail link as it would connect West Bengal and Tripura through Bangladesh. During the visit of Bangladeshi Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina in January 2010, India and Bangladesh had agreed to lay the tracks between Gangasagar (Bangladesh) and Agartala. The 15-km-long Agartala-Gangasagar railway route will connect Indian Railways with the Bangladesh Railways through the North-east which would improve connectivity and trade between the countries.

The 1,700 km distance between Agartala and Kolkata through chicken neck near Siliguri would be reduced to only 350 km if passengers from here could move through Bangladesh soil, according to sources.

50 tumours removed from Arunachal woman

ITANAGAR, Aug 19: A team of doctors here have successfully removed 50 tumours from the uterus of a woman who has been suffering from heavy and painful menstrual cycle for several years.

Led by senior gynaecologist Dr Posting Bayang, the team of doctors carried out the surgery at Rama Krishna Mission Hospital here. On investigations, it was found that she had multiple benign tumours in her uterus known as Myomas, Bayang said today.

"As she was in her early 30s and unmarried, we went for the risky uterus preserving surgery known as Myo-

metomy," he said.

Earlier, she had consulted doctors at various places where she had mostly been advised to undergo Hysterectomy, removal of the entire uterus.

The three-hour operation was successfully done on August 15. The patient recovered well and has been discharged from the hospital," the doctor said.

Because of heavy menstrual blood loss, the woman was anaemic and had taken multiple blood transfusions before. Earlier, Bayang and his team had successfully removed 17 and 24 tumours from two patients. - PTI



Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma speaking at a function at Ampati in Meghalaya on Friday. - UB Photos

Poor roads irk Meghalaya Home Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, Aug 19: Home Minister, HDR Lyngdoh has been ticked off by the "negligence and faults" of the Public Works Department (PWD) causing several road accidents in the State and said it must take immediate "responsibility" and stop these accidents and deaths.

Pointing to the potholes and poor conditions of the roads in the State, Lyngdoh said, the PWD should ensure good roads, as some of the accidents were caused due to the poor road conditions.

"Deaths have also occurred in the State due to the fault of the department which looks after the roads," the Home Minister, also in charge of Transport portfolio said, during a

road safety programme.

Emphasising that the PWD

make the "matter seriously."

Lyngdoh said, the department

should start repairing the potholes

and damaged roads immediately.

Citing a recent incident of a rock

rolling down on the Shillong-Guwa-

hati road while he was heading to Tura, Lyngdoh said, it was fortunate that nobody was hurt in the incident.

"There are a lot of rocks hang-

ing above the highway. This is negligence on the part of the department. The PWD department together with the district adminis-

trations must conduct a survey in this regard," he stated.

He suggested that the PWD

must construct erosion protec-

tion walls wherever necessary to pre-

vent mishaps. PWD Minister Mar-

tin M Dango, who was present in

the programme also highlighted an

important cause of accidents in the State.

Lyngdoh further urged the police to take "harsh action" against rash driving on the highway. "The police must take harsh action against those indulging in rash driving and overloading. The police have to intensify patrols on the highways," he stated.

He also cautioned the District Transport

Officers while issuing drivers' licences. There

have always been reports that licences are being issued by the DTO's office without test

and flouting other guidelines.

Lyngdoh said the DTOs must ensure that

proper guidelines are being followed while

licences are being issued.

"Several mishaps can be averted by fol-

lowing basic guidelines like wearing seat

belts, helmets and not using the cell phone

while driving," he said. Meghalaya has a high

incident of accidents. According to data avail-

able there were 183 deaths caused due to

road accidents in 2015 alone.



President asks NE leaders to work unitedly

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Aug 19: President Ram Nath Kovind has asked the leaders of the North-east to work unitedly in protecting the region under the Prime Minister's 'Act East' Policy.

Kovind made this advice when Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, along with a group of leaders from the frontier State called on the President at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi today. Khandu, who was accompanied by State BJP president Tapir Gao and Deputy Chief Minister Chown Mein, congratulated Kovind on being elected as the President of India.

Kovind also assured to visit Arunachal Pradesh within this year on a suitable occasion as promised earlier in his last visit to the State. The President, meanwhile, expressed concern about the flood situation in the North-east, including Arunachal and expressed his condolences and prayers for the lives lost in landslides in Laptap village last month.

The President during his interaction with the delegations said that he would rise above party politics and that

SC rejects Liezietsu's petition

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Aug 19: The Supreme Court refused to admit the special leave petition (Civil) filed by NPF president Liezietsu against Nagaland Chief Minister Shurhozelle Liezietsu and Nagaland Speaker and Chief Minister TR Zeliang as respondents.

According to reports, NPF Legislator Yitachu, who is in Nagaland, filed the case-SLP(C) No. 02/2004/2017 registered in the Supreme Court on August 5, was against the Nagaland Governor's action in summoning an emergency session of the Assembly with a short notice.

Yitachu, however, maintained that the refusal to admit the petition was not a setback but just "an academic exercise only" as it would not affect the case in the High Court.

He disclosed that there were two more cases to be completed: the disqualification petition which was lying with the Nagaland Speaker and the question of Chief Whip of the NPF. Yitachu re-

iterated that no one can rewrite the law and was optimistic that the law will eventually take its own course so that truth will prevail, reports said.

Meanwhile, the NPF faction under its interim president Neiphiu Rio welcomed the Supreme Court decision in dismissing the petition.

NPF press and information cell stated that the "utter dismissals" by the apex Court has blatantly exposed the illegality of the "disastrous stand" of Shurhozelle with regard to the ongoing leadership dispute and the tussle of the NPF Party Cook symbol and flag.

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CRPF organises cleanliness drive

CORRESPONDENT

TURA, Aug 19: The 120 Bn CRPF held a cleanliness drive as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) at the MP Stadium in Dikopore.

The event was organised as part of the 120 Bn CRPF's mission to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a clean India and as a goodwill gesture.

The drive saw the presence of all members of the 120 Bn CRPF team based in Tura who cleaned the stadium where the Independence Day celebrations were held a few days back. The drive also included cleaning their own living and working areas. On the occasion Munna Singh, a senior official of the CRPF, appealed to the personnel to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a 'Clean India'.

WEATHER NORTHEAST

Forecast for North Eastern States: Moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at most places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal and Assam. Thunder storm is likely to occur over eastern and central Assam.

Warning: Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura on August 20.

	Max (C)	Min (C)
Dibrugarh	31.2	23.2
Tezpur	31.5	25.0
Silchar	35.5	25.3
Dhurli	31.2	27.2
Jorhat	34.0	24.5
M. Lakhimpur	32.0	24.0
Shillong	26.6	16.2
Imphal	28.8	22.2
Itanagar	35.0	23.0
Aizawl	28.7	13.5
Agartala	33.0	24.8
Kohima	27.5	15.8
Pasighat	32.6	24.0
Cherrapunji	25.2	18.4

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No.NHMC-CW/DH/Hamren/W. Karbi Anglong/3512/17/18

Dated: Guwahati the 19th Aug 2017

(e-Tender Notice)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Office of the Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam, Guwahati-5 invites fresh bid for the work under NHM as detailed below. ON TURN KEY BASIS and ON TWO BIDS SYSTEM.

Name of work	Value of work (In Rs.)	Bid Security (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (from the date of issue of work order)
Upgradation of existing PHC/SPO to District Hospital in West Karbi Anglong District	Rs.23,78,29,000/-	1,18,81,450/-	10,000/-	30 (Thirty) months

1. This tender is invited as an advance action as decided in the State Health Mission Meeting held on 09-08-2017 in anticipation of obtaining the required formal approval from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India.

2. Eligibility Criteria:

(a) Registered APWD (Bldg) Class I-A / CPWD/ Reputed Construction Company/ Agency registered under Govt. (P&C) Sector or similar body.

(b) Four similar works, each of value not less than 25% of the estimated cost put on tender or

(c) Three similar works, each of value not less than 40% of the estimated cost put on tender or

(d) Two similar works, each of value not less than 50% of the estimated cost put on tender or

(e) One similar works of value not less than 80% of the estimated cost, all amounts rounded off to a convenient full figure, in the last 5 years ending on the last day of the month previous to the one in which the tenders are invited.

(f) Contractor must have achieved average Annual Turnover of at least 30% of estimated cost during last 3 years

(g) The Contractor having PAN Card/GST Registration/Labour License registration under EPF & MP Act,1952 etc. are eligible to participate in the bid process

(h) In case the evaluated Bid Amounts are equal, preference for allotment of the project will be given to the bidder who has completed Hospital Building projects on earlier occasion.

(i) The intended bidders are asked to verify the site for the work prior to quoting their rates.

3. Cost of tender document should be drawn in favour of State Health Society, Assam, payable at Guwahati in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft.

4. Bid document with a validity of 225 days (180+45) days should be in the form of Bank Guarantee/ FDR/CDR and duly furnished in the form of State Health Society, Assam.

5. The Contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam ([Website: http://assamtenders.gov.in](http://assamtenders.gov.in)). Contractors/Bidders can download documents free of cost. Contractors/Bidders have to necessarily download the bidding document from the ETS using their own ID (Digital Signature Certificate). Bid documents not procured (downloaded) through the ETS/Not using the contractor's own user ID will be considered invalid and summarily rejected. Contractors submitting bids online have to submit copy of the document of technical bid required to be submitted manually along with cost of tender document before the expiry of the sequence 'Offer Date' and time as mentioned in the tender schedule. Bid will be rejected if the tenderer fails to submit the bid.

6. The tender will be available through the link <http://assamtenders.gov.in> from 28/08/2017.

7. Tender Schedule:-

S.No.	Name of Event	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1.	Tender Download	29/08/2017	12:00 Hrs	07/09/2017	14:00 Hrs.
2.	Tender Submission	29/08/2017	12:00 Hrs	07/09/2017	14:00 Hrs.
3.	Technical Bid Opening	08/09/2017	15:30 Hrs	-	-
4.	Financial Bid Opening				Will be intimated latter on

Tender bid submitted along with Cost of Tender and Bid Security manually will be accepted till 7th Sept 2017 upto 14:00 hour.

Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

Palaniswami, Panneerselvam upbeat over AIADMK merger

CHENNAI/TIRUVARUR, Aug 19: As suspense mounted over merger of the two rival AIADMK factions, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami and rebel leader O Panneerselvam today expressed the confidence that it would happen soon with the latter saying a positive result was expected in "a day or two."

Palaniswami, who is in Tiruvanamalai to take part in AIADMK founder MG Ramachandran's centenary celebrations, said he was confident that "both the factions would merge soon."

Panneerselvam, a former Chief Minister and leader of the AIADMK Puratchi Thalaivai Anna faction, earlier in the day said in Chennai that the merger talks were going on smoothly, and that a positive result was expected in "a day or two."

As the warring factions headed for a merger, the TTV Thalaivai faction warned the Chief Minister that he would be replaced if his activities did not go well with the party.

The Chief Minister said differences of opinion between the two factions had emerged earlier and that they were now being addressed through discussions. "I am happy to inform that both the factions will merge soon," he told reporters in a "day or two."

Talks are going on smoothly. A positive result is expected in a day or two," he told reporters in Chennai. The much expected merger between the two factions last night had failed to come off following reported divergences among the members of the OPS faction.

This included the demand of certain members for a CBI inquiry into former Chief Minister

Jayalalithaa's death against the announcement of an inquiry commission to be headed by a retired High Court judge.

Meanwhile, Dhinakaran, the sidelined AIADMK deputy general secretary, held deliberations with his supporters at his residence in Chennai. A Dhinakaran loyalist, Palaniappan, a former minister and MLA, warned Panneerselvami that he would be replaced as the Chief Minister if his activities did not go well down with the party.

Talking to reporters after attending the meeting convened by Dhinakaran, Palaniappan said, "Our (AIADMK) rule is like a bus journey. We appointed the driver (O Panneerselvam) to take the bus (AIAD-

MK rule) to the intended destination, enabling the passengers reach safe and secure."

"Since his (Panneerselvam's) activities did not go down well with the party, we replaced him with Panneerselvami (as the Chief Minister). But if his (Panneerselvam's) activities do not go well (while leading the party), we will definitely take action to remove him," Palaniappan said.

Yesterday, Dhinakaran, who had travelled to Bengaluru to greet party general secretary VK Sasikala on the occasion of her birthday, downplayed the merger of the AIADMK factions, saying it would not have any longevity and that it was not a "setback" to him.

Following the speculation of an imminent merger of the two factions, several AIADMK MLAs and supporters of both the groups had congregated last night at the burial place of Jayalalithaa at the Marina beach here. However, merger talks have remained inconclusive, leading to a delay in the rival factions coming together.

Police personnel were deployed in large numbers at the memorial with members of the

public who wanted to offer their respects to Jayalalithaa being prevented from entering the burial site. Two special wreaths were also kept ready apparently to enable Panneerselvam and Panneerselvam to offer their respects at the burial site.

After it became clear that the merger talks would be deferred, the wreaths were removed and the public was allowed to enter the burial site later. - PTI

EXTENSION OF 05609/05608 DALKOLHA - GUWAHATI PASSENGER SPECIAL TRAIN UPTO DIBRUGARH

It has been decided to extend 05609/05608 Passenger Special Train presently running between Dalkola and Guwahati upto Dibrugarh on temporary basis w.e.f. 19-08-2017 to 28-08-2017 due to cancellation of large number of trains on account of unprecedented flood as per details given below:

Train No. 05608		Train No. 05609	
Dibrugarh - Guwahati - Dalkola Special - from 19-08-2017 to 27-08-2017		Dalkola - Guwahati - Dibrugarh Special - from 19-08-2017 to 28-08-2017	
ARR	DEP	ARR	DEP
17.55	18.00	17.30	17.30
20.18	20.20	16.55	16.00
21.30	21.30	13.25	13.27
22.05	22.07	12.00	12.05
22.35	23.40	11.30	11.32
00.30	00.32	10.10	10.15
01.15	01.25	09.25	09.27
02.20	02.22	08.45	08.55
03.35	03.37	08.00	08.02
06.00	06.30	04.30	05.00
17.00	—	18.00	—

COMPOSITION: AC-2 tier (one), AC-3 tier (three), Sleeper Class (eleven), General Second Class (four) and SLR/D (two) = 21 coaches.
General Manager (Operations)
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Other 2 (two) Special Trains (05608/05607 & 05606/05605) between Guwahati and Dalkola (w.e.f. 16-08-2017 & 18-08-2018 respectively) and 1 (one) Special Train (05910/05909) between Guwahati and Dibrugarh (w.e.f. 17-08-2017 to 21-08-2017) are running daily to clear rush of passengers.

Short Termination and Short Origination of Trains

(1) 12489 Anand Vihar Terminal - Jognbani Seemanchal Express scheduled to leave from Anand Vihar Terminal from 21-08-2017 to 28-08-2017 will originate at Forbesganj and 12490 Jognbani - Anand Vihar Terminal Seemanchal Express scheduled to leave from Jognbani from 22-08-2017 to 28-08-2017 will originate from Forbesganj and will remain partially cancelled between Forbesganj and Jognbani. (2) 13159 Kolkata - Jognbani Express scheduled to leave from Kolkata on 23-08-2017 and 25-08-2017 will be short terminated at Forbesganj and 13160 Jognbani - Kolkata Express scheduled to leave from Jognbani on 24-08-2017 and 26-08-2017 will be originate from Forbesganj and will remain partially cancelled between Forbesganj and Jognbani. (3) 13161 Kolkata - Balurghat Express scheduled to leave from Kolkata from 19-08-2017 to 27-08-2017 will be short terminated at Buniyadpur and 13162 Balurghat - Kolkata Express scheduled to leave from Balurghat from 20-08-2017 to 28-08-2017 will be originate from Buniyadpur and will remain partially cancelled between Buniyadpur and Balurghat. (4) 13063/13064 Howrah - Balurghat - Howrah Express scheduled to leave on 21-08-2017 and 22-08-2017 will be short terminated/short originated at Balurghat and will remain partially cancelled between Balurghat and Howrah. (5) 13240 & 13246 Rajendranagar Terminus - Guwahati/New Jalpaiguri Capital Express will be short terminated at Kathar and 13247/13245 Guwahati/New Jalpaiguri - Rajendranagar Terminus Express will short originate at Kathar and will remain partially cancelled between Kathar and Guwahati/New Jalpaiguri from 21-08-2017 to 27-08-2017. (6) 55771/55772 Malda Court - Buniyadpur - Malda Court Passenger schedule to leave from 21-08-2017 to 27-08-2017 will be originate/short originated at Buniyadpur and will remain partially cancelled between Buniyadpur and Malda Court. (7) 55733/55734, 55735/55736, 55739/55740, 55741/55742, 55755/55764 Kathar - Jognbani Passenger will be short terminated/short originated at Kathar and will remain partially cancelled between Kathar and Jognbani. (8) 15636 Guwahati - Okha Express schedule to leave from Guwahati on 21-08-2017 will be short originated at Patna Jn. and will remain partially cancelled between Guwahati and Patna Jn. (9) 15668 Kamakhya - Gandhidham Express scheduled to leave from Kamakhya on 23-08-2017 will be short originated at Barauni Jn. and will remain partially cancelled between Kamakhya and Barauni Jn.

CORRIGENDUM

Employment Notification for Engagement of Part time school teachers on Contract basis through written examination and interview.

Published on: 07-08-2017 in www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in

please note: stands deleted. Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Dy. CPO (R) / Maligaon RAILWAY

Replacement of RCC office building at Guwahati

E-TENDER No. 17 of 2017, Date: 16-08-2017. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work : Tender No. 17/2018/2017, Name of Work & Location: At Guwahati-Rajapukhuri, Call IRCC office Building and Existing Assam & RRC Framing building. Tender Value: Rs. 55,254/- (Rupees Fifty Five Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Seven Rupees only). E-tenders will be closed at 13.00 hrs. on 21-09-2017 and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. on 21-09-2017.

Details may be seen at the website <http://www.ircc.gov.in> and information with tender document of above e-tender will be available in website <http://www.ircc.gov.in>

5r. Divisional Engineer, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Tender No. 254 of 2016-17

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Addl. Chief Engineer-cum-Director, PWD, B.T.C., Kokrajhar invites bids for 18 (Eighteen) Nos. of Road Works in Kokrajhar District under AOP/SOPD Fund, B.T.C. under P.W.D., Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division, Kokrajhar from approved and eligible contractors registered with Public Works Department (Roads), Assam & Bodoland Territorial Council for a total amount of Rs.13,867,677.00 (Rupees thirteen crore eighteen lakh sixty-seven thousand six hundred seventy-seven only).

Details may be seen at the website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-

Addl. Chief Engineer-cum-Director, PWD, B.T.C., Kokrajhar.

JPR(BTC)-294/2017

Tender No. 255 of 2016-17

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Addl. Chief Engineer-cum-Director, PWD, B.T.C., Kokrajhar invites bids for 06 (Six) Nos. of building works in BTC area under PWD, Kokrajhar Building Division, Kokrajhar from approved and eligible contractors registered with PWD (Building), Assam and Bodoland Territorial Council for a total amount of Rs.4,19,53,582.00 (Rupees four crore nineteen lakh fifty-three thousand five hundred eighty-two only).

Details may be seen at the website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-

Addl. Chief Engineer-cum-Director, PWD, B.T.C., Kokrajhar.

JPR(BTC)-295/2017

23 dead, 60 injured as Utkal Express derails in UP

MUZAFFARNAGAR, Aug 19: In a major train accident, at least 23 passengers were killed and over 60 injured when 14 coaches of the Puri-Hardwar Utkal Express jumped the rails in Khatauli near here this evening, officials said.

Railways spokesperson Anil Saxena in Delhi said the Uttar Pradesh Government has informed the Ministry about 12 deaths and 23 people being injured.

Chief Medical Officer PS Mishra and ADG (Meerut Zone) Prashant Kumar said at least 11 people were dead and 60 wounded in the accident that took place around 5.45 pm.

Khatauli is around 40 km from Muzaffarnagar. PAC, ATS and NDRF teams have been rushed to the spot. Heavyweight cranes and gas cutters were being used and locals were seen helping out those engaged in rescue work. The Muzaffarnagar authorities have set up a control room to assist families of those affected.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed extreme pain over the derailment and said the Railway Ministry and the State

Government were doing everything possible and providing all assistance required.

He said the situation was being monitored very closely by the Railways Ministry.

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has ordered an inquiry into the derailment. He said he was personally monitoring the situation and strict action would be taken in case of any lapse.

Prabhu also announced Rs 3.5 lakh ex gratia for those who lost their lives, Rs 50,000 for the seriously injured and Rs 25,000 for those who received minor injuries.

In a series of tweets, Prabhu said that Minister of State Manoj Sinha has rushed to the spot, while the Chairman of the Railway Board and Member Traffic have been directed to oversee rescue and relief operations.

Two National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams, comprising 45 personnel each, and two canines have been mobilised to the accident site from their base in Ghaziabad. Medical vans have also been rushed to the site.

"All efforts being taken to ensure speedy relief and rescue operations," Prabhu said.

The Railway Ministry was also in close touch with the Uttar Pradesh Government to coordinate rescue and relief operations.

In Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh ADG (Law and Order) Anand Kumar said that top priority was



Crowds gathering at the site of the derailment at Khatauli near Muzaffarnagar on Saturday. - UNI

being accorded to ensure prompt rescue and relief work.

Meanwhile, Saxena said, "Initially, we thought that it was only 4-5 coaches, now we have ascertained that 14 coaches have derailed. As of now, our focus is on rescues and not on finding reasons for the accident."

Since darkness was impen-

ting rescue operations, he said Power Department officials had been directed to ensure that there was no shortage of electricity.

Kumar also said IMA chapters in Meerut zone have been alerted and asked to ensure adequate and prompt medical care to the injured.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath enquired about the accident and directed officials to take all possible action, an official spokesperson said.

Adityanath has directed two of his ministers to reach the site to expedite rescue and relief operations. - PTI

5 killed in explosion

BHUBANESWAR, Aug 19: Five persons – three women and two minor girls – were killed and three others suffered injuries in an explosion at an 'illegal' fire cracker unit near Khurda, police said.

The deceased included four members of a family. The blast took place at the house of one Sanatan Sethi at Siko village under Jankia Police Station, where his family was allegedly manufacturing fire crackers illegally.

The asbestos roof of the house was severely damaged under the impact of the explosion, the police said. Fire brigade personnel went to the village and doused the fire. The deceased were identified as Babi Sethi (40), Madhabi Sethi (8), Tikili Sethi (4), Dolly Sethi (19) and Dutee Sethi (62). - PTI

NOTICE

Refer this office NIT No. SB/Sty/Const/20/Pl/2017/13 dated 27/07/2017 relating to repairing and renovation / replacing of Brick boundary wall at the North East side of SB Hqrs. Complex. The last date of submission of the said tender is extended up to 1400 hrs. of 28/08/2017. Intending tenders may refer to the Assam Police website www.assampolice.gov.in for further details.

Sd/- Superintendent of Police, SB (E)

Janasanyog/C2571/17
Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Ref. No.: STHP tender/2017-18/11

Dtd: 18.08.17

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Assam State Transport Corporation (A.S.T.C.) invites sealed tenders in two bid system for

(a) Purchase of Automobile spare parts (Tata, Ashok Leyland, SML, Eicher) Value for purchase of spares and spares from authorized dealers or retailers.

(b) Supply of new tyres, tubes & flap from reputed manufacturer company

Tenders may collect the tender document for the category of item he is interested in from the office of undersigned on any working day during office hours on payment of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) in cash to the cashier or on otherwise 11/09/2017 upto 10.00 AM.

The tender documents can also be downloaded from the website www.assamstatetransportcorporation.com w.e.f. 22.08.17 up to 11.09.17. In case, the tender document is downloaded from the website and tender is submitted through post, the same should be sent by Registered Post, bank draft drawn in favour of the Managing Director, Assam State Transport Corporation, payable at SBI, South Guwahati, Assam shall have to be submitted along with the technical bid.

Tender documents will be accepted in response to previous NIT No. STHP/tender/2017-18/318 dttd 27.06.2017 may submit fresh tender in pursuance of the Re-tender notice or may opt to retain his tender document and re-tender in response to this notice. Tenders shall accept his previous tender and shall have drop his acceptance letter in tender box or they may send by registered post to reach the office of the undersigned on or before last date & time of submission of re-tender of each category as mentioned on the tender document.

Sd/- Managing Director,
A.S.T. Corporation, Guwahati

No. CAG 86/2016/77

E - TENDER NOTICE

The Director of Assam Science and Technology University issues in two (2) bid system affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 825 from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers/distributors for supply, installation and commissioning of various items under the Project - Development and Upgradation of Jyoti Chitrabani Film and Television Institute (Presently known as Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute) through e-tendering portal www.assamtenders.gov.in. The estimated project cost will be approx. Rs. 3,75,00,000/- (Rupees three crore seventy five lakh only). Intending firms may procure bid documents by furnishing IPODD of Rs.100/- (Rupees one hundred) only drawn in favour of Director of Chitrabani Film and Television Institute, Paper to be filled in the Office of the undersigned during office hours. Tender papers can also be downloaded from the website www.assamtenders.gov.in. In this case the cost of tender papers may be paid through IPODD during the time of submission of hard copy of tender documents.

Important Dates

DATE OF AVAILABILITY OF BIDDING DOCUMENT ON E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL: 22-08-2017

DATE AND TIME FOR PRE-BID MEETING: 30-08-2017, 13.00 HRS

LAST DATE AND TIME FOR ONLINE BID SUBMISSION: 14.09.2017, 13.00 HRS

LAST DATE AND TIME FOR HARD COPY SUBMISSION (Technical Bid Only): 14.09.2017, 13.00 HRS

TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF BIDS: 14.09.2017, 13.30 HRS.

Sd/- Director
Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Assam,
Rabindra Bhawan, Guwahati-1

ASSAM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

(A State University of Government of Assam constituted by 'Assam Science and Technology University Act, 2009')

Telte Road, Jaliakbari, Guwahati-781013 www.astu.ac.in

Advertisement for the post of Academic Registrar at Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati

Applications are invited for the post of Academic Registrar of the Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati, who are Indian citizens as defined in Article 5 of the Constitution of India. Interested candidates should apply online through the website www.astu.ac.in by filling up the application form along with the relevant documents like educational qualification, experience etc. from the University website www.astu.ac.in. The position is for tenure of 3 years which is extendable upto 8 years or upto the age of 60 whichever is earlier.

Last date for submission of application to Assam Science and Technology University office is 31st August 2017 (3 pm).

Sd/- Registrar
Assam Science and Technology University

Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management, Sivasagar-786540

(A Govt. of Assam University Estd. in 2010: Assam Act no. XXV of 2010-(Recognized by UGC)

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT-2017

P.D. M.B.A: M.Com: LLM: MCA

PROGRAMME

Domain areas: SME, Agriculture, MSME, Government Organisation, Cooperatives, NGOs, Private, Public sectors etc., Department of Entrepreneurship, Art & Sciences of Ancient Assam, Creative Industries, Green Industries etc.

Eligibility: Master's degree in relevant areas with at least 55% marks in aggregate (or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale / an equivalent grade in a point scale). Candidates in service in Govt./Private/PSUs etc. must submit a 'No Objection Certificate' from competent authority along with the application form.

Procedure: Application form available at ARGUCOM website (www.argucom.edu.in) or download from the website (www.argucom.edu.in). Last date for submission of application is 30th September 2017.

Eligibility: Bachelor's Degree in any discipline (except Fine Arts) with 50% of marks in AET-2017 (dates to be notified in the website)

Process:

A. Candidates who have obtained complete score above 500 in MAT December, 2016/Feburary 2017/May 2017 organized by AIMA are to fill in the ARGUCOM application form available in the website

OR

B. Those who have not appeared MAT December, 2016/Feburary 2017/May 2017 but have a valid score of XAT/CAT/ATMA

OR

C. Candidates applying for ARGUCOM Entrance Test (AET) (dates to be notified in the website)

OR

Candidates securing 60% marks in Under Graduate Programmes can apply directly for appearing in the Group Discussion & Personal Interview.

Group Discussion & Personal Interview: Dates to be notified in the website

Eligibility: Bachelor's Degree in any discipline (except Fine Arts) with 50% of marks in AET-2017 (dates to be notified in the website)

Process:

M.Com: Minimum marks in B.Com, B.A, in Economics & BBA - 45 % To appear in direct Personal interview (dates to be notified in the website)

LLM: Minimum marks in LLB - 50%

To appear in Direct Personal Interview (dates to be notified in the website)

Relaxation of 5% in the qualifying Examinations for SC/ST/PWD/OC/BC/MOC

• How to Apply for the Programmes: Application form (available on the website) to reach ARGUCOM by post/ hand/ courier services on or before 29th of August, 2017 (23rd of September, 2017 for PWD) with DD of:

Rs. 700/- (Rs. 350/- for ST/SC/PWD) for MBA, M.Com, LLM & MCA.

• All application forms are non-refundable.

• Demand Draft (DD): All payments must be made in the form of a DD drawn on any nationalized bank of India in favour of Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management, Payable at Sivasagar.

For more information visit www.argucom.edu.in

Address for communication:

Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management, 2nd Floor, Baruah Complex, AT Road, Sivasagar, Assam Phone: 03772-222144/FAX: 03772-224144 Mobile nos.: 702811059/970630617/002198067/9085228262

Website: www.argucom.edu.in Email: info.argucom@gmail.com

Sd/- Assam Rajiv Gandhi University
of Cooperative Management
Sivasagar, Assam



Model and actor Milind Soman, the creator of Pinkathon, flagging off the Fearless Midnight Run organised by Colors Pinkathon with the support of Delhi Police, in New Delhi on Saturday. - UNI

Capturing moments, one click at a time

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: Gone are the days when the words, "Ready! Smile!" were the cue for a group of people, standing as if already frozen in a frame, to smile widely before the sound of a click and a blinding flash of light filled the room.

That era of formal photography where professionals were hired to take "posed, 'say cheese' kind of photographs" to

photographers are also claiming a market for themselves.

In an era where everybody uses a smartphone fancies themselves as photographers, there are many who have given up jobs to specialize in niche photography, putting their passion and making a career out of it too.

Aditi Verma, for instance, left her job in a production house to take up wed-

ding photography. "When I started out, candid wedding photography was not such a trend, but now the competition is fierce with almost everyone who is DSLR claiming to be a photographer," said Verma, who runs her own firm, Photosynthesis, in Mumbai.

Verma (35) finds it important to capture moments that make an impact. "I try to capture the essence of the moment, so when the married couple or the family looks back at the photos they can relive the moments they could not enjoy during the hustle bustle of the wedding," she said.

Delhi-based Ursita Saini focuses on another aspect of life – the birth of a child. "It is all about the essence of the moment when I am inside the opera theatre with a pregnant couple, says the 26-year-old Delhi-based child-photographer, Angela Galla's.

"It is an amazing experience to be part of such an intimate moment of a

family and be able to share those moments which are probably the happiest in their lives.

Ursita, who is a member of Colors Pinkathon, claims that capturing moments of joy and fun is what makes her job fulfilling.

Wedding photography is of course more profitable, but I have no regrets. The happiness involved in this work is far more rewarding," she said.

Riding high on a similar passion, Nitasha Shukla dumped her job as a writer with a leading media house and started clicking photos of food. - PTI

CAPSULE**Union Bank cuts interest rates**

MUMBAI, Aug 19: State-owned Union Bank of India on Friday said it has reduced savings bank interest rates by 0.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent on deposits up to Rs 25 lakh. For deposits above Rs 25 lakh, the rate has been left unchanged at 4 per cent per annum, the bank said in a statement. The new rate will be applicable from August 21. – PTI

**ICICI Bank reduces interest rate**

MUMBAI, Aug 19: Private sector lender ICICI Bank on Friday announced to reduce interest rate on savings account by 50 basis points to 3.5 per cent on deposits below Rs 50 lakh. The interest rate on savings bank accounts with deposits of Rs 50 lakh and above remains unchanged at 4 per cent, the bank said in a regulatory filing. – PTI

HDFC Life Insurance IPO

MUMBAI, Aug 19: HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company Ltd said it has filed IPO documents with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise around Rs 6,500-7,500 crore. Through the share sale promoters HDFC and Standard Life will sell 15 per cent stake in the company. – PTI



Sarutha ke jyoti!

SpiceJet hikes baggage charges

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: Budget passenger carrier SpiceJet on Friday hiked its excess baggage charges. According to the airline's website, the fee on excess checked-in baggage above the free 15 kg limit for 5 kg has been hiked from Rs 500 earlier to Rs 1,425. The airline became the first major passenger carrier to hike the excess baggage charges. – IANS

V-Mart net profit up

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: Multi-brand retail chain V-Mart Retail on Friday reported an over two-fold jump in its net profit at Rs 22.5 crore for the June quarter. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 9.3 crore during the same period of the previous fiscal. V-Mart Retail said in a BSE filing. – PTI

**Infosys to buy back 11.3 cr shares**

BENGALURU, Aug 19: Global software major Infosys Ltd announced today that it would buy back 11.3 crore shares of Rs 5 face value at Rs 1,150 each via a tender offer.

"The Board has approved a proposal to buy back 11.3 crore equity shares of Rs 5 face value from the shareholders at a price of Rs 1,150 per share for an amount not exceeding Rs 13,000 crore (\$2 billion)," said the IT major in a regulatory filing at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

The offer size is 20.51 per cent of the total paid-up capital and free reserves, aggregating up to 11.3 crore shares or 4.92 per cent of the equity shares. The buyback decision came a day after the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Vishal



Sikka resigned and was appointed Executive Vice-Chairman till a new CEO takes charge by March 31, 2018.

The offer price at Rs 1,150 per share is Rs 22,690 more than Rs 923.10 per share closing price on Friday when it plunged 9.6 per cent after Sikka's resignation spooked investors and is at around 18 per cent premium of the August 16 closing price.

The company closed the trading window on August 16 in view of the Board meeting on the share buyback and will reopen on August 22.

The buyback offer does not include costs like securities transaction tax, GST, stamp duty, filing fees, adviser fees, brokerage, public announcements expenses, printing and dispatch expense, and other expenses.

The buyback price also represents a premium of 19 per cent of the weighted average market price during the last three months. – IANS



Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Defence Arun Jaitley launching the website of the National Foundation for Corporate Governance, in Mumbai on Saturday. – PIB

NPA resolution not to liquidate cos, but to help save them, says Jaitley

MUMBAI, Aug 19: Assuring the balance sheet-stressed firms that the key objective of NPA resolution is not liquidation of their businesses but to save them, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said the new insolvency law has significantly reversed the defaulting debtor-creditor relationship.

"The ultimate objective really is not liquidation of assets, (but) to save these businesses, get either the existing promoters with or without new partners or new entrepreneurs to come in and make sure that these valuable assets are preserved," Jaitley said.

He was addressing an insolvency summit organised by industry lobby Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) here. Explaining the rationale for the new Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), he said this was necessitated by

The ultimate objective really is not liquidation of assets, (but) to save these businesses, get either the existing promoters with or without new partners or new entrepreneurs to come in and make sure that these valuable assets are preserved

the failure of debt recovery tribunals to effectively perform their duty after the initial success.

When enacted, the Sarfaesi (Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest) Act had succeeded in getting down NPAs drastically in the initial two-three years, Jaitley said.

But then the debt recovery tribunals began to be less effective as envisaged, the minister noted, which led to the new law.

But the new regime under the IBC has significantly reversed the defaulter-debtor relationship, he noted.

"We lived in a system for many years which protected debtors and allowed assets to rust away."

"The old regime by which the creditor would get tied chasing the debtor and

end up recovering nothing, is now over. If a debtor has to survive, he will have to service his debt, or he will have to make way for somebody else. I think this is the only correct way by which businesses would now be done and this message has got to loud and clear," Jaitley said.

Calling for speedy and time-bound resolution of the bad loans issue which has become a major regulatory overhang, the Finance Minister expressed hope that the mandated timelines will be adhered to so that implementation is effective.

Gross NPAs have crossed 9.6 per cent as of March 2017, while the stressed loans ratio is over 12 per cent.

Following this, the RBI has named 12 of the largest defaulters in June, which together owe more than Rs 2.5 trillion to banks. – PTI

RBI Governor calls for recapitalisation of PSBs

use its capital in a time-bound manner."

Regulatory or rather the economic challenge in dealing with the NPA issue gets accentuated when seen against the capital position of some of the banks, particularly public sector banks, told an insolvency summit, hosted by industry lobby CII and chaired by Jaitley.

The RBI chief said as much as 86.5 per cent of GNPs are accounted by large borrowers.

Swift time-bound resolution of liquidation of stressed assets will be critical for delousing the balance sheet and for efficient reallocation of bank capital," Patel said.

The government and the RBI are working together to comprehensively address the issue through a multi-pronged approach, he added. Stating that the success and credibility of all the NPA resolution efforts will be critically contingent on the strength of public sector banks' balance sheets to absorb the costs, he said any resolution will involve deep haircuts.

"NPA resolution would necessitate a higher recapitalisation of these banks," he said, adding, "Government and the RBI are in dialogue to prepare a set of measures to enable state-run banks to shore up the re-

GST return filing date extended till Aug 25

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: The government today announced a five-day extension for filing GST returns till August 25, after the goods and services tax (GST) return filing portal was hit by a technical glitch and stopped functioning.

minute return filers," a Finance Ministry statement said.

However, the government cautioned the tax filers to file their return well before the deadline to avoid any last-moment technical glitches. "Also, since it is the first

GST returns across the country faced problems today due to the technical snag and could not file GST returns. The last date for filing GST-3B form for July was August 20, which is a summary return of details of outward supplies, inward supplies, credit and payment of GST. "Some technical glitches were experienced by last-

ing, a day ahead of the last date for filing GST returns.

Traders across the country faced problems today due to the technical snag and could not file GST returns. The last date for filing GST-3B form for July was August 20, which is a summary return of details of outward supplies, inward supplies, credit and payment of GST. Some technical glitches were experienced by last-

return to be filed under GST, the taxpayers and the tax practitioners have requested for a few more days to file their return," the statement said. "There have been requests from States which are hit by floods to extend the last date for filing of GST returns. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has also requested for extension of time because of late passage of their GST ordinance," it added. – IANS



Chairman-cum-Managing Director of New India Assurance Company Ltd G Srinivasan presenting on behalf of the company a dividend cheque for Rs 310 crore to Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Defence Arun Jaitley, in New Delhi on Friday. – PIB

Bankruptcy code can help deepen bonds market: Tyagi

high rate of defaults," Tyagi said at the insolvency and bankruptcy summit organised by the industry lobby CII here.

"Successful implementation of the IBC will increase confidence among investors, including foreign ones, and is likely to increase liquidity in low-rated papers," the SEBI Chairman said.

Citing global data, Tyagi said bankruptcy reforms had had significant impact on developing corporate bonds market in various parts of the world.

"In Brazil the corporate bond market as percentage of GDP increased from 12 per cent to 26.3 per cent, in Russia from 8.1 per cent to 13.1 per cent; it also increased significantly in China and Britain. – PTI

Draft pharma policy calls for trade margins cap

to make essential drugs accessible at affordable prices to common people while providing a long-term stable policy environment for the pharmaceutical sector, the draft policy said.

Calling for cap on "unreasonable trade margins", it said the issue along with bonus offers by various stockists, distributors and retailers have been addressed affecting both the industry as well as consumers interests.

"After detailed stakeholder consultations, the level of trade margins will be prescribed to create a level-play-

ing field for the industry and to bring down prices," it added.

According to the draft policy, institutions receiving supplies directly from manufacturers, distributors or retailers would also be covered under the trade margin reforms.

At present, the government fixes ceiling prices of all drugs under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) and price fixation of these drugs is carried out by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). The draft policy also said that

regulation for marketing practice which is at present voluntary will be made "mandatory" and an agency for the implementation would also be assigned.

"An area of concern is unethical marketing practice deployed by the drug manufacturing and marketing companies," it said, adding, "doctors are lured to prescribe particular brand name drugs and paid tips often disguised and called 'educational contributions' and such other incentives."

While the Drugs & Magic Act prohibits any advertisement of a drug, the

No inconsistency in govt data on taxpayers: CBDT

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: Refuting reports regarding inconsistency in the estimate of the number of taxpayers added after demonetisation, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Friday clarified that the various government statements referred to different time periods.

"It is clarified that there is no inconsistency in the data provided by the government in the statements, as these are in different contexts and for different time periods," the CBDT said in a statement. As per the statement, an occasion where government gave varied data is as follows:

(a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech mentioned that an additional 56 lakh people filed Personal Income Tax (PIT) Returns from April 1 to August 5, 2017. Last year for the same period, the figure was 22 lakh.

The CBDT said that the Prime Minister's speech referred to the increase in number of e-filed personal Income Tax Returns (ITRs) filed from April 1 to August 5 over the ITRs filed in corresponding period of earlier years.

The data maintained by the I-T Department shows that during April 1, 2017 to August 5, 2017, 2.79 crore e-returns of individual taxpayers were received as against 2.23 crore e-returns received during April 1, 2016 to August 5, 2016. – IANS

Uber launches uberPOOL in Guwahati

BUSINESS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: App-based ride-hailing service provider Uber launched its latest innovative product, uberPOOL, here on Friday.

The uberPOOL service will enable people going in the same direction at the same time to share their journey at the tap of a button. With the introduction in Guwahati, the Uber carpooling service is now available in eight cities across India, a press release said.

Speaking at the launch function, Arpit Mundra, General Manager, Guwahati and Kolkata said, "Celebrating cities is at the core of what we do at Uber. Today as we launch uberPOOL, our carpooling service in Guwahati, we urge all our riders to use this innovative mode of transportation and join us in our effort to reduce congestion and pollution in our cities, by getting more people in fewer cars."

In his speech, Puru Gupta, Commissioner of Transport, Guwahati, who was the first uberPOOL rider in the city, said, "I congratulate Uber for bringing uberPOOL to the people of Guwahati. We are encouraged by uberPOOL's effectiveness in reducing carbon footprints in cities across India and its contribution to the changing landscape of urban mobility."

Imran Khan's party challenges nomination of Sharif's wife

LAHORE, Aug 19: Opposition Imran Khan's party (today challenged in Lahore High Court the candidature of ousted Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif's wife, Kulsoom Nawaz, alleging that her nomination papers contained contradictions and that she did not appear in person to file the papers.

Sharif's ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has filed his wife from the constituency he vacated after the Supreme Court disqualified him from continuing in his office in July.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf of Khan, who has led a campaign and petitioned the Supreme Court seeking Sharif's ouster over the Panama Papers scandal, challenged the acceptance of Kulsoom's nomination papers on Thursday from Lahore's NA-120 constituency.

The election is scheduled for September 17.

Petitioner Andaleeb Abbasi, a leader of the PTL, said Kulsoom's nomination papers contained contradictions.

"Kulsoom Nawaz holds a work permit of UAE, like that of her husband on which he was disqualified," Abbasi claimed.

She also said that the nomination papers were accepted by the election commission despite her not appearing in person.

Rival Pakistan People's Party (PPP) candidate Faisal Mir has also opposed her nomination on the grounds that being the wife of a deposed premier she was not eligible to contest the election.

Several PML-N leaders believe that Kulsoom will replace current Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi after winning the September 17 election. And Sharif will return to the Prime Minister's House as 'First Gentleman'.

Sharif had announced his younger brother Shahbaz Sharif's name as the party candidate for the NA-120 constituency. But his name was later withdrawn from the electoral race.

Kulsoom had successfully led the party's movement for the release of Sharif, then incarcerated, after a military coup by former president Parvez Musharraf in 1999. — PTI

INTERNATIONAL

UK terror threat rising as ISIS loses ground in Syria: minister

LONDON, Aug 19: The UK's security minister said today that the country was facing an increased terror threat with the Islamic State network losing ground in Syria and jihadists were looking to carrying out attacks at home.

Ben Wallace said terrorists were trying to carry out attacks in the UK and Europe was under "constant attack" because they were either unable to join ISIS overseas or had returned from there.

"I think the threat is still increasing, partly driven by the

fact ISIS is collapsing in Syria and people are either unable to get out there to fight for ISIS and so they look to do something at home, or also because people have come back and tried to inspire people with their stories and tales of the caliphate," he told the BBC.

"I think those two things mean that the threat is to some extent increasing," he said.

His comments came after ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks in Spain earlier in the week, killing 14 people.

The terror group lost its

Mosul stronghold to Iraqi forces last month and international efforts to bring down its so-called capital, Raqqa, in Syria continue.

Wallace also said it was vital for people to engage with the government's anti-terrorism programme, 'Prevent', which aims to stop people from becoming radicalised.

"There's no ifs and buts nowadays. If we're going to stop these people who use everyday items such as vehicles and kitchen knives to murder people on our streets, we are going to have to all en-

gage together with 'Prevent' and we are having real success where we do that," Wallace said.

"We must offer an alternative and help people be protected from that radicalisation," he said. Under the 'Prevent' scheme, police and other organisations in the UK are encouraged to build relationships with the public, including faith leaders, teachers and doctors, and urge them to report any concerns voluntarily.

It has faced some criticism as many believe the scheme is not working as well. — PTI



US President Donald Trump returns a salute as he steps from Air Force One, en route to nearby Camp David to meet with the National Security Council to try to agree on a strategy for Afghanistan, in Hagerstown, Maryland on Friday. — UNI

Pak's 'Mother Teresa' accorded State funeral

KARACHI, Aug 19: Ruth Katherine Martha Pfau, a German physician and nun known as "Pakistan's Mother Teresa" was today accorded a full State funeral, a first for a Christian woman in the Muslim-majority country.

Pfau, 87, died on August 10 after spending 57 years to working to eradicate leprosy, tuberculosis and other diseases in Pakistan.

Pfau, born in Leipzig, in 1929, arrived in Karachi in 1960 en route to India and volunteered at a local leprosy colony.

While in Karachi, she became depressed at the state of the care given to patients whose hands and feet she said had become "nutritional supplement for the rats," according to the

Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre's (MALC) website.

She decided to stay in Pakistan as a health care worker and established the first Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre here.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi had earlier announced a state funeral for Dr Pfau, saying:

"The entire nation is indebted to Ruth Pfau for her selflessness and unmatched services for eradication of leprosy."

Pakistani military personnel carried the casket containing Dr Pfau's body to St Patrick's Cathedral in

Karachi's Saddar area. Her casket, draped in the national flag of Pakistan, was given a 19-gun salute, with contingents of all three armed forces present on the occasion.

After her final rites were performed, the coffin was taken to Gorat, a Qabaristan, Karachi's oldest graveyard, where she was laid to rest.

The burial ceremony was attended by many dignitaries including President Mamnoon Hussain, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair, Chief of Army Staff Gen

Qamar Javed Bajwa. The Foreign Office said in a statement that Dr Pfau made Pakistan her home and was a proud Pakistani.

"The entire Pakistani nation pays homage to Dr Pfau's extraordinary work. She will always be fondly remembered. We have lost a national hero. May she rest in eternal peace," the statement said.

This was the second state funeral to have taken place in Pakistan in 29 years, with the last one accorded to late philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi last year.

The prayers service for Dr Pfau was attended by hundreds of people including staff members of the Dr Marie Adelaide centre who wept as the last rites were performed. — PTI

Spain hunts suspect over Barcelona carnage

BARCELONA, Aug 19: Spanish police expanded a manhunt today for a Moroccan national believed to be one of the perpetrators of twin terror attacks in Barcelona and another seaside resort that killed 14 and wounded around 100.

With the country in shock after the carnage which saw two men deliberately ploughing vehicles into crowds of pedestrians, Madrid mulled raising the terror alert to the maximum in the world's third tourism destination.

With investigators working round the clock to identify the network behind the bloodshed, police said they were hunting for 22-year-old Youness Abouyaaqoub without confirming reports he was the driver who ploughed a van into pedestrians in Barcelona on Thursday.

Researchers found that women who had used an oral contraceptive at any time had a lower risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis, and the women were quizzed in depth about their contraceptive and reproductive histories, their lifestyle, whether they had breastfed their kids and their educational attainment. — PTI

between 1996 and 2014. During this time frame, 2,809 women were diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, and 5,312 women, randomly selected from the general population and matched for age, acted as a comparison group.

Blood samples were taken from all the participants to check for antibodies (ACPA) to rheumatoid arthritis and the women were quizzed in depth about their contraceptive and reproductive histories, their lifestyle, whether they had breastfed their kids and their educational attainment. — PTI

Researchers found that women who had used an oral contraceptive at any time had a lower risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis than those who had never done so. "The risk was 15 per cent lower in current users of the Pill and 13 per cent lower in past users," said researcher Cecilia Orellana from Karolinska Institute. — PTI

Thirteen people died at the scene and scores more were injured in scenes of



Rescue workers are seen searching through rubble and debris around a house for bodies in Regent town, Sierra Leone on Friday. — UNI

The pill may lower risk of arthritis in women: study

LONDON, Aug 19: Women who take the oral contraceptive pill for seven or more consecutive years are at a lower risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis, a study claims.

Researchers at Karolinska Institute in Sweden looked at the possible link between the development of rheumatoid arthritis and use of the Pill and/or breastfeeding among adult women with least one child.

They drew on data from the Swedish Epidemiological Investigation of Rheumatoid Arthritis (EIRA), which included women aged 18 and above, living in a defined area of Swe-

den between 1996 and 2014. During this time frame, 2,809 women from the comparison group were included in the final analysis. Of these, 884 with rheumatoid arthritis and 1,949 from the comparison group had breastfed at least one child between 2006 and 2014.

Researchers found that women who had used an oral contraceptive at any time had a lower risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis than those who had never done so. "The risk was 15 per cent lower in current users of the Pill and 13 per cent lower in past users," said researcher Cecilia Orellana from Karolinska Institute. — PTI

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017

Trump 'weighing options' for new South Asia strategy

WASHINGTON, Aug 19:

Tony Sarah Sanders said the President was briefed extensively by his national security team on a new strategy to protect America's interests in South Asia.

"The President is studying and considering his options and will make an announcement to the American people, to our allies and partners, and to the world at the appropriate time," Sanders said in a statement after

Donald Trump was briefed by his national security team.

"Trump would take a final decision on this at an appropriate time, the White House said, without divulging the details of the meeting during which Trump was briefed by his national security team.

"Important day spent at Camp David with our very talented Generals and military leaders. Many decisions made, including on Afghanistan," Trump tweeted after the meeting, the presidential retreat at Camp David, a picture resort in Maryland.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the President was briefed extensively by his national security team on a new strategy to protect America's interests in South Asia.

"The President is studying and considering his options and will make an announcement to the American people, to our allies and partners, and to the world at the appropriate time," Sanders said in a statement after

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"Important day spent at Camp David with our very talented Generals and military leaders. Many decisions made, including on Afghanistan," Trump tweeted after the meeting, the presidential retreat at Camp David, a picture resort in Maryland.

"If we were to pull all our troops from Afghanistan, it would be a disaster for our national security interests and set the stage for another 9/11 on American soil,"

Graham said. — PTI

High security as Afghanistan marks independence day

KABUL, Aug 19: Afghan security forces were on high alert today as the war-weary country, reeling from a number of high-profile deadly attacks, prepared to mark its independence day with muted celebrations.

There was an increased police presence in the capital Kabul where pop star Ariana Grande had vowed to give a concert and President Ashraf Ghani was due to host a private ceremony for Afghan dignitaries.

"All of our police units are on the highest state of alert and they are placed everywhere across the city," Kabul police spokesman Abdul Basir Mujahid told AFP.

While Afghanists red, black and green tricolor flag adorned many Kabul streets, the day will largely go unobserved by ordinary Afghans, who are frustrated

by the deteriorating security situation and the lack of progress by the US-led international coalition forces.

As in recent years there are no public ceremonies planned in the capital. The city has been on edge since a massive truck bomb ripped through its diplomatic quarter during morning rush hour on May 31, killing about 150 and wounding around 400 people, mostly civilians, in an unclaimed attack.

Taliban insurgents are currently at the peak of their summer fighting season and have launched several deadly assaults around the country in recent weeks. — AFP

অসম লোকসেবো আয়োগ ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION													
ADVT. NO. 09/2017													
No.58PSC/DR-5/1/2017-2018													
Assam Public Service Commission invites application from Indian Citizens as defined in Articles 5 to 8 of the Constitution of India for the under-mentioned posts under Assam Government in the scale of pay as indicated below and carrying usual allowances as admissible under Rules of the Govt. of Assam.													
1. Name of the Post: Asstt. Professor of Neuro Surgery under Health & Family Welfare (B) Department.													
2. Number of Post: 02 (Two)													
Sl. No.	Name of the Post	General		OBGMBC		SC		STP		STH		Total	Post Reserved for PWD & Type Disability
		Total	RPW	Total	RPW	Total	RPW	Total	RPW	Total	RPW	Total	
1	Assistant Professor of Neuro Surgeon	02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ni	

3. Educational Qualification: M. Ch in Neuro Surgery .

4. Experience: 3 years teaching experience in concerned department in a recognized Medical College as Registrar/ Resident Physician/ Demonstrator/ Tutor etc.

5. Scale of Pay: Latest AICTE Pay scale of the category plus other allowances as admissible under rules.

6. Age: Minimum 25 years and maximum 40 years as on 01.01.2017. The upper age limit for STP/SC/STH candidates will be relaxable up to 5 years.

HOW TO APPLY
a. The name of the post applied for should be clearly written in bold letters in the application form and it should be addressed to the Under Secretary, APSC.

b. Application form may be obtained by downloading the same from the APSC's website www.apsc.gov.in.

c. The last date of receiving duly filled up application form in the Commission's office is fixed on 19.09.2017 during office hours.

d. Applications (including applications received through post) received after the last date fixed for receipt shall not be entertained.

e. Only applications which are signed by the candidates and accompanied by all particulars as called for in the application form prescribed by the Commission only shall be considered and candidates fulfilling all the terms of the advertisement of the respective posts shall be called for a Screening test / Viva-voce interview where necessary as decided by the Commission.

f. (i) All candidates, whether in Government Service or in Government owned undertaking or other similar organizations/Corporations/boards/ or in private employment may intimate their controlling authority in writing of routing it through the same. However, the fact of the transfer or posting may be reported to the Commission by the candidate.

(ii) The Commission shall in no way be responsible in the event of any candidate after appointment is not released by the concerned authority to enable him/her to join the new post.

HOW TO FILL UP THE FORM

a. Applicants must affix I (One) copy of recent photograph on the space provided in the application form firmly with good quality glue/adhesive and also should enclose another copy along with the application. The photograph must be signed prominently. The Commission shall not be responsible for detachment/ loss of the photograph.

b. Since the practice of furnishing attested copies of certificates/mark sheets etc. by competent authorities is discredited by the Govt., the applicant shall furnish copies of certificate/ mark sheet etc. dictated by himself/herself as certified to be true copy of the original along with the application.

c. In case of detection of any false declaration / statement made by any applicant, his/her photograph will be rejected and will also be penalized as per Rules/Law. Self attested photocopies of Certificate / Mark Sheet from HSLC onwards and also Cast Certificate / Registration Certificate / Experience Certificate (where necessary) should be furnished invariably and should be tagged properly without any chance of getting lost during transit. The Commission will not be responsible for any such loss due to improper tagging.

d. Incomplete application in terms of the Advertisement will be summarily rejected. No documents will be entertained after the last date of submission of application.

WRITTEN TEST / INTERVIEW

i. The number of applications received is large, the Commission may short-list the number of candidates either on the basis of their marks obtained in the qualifying academic examination required for the post in terms of advertisement.

ii. By holding Screening test (Multiple choice objective type written examination) which will be notified in due course.

The list of candidates whose applications are found valid or rejected after scrutiny will be made available in the Assam Public Service Commission's website (www.apsc.nic.in) showing grounds of rejections in due course.

The Advertisement is issued on the basis of draft advertisement sent by the Government.

Sd/- Under Secretary
Assam Public Service Commission
Janasayog/D/6798/22

-OR-

'Sino-India frictions raise potential for open conflict'

WASHINGTON, Aug 19: Intensified frictions between India and China raise the potential for an open conflict and could serve as an "impetus" for further US-India strategic cooperation that could have implications for Beijing, according to a Congressional report.

The two-page brief report by independent and bipartisan Congressional Research Service (CRS) titled 'China-Border Tensions at Doka La' comes amidst continued standoff between the soldiers of two countries in the Sikkim sector.

"Intensified frictions raise the potential for open conflict and could serve as an impetus for further US-India strategic cooperation that could have implications for Beijing," according to a Congressional report.

tions for China. An issue for Congress is whether to call on the Trump Administration to put forth a strategy and report on this strategic development," the CRS said in its insight report.

CRS is an independent research wing of the US Congress, which prepares reports and policy papers for US lawmakers on issues of their interest for the Congressmen to take informed decisions.

Its reports are not considered as an official view of the US Congress.

The insight dated August 9 was released by nonprofit Federation of American Scientists on Friday.

The US has maintained neutrality on the India-China border stand-off and repeatedly encouraged the two countries to resolve their dispute through talks.

"Recent border tensions between India and China may be under way," he wrote. — PTI



Russia's President Vladimir Putin places flowers at a monument on the territory of the historical 35th coastal battery, a fortified cannon position for guarding the bay, in the Black Sea port of Sevastopol, Crimea on Friday. — UNI

Prez's arts council quits over Charlottesville remarks

WASHINGTON, Aug 19: The entire President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, that includes Indian-Americans Jhumpa Lahiri and Kal Penn, has resigned over President Donald Trump's controversial remarks after the violence in Virginia.

In a letter signed by 16 of 17 committee members, including author Lahiri and actor Penn, Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change has also been cited as a reason for their resignation.

Significantly, their resignation letter's main six paragraphs spell out "r-e-s-i-t".

"Supremacy, discrimination, and vitriol are not American values. Your values are not American values. We must be better than this. We are better than this. If this is not clear to you, then we call on you to resign your office, too," said members of the presidential advisory committee who resigned yesterday.

Trump, while commenting on last weekend's "Unite the Right" gathering in Charlottesville, Virginia, had blamed "both sides" for the violence that left an anti-racism activist dead. All the members who resigned were appointed by Trump's predecessor Barack Obama. The White House, in a statement, said Trump had already decided not to renew the executive order for the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH), which expires later this year. — PTI

Police arrest five in raid after Finland stabbing spree

TURKU (Finland), Aug 19: Finnish police arrested five people in a Turku apartment overnight in their investigation into a stabbing rampage that left two people dead, they said today.

Police shot and wounded a knife-wielding suspect yesterday, arresting him minutes after an afternoon stabbing spree at a Turku market square. Police today raised the number of injured in the attack from six to eight.

"There was a raid and we have now six suspects in custody of the main suspect and five others," said detective superintendent Markus Laine of the National Bureau of investigation told AFP.

"We are investigating the role of these five other people but we are not sure yet if they had anything to do with the attack... We will interrogate them, after that we can tell you more. But they had been in contact with the main suspect," Laine said. — AFP



WASHINGTON, Aug 19: Ousted White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon today said the Trump presidency that the right-wing conservatives helped make a reality is "over" and the President would now be "moderated" by the Republicans.

Bannon, who headed the controversial right-wing website 'Breitbart News' before joining the Trump administration, also denied that he was fired from his key position.

Hours after he left the White House, 63-year-old Bannon returned to Breitbart News as its executive chairman and also chaired the company's evening editorial meeting yesterday.

"The Trump presidency that we fought for, and won, is over," he told the conservative outlet *Weekly Standard*. "We still have a huge movement, and we will make something of this Trump presidency. But that presidency is over. It'll be something else. And there'll be all kinds of fights, and there'll be good days and bad days, but that presidency is over," said Bannon, who is generally perceived as the driving force behind Trump's

"nationalist" ideology.

Bannon says that his departure was voluntary and that he had planned it to coincide with the one-year anniversary of his joining the Trump campaign as chief executive, on August 14, 2016.

"On August 7, I talked to [Chief of Staff John] Kelly and to the President, and I told them that my resignation would be effective the following Monday, on 14th," he said.

The former White House chief strategist said that the fight is just the beginning.

"I feel jacked up. Now I'm free. I've got my hands back on my weapons. Someone said, 'it's Bannon the Barbarian.' I am definitely going to crush the opposition. There's no doubt..." he said.

Bannon predicted that Trump would now be moder-

ated by the Republicans. "I think they're going to try to moderate him."

"I think that... His (Trump's) actual default position is the position of his base, the position that got him elected. I think you're going to see a lot of constraints on that. It will be much more conventional," Bannon said.

Buoyed by Bannon's return, Breitbart News CEO and President John Solaroy said: "Breitbart's pace of global expansion will only accelerate with Steve back. The sky's the limit."

Breitbart Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow said, "the populist-nationalist movement got a lot stronger today and the magazine gained an executive chairman with his finger on the pulse of the Trump agenda." — PTI



A H-IIA rocket carrying Michibiki 3 satellite, one of four satellites that will augment regional navigational systems, lifts off from the launching pad at Tanegashima Space Center on the southwestern island of Tanegashima, Japan, in this photo taken by Kyodo on Saturday. — UNI

US formally initiates investigation of China

WASHINGTON, Aug 19:

Federal Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has formally initiated an investigation of China's intellectual property practices under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which will seek to determine if America's largest trading partner has been engaging in unfair practices.

The memorandum had emphasized that "the US is a world leader in research-and-development-intensive, high-technology goods," and that "violations of intellectual property rights and other unfair technology transfers potentially threaten US firms by undermining their ability to compete fairly in the global market."

It further noted that China's conduct "may inhibit US ex-

ports, deprive US citizens of

fair remuneration for their innovations, divert American jobs to workers in China, contribute to our trade deficit with China, and otherwise undermine American manufacturing, services, and innovation."

According to USTR, the Chinese government reportedly uses a variety of tools, including opaque and discriminatory administrative approval processes, joint venture requirements, foreign equity limitations, procurements, and other mechanisms to regulate or intervene in US companies' operations in China, in order to require or pressure the transfer of technologies and

intellectual property to Chinese companies.

Moreover, many US companies report vague and unwritten rules, as well as local rules that diverge from national ones, which are applied in a selective and non-transparent manner by the Chinese government officials to pressure technology transfer. It said.

Secondly, the Chinese government's policies, actions, and practices reportedly deprive US companies of the ability to set market-based terms in licensing and other technological negotiations with Chinese companies and undermine US companies' control over their technology in China. — PTI

Big Ben's historic Ayrton Light to be switched off temporarily



LONDON, Aug 19: A lamp on the top of the Elizabeth Tower which houses the UK's iconic Big Ben will be switched off for the first time in more than 70 years, authorities said today.

Located above the Great Bell known as Big Ben, the Ayrton Light—which is switched on in the evening whenever Parliament is sitting—needs to be fully dismantled and restored. A temporary light will replace it, the House of Commons said.

Installed in 1885, the historic lamp was previously turned off only

during both world wars. Big Ben will not chime regularly until 2021 because of repairs to the tower, the BBC reported.

The light is said to have been installed at the request of Queen Victoria, so that she could see from Buckingham Palace when members of either the Commons or the Lords were sitting after dark.

The lamp is named after Acton Smee Ayrton, a Liberal politician who was First Commissioner of Works between 1869 and 1873. It is not yet known when the light

will switch off, or how long it will be off for. Big Ben will go silent from midday on Monday. The House of Commons has said it will ring again at the length of time it will be silenced after "occasions".

Parliament said it had to protect workers carrying out the renovations. But Prime Minister Theresa May said "it can't be right" that the bell will not chime regularly again for four years.

It will still sound for important events including New Year's Eve and Remembrance Sunday. — PTI

'Sino-India frictions raise potential for open conflict'

indicative of a new phase of heightened Sino-Indian rivalry. This rivalry is manifesting itself not only along the two nations' 2,167-mile-long disputed Himalayan border, but also throughout South Asia and the broader Indian Ocean littoral region," said the CRS insight authored by Bruce Vaughn.

A specialist in Asian Affairs, Vaughn notes that the border stand-off at Doka La marks a shift in India-China ties that likely has more to do with the broader relationship than with the Himalayan border alone.

"An intensification of rivalry between China and India appears to be under way," he wrote. — PTI

ISIS claims Russia knife attack wounding 7

MOSCOW, Aug 19: The ISIS

dead and eight others injured

and is being investigated as a

terrorist attack, although the

assassin's motive is unknown.

Russia's Investigative Com-

mittee, which probes major

crimes, said a man in Surgut had

"carried out attacks on passers-

by, causing stab wounds". It said

armed police called to the scene

"liquidated" the attacker follow-

ing the stabbing today morning.

Regional officials said seven

people were taken to hospital,

after the jihadists also claimed

responsibility for twin attacks

in Spain that left 14 dead.

The attack also comes a day after a stabbing spree in Finland, which left two people

dead and eight others injured

and is being investigated as a

terrorist attack, although the

assassin's motive is unknown.

The Investigative Commit-

tee said it had established the

attacker's identity, saying he was

a local resident born in 1994, and

that they were looking into "his

possible psychiatric disorders".

Opposition leader Alexei Navalny questioned the authorities' treatment of the incident, writing on Twitter:

"Someone runs round with a

knife and tries to kill as many

people as possible. What is that,

if not a terrorist attack?" — AFP

Around the WORLD

'Predator' actor Sonny Landham dead at 76

NEW YORK, Aug 19: Sonny Landham, the much-loved movie actor who co-starred in *Predator* and *48 Hrs*, has died. He was 76.

Landham's sister, Dawn Boehler, said the actor died from congestive heart failure Thursday at a Lexington, Kentucky, hospital. Landham was a brawny, deep-voiced actor and stunt man who played a bit part in Walter Hill's 1979 street-gang thriller *The Warriors* before the director cast him as the trigger-happy criminal Billy Bear in 1982's *48 Hrs*.

Landham, who was part Cherokee and Seminole, was perhaps most known for playing the Native American tracker Billy Sole in the 1987 Arnold Schwarzenegger film *Predator*.

Landham entered the movie business after working in pornography in the '70s. Later in life, he attempted brief and unsuccessful political campaigns. He's survived by his son, William, and daughter, Priscilla. — AP

High BP during pregnancy

TORONTO, Aug 19: Women who experience high blood pressure during pregnancy face an increased risk of heart disease and hypertension later in life, a study warns.

Hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, is a long-term medical condition in which the blood pressure in the arteries is persistently elevated.

"This study highlights the need for long-term follow-up of women with a history of hypertension during pregnancy to provide early management of risk factors for cardiovascular disease," said Sonia Grandi, PhD candidate at McGill University in Canada.

In the study, among 146,748 women with a first pregnancy and a follow-up of about four-and-a-half years, 997 were diagnosed with cardiovascular disease and 6,812 developed hypertension. — PTI

Preview of solar eclipse

HOUSTON, Aug 19: Scientists have used supercomputers to predict how solar corona—the aura of plasma that surrounds the Sun and extends millions of kilometers into space—will look during the eclipse on August 21.

The solar eclipse will be visible across much of the US, tracing a 112-kilometre-wide band across 14 states, researchers said.

They completed a series of highly detailed solar simulations timed to the moment of the eclipse using University of Texas at Austin's Stampede2 supercomputer, Comet at the San Diego Supercomputer Center, and NASA's Pleiades supercomputer.

"Advanced computational resources are crucial to developing detailed physical models of the solar corona and solar wind," said Jon Linker, president and senior research scientist of Predictive Science Inc (PSI), the US company that forecast the corona of the Sun. — PTI

2 WOMEN PLUS

Indrani Raimeshi meets a dedicated social worker.

3 MY SPACE

Pratyusha Talukdar refuses to be spooked by ghosts.

4 FROM THE MARGINS

Ankush Saikia writes on the annual floods across Assam.

The Assam Tribune Sunday READING

Predicting the deluge

BIKRAMJIT GOSWAMI writes how sophisticated advance-warning systems can help predict floods in an area.

Is the prediction of floods possible? Is it possible to know that floods would occur within one or two days in a place?

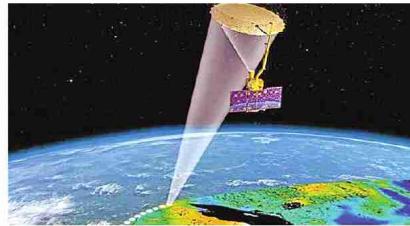
Can we save lives by sending advance warning well ahead of time to the vulnerable areas?

The answer is YES, says a group of scientists working on flood prediction at the Assam Don Bosco University.

Floods create havoc in Assam every year. It is a recurring problem in certain districts of Assam, showing its destructive effect every monsoon. Also, in certain cases, it may be an isolated incident, caused locally due to heavy monsoon rainfall. Whatever be the nature of flood, it is by and large the biggest problem of the state.

Out of all natural disasters, cyclone is very well predicted by advanced remote sensing technology. However, till date, it has not been possible to predict some natural disasters like earthquakes by any means. But with the advent of new technologies, it may become possible to predict all natural disasters well in advance, precisely and accurately.

The modern sensor technologies developed by technologically advanced countries like the USA, Japan and Canada are used to monitor the hydrological parameters, including river run-off level. However, in India, the number of sensors installed in various locations along rivers like the Brahmaputra is negligible, as compared to its length. All along the length of the mighty Brahmaputra, the Valley is affected by flooding water. Several attempts made by scientists to predict floods (utilising remote sensors on board artificial satellites) have also failed, as the sensors – which are typically high resolution cameras, cannot see the surface of the earth if it is covered by clouds.



And floods occur primarily during the monsoon period, when the presence of clouds in the sky over the entire North-East is a common phenomenon. So, optical remote sensors are not useful in monitoring and predicting floods during the monsoon season.

A group of scientists at the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) under ISRO developed a Flood Early Warning System for the Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts of Assam. In the absence of clouds, their method has been very effective and accurate. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) depends on the methodology developed by NESAC to send out the early warnings to the vulnerable areas in those districts. However, a scientist from the NESAC recently mentioned during a workshop at the Institution of Engineers, Guwahati that while the method developed by them is quite effective and accurate in predicting the occurrence of floods two to three days in advance, it is not effective during cloudy weather.

What is the solution to the problem, then? How can we use remote sensing technology to predict the occurrences of

events two to four days in advance for the last three years. For the current year also, they have been able to predict some of the major flooding events in the district. The team is now waiting for the acceptance of the method by the global remote sensing community. The acceptance is expected to be in the form of publication of the results in some globally recognised journal.

This is a welcome development, says the Vice Chancellor of the university Fr. (Dr) Stephen Mawly. He added that the methodology, once tested and accepted globally, would serve as an important tool in prediction of the flood occurrences due to river hydrology changes. Especially, forecasting of the flood occurrences every year due to the Brahmaputra would be possible for many places and thus, would give time to the people to be prepared to face the disaster.

In the days to come, remote sensing technology is expected to become so powerful that it would be able to provide predictive information regarding all natural disasters well in advance. May this beginning lead the way to many humanitarian applications of remote sensing technology in predicting natural disasters, saving the lives of millions of people worldwide. May the mighty Brahmaputra be remembered as the lifeline of Assam, and not as a nightmare during the monsoon.

(bikramjit.goswami@dbuniversity.ac.in)



jured vultures and colonies for vultures to live in.

Nestling collections had been done from all over Assam, which included five nestlings from Dhubri, six from Dibrugarh, five nestlings from Sivasagar, three nestlings from Kamrup, one from Goalpara, and four nestlings from Tinsukia. Feeding the nestlings varies from

57 days. Expected nestling period includes nestling exercises, wing flapping and jumping in the nest during the third month of development. The nestling period recorded in captivity is 120 days for white-backed vultures, while for slender-billed, the period is 150 days.

The Centre Manager added that the whole process is slow and hatching and

raising the birds takes time, as a female lays only one egg in a year. After raising the birds at the Centre, the vultures are released in the wild. There are provisional vulture safe zones and the team to establish a vulture safe zone includes the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State as the team leader and four other executive members. Pharmacies are surveyed periodically to ensure that the veterinary formulation of the diclofenac

is practically unavailable.

This visit helped us understand the conservation breeding of these natural scavengers. The successful captive breeding and release programme has saved the vultures from extinction. The Manager of the VCBC and his team have done a commendable job to increase the number of vultures. It is essential to protect the vultures in an environment where they will not be exposed to poisonous drugs. More and more states should come forward to do their bit to save this important species in the bio-system.

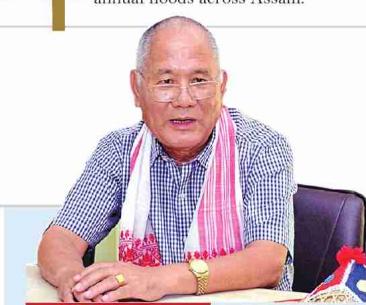
(n_brahma2000@yahoo.com)

Winged friends

NIVEDITA BRAHMA writes about the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre at Rani.

Age to age. In the first month, the nestlings are provided saliva and liquified food. One-month-old birds are fed minced meat twice a day as per their need. More than two-month-old nestlings are fed with chunks of meat and bone pieces once a day, while three-month-old nestlings are provided with meat attached to the bones.

The breeding and nest building at the colony aviary during 2012-13 showed that ten pairs were formed and nests were built in the colony aviary. Nest-building started in November 2012 and the nests were built on a cot-like ledge with sticks, coir and bones. Both partners were involved in nest-building and the nest was guarded zealously. Both the parents shared their duties equally – like feeding and brooding. One slender-billed and two white-backed eggs were hatched and hatching was done in January-February 2013. The incubation period for white-backed vultures was 53 days and for slender-billed vultures, it was



UP CLOSE

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Tales from beyond

YESHE DORJEE THONGCHI
holds up a mirror to his society.

Among the writers of Assamese literature, whose mother tongue is not Assamese, Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi (1952) stands foremost. He is a Shendukpen by birth, but as he grew up in erstwhile NEFA, he received his formal education in Assamese and adopted Assamese as the language of his literary career. Thongchi is mostly known for his novels *Soram*, *Mouna Oorth Mukhar Hriday* and *Sav Kora Manuh*, but his short stories too have unarguably added a new dimension to the corpus of Assamese literature, besides lending it a unique texture.

As a writer, Thongchi has safely distanced himself from any kind of technical experimentation and thus pledges no allegiance to any 'ism'. What makes his stories readable, remarkable and memorable are their exotic locales – most of his stories being set in some forgotten nooks in the mountainous folds of Arunachal Pradesh. But apart from presenting an evocative picture of purity, serenity and simplicity, these stories also seem to slow down the pace at which many customs and languages are vanishing altogether from the earth once they come into contact with modernisation and globalisation, accompanied by the inevitability of acculturation.

Arunachal Pradesh is home to 26 major tribes, uniquely different from each other in language and lifestyle. This bewildering variety of colour and texture, rhythm and movement justifiably makes one believe that this easternmost State of India was created by God's masterstrokes. Thongchi's contribution is particularly important as his stories encompass the account of almost all the tribes in a fine balance. A recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award and the Bhishi Bharti Award, Thongchi has recently been selected for the prestigious Bhupen Hazarika National Award, 2017.

Amongst his stories, *Dusin Dina Aaimoneposal* (The Day of Dusin) on the Day of Dusin shows the influence of the Tibetan religion and culture on the beliefs and lifestyle of a number of tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.

According to the Tibetan calendar, *Dusin* is either the full moon, new moon or the eighth day of the lunar month. It is a sacred day and the tribes who follow Tibetan Mahayana spend that day chanting prayers and shun all sorts of violent actions. The Aaimonepos are the female devotees and on the day of *Dusin*, they go to the *gompa* and pray for the well-being of all. The conflict of the story arises when an educated woman called Lajom becomes an Aaimonepo. Lajom observes that many of the Aaimonepos come to the *gompa* not for prayer and meditation, but to gossip and to quarrel over their mutual saving funds. While Thongchi's description of the Aaimonepos' habit of heavy drinking evokes laughter, Lajom's anger and anxiety show how most of the people follow the religious rituals only outwardly, without trying to imbibe its spiritual realit

In another story – *Paharor Saa* (Shadow of the Hill), Thongchi presents a conflict between assertion of ethnic identity on the one hand, and resistance against the irrational and inhuman practices of ethnic customs, on the other. Here, Kamthok, a young woman belonging to the Laju Nakte tribe is presented as a "deprived person from a deprived place." Further, Thongchi foregrounds the ideas, hopes, ambitions and frustrations of the new generation through the character of Kamthok.

Thongchi's story *Atithi Devo Bhava* (God inhabits in the Guest) brings in the sensitive issue of self/other, our/their divide. Here, Dr. Srivastav, a researcher, visits an Apatani family who treats their guests as gods. However, his prejudiced blindspots do not let him accept that warmth and hospitality, and therefore, the age-old saying indicated in the title loses its significance. The story also gives a detailed picture of Apatani life – their dress, food habit, farms, and so on.

Ronga Torar Abhan (Call of the Red Star) and *Guard* are two other important stories by Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi. The former tells the sad tale of the simple village people caught between their own religion of worshipping *Dori Polo* and the call of Christianity. Engineer Milen Riba's journey from Sepa to Itanagar parallels the journey of his people from one phase of life to another. "He kept on counting the red, yellow stars twirling in the dark city – one, two... one hundred, one thousand... as the number of stars increased, Milen Riba too grew more and more depressed and sad." However, the story ends on a note of compromise since people have to respond to changes in order to survive in the changed circumstances. Thongchi's story *Guard* is based on ecological issues.

Thongchi's stories thus bring in an array of chronicles from the land of fast disappearing customs and also from the conflict zone suspended between tradition and modernity, identity politics and acculturation.



WOMEN PLUS

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A way of service

DR. SUNITA CHANGKAKATI
is committed to serving the society.

Life guru Deepak Chopra said something that comes to mind today. "Everyone has a purpose in life... a unique gift or special talent to give to others. And when we bind this unique talent with service to others, we experience the ecstasy and exultation of our own spirit, which is the ultimate goal of all goals."

I feel this whenever I meet Dr. Sunita Changkakati, eminent social worker and activist. She is full of life, her eyes twinkling, smiling, making plans for the future, plunging into affirmative action, doggedly believing anything can be done if you just set your mind to it.

Sunita has another identity, she is the granddaughter, on the maternal side, of the first Chief Minister of Assam Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi. Her parents Tapan Mazumdar Barua, a research officer, and homemaker Aruna Barua brought up Sunita and her three siblings at Tezu and Upper Assam. Her father had such integrity that he refused to let the family use the family car. This was a lesson she always remembered.

After graduation from Cotton College, Sunita did her doctorate from GU on the impact of modernisation and urbanisation on the tribal villages of Assam, basing her study on the village of Rajapara near Chandubi. She then delved into development studies under the Tezpur District Mahila Samiti, also being a gender consultant. In this capacity she is associated with the Mata Amritanandamayi Trust in the area of education for women empowerment.

Then Sunita joined the Assam Centre for Rural Development, which was set up by her aunt Lily Mazinder Barua. Those first ten years were a gruelling, uphill climb for Sunita and her fellow workers. Resources were scarce,



I feel this whenever I meet Dr. Sunita Changkakati, eminent social worker and activist. She is full of life, her eyes twinkling, smiling, making plans for the future, plunging into affirmative action, doggedly believing anything can be done if you just set your mind to it.

there were constant setbacks and some dreams just fell by the wayside.

But the organisation worked tirelessly in the tribal areas, setting up self-help groups among women, training them in piggery, sericulture, weaving, initiating women in the basics of

enterprise, collaboration and money management. Things improved when NABARD extended help and the SHGs flourished.

Sunita recalls with pride how women in Bisks were given baby goats to be reared as a source of income. Rural women have no access to money and this project changed their lives in many ways, helping them to hold their heads high and make plans for the future. At Bordwari Begon, she ran an SHG that provided vocational training and skill development. Products were made using natural dye, beautiful brooches were created, multi-crop methods were taught.

Then, from 2009, Sunita plunged into the work of fighting human trafficking. Her work in rural areas made her aware that women and girls were vanishing from Assam's rural hinterland, lured by touts to big cities to work as virtual slaves in homes, factories and brothels. Her work in this sector ultimately led to her establishing a rehab home for trafficked victims in Mirza, on the outskirts of Guwahati.

Today Sunita is the Chairperson, Assam State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights and pours her soul and passion into speaking up and acting for the welfare of children, especially those who have fallen through the cracks, as it were.

"I am able to get through every busy day because of the inspiration provided by my husband Pradipna Pran Changkakati. He has encouraged me never to hold myself back and take on life as an adventure," she fondly says.

"Another source of strength is my daughter Prema who has joined my NGO. Her work has given me hope that we can continue to engage in many social causes in a meaningful and productive way. My other children - Rishav and Tapaswi, are very supportive."

If you go to Sunita's FB page you will have an idea of the kind of person she is - always surrounded by people almost always in rural surroundings, upholding causes, speaking to gatherings, distributing flood relief materials, sponsoring talented youngsters to higher education, she is tireless in her mission.

Martin Luther King had said, "Life's most urgent question is: what are you doing for others." Social workers like Sunita seem to live by this credo. But she is not one to look back on her achievements with complacency. She is constantly setting new goals for herself and reaching out to people and their problems. It does not matter how complicated this is going to be. Like always, she will just plunge right in and find a way out.

BEAUTY

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Beat the heat

Home remedies to treat sun tan and prickly heat.

Summers are here and so is the time to show some skin. Here are some tips to get rid of sun tan and prickly heat, using natural methods.

Honey and pineapple
Mix about one tablespoon of honey with the pulp of a pineapple. Apply to tanned areas. Keep for some time and then rinse off.



Turmeric and milk
Mix a small amount of turmeric powder in milk. Apply generously on your face. Let dry and rinse off with water.

Potato and lemon juice
Grate a potato and mix the juice with one tablespoon of lemon juice. Apply to skin, leave on for half an hour and then rinse off. You can also cut a lemon and rub a slice on your tanned skin, but allow it to sit for sometime before rinsing off.



Rice powder, milk and honey

Mix two tablespoons of rice powder, two tablespoons of cold milk and one tablespoon of honey into a fine paste. Apply to skin and leave on for a few minutes. Lightly scrub, using wet hands and then rinse off with water. This pack acts like a natural skin lightening cream. It fades away unpleasant sun tan, eliminates dead skin cells, and leaves your skin smooth and fair.

For treating prickly heat:

- Wear light and comfortable clothes in summer. Wear loose clothes while sleeping.
- Don't use any heavy skin oil or cream as they can block your skin pores in summer.
- Avoid using harsh soaps.
- Don't overwork yourself. Stay away from direct sunlight.
- Drink plenty of water. Have fresh fruits and vegetables in order to remain healthy and hydrated.
- Limit consumption of hot and spicy foods as they can worsen the condition.
- Avoid scratching the affected skin area.
- Take a shower post-workout to avoid perspiration. Bathe with normal water and keep your skin clean and dry.
- You can apply Aloe vera gel. It has antiseptic and antibacterial properties that aid in lessening different types of skin rashes, including the ones caused by prickly heat.
- Sandalwood is an excellent remedy for skin problems. It has a cooling effect which cures prickly heat rash.
- Rub ice cubes on your skin to get relief from prickling sensations.
- Another way of curing summer rash or prickly heat is consuming adequate amount of sugarcane juice as it has cooling properties.
- Gram flour soaks up all the extra moisture from your body, thus helping in treating prickly heat.
- You can also apply some honey. Leave on for some time, and then rinse off.
- Apply watermelon pulp onto the rashes for instant relief. You can also drink a glass of watermelon juice.
- Crush some fresh ginger roots and allow them to boil in water. Once the water cools down, wipe your skin with this solution using a sponge or cotton ball.



For curing prickly heat, you can also try these cooling packs:

- Mix cornflour with some water and prepare a smooth paste. Apply to skin and leave on for half an hour. When dry, rinse off.
- Add two drops of lavender oil to tepid water. Take a bath using this water. You can also apply lavender oil directly onto the rashes.

For babies:

- Dress your baby in loose-fitting clothes and remove excess clothing.
- Change diapers frequently.
- Try to keep the affected skin dry.
- Avoid using harsh soaps.
- Don't use any heavy oil or cream.
- Keep your room well-ventilated.
- Give your baby a bath regularly.
- Use mild herbal talcum powder. Avoid using scented talcum powder as it may enhance the irritation.

Now that you have some great natural tips, start right away and enjoy the summer months just as you like!

LET'S CREATE

Indian women have a fetish for sarees, even if most women today do not wear it that often. Apart from buying the newest of designs and prints, women also love to beg, borrow and steal some pieces from their mothers and grandmothers. There may not be too many places to wear them today, but they still love to hoard as many nine-yards as possible. Eventually, they end up with sarees that hardly ever get a dinko. Now, if you are one such hoarder, don't feel guilty; there's always a way out. Sarees can be reused in many different ways, not only as dresses but also as home décor fabrics. Read on to know more.



► Why buy pothi when you can easily make them at home with the pallu of any old saree. You just need some basic sewing skills to do that.



► An old saree can easily be turned into a brand new table cloth with tablemats. Nothing like using them on festive occasions!



► Convert the thick cotton sarees into functional aprons!



► If you have an old saree which has a lot of sentimental value, simply cut some pieces of it and get them framed. Now arrange the pieces in an abstract pattern on a wall. It's style and sentiment, framed in one piece.



Coconut dumplings

Ingredients:

- Coconut, grated 3 cups
- Flour 1½ cups
- Sugar 2 cups
- Water 2 cups
- Cardamom pods, crushed 2
- Vegetable oil for frying

Method:
Place the grated coconut in a pan, along with one-and-a-half cups of water and cook on high heat until the water reduces to half.

Add the flour and stir rapidly to mix.

Reduce the flame to low, cover and cook for five minutes.

Sprinkle some water, if required, and cook covered for another five minutes or until the flour is cooked through and comes together.

Remove from heat and keep covered for five minutes.

Place the dough onto a clean surface and knead the dough until smooth.

Grease your hands and divide the dough into equal portions. Then flatten the dough balls slightly.

In a saucepan, combine the sugar, water and



cardamom pods and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until slightly thickened. Transfer the syrup to a heatproof bowl.

Heat about an inch of oil in a deep pan.

Fry the dough balls in batches, over medium heat, until golden brown.

Drain them for a few seconds on paper towels.

Soak in the sugar syrup for about 20 minutes.

Serve with tea.



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.

Black rice custard

Ingredients:

- Black, sticky rice ½ cup
- Brown sugar ½ cup
- Coconut cream ½ cup
- White sugar 1 cup
- Cream 2 cups
- Eggs 6
- Corn flour 2 tbsps
- Cold water 2 tbsps
- Vanilla essence 1 tsp
- Toasted coconut and nuts to decorate

Method:

Wash and soak the rice in cold water for an hour. Drain it and place it in a pressure pan and add enough water to cover by one inch.

Place over high heat, and bring to a boil. Lower heat and pressure cook until rice is done and the water is absorbed, about three whistles. Allow the pressure cooker to cool naturally.

Open the cooker and stir in the coconut cream, brown sugar and a pinch of salt. Cover and set aside for 20 minutes to an hour.

Meanwhile, place the eggs in a saucepan over medium heat and bring to a boil.

Move from heat.

Beat the eggs, vanilla essence and sugar until thoroughly blended. Slowly, add the warm cream, whisking constantly.

Stir the corn flour into cold water and mix until dissolved.

Add this corn flour mixture to the cream mixture and mix until incorporated.

Preheat oven to 150°C.

Divide the mixture among four oven-proof ramekin dishes and bake for 15 minutes.

Place the ramekins in an oven-proof dish and pour enough boiling water into the pan to come halfway up the sides of the ramekins.

Cover the pan with foil and bake for 40 minutes or until custard is set.

Remove and cool completely.

Serve, topped with toasted coconut and nuts.



FICTION

Ronjoy Bordoloi

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Once upon a time, there lived a witch in the village of Horobjan. Her name was Tete. Her childhood was normal, she was just like any other child of her age and she used to play with all the children in the neighbourhood. Her parents had died a long time ago and she was raised by her grandmother.

It is said that the grandmother had special powers, which she passed on to her granddaughter.

As time passed by, the people of Horobjan realised that Tete was no normal child because she was way smarter and more intelligent in her studies and outdoor activities than her companions. This special child was looked down upon by the elders and women-folks of the village, out of jealousy and fear. They eventually termed her a witch, because her grandmother was also considered the same, as it was believed that the grandmother had consumed all her sons and daughters through her wicked witchcraft.

Moreover, Tete's proximity to Nature and her curious attitude towards everything raised suspicion in the minds of the ignorant villagers as to her intentions and beliefs.

Therefore, their fear of the unknown compelled the villagers to expel Tete from their community, only because her logical reasoning was incomprehensible to them.

Henceforth, she wandered in the forests, gathering herbs and learned to sustain herself.

This forest livelihood gave her an added advantage which she fully utilised to her benefit. And that advantage was the fear and awe the people of Horobjan had for her and her "abilities". She would enter any of the houses, observe the surroundings and make logical predictions. However, the ignorant villagers would perceive the same as a miraculous act and offer various items to the "All-Knowing Witch". These included clothes, meat, furniture, rice, etc.

Eventually, she got married to a flamboyant young man. He was from another village as the youth from Horobjan were too afraid to marry her



The Legend of Tete Daini

or even be her neighbour.

As time passed on, Tete had many children, six, to be precise. The people of Horobjan slowly started to welcome her and her family into their midst. Her conjugal life was also going smoothly and happily, but as fate would have it, tragedy struck pretty soon.

Under mysterious circumstances, one by one, Tete's children started to die.

The cause was not known because no post-mortem checks were done or even possible. It must have been some disease or something, but no conclusive evidence was ever found by the local doctors. Only one of the sons was alive.

Whatever may have been the reason behind the deaths, one thing was sure and that was the fact that the evil of the villagers strengthened regarding Tete being a *daini*. And when her husband died too, the villagers started blaming Tete for all these deaths and others, too, claiming that she was feeding from the souls of her victims to strengthen her powers!

Now, it was claimed by many peasants to have reportedly seen Tete Daini fly through the woods, hopping from one tree to another.

One day, one such peasant, coming back home from his daily chores, allegedly saw Tete being stuck to a tree as if glue was attached on her back. This tree was considered very holy. She was crying to him for help,

as she could not release herself from the clutches of the tree. He felt pity for the poor lady and helped her. She was very happy and offered to marry him. However, the peasant rejected the offer outright, as he had a wife and children.

Thereafter, according to the peasant, Tete cursed him, telling him that he would soon die of an unknown disease.

Soon, his health started to deteriorate. When he told his story to the villagers, they were upset and told him that he should have never helped the witch. Eventually, every *buzi* in the locality was consulted and local doctors were called, but to no avail. His health just would not improve.

And so it happened that within a month of his "encounter" with Tete, the peasant died and his cause of death was never known.

Although the encounter between the peasant and Tete or the story behind it could not be validated, the villagers were infuriated. After a day of the death of the peasant, the youth of the village and the relatives of the peasant attacked the house of Tete Daini, who was sleeping peacefully, but alone, in her small dwelling. She had sent her only surviving son to another district, so that he too would not fall prey to any diseases or mishaps, like his siblings.

They entered her house, and pulled her by her hair and dragged her to an open field where all the villagers had gathered. There, she was brutally beaten by the relatives of the dead peasant. They also pierced her with pointed sticks, thinking that the same would ward off evil spirits.

Furthermore, according to legend and as the stories are still told, even after getting such a brutal beating, Tete just would not die. Whether it was her zest for life or she really had extraordinary powers is not known.

She fled the scene, all bloody and naked, into the woods, never to return again.

But the people still hear stories of her, roaming the forests and still fear that someday, Tete Daini will return to the village to seek revenge.

And even though the legend of Tete Daini seems far-fetched and clings between the outskirts of superstition and logic, whenever you see a woman stuck on a tree, think twice before helping her!

MONEY SMART

Dipankar Jakharia

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When Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar would bat at 99, India would stop breathing. Millions of hearts would beat at a pace that could outrun Usain Bolt any day. The euphoria of the stadium and the millions of fans in front of the television sets can only be felt, not described. To understand the moment, you have to live through it.

I saw a similarity between the fans of the Master Blaster at 99 and capital market investors of today. Sensex at 32K mark, what will happen? Will it go up or down? Sensex down 300 points, what will happen? Are my investments safe? Should I withdraw my investments? Or is it going to touch 40K? And believe me, those who are hooked to business news channels are the worst affected. But frankly speaking, I don't follow the market in news channels, unless there is a policy announcement or other major event. My simple logic is to ask, is Sachin a good player?

He certainly is. In fact, he is one of the best the world has ever produced. Now ask the same question again. Is the Indian capital market a good market? It certainly is. To be precise, it is one of the best emerging markets.

ing, when markets are at an all-time high.

With market valuation so high, why should I continue my SIP? This is the most common query these days. Yes, it is true that valuations are high. But



Market talk!

Common mistakes that investors must avoid

So, why worry about day-to-day market movement?

Having said that, I guess it is difficult to ignore Sachin at 99. So here I am, telling you what not to do or what common mistakes I see investors do-

remember, when you started your SIP, your adviser must have told you that SIPs are the best instruments to avoid market emotions. And even when markets are high, there would always be some stock somewhere, which is

undervalued. It is the job of the fund manager to find those stocks. That's why you are paying him, right? Even if you try, it is impossible to time the market. So, why gamble? SIPs are meant for persistence investments. It's a practice which should turn into a habit, and the habit into reward.

Contrary to this group, there are also Kumbhakarmanas who suddenly wake up. Yes, there are people who have always shied away from the equity market and then with all the noises around, want to invest everything at one go. This is the most vulnerable group. They are often taken for a ride and bite the most bitter piece of equity investment experience. They gather experiences that make them fearful of the equity market for years to come. Here, the financial advisers should guide them through a staggered investment process, rather than trying to time the market. The option of liquid fund and STP should be explored (after proper explanation to the first-time equity investors) with utmost caution.

Remember, it's a wonderful and exciting time for equity investments. But it takes time to understand the market cycles. And only with experience comes the wisdom not to get nervous at 99.



HEALTHWISE

Dr. Bhaskar Neog

Danger of dengue

Half of the world's population is at risk of dengue.

The global incidences of dengue have grown dramatically in recent years. About half of the world's population is now at risk.

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease caused by the dengue virus. Dengue virus is primarily transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, particularly Aedes Aegypti. These mosquitoes typically bite during the early morning and in the evening. Humans are the primary host of the virus, but it also circulates in non-human primates. An infection can be acquired via a single bite. A female mosquito that takes a blood meal from a person infected with dengue fever, during the initial two-to ten-day Febrile Period, becomes infected with the virus in the cells lining its gut. About eight to ten days later, the virus spreads to other tissues, including the mosquito's salivary glands and is subsequently released into its saliva.

There are four distinct, but closely related serotypes of the dengue virus. They are – DEN 1, DEN 2, DEN 3, DEN 4. Recovery from infection by one provides lifelong immunity against that particular serotype.

Symptoms of dengue: The major symptoms of dengue fever include sudden high fever (as high as 40°C or 104°F), chills, severe headache (usually behind the eyes), muscle ache and joint pain, nausea, vomiting, flushed skin and in some cases, a skin rash similar to measles. Dengue fever symptoms may be mild initially and mistaken for a flu, cold or a viral infection. In rare cases, dengue fever may develop into a more life-threatening form known as Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever, which results in bleeding, decreased platelet count or thrombocytopenia, blood plasma leakage or the more fatal dengue shock syndrome, which causes dangerously low blood pressure. The alternate name for dengue, "Break-bone Fever" comes from the associated muscle and joint pains.

Course of infection: The course of infection is divided into three phases – Febrile, Critical, and Recovery.

The Febrile Phase involves high fever, potentially over 40°C and is associated with generalised pain and headache, usually lasting two to seven days. Nausea and vomiting may also occur. Measles-like rash may occur in 50-80 per cent of those with symptoms. The fever is classically biphasic or saddleback in nature.

In some, the disease proceeds to a Critical Phase as fever resolves. During this period, there is leakage of plasma from the blood vessels, typically lasting one or two days. This may result in fluid accumulation in the chest and abdominal cavity as well as decreased blood supply to the vital organs. Shock and haemorrhage occur in less than five per cent of all dengue cases. Those infected with other serotypes of dengue virus previously (secondary infection) are at an increased risk.

The Recovery Phase occurs next, with resorption of the leaked fluid into the bloodstream. This usually lasts two to three days. During this stage, a fluid overload state may occur. A feeling of fatigue may last for weeks in adults.

Treatment for dengue: Dengue fever is usually a self-limited illness. There is no specific antiviral treatment available. Supportive care with analgesics, fluid replacement, and bed rest is usually sufficient. Acetaminophen may be used to treat fever and relieve other symptoms. Aspirin, NSAIDS and corticosteroids should be avoided. Oral rehydration therapy is recommended for patients with moderate dehydration caused by high fever and vomiting. Patients should have their platelet count and hematocrit daily from the third day of illness until one-two days after defervescence. Patients who develop signs of dehydration should be administered IV fluids. After dehydration is corrected, they usually require I.V. fluids for no more than 24-48 hours. I.V. fluids should be stopped once hematocrit falls below 40 per cent. At this time, patients reabsorb the extravasated fluid and are at risk for volume overload if I.V. fluids are continued.

For management of severe dengue, careful attention to fluid management and proactive treatment of hemorrhage is required. Admission to an ICU is indicated for patients with dengue shock syndrome.

Ways to prevent dengue: The only way to prevent dengue virus acquisition is to avoid being bitten by a vector mosquito. Some of the measures to be taken are:

- Wear protective clothing, preferably impregnated with permethrin insecticide.
- To remain in well-screened or air-conditioned places.
- To eliminate mosquito vector by using indoor sprays.
- Breeding of vector mosquitoes can be decreased by eliminating small accumulations of stagnant water around human habitats.

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MY SPACE

Pratyusha Talukdar

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Our world is filled with beautiful and amazing things. Tall trees, sparkling waterfalls, lush green meadows, thick forests and dry deserts adorn the Earth as jewels. There are also many other phenomena that make us realise the true beauty of Nature. Like sunlight peeping through green leaves, making the dew-drops shine like diamonds or an orange-yellow sunset sky reflected in a puddle of water. They are all among the bright parts of our world. This is the part where every hidden nook and corner is illuminated by light, when everything is bright and beautiful and devoid of secrets. But like every coin has another face to it, our world also has a dark and mysterious face – a face full of creepy secrets. When the door slowly creaks open, is it because of the wind or an invisible hand

Into scary legends

opening it? Why did the light suddenly go off? There was no power cut. The light steps of someone scurrying across the floor when there is no one except you. Some things remain unexplained. Some sightings rendered as imagination. But are they actually imaginary? That is a question no one has been able to answer, not even science. Actually, there is something paranormal, a little something known as a ghost.

Now, when this topic springs up there are many whose faces light up and they become eager, while there are some whose teeth chatter, their skin develops goosebumps and they retreat into bright light. Ghosts have intrigued people for centuries. There are many people who claim to have actually sighted something scary and beyond the normal. Was it always their imagination at work? I think,

sometimes the answer is no, it's not their wild imagination. Actually, there maybe something unworlly in those scurrying footsteps. Maybe, there is no wind and it is a clear night. In some way or the other we cannot escape the inevitable – the dark side of our world.

I have been introduced to ghosts by my grandfather. He is such a master storyteller that he made his granddaughter believe in ghosts. According to him, he has seen innumerable ghosts when he was a child. Once, he told me that when the fisherman bought in their catch after a long and tiring day and dumped it in Grandpa's courtyard, he – being a small boy, went to throw the rotten fish away. When he reached the edge of the forest where he was supposed to throw away the fish, he saw a small child with eyes all over his body advancing towards

him. Grandfather dropped the fish bowl and ran away. This was one of the countless stories that I heard from my grandfather. Another one is of a giant ghost-like phenomenon that my grandfather saw while staring through the closed window of his classroom. It was early morning and not a soul was in sight. After some time, when he again went to check, along with a few of his classmates, the classroom was empty. And Grandpa swear he was not dreaming or sleeping. These incidents awake in me a belief in ghosts.

The dark world fascinates almost everyone. We all love to dig into secrets and find some meaning from them. There are many people out there who take up ghost-hunting as a profession. These are the set of people who, instead of tossing the subject of paranormal as garbage, take up the challenge of proving to the world that ghosts do exist. And sometimes they are successful. There are also many places that are deemed to be haunted and a series of unnatural happenings are said to take place there. There is actually a thrill in entering a derelict old house with creaking floors and huge rooms. The feeling that this old, crumbling house holds something creepy is different from fear.

ural happenings are said to take place there. There is actually a thrill in entering a derelict old house with creaking floors and huge rooms. The feeling that this old, crumbling house holds something creepy is different from fear. It can be described as a thrill.

Ghosts stories are enjoyed best near a crackling bonfire on a dark and silent night. The sudden whooshing of the wind or the howl of a stray dog will make you jump. But these stories shared on a dark, eerie night have their own way of making us feel excited and we store those fearful moments as memories. There are also thousands of spooky movies that make us scared to sleep alone. Was it a dog's howl or someone screaming? Is there a scratch against my window? Why is my bed creaking? Is there anything underneath? These are some of the horrible thoughts and not to mention some of the scariest parts in the movie that play before our eyes and rob us of a good night's sleep. We love being afraid.

Paradise Lost

By now the second wave of floodwaters will have started receding in most parts of Assam. More than a hundred people have died so far this year, with thousands of villages and lakhs of people affected. The problem will be forgotten till the waters start rising again next year. Dredging is supposed to start on the Brahmaputra soon, but it isn't clear whether the PMO's proposed study group to examine the causes of the flood problem in the Brahmaputra basin will carry out its research beforehand or simultaneously, or whether the dredging will help. The sediment load of the Brahmaputra is extremely high: five million tonnes or more every year, and one of the main causes for the river's braided nature. Coupled with the rise in the river bed during the 1950 earthquake, every passing year has seen the river bed rising due to siltation, increasing the river's erosion capability along the banks and causing extensive flooding during the monsoon season (there are those who say that once the steamers of yore stopped plying on the river, the deposit of sediments on the river bed has increased). The entire Brahmaputra drainage basin is, in geological terms, relatively young. Besides the silt or *polosh* suspended in the waters of the Brahmaputra's tributaries, coarse sand is also washed down from the young, friable mountains of the eastern Himalayas. With human intervention in the form of deforestation, construction (houses, roads, dams), cultivation on forest land, and the lifting of sand, gravel and boulders from river beds increasing in both Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, there has been a steady rise in coarse material coming down the tributaries (especially those in the north bank region of Assam) leading to greater sand-casting during the monsoon floods, where sand buries vast areas and leaves fields unfit for cultivation. It is no coincidence that people are leaving the flood and erosion prone areas of Dhemaji and Lakhimpur to work in other places, or

to even try and settle elsewhere on government land. The floods have always been around. During the early 1970s my father reached Tezpur from Delhi and was unable to proceed further to Lakhimpur, where my grandfather was then posted, as roads and bridges had been washed away. An increase in population and the sand casting mentioned above has made matters worse.

At the same time, the North-East is

somewhat still viewed (especially by people from the mainland) as an

FROM THE MARGINS
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At the same time, the North-East is somehow still viewed (especially by people from the mainland) as an untouched and pristine area. The singer from a Delhi band I had met at the Ziro Festival of Music a few years ago told me that the local people needed to be "protected" from the outside world.

untouched and pristine area. The singer from a Delhi band I had met at the Ziro Festival of Music a few years ago told me that the local people needed to be "protected" from the outside world. But the outside world had entered long ago, during the

1962 War with China, an uncle was posted there as a wireless operator, and a Bengal classmate of mine from Shillong had been born in the mid-1970s in Ziro, where his father was working with the SBI (this classmate now works for a software company in Bengaluru). Indian politics and democracy were enthusiastically picked up by the inhabitants, and on that trip to Ziro from North Lakhimpur the Sumo taxi driver told me how people were quickly constructing rough brick houses on their plots falling on or along a new highway widening project, in order to claim more compensation.

Most of the forests and wildlife have disappeared; what remain are a few pockets, almost like zoos. Nari Rustomji, the first Chief Secretary of Meghalaya, in his book on North-East India, *Enchanted Frontiers*, wrote: "But much of the magic and mystery of the places I have known is fast vanishing" – and this was way back in 1971. A decade ago I had gone to the Namdapha Park in eastern Arunachal. We were staying at a camp at Deban, near the banks of the Dihing River. On our excursions into the forest we saw hogdecks gibbons and hornbills, but the guards didn't seem to be too worried about tigers. There were rumours that the Lisu tribe from the Myanmar side had been poaching them. The cook at the camp had been there for more than a decade, and told us that years ago one could wake up in the morning and see elephants, deer and even tigers on the other side of the river. We saw no such thing.

The tribal people are protected by the Inner Line and quotas, but the modern world still intrudes. Arunachal is said to have hydro-power potential of some 50,000 MW, and 165 dams large and small have been planned all over the State. But how many of these are actually going to be built? Between the local people, especially in the downstream areas of Assam, and the central power companies, there exists a wide communication gap, one that is only too easily exploited by vested interests.

Ankush Saikia is the author of the Detective Arjun Arora series.

FORECAST

AUGUST 21 – 27, 2017



ARIES
(APR 21 – MAY 20)

Changes could be in the cards early this week, and they could affect the social groups or people you hang out with. Back up important documents and files.



TAURUS
(MAY 21 – JUN 20)

Tension could emerge that are related to your work-life balance and your relationship between your family and worldly responsibilities. Clear the air and spend time in good company.



GEMINI
(JUN 21 – JUL 20)

This period, feelings could reach a peak and be a cause of intense discussion. If you and another can't see eye to eye, matters could intensify.



CANCER
(JUL 21 – AUG 20)

A financial matter may need attention, particularly if it's something you've so far avoided. This could be an opportunity to reorganise your affairs.



LEO
(AUG 21 – SEP 20)

Relationships could go through a period of instability. Feelings that have been held back may come out into the open and this could encourage you or another to make a key decision.



VIRGO
(SEP 21 – OCT 20)

Sometimes may need to change, and it could be your routines, habits, and daily schedule that need to alter. The current setup could encourage you to step back and see things in perspective.



LIBRA
(OCT 21 – NOV 20)

Your approach to leisure activities and your social life could change this week, and the change may have been brewing for some time. Move to new circles, make new friends.



SCORPIO
(NOV 21 – DEC 20)

It may be decision time this week. This could involve tension with family members. Concentrate on career plans or a key ambition.



SAGITTARIUS
(DEC 21 – JAN 20)

If a certain matter has brought up objections in the past, these could intensify over the coming week. But this event could also encourage you to take a closer look at your own opinion.



CAPRICORN
(JAN 21 – FEB 19)

At the start of the week, you may sense that something needs to change, and you may have felt this way for some time already. This urge could grow stronger and possibly encourage you to take action. Doing so could be a relief.



AQUARIUS
(FEB 20 – MAR 19)

If one relationship has been under pressure for some time, this is when things could come to a head. If you can refrain until your emotions are more settled and you can see the lie of the land, you may be able to make a more informed choice.



PISCES
(MAR 20 – APR 19)

Health and well-being may be very much on your mind, as this phase could encourage a fresh start. A wellness issue or the sense that something needs to change regarding your overall health could act as a catalyst.

MOVIE WATCH

Bindisha Singha

The Hitman's Bodyguard

Cast: Ryan Reynolds, Gary Oldman, Samuel L. Jackson.
Director: Patrick Hughes.

T he film's title is a dead giveaway and that's all there is in the film – an out-of-work bodyguard protecting (or trying to protect) a veteran hitman. Reynolds stars as the bodyguard tasked with bringing in the reckless-loudmouth Jackson (The Hague to attend the International Criminal Court against an eastern European dictator (Oldman). A "bodyguard" comedy much like *Lethal Weapon* and *48 Hours*, *The Hitman's Bodyguard* has been widely panned by Hollywood critics, but this American genre of filmmaking has always been a hit in India. And the Reynolds-Jackson pairing is something we might definitely love to watch.

Weekly Top Grossers

1. Annabelle: Creation	6. The Emoji Movie
2. Dunkirk	7. Spider-Man: Homecoming
3. The Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature	8. Kidnap
4. The Dark Tower	9. The Glass Castle
5. Girls Trip	10. Atomic Blonde

The Glass Castle

Cast: Brie Larson, Woody Harrelson, Naomi Watts.
Directors: Destin Daniel Cretton.

B ased on the memoir of Jeannette Walls, *The Glass Castle* traces the life of a dysfunctional family of four siblings and their self-destructive nomadic parents. With an eccentric artist mother who abhors the idea of domesticity, and an alcoholic father who can't seem to hold a job, the children live through years of domestic unrest and poverty, moving from one city to another, looking for a semblance of stability. With Oscar-winner Brie Larson in the pivotal role, narrating the tale of how her family made it through, this film could stir the hearts of those who love a good drama.

5 THINGS/ Positive impression

"People are watching us round the clock"

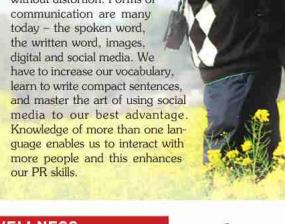
Public relations expert and motivational speaker NURUL ISLAM LASKAR provides tips on building one's public image.

1 Public relations for image building

Companies and corporate houses earmark big budgets for public relations because it gives them a good image. Today, public relations is important for individuals also. If you are a film star or a political leader, you may perhaps engage a celebrity manager and pay her to build and sustain your public image. But what about the common man like you and I? We may not have the money to engage a celebrity manager, but certainly we can use tools such as a smile, positive attitude, helping hand, and importantly, communication skills to enhance our image and derive mileage out of it.

2 Communication skills – a must

Communication is a two-way process in which there is a sender and a receiver. We have to ensure that the receiver is able to receive our message without distortion. Forms of communication are many today – the spoken word, the written word, images, digital and social media. We have to increase our vocabulary, learn to write compact sentences, and master the art of using social media to our best advantage. Knowledge of more than one language enables us to interact with more people and this enhances our PR skills.



3 Etiquette and manners add to your image

Man is a social animal and people are watching us round the clock. If we have good manners and etiquette, know how to respect people, dress the proper way, and follow the rules according to the situation, then we shall be leaving a positive impression behind us. A candidate needs to leave a good impression before the interviewers. Similarly, an office worker needs to have a good image before his employer and colleagues.

4 Do networking and help people

Knowing more and more people, and befriending the right ones are also important requirements for good public relations. This needs to be done in a systematic manner. If somebody needs my help and I am in a position to help, then I must help. This help comes back to me, when I am in need of it, and it comes many times multiplied. This is the essence of public relations.

5 Top it up with digital and social media

Digital and social media are part of our lives. Most of us would be helpless without our phone and laptop. Most of the time, we are either sending or receiving mails, checking our Twitter, WhatsApp or Facebook posts. If we use social media the right way, it can surely improve our image. But if we project ourselves as arrogant, self-righteous or hateful of others, our image is sure to take a nosedive.

(As told to Indranil Raichoudhury)

WELLNESS

Grace Rattue

The healing spirit



Spirituality improves the health of most people.

According to a study conducted by researchers at the University of Missouri, spirituality improves the health of most people, both of seemingly healthy individuals and those with conditions and illnesses. The study has been published in the *Journal of Religion and Health*.

The team highlights that healthcare providers could tailor treatments and rehabilitation programmes to accommodate an individual's spiritual inclinations.

Dan Cohen, assistant teaching professor of religious studies at MU, explained: "In many ways, the results of our study support the idea that spirituality functions as a personality trait. With increased spirituality, people reduce their sense of self and feel a greater sense of oneness and connectedness with the rest of the universe." What was interesting was that frequency of participation in religious activities or the perceived degree of congregational support was not found to be significant in the relationships between personality, spiritual belief, and health.

The team examined the results of three surveys in order to find out whether there might be any correlation between self-reported mental and physical health, personality factors, and spirituality in Buddhists, Muslims, Jews, Catholics, and Protestants.

The team found that in all five faiths, spirituality was associated with better mental health, specifically lower levels of neuroticism and greater extraversion. The only spiritual trait predictive of mental health, after personality variables were considered, was forgiveness.

Cohen said: "Our prior research shows that the mental health of people recovering from different medical conditions, such as cancer, stroke, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury, appears to be related significantly to positive spiritual beliefs and especially congregational support and spiritual interventions. Spiritual beliefs may be a coping device to help individuals deal emotionally with stress."

According to Cohen, spirituality could help an individual's mental health by lowering their self-centredness and developing their sense of belonging to a larger whole.

Spirituality is encouraged in many different faith traditions, although they use a variety of names for the process. A Christian monk couldn't say he had attained Nirvana, nor would a Buddhist monk say he had communed with Jesus Christ, but they may well be referring to similar phenomena.

Cohen explained: "Health workers may also benefit from learning how to minimise the negative side of a patient's spirituality, which may manifest itself in the tendency to view misfortune as a divine curse."

Religion-based counselling, meditation, and forgiveness protocols may improve spirituality-based beliefs, practices, and coping strategies in positive ways, according to the researchers.

Remember, selflessness that comes with spirituality improves characteristics that are vital for fostering a global society based on the virtues of peace and cooperation.

