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NEWS CAPSULE

Check gates

GUWAHATI, July 13: State Transport Minister Chirag Mallick today informed that the department has decided to close the three inter-state check gates located at Srimarpur, Buxihat and Digborikhali. The decision has been taken in the light of the recently rolled-out GST which aims at curbing smuggling across the state boundaries of goods and vehicles, realising the 'one nation one market' principle. — Staff Reporter

Opp plan

NEW DELHI, July 12: Eighteen Opposition parties have come together to take on the government in Parliament during the Monsoon Session beginning July 17 over note ban, GST and other issues, according to political sources. — PTI (Details on Page 12)

SSB gets nod

NEW DELHI, July 13: The SSB that guards open borders with Nepal and Bihar has been sanctioned its first ever intelligence wing with 650 field and staff agents to check the activities of "anti-India and other inimical forces". — PTI

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

HORIZON

- A compassionate world
 - P. Talukdar
 - Beyond whey
 - Angshuman Dutta
 - Gender-balanced workforce
 - Kaustav Kashyap
 - The pursuit of the invisible
 - B. Choudhury
 - When idiots talk
 - Pradyot P. Saikia
 - The age of innocence
 - Anirban Gupta
 - Summer sojourn in Kashmir
 - C. Bhattacharjee
- Plus all other regular features

Centre ready to help State flood-hit: Rijiju

CORRESPONDENT



Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju interacting with flood victims at Bagolegan, on Thursday. — UB

LAKHIMPUR, July 13: Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju today stated that the Central Government would extend all possible help required for flood management in the State.

Rijiju, accompanied by State Water Resources Minister Keshav Mahanta, Lakhimpur MP Pradip Baruah, Minister Naba Kumar Doley and local MLA Utpal Dutta, today visited the breached portion of the Ranagadi dyke in Bogolegan in North Lakhimpur. Earlier, he

held discussions with the La-

khimpur district administra-

tion officials and interacted

with media persons on the is-

ue of flood control measures

in the district.

The floodwaters began re-
ceding in many areas in the
district since yesterday, but
North Lakhimpur remained
without power supply for the
last four days since the con-
nectivity was snapped by a
storm on Monday evening.

The district has been hit the
hardest by floods this year.
Over three lakh people have
been marooned by floodwaters
in Lakhimpur alone.

Dhemaji Correspondent
adds: Rijiju also took stock of
the flood situation in Dhemaji
district today. The minister ar-
rived at Dhemaji along with a

(See page 4)

Flood death toll rises to 49

STAFF REPORTER

this evening

GUWAHATI, July 13: Flood has spread to more areas of the State making 17,43,119 people in 2,450 villages and localities of 26 districts need relief. The flood-related death toll has also shot up to 49, with the report of five new cases of death received today. Altogether 1,11,542 flood-hit people are taking shelter in 276 relief camps in various districts, said the official flood bulletin here.

DoNER Minister reviews situation

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, July 13: Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh, while reviewing the flood situation in the Northeast, directed the ISRO to carry out an assessment of the damage caused by floods.

Dr Singh said the damage caused by rainfall has been unprecedented and a total of 58 districts have been affected by floods and landslides in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and

(See page 4)

state governments in rescue and relief operations. The Ministry of DoNER and PMO are closely coordinating with the team led by Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju to assess the situation in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Dr Singh said the damage caused by rainfall has been unprecedented and a total of 58 districts have been affected by floods and landslides in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and

(See page 4)

SC raps Sonowal for intervention

KALYAN BAROOAH

NEW DELHI, July 13: The Supreme Court on Thursday took exception to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's intervention in the preparation of the draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the State.

A bench of Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman said the Supreme Court did not appreciate any other authority intervening in the NRC preparation process, when the court itself was monitoring it.

"We don't appreciate any other author-

ity intervening in the matter of prepara-

tion and publication of the draft NRC,

when this court has been monitoring the process," the bench said.

NRC update

"We have a statement of the Assam Chief Minister that he has revised the date (for the preparation of NRC in Assam) to December 31. When the Supreme Court is monitoring, how can another agency intervene?" Justice Gogoi asked.

The apex court had earlier asked for preparation of NRC to keep a check on illegal migration from Bangladesh.

(See page 4)

The NRC is meant to identify original residents of Assam to check illegal migration.

"Last time you had told us that you will do it by March 2018. It is good that you are doing it. But we have an on-

record statement of Chief Minister of Assam that the draft NRC will be published in December 2017. Let him sur-

prise then. We will wash off our hands," the bench remarked.

The apex court had earlier asked for

preparation of NRC to keep a check on

illegal migration from Bangladesh.

(See page 4)

Army steps to check movement of ultras

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

matter of concern but coordination between the security

recent times, which is a positive development.

India shares 1643 kilo-
metres of international boundary with Myanmar and because of the porous nature of the international border, the militants having bases in the neighbouring country are taking advantage of the situation to enter India to carry out acts of violence and retreat back to their sanctuaries. Though the Assam Rifles, which is under the operational control of the Army, has been entrusted with the responsibility of guarding the border, the situation

(See page 4)

Indo-Myanmar border



forces of India and Myanmar has improved considerably in

(See page 4)

Court rejects Tezpur docs' bail plea

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, July 13: The Tezpur Sessions Court today rejected the anticipatory bail petition of five physicians and two accountants of the Kanaklata Civil Hospital here, who have been accused of siphoning off fund allotted for purchasing food for patients.

The five accused physicians

— Dr Bharati Baruah, Dr Atul Saikia, Dr Anjali Goswami,

(See page 4)

JOCOSERIOUS

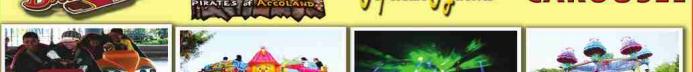


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is as exciting as playing
water sports' sir. Isn't it?

(See page 4)

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Candidate should have experience in FMCG preference and capability to approach network. Good knowledge of the whole North East.

INTERIM SALES REPRESENTATIVE (ISR)

For Upper or Lower Assam & Arunachal Pradesh & Dimapur (NGO).

Candidate should have exp. in FMCG preferred.

Remuneration will be according to the experience and knowledge.

Walk-in Interview on 16th & 17th July, 2017 between 11 am - 5 pm at HOTEL RITURAJ

Kedar Road, Guwahati - 781001

Also send SMS and confirm your participation at 9999265690, 9999406904 svraagta@gmail.com

CDSV/....1

Required one experienced working/retired nurse for the post of trainer. Contact Aysushman Home Care, Guwahati #9859076022, #9707077762. SWP/PA394/1

REQUIRED FLUENT ENGLISH SPEAKING CANDIDATES FOR INTERNATIONAL CALL CENTERS IN GUWAHATI, MUMBAI & PUNE, NIGHT SHIFT ONLY, SALARY 15K ONWARDS + INCENTIVES + FOOD & ACCOMMODATION. PH: 9127070959, 767002245, 285828132. SWP/A250/5

APPOINTMENT

Applications with detailed testimonials from H.S.C. or equivalent examinations onwards are invited for direct recruitment for two years only against FDP leave vacancy in the Department of History from the intending qualified candidates having the latest UGC norms with NET/SLET/SET or Ph.D. degree in the basic U.G.C. scale of pay.

Ph.D. degree should be in accordance with the U.G.C. standards and procedure for award of Ph.D. degree regulation-2009.

Further applications are also invited from intending candidates for a purely temporary post in the Department of Bodo having Ph.D. degree as per NET/SET or PG classes. Stipend negotiable.

Preference will be given to the candidates belonging to the B.T.A.D. area and having the knowledge of local language.

The complete set of application accompanied by a Demand Draft of Rs. 80/- (Eight Hundred) only for the post may be drawn in favour of Director, Assam College, Sengaripani payable at SBI, Kokrajhar Court Para Branch (00119). Kokrajhar must reach the following address within 07 days from the date of this advertisement.

Sd/- Dr. S. Basumatary Principal/Secretary Janata College, Serfangan, Dist: Kokrajhar BTAD (Assam), PIN-783346

CDSV/1664/1

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

For post of teachers on contract basis at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Darrang.

1. TGT (Maths): B. Sc with Maths, Physics, Chemistry (50%) and B.Ed.

2. TGT (Science): B. Sc with Botany, Zoology, Chemistry (50%) and B.Ed.

3. TGT (English): B.A. in English (50%) and B.Ed.

Remuneration: Rs 31,250/- per month.

Date of interview: 20/07/2017

Time 10.00 AM.

Venue: Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Darrang at Udmari, PO: Tengabari

Contact No: 03713-292807 / 9010368464

Sd/ Principal JNV Darrang (Assam)

CDSV/1667/1

MNC IS HIRING MARKETING HEAD, HR MANAGER, SR. ACCOUNTANT & B.TECH (IT, ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATION, COMPUTER SCIENCE). # 9085078728, 3gobalkeries@gmail.com SV/P/A283/3

WANTED AT GUWAHATI- ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT: COMMERCE GRADUATE WITH EXPERIENCE IN COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS AND KNOWLEDGE OF TAX MATTERS AND COMPUTER TUTORIAL OPERATIONS, APPLY WITH COMPLETE BIO-DATA BOX NO. 3334, THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI. SV/3334/2B

We are hiring retired persons, housewives & businesswoman/women for a reputed Company. Aged 30+ preferred. Contact: 757908071. SV/P/A252/8

REQUIRE TEA GARDEN RESIDENT DOCTOR

For a Tea Estate with Factory located very near to Tinsukia Town in Assam. Candidate must have MBBS (Allopathy) and registered with Medical Council. Lady Doctor and Retired Doctor up to age 70 Years may also apply.

Remuneration is negotiable. Well Furnished bungalow and other garden benefits as per Tea Garden norms will be provided. Interested candidate may call: Mr. M. N. Das. Ph: 9436149010. Or send their resume to e-mail: id-sankumaramgawali@gmail.com/limbugami@gmail.com

CDSV/1668/1

Urgent need in Government registered company small businessman, retired, self employed house wife. #8486293994, 9435551364. SV/P/A249/3

Part/full time job Min. 30 Plus/retired employees/Ex-Servicemen/B. Employee, House Wife. 8876173461, 8876586212. SV/P/1348/10

Wanted a smart office Peon for our office. Call: 7399830776. SV/P/A250/51

From our home Rs. 1500/- pm by simply writing & typing in MS word. Regd.: Fatashil AK Dev Road, Mat. Chandiaka Market, 1st floor, Ghy.- 9. Ph: 9706122027 & 8761901022, www.rkdartistics.com (We need franchise also/districtwise). SV/P/2077/13

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Office job (5-9 pm)- S-7000 Store Incharge, Cashier, Bar Manager, Waiter, Peon. 9979576073. SV/P/A251/1

WYAF requiring DTP Operator, Office Boy and Cook at Sixmile, #09810741828, 880079211. SV/P/A254/1

Urgently required Office Assistant, Receptionist, with Computer knowledge, beautiful Salary package - #9613225181. SV/P/A254/1

Direct joining Calcenter, Hotel, Showroom, Security, Delivery, Dataentry, Collection, Banking, Receptionist, 7636009747. SV/P/1391/51

Required Graphic designer having knowledge of Photoshop, Illustration, Page Maker & Corel Draw for a leading Advertising & Printing House in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. Good salary plus incentives & Bonus. Determined candidate may post their resume e-mail: amanpara@gmail.com or watsapp: 9862885754. Interview at Guwahati on 18 th July, 2017. SV/P/1393/2

For pick up of Classified Advertisements from your doorstep ...

Ph: 97060-43680 or 70860-44611

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For post of teachers on contract basis at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Darrang.

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Required *Incharge/Cashier/ Salesman for "Wine Shop" in Ghy. Sal (SK-8K), Lodging & Fooding (free). Cont. SV/P/1393/1

Medical Representative, 100% job. Guarantee training for 15 days. (A.P.I.) Guwahati Club, Ph: 9854013922/7002658410. SV/P/1393/8/19

Required Office Staff cum Telecaller for an education consultancy. Qualification: Min. Graduation. Interested candidate may apply: drdebc@consultancy@gmail.com. 8474821979. SV/P/1253/1

The advertisement against 4 faculty posts of S.T. of Engineering & Technology has been published in Assam Tribune on 9.7.17 where category was not mentioned. The categories are as follows: 1. English; 2. Political Science; 3. Economics; 4. OBC/M.C.B.; Logic & Philosophy - OBC/M.C.B.; Principal Changsari H.S. School. SV/P/1394/01

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GTA office, railway station set on fire

DARJEELING (WB). July 13: A GTA office was set on fire and several vehicles were damaged in Darjeeling today as the indefinite shutdown in the hills entered the 29th day.

The Gorkhaland Territorial

Administration (GTA) office for travel and tourism in Cherraptha of Mall Road in Darjeeling was set ablaze by pro-Gorkhaland supporters early morning. Several government vehicles were also damaged

near the Darjeeling station by unidentified men last night.

A railway station in Gayasbari area of Kurseong was set on fire by pro-Gorkhaland supporters this morning. A forest bungalow near Teesta river was also set on fire today.

Meanwhile, responding to the call of the Gorkhaland Move-

ment Coordination Committee (GMCC), a writer and a singer returned the awards given to them by the state government.

GMCC is a body comprising 30 members who are representatives of all hill-based parties like GJM, GNLF, JAP and Bharatiya Gorkha Parishang. The GMCC is

headed by a member of GJM, Writer Krishna Singh Moktan, who is also the former Darjeeling inspector-general of police, has returned his Bhau Bhakta Award in the morning. He received the award in 2004. Singer Karma Yonjan too has returned his Sangeet Samman award. - PTI

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2 female suicide bombers in

Cameroon kill 15

YAOUNDE, July 13: At least 15 people are dead after two female suicide bombers carried out the latest attack in Cameroon's far north, the Government said today, and another 42 people are wounded.

The attackers entered the town of Waza late yesterday and one detonated explosives near a group of youths, Governor Madiyawa Bakary said.

Nigeria-based Boko Haram extremists have been crossing borders to stage attacks in countries, including Cameroon, that contribute to a military threat that seeks to eliminate the insurgency.

The Islamic extremists have killed more than 20,000 people in their eight-year existence and abducted thousands of others.

Boko Haram increasingly has used girls and young women to carry out attacks on marketplaces, checkpoints and other targets. Some young women who escaped the extremist group have said girls are drugged and forced to carry out suicides.

The attacks in Cameroon's far north, the poorest part of the country, have been a factor in sending more than 13,000 Nigerian refugees who had fled Boko Haram back to their own nation since mid-April. —AFP

DoNER ...

(Contd from page 1)

Manipur. Around 80 lives have been lost, he said. The damage caused by the floods, however, has been contained to a large extent by the State Government and Central teams.

Dr Singh said space technology experts from ISRO have been roped in for carrying out an assessment of the flood damage in the North East. He also suggested that essential items like staple food and baby food be made available for the affected people.

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Tillerson leaves Gulf with no end in sight to Qatar crisis

DOHA, July 13: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson today wrapped up a four-day mission to the Gulf with little sign of progress in resolving the diplomatic crisis pitting Saudi Arabia and its allies against Qatar.

Tillerson met Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani for the second time in 48 hours, together with a Kuwaiti mediator, on the final leg of his trip, before heading back to Washington.

Despite an intense round of shuttle diplomacy that also took him to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, tensions remained high between Qatar and four Arab States that accuse Doha of supporting extremism and being too close to their arch-rival Iran.

The United Arab Emirates and Egypt have imposed a boycott on Qatar since June 5.

They have imposed sanctions on Doha, including closing its only land border, refusing Qatar access to their air-

space and ordering their citizens back from Qatar.

They also presented the emirate with a list of 13 demands with which to comply to end the worst political crisis in the region for years.

Qatar denies the charges of extremism and called the demands "unrealistic".

It also claims the boycott has led to human rights violations, and today one group said abuses were one consequence of the crisis.

"Hundreds of Saudis, Bahrainis and Emiratis have been forced into the impossible situation of either disregarding their countries' orders or leaving behind their families and job," said Sarah Leah Whitson of Human Rights Watch. —AFPs

SC raps Sonowal for ...

(Contd from page 1)

Having expressed its displeasure, the court in its order said, "Be that as it may, we now understand that the draft NRC would be ready by December 31, 2017. Accordingly, all budgetary allocations are approved..."

The court said that in the event of any difficulty, the State Coordinator Prateek Hajela

would be appraising the court of the same.

Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar informed the court that the Madhukar Gupta Committee, for strengthening border protection and addressing the vulnerability in fencing along the Indo-Pakistan border, has cited personal reasons for his inability to be a part of the committee for border fencing within a week's time.

While making it clear that the person who would replace Gupta should not be associated with the Government and should rather be a "public spirited" person, the court asked the Solicitor General and others to suggest some names within a week's time.

The banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the deadly attack. Taliban militants often carry out such attacks in the area. —PTI

ELECTRICAL WORKS: CONSTRUCTION OF FOB

E-Tender Notice No. EL/RNY/TN/17-18 dated 01-07-2017 for the construction of tender documents while E-Tender are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Rangia, Assam.

Work involved in the project:

• Construction of FOB at Chirapura.

• Construction of 1000 m² of working experience and electrical license holder contractors for the following work:

E-Tender No.: RNY-EL-T-13-2017-18.

Name of work: E-Tender in connection with the proposed construction of FOB at Chirapura.

Tender Value: ₹ 3,15,15/-.

Date & time of closing of E-tender: 16-08-2017 at 15:00 hours.

Date and time of opening of E-tender: 16-08-2017 at 15:00 hours.

Website: www.rnyeps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical

Engineer, Rangia

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REPAIRING OF BATTERY CHARGER

E-Tender No. N-2017-18-02-Sr-DSTE-MLG dated: 11-07-2017.

E-Tenders are invited by the

Undersecretary for the following works:

SN. 1. Name of Work: No. Detai

1. Sr. Divisional Electrical

Engineer, Rangia

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SEAMLESS SECURITY SOLUTION

E-Tender No. N-2017-18-01-Sr-

DSTE-MLG Dated: 06-07-2017

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Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom

Engineer, Rangia, Assam for the

following work:

SN. 1. Name of work: Seamless

Security solution to End point

of Network in Railways. Tender

Value: ₹ 9,76,200/- Earnest Money:

₹ 10,530/-

Date & time of closing of E-

Tender: 10-07-2017, on 16:00

hrs. Date of opening of Tenders:

Documents are available at website

www.rnyeps.gov.in

Divisional Signal & Telecom

Engineer, Rangia

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No. SRDAMGNREGA/29/2010-2011/128

TD.: 13/07/2017

Sealed quotation affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & twenty five paise) only are here by invited from the Printing Press located in Sivasagar district for printing of the following items under MGNREGA programme.

The quotation will be received by the office of the Project Director, DRDA Sivasagar w.e.f. 15.07.17 to

20.00 hrs. on 13.07.2017. The quotation or bid should be submitted to the office of the DRDA Sivasagar on the date and time mentioned above. If the quotation or bid is received after the closing time, the quotation will be opened in the next working day in same time.

The quotation should be submitted both in figure and words inclusive of all taxes. The payment will be made from the amount of the quotation.

The sample or drawing of the required material is available at DRDA during office hours.

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Text paper - Congreen paper.

SL. No. Name of material Approximated quantity of printing Nos. of pages

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2. Master Registration Register 100 pieces 50 Nos.

3. e-master Roll Issue Register 118 piece 100 Nos.

4. e-master Roll Receipt Register 118 piece 100 Nos.

5. Job Card Application Register 248 piece 100 Nos.

6. Employment Register 291 piece 100 Nos.

7. Work Register 230 piece 100 Nos.

8. Asset Register 230 piece 100 Nos.

9. Complain Register 127 piece 30 Nos.

10. Printing of Job Card 60,000 nos. 32 page inside

The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest rates quotation and have reserved the right to accept or reject any of all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

The printing works should be completed within the stipulated time fixed by the office. If fails to complete, the work order shall automatically be cancelled and the party shall be black listed.

Janasanayog@501/7

Bangla PM defends decision to buy two Chinese submarines

Taliban militants kill 4 cops in Pak

KARACHI, July 13: Taliban militants today attacked a vehicle carrying a senior police officer in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, killing him and three other policemen.

Superintendent of Police of Quetta district, Mubarak Shah, was targeted by the gunmen in Quetta, the provincial capital, while he was patrolling in the area with his team.

Hasina called China a key development partner and said Bangladesh purchased two Chinese-made submarines to modernise its defence system by upgrading the navy into a "three-dimensional force".

"I believe that the decision of buying two submarines from China is related to the national interest of Bangladesh, and it won't create any nega-

tive reaction in the political arena in the outside world," she told the Parliament yesterday.

The premier's comments came in response to a lawmaker's question on the negative speculation four months after the Bangladesh Navy commissioned the two Type 035G-class submarines, also known as Ming-class, naming them as BN Nabijatra and BN Agrajatra.

She said Bangladesh's defense system was further strengthened than before due to induction of the two submarines into the Navy.

The Prime Minister said the two submarines would make important contributions to safeguarding the country's sov-

ereignty and "besides, it's expected that the two submarines would play a special role in the 'Blue Economy,' meaning the country's economic uplift."

The conventional diesel electric submarines are equipped with torpedoes and mines.

Bangladesh analysts said procurement of the two submarines at a cost of USD 203 million reflected the country's growing economic and defence ties with Beijing.

Hasina announced her plan to procure the Chinese submarines in 2013 when Bangladesh signed a billion-dollar deal with Russia to buy fighter training jets, helicopters and anti-tank missiles. —PTI

Army steps to check ...

(Contd from page 1)

Three doctors, including the Principal of the Tezpur Medical College, were suspended and 10 other physicians of the college were served showcase notices by the Health Department for dereliction of duty. The suspended Principal and the three doctors are Dr. Madhuriya Kumar Thakur, Dr. Apurba Nath, Dr. Satyendra Das and Dr. Sunayana Chaitali Hazarika, while the doctors who were served showcase notices are Dr. Dhurjati Das, Dr. Darpan Bora, Dr. Jitendra Barua, Dr. Susmita Kumar Barua, Dr. Rita Saloi, Dr. Malabika Devi, Dr. Manjujeet Chakraborty and Dr. Rasnareshwar.

Meanwhile, sensing legal trouble, the five physicians and the two accountants approached the Tezpur court seeking anticipatory bail. However, after a thorough examination, the sessions judge rejected their plea. The accused physicians have since been absconding.

In another development,

Myanmar's security forces has improved considerably in recent times. Army officers of India and Myanmar are meeting quite often to discuss the problems and sharing of information is also going on. But so far, Myanmar Army has not been able to launch any major offensive against the ultras of the North East using the territory of the neighbouring country. Sources admitted that the Myanmar Army has its own problems in other parts of the country and the presence of its personnel along the border with India is not very strong to launch a major offensive against the militiamen.

The Army is also of the view that free movement of people of both the countries should be properly regulated and the governments of the States having international border with Myanmar can play a positive role in this regard.

"We are not saying that the free movement regime, which has been going on for ages, should be withdrawn. But it should be properly regulated and a mechanism should be put in place so that we know who is coming into India and who is going out," sources said.

Sources admitted that the relation between Indian and

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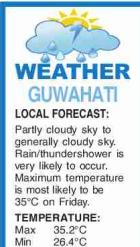
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LOCAL FORECAST:
Partly cloudy sky to generally cloudy sky. Rain/thundershower is very likely to occur. Maximum temperature is most likely to be 35°C on Friday.
TEMPERATURE:
Max 35.2°C
Min 26.4°C

RG Baruah death anniversary

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 13: The 40th death anniversary of Singhaburush Radha Govinda Baruah will be observed on July 15.

On the occasion, the RG Baruah Smriti Rakhiya Committee will organise a tribute programme in fond memory of the architect of modern Assam at Digalpukharpur from 8 am onwards. The committee has requested the admirers of RG Baruah to join the programme.



Activists of All India Democratic Women's Association stage a sit-in demonstration, demanding compensation and rehabilitation of flood-hit people in Guwahati on Thursday - UB Photos

APCC team for flood-hit Majuli, Lakhimpur

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 13: A delegation of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC), led by its general secretary Mukul Sarma, left for Majuli and Lakhimpur districts to distribute relief materials among the flood-affected people of the two districts.

An APCC press release received here today stated that the other members of the delegation comprise APCC secretaries Ramanna Barua, Partha Pratim Das and Ankur Raj Gogoi.



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GUTA calls for mitigation of flood victims' miseries

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 13: The Gauhati University Teachers' Association (GUTA), at its executive committee meeting held on July 12, expressed deep concern over the worsening flood situation in the State and called for urgent measures to mitigate the miseries of the flood-affected people.

In a statement here today, the GUTA said the devastating floods and allied problems have led to the loss of lives and property and also of wildlife and biodiversity.

Floods happen to be not only a regular phenomenon in the State, but the situation is worsening over time. Considering the magnitude of the problem, preparedness to face the situation did not seem to be adequate, the GUTA added.

Every year, water released from a few dams across the border aggravates the flood situation to unmanageable proportions. It is expected that the flood victims in every nook and corner of the State get equal and speedy relief and rehabilitation support so that life returns to normalcy at the earliest, it said.

The GU teachers' body also discussed the recent media reports on the review of the school-wise performance in the HSLC examination held at the SEBA office and expressed its grave concern and displeasure with the manner in which the State Education Minister dealt with such a serious problem.

Although the quality of the teachers and their

Death of APSC Dy Secy condoled

GUWAHATI, July 13: A condolence meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Dr Anupam Kumar Roy, APSC chairman in-charge, in the presence of members, officers and staff of the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) on the demise of Hareswar Das, Deputy Secretary of APSC. In a resolution, the APSC chairman in-charge, members and staff "expressed their deep sense of shock and sorrow at the untimely demise of Hareswar Das on July 13, 2017 at 4.15 am and conveyed their heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family members," a press release stated.

Tokay gecko rescued

JALUKBARI, July 13: A tokay gecko was rescued today from the house of one Habibur Rahman of Gousala, Maligon.

According to sources, the tokay gecko had entered Rahman's house a few days ago. Rahman managed to catch hold of the lizard today. He later informed Gousala Police, who later handed it over to forest officials. — Correspondent

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at Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam

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in presence of

Hon'ble Ministers of all Work Departments of Assam

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Participating Organisations



Sarbananda Sonowal
Chief Minister, Assam

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.

— VINCENT VAN GOGH

The Assam Tribune**Silencing voices**

The Argonautic Indian, a documentary made on the Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen, was not cleared for public screening by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), popularly, or unpopularly, depending on one's point of view, known as the Censor Board. Indian society being somewhat prudish, our founding fathers had tried to insulate film-goers from prurient scenes which films made in more permissive climes invariably contain. This was the primal rationale for setting up the CBFC and although it has evolved to some extent with the changing ethos, the basic purpose remains. One recalls that at a point of time it was taboo even to show kissing in Bollywood films and movies having excessive violence faced the censor's scissors-cuts. Today, of course, kissing scenes have become commonplace and even formerly disallowed themes such as extramarital relationships or homosexuality have been allowed to be passed without much intervention. No doubt the right of every Indian to express oneself freely has been enshrined in India's Constitution. Yet the existence of an institution like the CBFC has been considered acceptable because of the reality that freedom of expression cannot be absolute. Denigrating other faiths through malicious propaganda, speeches inciting violence or promoting anti-national feelings, pornography, child-abuse etc. are things that need to be eschewed and the job of the CBFC is to ensure that these are not portrayed on the silver screen.

However, the CBFC is an autonomous institution and when it allows itself to be manipulated by those in power, it is certainly not acceptable. This is clearly the case with *The Argonautic Indian*. Reportedly, the Censor Board wants the director of the documentary to 'heep' over certain words and phrases, which include "Gujarat," "Hindi India," "cow" and "Hindutva view of India," before it can be certified for public release! Such a directive verges on the ridiculous, even if we put the words in the context in which they were used. Given the gradual intrusion of intolerance into Indian society, the above words have been freely used by opposition politicians, journalists and concerned citizens in the print media and elsewhere. Just because Sen is known to be opposed to the BJP and all that this party and its allies stand for, the NDA Government has no business singling him out and trying to silence his voice. The episode hints at the increasing attempt by the powers that be to use State run institutions to stifle dissent, something that only autocratic regimes like China do. To his great credit the director of the documentary has refused to comply with the CBFC directive and has chosen not to screen it at all in India. It is imperative that Opposition parties, which have been somewhat subdued of late, as also enlightened opinion in the nation, react strongly to this attempt at silencing free speech.

Stabilizing population

As people across the globe marked the World Population Day earlier this week, the time has come to take a pause and think. The kind of population growth the world has seen in last few decades is unprecedented in human history. It was as late as 1804 when the global population touched the one billion mark. After that it took another 123 years before the population of the world reached two billion in 1927. From 1927 to 1960, it took only 33 years for the population to increase to three billion. The world's population reached four billion in 1974, five billion in 1987 and six billion in 1999 and seven billion in 2012. There was a time when both the birth rate as well as death rate used to be high and so the overall population growth was low. That has changed in last two centuries. Industrialization, rise in agricultural productivity, better access to healthcare, and development of new vaccines, among other factors have resulted in bringing down the death rate as well as in increasing the life expectancy. As per projections by international agencies, the global population is expected to cross 9.55 billion by 2050. The United Nations Development Programme decided in 1989 to observe the World Population Day with a view to focus attention on the "urgency and importance of population issues". The United Nations General Assembly in 1990 decided to continue observing World Population Day to enhance awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development. A lot is at stake for the world and there is an urgent need to bring down the population growth. Already, some parts of the world, including the Middle East and the Sahel region of Africa, which have among the highest rates of fertility and population growth, have witnessed major turnmous. Such turnmous, at least to some extent, have been fuelled by rising population and with the younger generation finding opportunities in the society and the job market restricted.

In India also, our growing population, which many still would prefer to term as our biggest asset, is in fact starting to turn into a serious liability. Indians already number over 1.3 billion, constituting an estimated 17.25 per cent of the overall global population. Even in our own State of Assam, the population has increased substantially in recent decades. As per the 2011 Census, Assam's population was 3.12 crore. Globally, resources are getting scarce, agriculture land is shrinking, the environment is getting degraded, our water resources are dwindling and the number of unproductive consumers is increasing. Population growth is the prime reason behind all these problems. All this can have serious repercussions, in India as well in the rest of the world. Governments and policy makers across the world must take urgent steps to stabilize population growth.

Myanmar: next SE Asian economic super power?**Kethoseo Haralu**

The Government of Nagaland through the Industries & Commerce Department had facilitated an interactive session with the Thai trade delegation who visited Kohima a couple of months back. One of the things which struck me during the event was the composition of the visiting team. Except for a handful of government officials who were present only as facilitators, the major component of their team were businessmen who were already prepared to market their products, firm up partnerships and generally talk about business. It was also remarkable that this group of businessmen had travelled overland all the way through Mae Sot in Thailand, covering the difficult roads in Myanmar by public transport and entering India through Moreh. It is apparent that through the initiative of the Government, some of the NE States have already tied up trade and cultural relationship with people of Thailand. However, let us not forget that by our standards, Thailand is already a developed economy, possessing a fairly high level of technological applications in carrying out their business. Very often we forget that Myanmar is our immediate neighbour, similar to the NE region in many ways and that not much has been done to understand or build up relations with the country.

Myanmar is undergoing its most important political and social transformation in over half a century as it opens up to the rest of the world. Fifty years of military rule after a century of colonialism had turned Myanmar

into one of the poorest nations in the world. In 2011, military rule was replaced by a nominally civilian Government led by General Thein Sein. Few believed that President Thein Sein (2011-2016) would lead the country through a series of dramatic reforms. He surprised the world by releasing hundreds of political prisoners including pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, stood up to China by cancelling a major dam project and eased censorship in the media. The elections in 2015 were closely observed by international bodies and as the world watched, the National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi was voted to power, having won 86% of seats in the National Assembly. The world was excited about the birth of a new democracy.

The biggest strength of Myanmar lies in its rich natural resources and a hard working population who are also deeply religious. Natural resources include oil products, gas, minerals, forest products, precious stones and hydropower. Understandably, the Sanskrit name *Swarnabhumi*, meaning 'Golden Land' has been associated with Myanmar from the distant past. Literacy rate stands at 90% and English is a second language from kindergarten. With a fully functioning democracy in place, the country is poised to become the next economic power in the region. It will play a piv-

otal role in the future of South East Asia in the days to come. Even before sanctions are fully lifted, business houses from the west are already jostling to do business with the young democracy in the world as the new regime struggles with the art of running a democratic system. As far as China is concerned, they already have a strong presence by way of investments in infrastructure and economic activities. If you check Burmese products coming into India, you will

be leased under either the Government, neither the public nor Government officials really know about the 'Policy'. Interactions at official level are still very limited. There seems to be a 'wait and watch' approach from the Indian side. Even Indian businessmen are still hesitant to make much investments in the country. Till date there are only two flights a week (Air India) connecting Kolkata and Yangon, catering mostly to Buddhist monks visiting Bodh Gaya. Aside from China, the other major investors at the moment are Thailand, South Korea and Singapore.

Having missed several deadlines and with China taking big strides, India is trying hard to speed up its infrastructure commitments in Myanmar. India's tardiness in project implementation has marred its reputation, even though it has extended over \$1.75 Billion in grants and credit to Myanmar. India has completed the Sittwe Power and inland water terminal in Paletwa. The Rs 1600 crore contract for road construction from Paletwa to Zorimpui in Mizoram covering a distance of 109 km has been awarded. India is also building the trilateral highway or India-Myanmar-Thailand highway. Sixty-nine bridges on the Tama-Kalay Road are being repaired and the Kalaywagyi section of the road in Chin State bordering Mizoram is being built. This eastern neighbour has not seen the kind of attention lavished on Bangladesh, Sri Lanka or Nepal.

Yet, the country would be crucial to India's interests particularly as India tries to balance out China's massive presence in the country. With the Trump Administration showing little interest in the affairs of Myanmar, the country is once again leaning towards China for investments. Though there remains a general distrust of China, Beijing-Yangon relations seem to be improving seeing that China has announced investment of \$10 billion in a port and Special Economic Zone project in Myanmar.

NE entrepreneurs are also placed well to do business with Myanmar considering the close proximity with the country and affinity with various ethnic groups in North and Western Myanmar. Once the Trilateral corridor is linked up with the East-West corridor in India, goods and services will move at a much faster pace between India and the South East Asian region. The landlocked North-east will be connected to the South East Asian countries and road journey from the North east right up to Singapore will become a reality. The region as a whole is expected to experience an economic boom. There will be a shift in the socio-economic scenario in the region. Are entrepreneurs of the region prepared to capitalize on such an economic boom? The opportunities would be limitless—infrastructure development, travel and hospitality, IT, manufacturing, healthcare, warehousing, transportation & logistic supports etc. Are the Governments prepared to face the new challenges? It would do well for economists, social scientists and others to observe how the new democracy metamorphoses to meet the challenges of a fast changing world.

Efforts to curb noise pollution needed**■ Prof Swagata Khanna**

Noise is unpleasant sound. Excessive production of noise is considered as a form of environmental pollution. Noise pollution causes discomfort and harm to living beings in their mental and physical health. As per worldwide statistics our country is the most polluted nation in the world. A lack of awareness and ignorance of our people towards controlling excessive noise is likely to be the main reason. Loud sound has been found to have a deleterious effect on human physiology and psychology. Exposure to lower pitch sound for long periods is also harmful for our ears.

Noise pollution is increasingly being recognized as a public health issue. We Indians love noise and produce noise everywhere. All important occasions such as a birthday, marriage, picnic, puja or any religious festivals are celebrated by creating noise either using very loud music or with bursting crackers etc. We cannot celebrate or mourn without making very loud noise.

Noise pollution is also the result of modern industrialized urban life and congestion due to ever increasing population. Rapid advancement of industrialization also plays a big part in noise pollution. Constant

big machines, generators, compressors, exhaust fans, grinding mills also produce noise. Even at home electrical appliances like pressure cookers, water pump machine, washing machine, dryers and air conditioners produce some amount of noise. Aeroplanes flying over houses on roads also produce heavy noise. Construction activities like bridges, trains, vehicles and motorbikes on roads also produce heavy noise. Construction activities like bridges, trains, vehicles are also noisy. Unluckily, this noise is treated as part of our day-to-day life and accepted by the society without realizing its harmful effects to our health. In fact presbycusis (old age deafness) is the cumulative effect of whatever sound we hear in our life time. Thus it is understood that continuous use of mobile phones, TV, radio, earphones and headphones cause fatigue to our hearing system (hair cells) and damages cochlea and brain neurons in due course of time.

The adverse effects of noise on health are quite severe. A certain range of sounds can be tolerated by human ears. Excessive sounds or loud sounds from daily activities like car horns, machinery and vehicular noise can be too loud for our hearing range. Urban road traffic is yet another major environmental nuisance accounting for about 10% of total urban noise pollution. Constant

exposure to loud music such as at night clubs or discosqueues, or machinery noise at factories can cause deleterious effects on the human hearing system resulting in hearing loss. Apart from the ill effects on hearing, disturbances in sleep, constant stress, fatigue, high blood pressure and psychological changes can also be caused by excessive noise production. These can cause chronic health issues later in life. Excessive noise particularly during night causes raised blood pressure, heart ailments, acidity, anxiety, anger spells, restlessness and poor school performance by children. It is a major cause of incurable deafness and also affects the fetus inside the mother's womb.

Globally, 1.3 million people are affected by noise pollution and 10% of the world's population is exposed to sound pressure levels that could potential cause noise induced hearing loss. These figures are alarming and frightening. Noise levels are monitored and controlled in all developed countries. From India's perspective unluckily we do not have any such regulatory body to enforce control of such noise menace. So, how do we prevent the ill effects of noise pollution? A lot of preventive measures have to be taken into consideration. The lack of general awareness about the health effect of noise is a key factor.

Noise pollution and its effects must be included in school curriculum to increase awareness. Sound holding noisy machines, or such machines should be installed far from sleeping and living areas as in basement or garage. Excessive and unnecessary use of car horns must be condemned, while motorbikes with faulty silencers and noisy vehicles should be banned.

Unnecessary honking not only

damages the drivers' ear but also

damages fellow citizens' health.

Noise-producing factories, industries, airports and transport terminals should be located far from living places. Factory workers should be provided ear plugs and their health check-ups should be done periodically. Community law enforcement should be active against night clubs, disco and public announcement systems against causing public nuisance. Special permission should be sought prior to using loudspeakers in public zones. Having silent zones near schools, colleges, hospitals etc., vegetation (trees) and cultivation that absorb sounds along roads and residential areas are good means of countering noise pollution.

In a religious sensitive country like ours we have to talk to the religious leaders of various religions to find a solution to the excess noise produced during our religious occasions like Goddess idol immersion, Azaan by loudspeakers at midnight and similar other occasions where we create lot of noise.

The scientific evidence on the harmful impact of noise on health was summarized by World Health Organization (WHO) in 1999 in formulating the guidelines for community noise. The WHO categorizes noise as being the second-worst environment cause of ill health, the first being air-pollution.

In India, the impact of noise as an environmental factor as far as health is concerned, has not been adequately highlighted so far.

A meeting was organized by National Initiative for Safe Sound (NISS), a joint project of The Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Association of Otolaryngologists of India (AOI) on March 12, 2017 at New Delhi. I have been invited to attend the meeting as the state co-coordinator representing Assam at NISS. The main purpose of the meeting was to take initiatives to create awareness on the health issues related to excessive noise in the community. It is the duty of the medical community and all social organizations to lead the campaign against noise pollution. We can already see this initiative making a lot of impact in Kerala. Similar efforts are needed in all other states of our country.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir,—The Opposition deserves kudos for deciding on the name of a retired IAS officer, Gopalkrishna Gandhi, who has served as Secretary to the first Dalit and the tenth President K R Narayanan of India and as High Commissioner to South Africa and Sri Lanka, as the Vice-Presidential candidate. Moreover, he became popular among the people as the Governor of West Bengal for five years since 2004. An author, Gopalkrishna Gandhi is now professor of History and Political Science at Ashoka University, Sonipat in Haryana. Thousands like me enjoy reading his scholarly articles in various newspapers and periodicals.

Gandhi has accepted the Opposition's offer as a challenge to fight against the intolerance of the society, narrow nationalism and checking free expression. Interestingly politicians use their family background in an opportunistic way to get the people's sympathy to grab

votes, but the prolific columnist and author Gopalkrishna Gandhi does not need to beat the drum that he is the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi (paternal grandfather) and C Rajagopalachari, the first Governor General of India was his maternal grandfather. No doubt it's a good political move that Gandhi is a Gujarati like the BJP's top twins. Also the AIADMK is still aligned with the NDA, and Opposition leaders hope Gandhi's Chennai connection will go unnoticed in the AIADMK camp.

The country will be lucky that a towering personality like Gopalkrishna Gandhi becomes the next Vice-President of India. But his prospects of winning are minimal, because of the RSS backing the BJP's agenda to keep all such Indians as far as possible. Yours etc., BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE, Faridabad

Poverty is the culprit

Sir,—Through your highly esteemed daily I would like to draw the readers and the government's attention to the fact that though there are many

expectations from teachers who are social reformers, yet they can't uplift the standard of living and environment of the masses. It is the duty of our government to do so. It is the environment which influences the mortality rate as also the infant mortality rate. If the father's income is below Rs 4,000, the infant mortality rate is 48.9. The infant mortality rate is 14.3 when the father's income is above Rs 10,000. So environment affects everything.

It is worldwide acknowledged that higher incomes are consistently associated with better outcome for children. Yet the government expect better results from the poorer income groups in government schools. We expect the government not to demoralize teachers in order to cover up their failure to eradicate poverty. We expect the government to work to uplift the standard of living of the poorer sections of the society. We want this 'parivartan'. Yours etc., BINAY HAZARIKA, Japariguri, Guwahati

Teacher and students

Sir,—From time immemorial, especially in India, the kind of

respect that students have for the teacher is something ideal. Here, the attitude is not characterized by the performance of the teacher in making students score passing marks; but it is attitude and morality of the teacher that help students to form good habits and a good human being first.

The recent incident where principals from a number of schools which could not get a single student passed in the HSLC this year were questioned on their qualifications and abilities by the Education Minister in full glare of the media, is termed as unfortunate. It is unfortunate that a popular political figure whom most of the youth of Assam idolise, acted cheaply in front of the media and public. When the State Education Minister himself does not know where the problem lies in his department and how could there be nothing dynamic in him. Asking the Principals to take VRS may be right in the interest of the development of the Education Department; but questioning them openly before the public

and the media will definitely hurt the sentiments of many students who so far have an ideal picture of a teacher.

Such incidents clearly indicate the height of dictatorship that is growing underneath the political atmosphere of Assam. It is more surprising that the videos of such incident were uploaded on YouTube also. This will further stain the ideal relationship of the teacher and students. Yours etc., RAJA DAS, Gauhati University

Ministry expansion

Sir,—I don't agree with the views of Putul Sarma regarding 'Ministry Expansion'. The people who are in power know much better than the common people about the needs and necessities of government administration. Common people must have belief in the elected government and support their decisions. Interference in each and every decision must be avoided. Yours etc., ANKURIVYOTI DAS, Kamakhya Gate, Guwahati.

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

Gopalkrishna Gandhi: the best VP candidate

City NDRF battalion providing training to Odisha team

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 13: The first battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is conducting communication training for the rescuers of 3rd Battalion NDRF from Mundali, Cuttack, Odisha here. The two-month training is underway at the initiative of SK Sastri, Commandant of the host team.

The 12-member team from Od-

isha is being trained by the qualified trainers of the Guwahati-based NDRF battalion. Earlier also, the 1st battalion had imparted training on communication technology and equipment to teams from Tamil Nadu and Odisha.

In addition with training provided in handling HF (High Frequency), VHF (Very High Frequency) and UHF (Ultra High Frequency) sets, the unit personnel are also partici-

pating to get licences in Amateur or Ham radio. They will also be provided training on installation and operation of various modern communication systems like V-Sat, Internet, Electronic Exchange and VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephones.

The training that started on May 29, will continue till July 29.

When disaster strikes, terrestrial communication system collapses and

cellular networks are immediately overloaded or destroyed, as experienced in previous disasters in Odisha, Srinagar and Uttarakhand. At that point of time, information of stranded persons and managing rescuers for search and rescue work, communication with them is a must to mitigate the risk in disaster situation. Especially in North East region, the problem of communication is very high due to hilly area.

NDRF sources said the battalion deployed in Guwahati is equipped with complete HF VHF and UHF communication sets for deployment in any type of disaster. "In the wake of a disaster, this is the only communication system, which has the highest reliability to connect with even remote areas. In the aftermath of a disaster, time counts and efficient communication at all levels decides the success of all efforts," sources said.

অসম মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা পরিষদ

Board of Secondary Education, Assam

Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21
www.bseassam.org

Notification No. SEBA/REGN/2016/3
Dated Guwahati, the 12th July, 2017.
This is for information of all Officers-in-Charge of HSLC/AHM Examination Centres and Heads of Institutions, that the Packets containing Registration Checklist Class IX students for the year 2017 have already been sent to Office of the Inspector of Schools of the districts concerned.

Therefore, Officers-in-Charge are requested to collect the same from the Office of the Inspector of Schools and inform/distribute to the feeder schools under the jurisdiction of the Centre.

Sd/- (Kamaljyoti Gogoi)

SECRETARY, SEBA



ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for the following post in NETES Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (NIPS), Nameri, Golaghat, Assam.

SL. No. Post Name Qualification

1	Assistant Professor (Pharmaceutical Chemistry/Analysis)	1 First Class B. Pharm with Master's degree in Pharm. Chem. or its equivalent branch of specialization. (Pharmacy degree will be PCI recognized Preferable G.P.A. 3.00 & above)
2	Laboratory Technician	1 D. Sc. or M. Sc. in a concerned institute. Preferable Experience in relevant field.
3	Laboratory Assistant	2 10+2 pass - Science stream will get preference. Preferable : Experience in relevant field.

Interested and eligible candidate can mail their CV to principal.nips@rediffmail.com or submit the hard copy within 7 days.

Date: 10/07/2017

Place: NIPS, Mirza

General address: NETES Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (NIPS), NH-37, Sampriti, Mirza, Kamrup, Assam- 761125.

NRL's past, serving officers for Nature conservation

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 13: NRL EXOCOM, a registered society of past and presently serving officers of the Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) as well as ex-officers of NRL presently working in other public sector hydrocarbon industries, conducted a conference 'Greening Assam' on social forestry initiatives on Tuesday at the NEPDI Convention Centre, Guwahati.

Dipak Chakravarty, president, NRL EXOCOM welcomed the assembled guests. Dr Bhupan Kumar Das, who is closely associated with both industry and academia, gave an introductory speech contextually linked to the theme 'Greening Assam'.

The well-attended conference was addressed by Dr Amarnath Choudhury, a distinguished educationist and litterateur as the chief guest with his thoughts on protecting the fragile eco-system. Guest of honour Pradyut Kumar Goswami, vice-chancellor of the Assam Science & Technology University, shared his experiences on nurtur-

ing different species of plants and foliage.

Padmanabhan, Managing Director, NRL and chief patron of NRL EXOCOM provided valuable insights into the role of individuals and society to protect and preserve Nature's bounty to mankind.

This was followed by a detailed presentation by Rupam Sarma, Senior Manager (Technical Services), NRL on green initiatives of the company. Ritupratik Phukan, a young conservationist who is associated with the AI Gor Foundation gave a presentation on ecology and environment with global perspectives.

Noted wildlife conservationist Purnima Devi Barman who has won prestigious international awards for her relentless efforts and campaigns for conservation of the greater adjutant stork, was felicitated.

A day ahead of the conference, members of NRL EXOCOM and their families planted saplings of bokul, neem, nador and krishnasagar at a vacant plot of government land near the PHE water tank at Janata Bhawan here.



NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

(Deemed to be a University) Established in 1956
Nirjuli, Golaghat, Assam - 781001
Telephone No. (0369) 2257401-411 (Exts. 6374-6010)
FAX - (0369) 2258533-2257872

TENDER NOTIFICATION PUR/123/DBT/BSK/17-18 DATED: 13-07-2017
Sealed tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers/suppliers for purchase of Laboratory equipment or related parts required for the construction of the proposed building and conditions shall be as per the tender document available on our website www.nerist.ac.in. Tender fee of Rs.500/- of the sum of Demand Draft in favour of Director, NIRJULI, payable at Assam Rifles, Nirjuli will be accepted with tenders. The last date for receiving tenders is 18-07-2017 at 11:00 AM. The date of opening of tenders is 19-07-2017 at 11:00 AM. The Director, NIRJULI reserves the right to accept or reject any tender partly or fully without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Sd/- Assistant Registrar (S&P)

NF Rly-HPCL officers' meet

GUWAHATI, July 13: A meeting between senior officials of the NF Railway and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) was held here earlier this week to discuss various joint development-related issues.

Rajeeb Gohain, Minister of State for Railways, was present on the occasion.

The HPCL team was led by Sunil Kumar Nayak, National Head of LPG Operations. Chahayati Ramachary, Manager of NF Railway, along with other senior officials, represented the railways. – Staff Reporter

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A woman wading through knee-deep flood waters, with utensils and firewood, towards a hilly area at Buraburi, in Mayong on Wednesday.
— UB Photos

Non-functional drains add to Dibrugarh citizens woes

BUREAU

DIBRUGARH, July 13: Three days of intermittent rains and Dibrugarh citizens were literally wading through waters all around the city, whether in Jibun Phukan Nagar, Milanagar, Ashok Path or most of Mancotta Road and Keshab Chandra Gogoi Path. The storm-water drainage here leaves much to be desired.

What is appalling is that the total incompetence of the personnel of the agencies and the contractors involved in the execution works of the expensive drainage projects, is a subject of heated discussions in the drawing rooms of thousands of citizens here.

Anti-civic groups here like the Dibrugarh Nagarik Sangha (DNS) and the Policy Group for People's Rights (PGPR) have been raising the issue of faulty and sub-standard drain construction works repeatedly. Unfortunately, the government officials seem to be in no mood to listen to the public.

A Rs 24-crore drainage project is currently being executed at the Jibun Phukan Nagar, Milanagar and Nirmalganga localities here. The

project has been funded by DoNER under NLCP, and the agency overseeing the work is the Dibrugarh Development Authority. The alleged sub-standard work being done by the contractor has repeatedly been objected to by the public, but neither the local Deputy Commissioner's office nor the development authority has shown any seriousness in correcting the construction faults.

The Pub Milanagar Unnayan Parishad is of the opinion that the sub-standard drain construction work has to be probed and those responsible have to be punished.

The population in the Jibun Phukan Nagar, East Milanagar, Ratanpur and Khanagan area have been suffering immensely due to prolonged water-logging in these localities every year for the past 15 years and more. Even so, the authorities are only interested in palliative works, laments HD Changmar, president of Pub Milanagar Unnayan Parishad. An engineer, Changmar said that he has been painfully witnessing the poor construction quality, even as complaints before government officials draw a blank.

Fake ID card, certificate issuing rackets active in Dhubri dist

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, July 13: With 13 cases registered this year for alleged production of fake voter ID cards, PAN cards, birth certificates, NOCs from various departments etc., in different police stations of the district, Dhubri district has seen a sudden rise in such cases involving forgery.

According to police reports available with this Correspondent, under various outposts of the Dhubri Police Station (PS), eight such cases were registered until Wednesday, involving Section 468 in the Indian Penal Code. In addition, under the Bisilapara PS there were two such cases and in the Gauripur PS, Golakganj PS and Chapar PS one such case each were registered.

Police informed that such activities were seen in the bordering areas of the district, where people procure such fake documents from various agencies involved in forging documents like voter ID cards, PAN cards, birth certificates, and also No Objection Certificates of various departments and land deals, along with various other certificates.

Recently, the police and Border Security Force (BSF), in joint operation, busted a gang that was allegedly involved in producing fake voter

Doley visits flood-hit areas in Dhemaji

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAJI, July 13: The State Minister for Rural Development and Cultural Affairs, Naba Kumar Doley, along with Lakhimpur MP Pradip Boruah and Dhemaji MLA Dr Ranoj Pegu visited the flood-affected areas of Dhemaji on July 10 last.

Later, he met the district administration officials and took stock of the flood situation. He also asked the circle officers of the district to take necessary steps to supply adequate relief materials like rice, dal, salt etc., to the flood-affected people.

The minister also suggested the Deputy Commissioner of Dhemaji to provide all necessary medical services in the flood-affected villages and directed the officers of Water Resource Department in the district to keep a vigil on the water level of Kumatiya dyke.

While talking to this Correspondent, Dhubri SP Longneet Terang said that issuing fake certificates is a very serious issue, particularly for a bordering area like Dhubri.

He said that the department is continuously working on arresting such illegal activities that can be a huge threat to the security of the nation.

The main objective of Mission Parivar Vikas is to accelerate access to high quality family planning choices based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework.

These 145 districts have been identified based on total fertility rate of 3.7 compared to the national rate of 2.3. Karimganj's rising population rate is 3.3.

Keeping in mind the high fertility rate of Hailakandi and Karimganj, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the 'Mission Parivar Vikas' in 145 focus districts having the highest fertility rates in the nation.

These 145 districts are in the seven high total fertility rate (TFR) States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam that constitute 44 per cent of the nation's population.

However, only 22 per cent of India's protected couples and 10 per cent of India's couples, with unmet needs, reside in these districts. These districts also have a substantial impact on maternal and child health indicators as

Bajrang Dal burns effigy of Pak PM in Silchar

SILCHAR, July 13: Expressing strong anguish over the killing of seven Hindu pilgrims during the Amarnath yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, effigy of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was burnt here. During the protest, the Silchar wing of Bajrang Dal also condemned the barbaric incident.

"We have seen how the Indian Army demolished the terrorist bases in Pakistan. But now the situation and the level of tolerance has gone beyond proportion and, hence, the government should take steps to launch a fierce attack on the evil intents of the neighbouring country," said Gautam Chakraborty, district convener of the Bajrang Dal. It may be mentioned that similar protests were held by the Bajrang Dal in Hailakandi as well. — Correspondent

Illegal saw mill seized at Athiyaboi

BAHIAH CHARIALI, July 13: Acting on a tip-off, a team of Forest department on Wednesday seized an illegal saw mill at Athiyaboi village near Changuan in Kamrup district.

The operation was jointly conducted by Ranger and staff of Sila and Hajo Range Forest Office under North Kamrup division in association with Changsari Police Station. — Correspondent

Flood situation critical in Southsalmara Mankachar dist

ANN SERVICE

HATSINGIMARI, July 13: The flood situation has turned from bad to worse in Southsalmara Mankachar district because of the incessant rains during the last few days. As per the official report on Wednesday, the water level of Brahmaputra has been flowing 34 cm above the danger mark and it is maintaining a rising trend.

In two revenue circles of the district, namely Southsalmara and Mankachar, about 218 revenue villages have been directly affected by the flood of river Brahmaputra. Thousands of people have been taken

in shelter at higher lands with their household belongings. Thousand of hectares of standing crop fields, specially ahuri rice, vegetables etc., have been damaged by the flood waters.

The newly-built Borailga hospital building was eroded completely on Wednesday. The Hatirchar BOP, situated near the hospital, is also likely to be eroded by Thursday as the day after. On the other hand, there is a grave threat of a breach at the newly-built Kaliagra dyke. The Deputy Commissioner, ADC, SP and others inspected the dyke on Wednesday while they were travelling on a raft made of bamboo plant. His body was recovered after three hours.

79,110 flood-hit take shelter in relief camps in Sonitpur

CORRESPONDENT

79,110 people from 113 villages under three revenue circles of Tezpur, Chardwar and Nadawal have taken shelter at 42 relief camps in different areas. "To look after these flood-affected people, special teams of the Veterinary department and Health department have been deployed in those relief camps," the statement said.

"Till date, one person died in the flood. However, the body of the victim is yet to be recovered from July 4 to 10 last, a total of

despite search operations being carried out by the SDRF and the NDRF teams," stated a statement issued by the district administration.

Under the Thelamara Revenue Circle, 3,665 livestock have been affected. As per the report, due to the flood and erosion, people of four villages under the Thelamara, Dhekiajuli and Charidwar Revenue Circles have taken shelter at a relief camp at Nabil Pathar LP School.

10,500 affected in Dibrugarh dist

BUREAU

DIBRUGARH, July 13: The current wave of floods in the Dibrugarh district has affected 10,500 people in 22 villages spread across the seven revenue circles. The worst affected is the Dibrugarh West Revenue Circle, according to official sources, where 128 people have been shifted to relief camps.

In the district so far, 193 hectares of paddy fields and 924 hectares of other land have been submerged by flood waters in the current flood wave.

JB College student shines

DIBRUGARH, July 13: Himanshu Shekhar Samrah of JB College in Jorhat secured 91.21 per cent marks in the BSc final (6th semester) examinations held under the Dibrugarh University this year, earning the pride of the varsity's top scorer in this year's graduation results across all streams. — Bureau



Under the leadership of Digboi MLA Suren Phukan, 12 illegal coal-laden trucks were seized and handed over to the police, at Digboi on Wednesday.— UB Photos

Mission Parivar Vikas launched in Hailakandi

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, July 13: South Hailakandi and Karimganj of Barak Valley have been identified as high population growth districts and Hailakandi topped the State with a rising population rate of 3.7 compared to the national rate of 2.3. Karimganj's rising population rate is 3.3.

These 145 districts have been identified based on total fertility rate of 2.1 by 2025.

Recent data suggests that these 145 districts have TFR of more than or equal to 3 (56 per cent of the 261 districts in the seven States) and are home to 28 per cent of India's population (about 33 crores).

However, only 22 per cent of NGOs, ASHA workers, nurses in the villages and peripheral workers have been entrusted to implement the programme. Illiteracy and lack of proper knowledge are major reasons of increase of growth rate, he added.

On the occasion of the Population Day, the Behavioural Change Communication expert of National Health Mission (NHM), Sikha Barak, launched the Mission Parivar Vikas in Hailakandi on Tuesday.

Later, addressing the media, the joint director of Health Services in Hailakandi, Dr Abhijit Bose ex-

pressed serious concern over the highest fertility rate in Hailakandi and said that they have launched awareness programmes throughout the district and a van titled Sarathi has been designed to go to villages to spread awareness among the villagers.

He said that the members of NGOs, ASHA workers, nurses in the villages and peripheral workers have been entrusted to implement the programme. Illiteracy and lack of proper knowledge are major reasons of increase of growth rate, he added.

The State Behavioural Change Communication expert, Sikha Barak, who is supervising the population campaign in Hailakandi, said that the Central government has targeted 2025 as the year to control the fertility rate in both Karimganj and Hailakandi districts and is expected to bring down the rate to 2.1.

She informed that they have decided to organise functions specifically for brides and mothers-in-law of the targeted areas. This will be an easy way to discuss family planning related issues with them, she added. Free contraceptives will also be distributed among the couples. The people will also be imparted sex education in the rural areas of the district, Barthakur added.

During the last 10 years, the national rate has been decreased from 2.6 to 2.3. But in Hailakandi and Karimganj, the rate has increased drastically. In both the districts, the population of minority people is more than 70 per cent.

Mission Parivar Vikas campaign has also been launched in all the blocks of the district, including Algapur, Kathicherra, Kalinagar hospitals, informed district programme manager of the NHM in Hailakandi, Maruf Alam Barbuuya.

Prativa Barman: a tribute



My grandmother, Prativa Barman, passed away on July 2 at her residence, Sylhet. She was 92.

Her husband, Late Chandramohan Barman, who was a retired IAS, predeceased her 18 years back. Born in Dibrugarh in 1924, Aita was a woman of calm and composed nature. She passed her matriculation from Dibrugarh Girls' High School and completed her intermediate from Sylhet, now in Bangladesh. Her father, Late Manomohan Das, a DFO, was post-

graduate from Sylhet. She leaves behind her three daughters and a son, and a host of relatives.

The day of her *adwashtaddha* eternal peace to the departed soul.

— Anusuya Barman


**WEATHER
NORTHEAST**

Forecast for NE: Moderate rain/thunder shower is very likely to occur in most places over Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya & Tripura and light to moderate rain/thunder shower is likely to occur at few places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya.

Temperatures:

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	34.4	26.5
Tezpur	32.8	24.7
Silchar	31.7	24.4
Dhubri	32.3	25.5
Jorhat	34.5	24.9
N Lakhimpur	36.0	21.7
Shillong	29.5	20.5
Imphal	31.4	22.8
Itanagar	35.5	22.8
Aizawl	28.7	12.2
Agartala	32.0	25.1
Kohima	27.0	18.8
Pasighat	34.0	24.4
Cherrapunji	24.0	17.2

Irom Sharmila to marry Desmond Coutinho

KOJAIKANAL(TN), July 13: Manipur's iconic human rights activist Irom Sharmila has filed an application at the Sub-Registrar office here to marry her long-time partner Desmond Coutinho, a British national.

Accompanied by Coutinho, she filed the application for registration of marriage under Hindu Marriage Act last evening, Sub-Registrar of Koidakanal Rajesh said.

The official said permission could not be given for the inter-religion marriage immediately under the Hindu Marriage Act and it could be registered only under the Special Marriage Act, by giving a notice period of 30 days to receive objections, if any.

Sharmila moved to this hill town with Coutinho following her poll debacle in the Manipur Assembly elections in March and her party 'People's Resurgence and Justice Alliance' suffered a rout.

The 44-year-old shot to fame after she launched her fast-unto-death on November 4, 2000, demanding the withdrawal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 from Manipur. - PTI

NORTH EAST

Central team arrives to assess Manipur flood damages

SOBHAPATI SAMOM

IMPHAL, July 13: A five-member Central team led by Joint Secretary (Admin) Prakash of Ministry of Home Affairs arrived here on Thursday to stock of the flood crisis in Manipur.

Meanwhile, more villages and farmlands have been submerged in Imphal West, Thoubal and Bishnupur districts after Imphal, Thoubal and other rivers breached dykes and inundated vast areas in Wangoi Khaidem, Thoubal, Khelem and Kumbi since Wednesday night.

Several government offices and quarters including those of RIMS doctors have been inundated by flood waters. Central and State institutions such as National Institute of Electron-

ics & Information Technology, National Institute of Technology, Regional Centre of Organic Farming, Indian Council for Agricultural Research, State offices in Parompat, Institute of Bi-resources and Sustainable Development and State Science Centre are still under water.

Manipur has witnessed 1426.4 mm of rainfall as on July 13 against last year's record of 1852.4 mm, according to ICAR. About 40,000 hectares of agricultural land have been affected by floods.

IPFT stages nude protest demanding Twipraland



PRABIR SIL

AGARTALA, July 13: A group of 14 Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) supporters staged a nude protest at Kanghambari in West Tripura district on Wednesday as part of a bizarre attention-drawing exercise.

The nude protest was a part of the IPFT called National Highway and railway blockade on the third day with the State virtually cut off from the rest of the country.

After receiving the information, District Magistrate West

Twipraland. "MoS attached to Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh had a meeting with the party leaders on the issue in Delhi on May 17 last. In the meeting, we urged the MoS to take an initiative for arranging bi-partite/ tri-partite dialogue as early as possible for consideration of our demand", the memorandum said.

The IPFT claimed that leaders of National Federation for New States (NFNS), PMO and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are keeping a close eye on the ongoing movement for Twipraland.

In the memorandum, IPFT general secretary Jamatia said the party had submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister pressing for creation of

curity", the SP, who is camping at Kanghambari, said.

Meanwhile, the IPFT has sought Governor Tathagata Roy's intervention to find a long lasting solution to the problems of the indigenous people in Tripura. IPFT general secretary Mevar Kumar Jamatia accompanied by Budhi Debkarma called on the Governor at Raj Bhavan on Tuesday night and submitted a memorandum to him.

In the memorandum, IPFT general secretary Jamatia said the party had submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister pressing for creation of

North East.

On July 11, Lietzetsu in a letter to the Speaker said the question of summoning the State Assembly on or before July 15 to hold the vote of confidence was not raised since the Cabinet had not recommended the same to the Governor.

Governor PB Acharya on July 10 directed the CM to obtain a vote of confidence in the floor of the Assembly on or before July 15 following the claim submitted by former Chief Minister TR Zeliang to form the new government.

Constitutionally and legally he said, Lietzetsu still enjoyed the confidence of 58 members - 47 NPF MLAs, four BJP and seven Independents. He said four BJP MLAs were in the government, and seven Independent MLAs have not withdrawn their letter of support extended to Lietzetsu.

He reiterated that the present crisis is an internal matter of the party while stating that there is difference between the issue of leadership in the NPP from the leadership in the government.

"In view of the above, we have made the proposal and put up to you on July 11. Therefore,

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matter in consultation with the Governor without involving the office of the Speaker, which needs to be kept above partisan ends," he said in the letter.

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Meanwhile, three Ministers, three advisors to CM and 21 Parliamentary Secretaries have submitted their resignations on July 12. The move came after some local Ministers stated that the government is intact.

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Meanwhile, three Ministers, three advisors to CM and 21 Parliamentary Secretaries have submitted their resignations on July 12. The move came after some local Ministers stated that the government is intact.

"In view of the above, we have made the proposal and put up to you on July 11. Therefore,

you may kindly take a call in the

matter in consultation with the Governor without involving the office of the Speaker, which needs to be kept above partisan ends," he said in the letter.

On July 11, Lietzetsu in a letter to the Speaker said the question of summoning the State Assembly on or before July 15 to hold the vote of confidence was not raised since the Cabinet had not recommended the same to the Governor.

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Oppn parties to jointly take on govt over note ban, GST

NEW DELHI, July 13: Eighteen opposition parties have come together to take on the government in Parliament during the Monsoon Session beginning July 17 over demonetisation, GST and various other issues, according to political sources.

Leaders of these parties discussed the broad strategy and issues to be taken up in Parliament during the meeting here on Tuesday, which was primarily convened to discuss the opposition's nominee for the Vice Presidential polls, the sources told PTI while refusing to be identified.

There was a "broad agreement" on five issues over which the 18 parties will target the government inside Parliament as also outside Parliament and through the social media, the sources said.

These issues are -- "ill-effects of demonetisation",

THE FIVE ISSUES

- Ill-effects of demonetisation
- Rushing through the GST implementation
- Farmers' distress and suicides
- Alleged 'political vendetta'
- Protection of federal structure of the country and spreading of fake news and inciting people communally

"rushing through the GST implementation", "farmers' distress and suicides", alleged "political vendetta", protection of federal structure of the country and "spreading of fake news and inciting people communally", they said.

Referring to the alleged "political vendetta", the sources said there have been cases against Trinamool Congress leaders in "Narada scam" and raids on former Finance Minister P Chidambaram's family as also on the family of RJD chief Lalu Prasad.

Tuesday's meeting was at-

tended by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, vice president Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien, JD(U)'s Sharad Yadav, NCP's Praful Patel, CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, Samajwadi Party leader Naresh Agrawal, BSP's Satish Mishra as also leaders from other parties.

When contacted by PTI, O'Brien did not go into details of the deliberations of that meeting but said, "Individual parties will have their issues to be taken up but on

some issues, there is a broad understanding among the 18 parties."

At the meeting, the sources said Naresh Agrawal of Samajwadi Party suggested that the opposition parties should have such interactions at least once a month to coordinate their positions.

Such meetings should be held not only in Delhi but also in state capitals, Agrawal suggested, according to the sources.

Significantly, these parties displayed unanimity in choosing their candidate for the Vice Presidential polls, the sources said.

The name of Gopal Krishna Gandhi was proposed by O'Brien after Sonia Gandhi asked him to begin deliberations and it was immediately endorsed by all present, the sources said.

There was no second name, they emphasised. - PTI



Members of an NGO raising slogans during a demonstration in New Delhi on Thursday in protest against terrorist attack on Amarnath pilgrims. - UNI

Probe ordered into special treatment to VK Sasikala

BENGALURU, July 13: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today ordered a high-level probe into alleged irregularities at the central prison here, including preferential treatment being given to AIADMK (Anna) leader VK Sasikala.

He said strict action will be taken against those found guilty.

"We have taken serious cognizance of the allegation of irregularities in the Bengaluru Central Prison and ordered a high-level inquiry," Siddaramaiah, who is currently touring Raichur district, posted on Twitter.

"Request all to await the out-



comes) D Roopa had alleged that a special kitchen had been set up in the jail for Sasikala in violation of prison rules.

"There are rumours that the kitchen is continuing to function despite the issue being brought to your (Rao) notice. There is also a talk that Rs 2 crore has been paid as bribe for this. As unfortunately these allegations are also against you, it is requested that you look into the matter and take merciless disciplinary action against erroneous officials," the report signed by Roopa said.

In a report submitted to DGP (Prisons) HS Sathyananayana Rao yesterday, Deputy Inspector of General of Prisons including "preferen-

tial" treatment to fake stamp paper scam kingpin Abdul Karim Telgi.

Sasikala, along with her two relatives VN Sudhakaran and Elavarasi, is lodged in the Parappa Agrahara Central Prison here ever since her conviction in February in the disportionately asset case. They are serving a four-year jail term.

DGP Rao today rubbished Roopa's charge, terming it as "absolutely false, baseless and wild" and said he would take legal recourse against his junior.

Responding to this, Roopa said, "Let there be a fair fact-finding inquiry to find out the truth." - PTI

369 contempt cases pending against govt

NEW DELHI, July 13:

The government, the biggest litigator in the country, faces 369 contempt cases across courts, a Law Ministry document states.

According to its data, as on June 12, 2017, a total of 135,060 government cases and 369 contempt cases were pending in the courts.

Government litigation includes service matters and conflict with private entities as well as disputes between government departments and between PSUs.

Contempt cases are generally a result of non-adherence to judicial directions and failure to file affidavits on time and appear before courts. The document, prepared in June, does not mention reasons for the contempt cases. - PTI

Significantly, these parties displayed unanimity in choosing their candidate for the Vice Presidential polls, the sources said.

The name of Gopal Krishna Gandhi was proposed by O'Brien after Sonia Gandhi asked him to begin deliberations and it was immediately endorsed by all present, the sources said.

There was no second name, they emphasised. - PTI

Cross-border terror threatening regional peace: India

NEW DELHI, July 13: India today asserted that cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir was at the "heart" of the matter that was threatening regional peace and snubbed China for its offer to mediate to resolve the Kashmir issue, insisting it was a bilateral matter between it and Pakistan.

India's strong reaction came a day after the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said China was willing to play a "constructive role" in improving Indo-Pak ties, especially after the increased hostility along the Line of Control (LoC).

He also said the situation in Kashmir has attracted "international" attention.

"At the heart of the matter is really the issue of cross-border terrorism perpetrated on India including on the people of the state of J&K. So, the matter is that cross-border terrorism in our region emanating from a particular source is threatening peace and stability in not only India but other neighbours," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Gopal Baglay told reporters.

As far as the Kashmir issue itself is concerned, the government's position has been very consistent and clear, he asserted.

"We have been ready to have dialogue with

Let Bhutan handle border row: CPI-M tells Centre

NEW DELHI, July 13: India should let Bhutan take the lead in negotiating with China on the disputed Doklam Plateau and other disputed territories instead of getting involved itself, the CPI-M has said.

An editorial in the CPI-M journal *People's Democracy* has also blamed India's growing strategic ties with the US for the deteriorating relations with China. - IANS

Pakistan among other issues (including) J&K in a bilateral framework. That position of addressing all issues with Pakistan including the Kashmir issue in a bilateral framework has not changed," he Bagley said. He also strongly rejected allegations by Pakistan that India was using chemical weapons in Kashmir, saying India is against the use of chemical weapon anywhere by anyone in any situation. - PTI

গোহাবি



ইয়ার দ্বাৰা অসমৰ সকলো গীওবাসী বাইজক জনোৱা হয়। যে ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ শৈলদৱাল উপাধান প্ৰাম জোড়িত যোজনা (DDUGJY)ৰ দ্বাৰা পৰিকল্পনাৰ অধীনত অসমৰ সকলো জিলাৰ প্ৰাম বৈদ্যুতিকৰণৰ কথা চলি আছে আৰু এই আচনিনিৰ অধীনত সকলো গাঁথুৰ চুৰুৰীত পৰ্যায়ক্রমে বিদ্যুৎ সংযোগ কৰা হ'ল। উক্ত আচনিনিৰ জৰিয়তে দলিল সীমাখণ্ডৰ তলত লতল বনস্বৰস কৰা (BPL) পৰিয়ালক বিনামূলীয়া বিদ্যুৎ সংযোগ দিয়াৰ সংগতে তলত লিয়া সমীক্ষা দস্তুহ বিনামূলীয়াকে যোগান ধৰা হৰ। ইয়াৰ বাবে কোনো মধ্যভোগী নাইকা দাবালৰ প্ৰৱেচনাত নম্পৰিবলৈ সমূহ বাইজক অনুৰোধ কৰা হ'ল।

বিনামূলীয়া সামৰীসমূহৰ তালিকা

ক্রম নং	সামৰীসমূহৰ নাম
১	মিটাৰ - ১ টা
২	পি.ভি.চি. তাৰ - ৪০ মিটাৰ
৩	জি.আই. তাৰ - ৬ কেণ্টি
৪	জি.আই. আৰ্থ পাইপ - (১৫০x১৫০) মি.মি. এডভাল
৫	কাট আটক - ১ টা
৬	চুচু - ২ টা
৭	চুচুচোৰ্ড - ২ খন
৮	এল ই.ডি. বাল্প ৭/৯ রাঠ - ১ টা
৯	বাল্প হোল্ডার - ১ টা / চকেট - ১ টা
১০	এম.চি.বি. - ১ টা

এই বিনামূলীয়া বিদ্যুৎ সংযোগৰ বাবে কোনো দাবাল চৰকাৰ ধন দাবী কৰিলে ততালিঙ্গে ওচৰ বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগৰ সংযোগৰ অৱগত কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰা হ'ল। বলতে এই যোজনাৰ অধীনত অনুমোদিত সকলো ধন্যবাদৰ তথ্য ওচৰ বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগৰ কাষালীয়াৰ পৰা জানিব পৰিৱে।

শুখ্য মহাপ্ৰবক্ষ (প্ৰাম)
অসম শক্তি নিতৰণ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
প্ৰদাৰ্শনি - ০১







APPEAL

Chief Minister's Relief Fund is used to assist persons affected by critical diseases, acute poverty, old age and natural disasters. It is also used for supporting exceptional students and sports persons.

Donations to Chief Minister's Relief Fund can be made by cheque/demand draft in the name of
'CM's Relief Fund'.
For on-line payment visit website
'cm.assam.gov.in'

All citizens are requested to whole heartedly donate to Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Donations made to Chief Minister's Relief Fund are exempt under Section 80 G of Income Tax Act 1961.

For any information/ query please contact Shri Mrigesh Narayan Barua, ACS, PPS to CM on 0361-2237043(O).

**Sanjay Lohiya, IAS,
Principal Secretary to CM, Assam**



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Supporters of President Tayyip Erdogan wave Turkish flags during a trial for soldiers accused of attempting to assassinate the President on the night of last year's failed July 15 coup, in Mugla, Turkey on Thursday. - UNI

Major US cities to face rising sea levels: study

WASHINGTON, July 13: Major US cities like New York, Boston and Miami may face chronic flooding over the next few decades, warn scientists who have found that sea level rise due to climate change may cause 60 per cent of coastal communities in the country to lose their homes by 2100.

Scientists made list of US cities that may not make it through the next 20, 50 or 80

years due to sea level rise. If the sea level predictions are accurate, places like New York, Boston, San Francisco and Miami face a grim future, according to researchers from the Union of Concerned Scientists - a nonprofit science advocacy organisation in the US.

They released a report listing the cities that will be inundated with water; that is, they will be flooded at least 26 times per year - equivalent of a flood every other week.

"Between 165 and 180 chronically inundated communities in just the next 15 to 20 years; between 270 and 360 in roughly 40 years, depending on the pace of sea level rise; and 490 by end of century with a moderate sea level rise scenario," said Erika Spanger-Siegfried, senior climate analyst for UCS. - PTI

Considering visa application of Jadhav's mother'

ISLAMABAD, July 13: Pakistan said today that it was considering a visa application of the mother of Kulbhushan Jadhav for a visit to meet her son who was sentenced to death by a military court.

India had requested Pakistan to allow Avantika Jadhav to meet her son.

"Pakistan is considering the Indian request for the grant of visa to the mother of Kulbhushan Yadav," Pakistani Foreign Office Spokesperson Nadeem Zakaria was quoted as saying by state-run Radio Pakistan.

Zakaria's remarks came two days after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi said that she had written a "personal letter" to Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sarwat Aziz asking for approval of Avantika's visa application so that she may travel to Pakistan.

She also said that Aziz did not even respond to her letter.

"I wrote a personal letter to Mr Sarwat Aziz for the grant of her visa to Pakistan. However, Mr Aziz has not shown the courtesy even to acknowledge my letter," she had tweeted.

However, Zakaria said that asking for recommendations from Aziz to grant visas was against "diplomatic norms", Dawn newspaper reported. - PTI

WikiLeaks 'helped Trump win'

LONDON, July 13: Criticism of Hillary Clinton over documents posted by WikiLeaks played a key role in her failed US presidential campaign and successful election of Donald Trump, a study of viral tweets has found.

Twitter posts during the final two months of the 2016 election race shows Clinton was much more heavily criticised on social media compared with her rival Donald Trump.

Posts related to WikiLeaks were the most common form of attack on social media for the Democratic candidate, who was also heavily criticised on Twitter over an FBI investigation into her use of a private email server, researchers said.

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh in the UK used computer analysis to study the top viral tweets each day between September 1 and November 8 last year.

They found that there were three times as many posts attacking Clinton than posts in her favour.

US presidential elections

By contrast, viral tweets relating to Trump were split evenly in favour and against his campaign.

Posts from Trump's social media campaign and his supporters had a more positive tone than that of his rival, with effective reach for slogans, policy promises and campaigning for swing states.

Tweets hacking Clinton tended to compare her with her rival, and to attack Trump rather than praise Clinton.

Trump was criticised for his performance in election debates more than his links to scandals such as the Access Hollywood tape. Trump supporters were more likely to share news reports from less credible sources, the study found.

In all researchers analysed almost 3,500 posts, which together were retweeted more than 25 million times. Tweets were labelled as being favourable to Trump, Clinton, or neither.

They used data from TweetElect.Com, which collates the most retweeted posts related to the US election. - PTI

Can't overlook what is happening in Myanmar: Nikki Haley

UNITED NATIONS, July 13: Myanmar should let the UN fact-finding mission probe the alleged human rights violations by the country's military and security forces, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said, underlining that the international community cannot overlook the situation there.

Myanmar said late last month that it would not grant visas to members of a commission appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate human rights violations by the country's state security forces, including the recent abuses in Rakhine State.

The US mission to the UN said violence in Rakhine State against ethnic and religious communities continues to claim lives and there are allegations of sexual violence against women and children.

"No one should face discrimination or violence because of their ethnic background or religious beliefs. It is important that the Myanmar government allow this fact-finding mission to do its job," Indian-origin Haley said in a statement here.

She said the international community cannot overlook what is happening in Myanmar and "we

must stand together and call on the government to fully cooperate with this fact-finding mission".

"The total number of victims will be unknown unless the fact-finding mission is allowed to proceed," the UN mission said.

Geneva director at global rights group Human Rights Watch John Fisher said denying visas to the members of the fact-finding mission would be "a slap in the face" to victims who suffered grave human rights violations by Myanmar's state security forces.

The rights group said the Myanmar government should immediately announce they will issue visas to the fact-finding mission and fully cooperate with its investigation. - PTI



GST

TAX PAYERS, TAKE IT EASY

INVOICING under GST is TROUBLE FREE

Procedure for issuance of Tax Invoice under GST

- Tax Invoice shall be issued against all taxable supplies containing Description, Quantity, Value of Goods, Tax charged thereon [Sec.31(1)].
- For Goods, it shall be issued before or at the time of removal.
- For services, it shall be issued within a period of 30 days.
- For Banks, Financial Institutions, Insurance Companies, it shall be issued within 45 days.
- For supply of Goods, Tax Invoice/Delivery Challan shall be issued in triplicate :
 - Original copy marked as "ORIGINAL FOR RECIPIENT".
 - Duplicate copy marked as "DUPLICATE FOR TRANSPORTER".
 - Triplicate copy marked as "TRIPPLICATE FOR SUPPLIER".
- In case of supply of services, the invoice shall be prepared in Duplicate :
 - Original copy marked as "ORIGINAL FOR RECIPIENT".
 - Duplicate copy marked as "DUPLICATE FOR SUPPLIER".
- Tax under GST shall be collected by only registered persons [Sec.32(1)] and in accordance with the GST Act and Rules [Sec.32(2)].



Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma
Hon'ble Finance Minister, Assam

TAX INVOICE for GST

(Rule 46 of the Assam GST Rules, 2017)

A registered Taxpayer must issue a Tax Invoice against supply of taxable goods or services or both:

- to all registered Taxpayers.
- to all unregistered recipients, if the value is ₹200 or above.
- to any unregistered recipient if the recipient demands a Tax Invoice even the value is less than ₹200.

A Tax Invoice must include:

- (a) Name, Address and GSTIN of the Supplier;
- (b) A running serial number within sixteen characters (alphabets, numerals or special characters) For example : DP/17-18/1234 The Tax Invoice series must be different for every financial year.
- (c) Issue date of Invoice.
- (d) In case of a Registered Recipient: Name, Address and GSTIN or UIN of the Recipient.
- (e) Name & Address of the Recipient, the Address of Delivery, name of the State and State code, if the value of the taxable supply is ₹50,000 or more.
- (f) Value is less than ₹50,000 but the Unregistered Recipient demands: Name and Address of the recipient, the Address of Delivery, name of the State & State code.
- (g) Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) code for goods or Service Accounting Code (SAC) for services.
- (h) Description of goods or services.
- (i) Quantity in case & unit quantity code thereof.
- (j) Total value of supply of goods or services or both.
- (k) Taxable value of the supply of goods or services with discount or abatement, if any.
- (l) Rate of CGST, SGST, IGST or Cess
- (m) Amount of CGST, SGST, IGST or Cess
- (n) In case of an Inter-State supply: Place of supply with name of State.
- (o) Address of Delivery if different from the place of supply.
- (p) Whether the tax is payable on Reverse Charge basis.
- (q) Signature or Digital Signature of the supplier or his Authorized Representative:

No. of digit of HSN Code to be mentioned in the tax invoice is :

Annual Turnover in the preceding Financial Year	Number of Digits of HSN Code
Upto Rs. 1.5 crore	Nil
Above Rs. 1.5 crore to Rs 5 crore	2
Above Rs. 5 crores	4

For any clarification, contact Help Desk in your jurisdictional tax office

BILL OF SUPPLY for GST

(Rule 49 of the Assam GST Rules, 2017)

- A registered Taxpayer who supplies exempted goods or services.
- A Taxpayer who has opted for Composition levy shall issue a Bill of Supply.

A Bill of Supply shall include:

- (a) Name, Address & GSTIN of the supplier.
- (b) A running serial number within sixteen characters(alphabets or numerals or special characters)
- For example: PD/17-18/5678
- The Bill of Supply series must be different for every financial year
- (c) Date of Issue of Bill of supply.
- (d) Name, Address & GSTIN of the Recipient (if registered)
- (e) HSN Code for goods or SAC for services.
- (f) Description of goods or services or both.
- (g) Value of supply of goods or services or both with Discount or Abatement, if any.
- (h) Signature or Digital Signature of the supplier or his Authorized Representative.

RECEIPT & REFUND VOUCHER for GST

(Rule 50 & 51 of the Assam GST Rules, 2017)

- For receipt of advance payment with respect to any supply of goods or services shall issue Receipt voucher.
- If no supply is made against the advance a Refund voucher shall be issued against such payment.
- The receipt / refund voucher shall contain details as prescribed for Tax Invoice with amount of advance taken or refunded.

PAYMENT VOUCHER for GST

(Rule 52 of the Assam GST Rules, 2017)

- Person liable to pay tax on reverse charge basis shall issue Payment Voucher. It shall contain details as prescribed for Tax Invoice with details of amount paid.

DELIVERY CHALLAN for GST

(Rule 55 of the Assam GST Rules, 2017)

- Person who is transporting goods for job-work other than by way of supply or when the quantity at the time of supply is not known shall issue Delivery Challan and shall contain details as prescribed for Tax Invoice.

DEBIT NOTES & CREDIT NOTES for GST

(Rule 53 of the Assam GST Rules, 2017)

- After issuance of Tax Invoice, if the Taxable value and Tax charged is found to be higher than the tax invoice value or in case of return of goods, taxpayers shall issue credit note to recipient [Sec.34(1)].
- After issuance of Tax Invoice, if the Taxable value and Tax charged is found to be lesser than the taxable value or tax charged, the taxpayer shall issue debit note to the recipient [Sec.34(3)].

Federer shines bright in twilight zone



Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball to Canada's Milos Raonic during the Wimbledon quarterfinal, on Wednesday.

Sandhu in last
eight of Victorian
Open squash



CHENNAI, July 13: India's Harinder Pal Sandhu got the better of Syed Azlan Ajmed 11-5, 11-7, 11-7 to storm into the last eight of the Victorian Open squash tournament, a PSA World Tour event, in Melbourne today.

Fresh from his success in the South Australian Open in Adelaide a few days ago, Sandhu had no trouble in overcoming Ajmed in straight games, a SRFI press note here said.

Last night, Sandhu, seeded four, had stopped qualifier Jacob Ford of Australia 11-7, 11-1, 11-8. - PTI

Shastri to pitch for Arun despite Zaheer's presence

NEW DELHI, July 13: Back at the helm as chief coach of the Indian cricket team, Ravi Shastri is likely to pitch for the return of bowling coach Bharat Arun despite the presence of Zaheer Khan in their ranks.

Shastri's choice of bowling coach was always Arun and it is now apparent that Cricket Advisory Committee did not take Shastri into confidence while recommending Zaheer as the bowling coach although his role would be similar to that of Rahul Dravid – that of a consultant.

It has been learnt that Zaheer is unlikely to give more than 250 days a year to a full-time bowling coach as required to give and may not be available for more than 100 days.

It may also be mentioned that Zaheer's salary package has not yet been inked as ne-

gotiations are still on.

Earlier, when Shastri was asked about his choice of bowling coach, he had said Arun but one particular member of



CAC was against it.

Shastri then apparently said that: "Give me Jason Gillespie then". Gillespie is widely acknowledged as the

best bowling coach in the cricketing fraternity.

The wily cricketer that he was, Shastri knew that BCCI can't rope in someone like Gillespie, who is already contracted with Papua New Guinea.

The BCCI has also kept Venkatesh Prasad's name on stand by but it is unlikely that Shastri will settle for anything less than Arun.

Prasad however may not be liked by the Indian team as one complaint against him during his earlier tenure was turning back bowlers into line and length medium fast bowlers.

According to reliable sources in the BCCI, Shastri is expected to meet the top officials and the Committee of Administrators (CoA) during the weekend as he is expected to cut short his trip to United Kingdom. - PTI

Bopanna in
quarterfinal,
Sania loses

LONDON, July 13: Sania Mirza crushed out of the mixed doubles competition while Rohan Bopanna and his partner entered the quarterfinals of the Wimbledon Championships.

Sania and her Croatian partner Ivan Dodig, seeded fourth in the tournament, lost 6-7,

4-6 to the defending champions Henri Kontinen of Finland and Heather Watson of the United Kingdom in a third round match that lasted 53 minutes.

Bopanna and Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada, seeded 10th, got the better of the Croatian pair of Nikola Mekic and Ana Konjuh 7-6, 6-2 in a 59-minute third round match and advanced to the last stage of the tournament.

Bopanna and Dabrowski will face the duo of Kontinen and Watson in the quarterfinals. - PTI

Prasanna 'disappointed' with CAC's drama over coach selection

KOLKATA, July 13: Former India off-spinner Empali Prasanna on Thursday said he is "disappointed" with the three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) – comprising Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman – for dilly-dallying over choosing the national cricket team's new coach.

On Tuesday news broke first that Ravi Shastri had been named the India coach but hours later Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary denied the same.

Later that day, Shastri was officially announced as the coach along with Zaheer Khan as bowling consultant and Rahul Dravid as overseas batting consultant.

Miffed with the actions of the CAC, Prasanna said there was no need of theatrics and the trio

could have directly named Shastri, as he was the obvious choice.

"There was no need for such drama. Shastri was always going to be the choice," Prasanna told IANS over phone.



"I am disappointed with the CAC. They are three legendary cricketers and they should not have taken such a long time to

name the coach. A consensus should have been reached, and from what I have been reading, they could not come to an unanimous decision and it was all done at the last minute," said Prasanna, who was part of the famed spin quartet also involving Srinivas Venkataraghavan, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and Bishen Singh Bedi.

On Monday Ganguly had said that they need time to name the coach after interviewing the candidates including Shastri, adding that they would also like to talk to skipper Virat Kohli.

Ganguly had even said Kohli "needs to understand how coaches also operate".

But the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) later decided to CAC to speed up the process and finalise the issue by Tuesday. - IANS

No special preparations for clash with Maimaitiali'

NEW DELHI, July 13: His first fight of the year could fetch Vijender Singh his second title but the Indian boxer star says save for minor twists in technique, he isn't making any special preparations for the showdown with China's Zulkipkar Maimaitiali next month.

The reigning WBO Asia Pacific super middleweight champion will square off against Maimaitiali, the WBO oriental super middleweight title-holder, in a winner-takes-all fight on August 5 in Mumbai.

Vijender had not competed since successfully defending his title against Francis Cheka in December last year. So, his first bout of the year would be coming when more than half the year is already over but the 31-year-old doesn't mind the gap.

"It's not in my hands. Something things didn't work out. I was supposed to compete in April but then my rival got injured. Maimaitiali challenged me for a May contest but backed out for his own reasons. He came back to challenge and so I am fighting on August 5," Vijender told PTI from Manchester where he is training with his long-time trainer Lee Beard. - PTI



Vijender

Djokovic ponders long break 'for body and mind'

LONDON, July 13: Novak Djokovic admits a long break is on the cards after an elbow injury forced him to retire from his Wimbledon quarterfinal against Tomas Berdych.

Djokovic's miserable 12 months hit a fresh low on Wednesday when a right elbow problem curtailed his bid to win Wimbledon for a fourth time.

The 30-year-old Serb was trailing 7-6 (72), 2-0 and felt he had no option but to call it quits as the pain, from an injury that has troubled him for more than a year, began to increase.

"There is a possibility that they will propose surgery, but I don't think that is good," Djokovic told Serbian media.

"To go be cut in surgery or to poison myself with pills... None of the solutions is good."

A logical conclusion is that a kind of a rest and a longer break is a logical solution. Maybe a longer rest is necessary, not only because of the injury but for my mind as well."

"During my entire career I have fol-

lowed a school schedule, I have never been reprimanded, maybe I will skip the next semester."

Djokovic, who has also struggled with a shoulder issue, had spoken to medical experts about the elbow prob-

lem before Wimbledon and was told surgery was an option.

Asked what he would do to finally

resolve the nagging injury, Djokovic had admitted he wouldn't rule out an operation.

"The specialists that I've talked with, they haven't been really too clear, mentioning also surgery, mentioning different options," he said.

"Nobody was very clear in what needs to be done. As long as it is kind of comes and goes, it fine."

"But obviously, adding up, maybe it worked for seven, eight, ten months, but now the next seven months is not working that great. Obviously it's adding up more and more. The more I play, the worse it gets. Yeah, I guess the break is something that I will have to consider right now."

With the US Open just six weeks away at the culmination of the American hard-court swing, Djokovic doesn't have long to return to full fitness.

Since winning the French Open last year to complete his career Grand Slam, Djokovic has failed to claim another major title. - AFP



Novak Djokovic being treated on his elbow during the Wimbledon quarterfinal against Tomas Berdych.

LONDON, July 13: Roger Federer insists he is only slightly surprised to find himself tantalisingly within touching distance of a record eighth Wimbledon title despite his 36th birthday fast approaching.

The Swiss star reached the Wimbledon semifinals for the 12th time on Wednesday with a 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) win over Milos Raonic.

It was his 100th match at the All England Club and the 50th Grand Slam quarterfinal of his career.

At 35, Federer is the second oldest man to reach the semifinals after Ken Rosewall who finished runner-up in 1974 at the age of 39.

With "Big Four" rivals Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic suffering injury-hit exits on Wednesday and Rafael Nadal having lost in the fourth round, Federer is favourite to reclaim the Wimbledon title on Sunday and break the tie for seventh he has shared with Pete Sampras since 2012.

It would also take him to 19 career majors and make him the oldest champion at Wimbledon in the Open era.

"The plan was always to hopefully be strong later on in my career," said Federer who will face Tomas Berdych in

Friday's semifinals.

"I don't see myself playing better than a few years ago. I always hope to improve every year."

"I'm just very happy that I'm still doing so well. Am I surprised? Maybe a little bit."

The contrast between Federer and Murray and Djokovic on Wednesday was impossible to ignore.

Djokovic reached the semifinal and world number one Murray lost in five sets to Sam Querry of the United States, probably by a long-standing right hip injury.

Djokovic, the three-time winner, quit after two games of the second set of his quarterfinal against Berdych with a right elbow injury.

Like Murray's hip, the elbow problem plaguing Djokovic has been a constant menace for many seasons.

It has got so bad that Djokovic admitted he is contemplating either surgery or even an extended break from the sport.

Federer has already trimmed back his schedule, skipping the 2016 and 2017 French Opens which were won by Djokovic and Nadal.

After losing to Raonic in the semifinals last year, Federer shut down his season to rest a knee injury which had already required surgery earlier in 2016.

He came back in January this year, won the Australian Open for his 18th Slam, added the Indian Wells-Miami Masters double before hibernating again through the claycourt season.

"Once you hit 30, you've got to look back and think of how much tennis have I played, how much rest did I give my body over the years, how much training have I done, did I do enough, did I overdo it or not enough," he explained.

"It's always calibrating the whole thing. For me it worked out. Sometimes the body and the mind do need a rest."

On the other hand, seventh-seeded Marin Cilic marched into his first Wimbledon semifinal, breaking Gilles Muller three times to knock out the 34-year-old left-hander 3-6, 7-6(6), 7-5, 5-7, 6-1.

Cilic reaches the semifinals for the first time in his 11th appearance. His coach Jonas Bjorkman broke through to the Wimbledon semifinals during his 13th showing.

He will face 24th seed Querrey in the semifinals on Friday. - Agencies

Corrupt former FIFA official Blazer dead



North America, Central America and the Caribbean, where he served as general secretary from 1990 until 2011.

He was a powerful member of FIFA's corruption-tainted Executive Committee from 1996 to April 2013, when he was succeeded by US Soccer's Sunil Gulati.

Blazer notoriously presided over football's most notorious corruption scandal which cost him his job in 2015, had been battling cancer up to his death. He was 72.

"We are truly saddened by the passing of our client and friend, Chuck Blazer," his lawyers said in a statement to AFP.

"He misbehaved, for which he accepted full responsibility, should not obscure Chuck's positive impact on international soccer," the statement added.

The beleaguered football official was a pivotal figure in the corruption scandal which cost him his job in 2015 and ultimately led to the downfall of former Sepp Blatter.

For years Blazer himself was seen as emblematic of the worst excesses of FIFA during the Blatter era, an apologetically pocketing millions to fund a luxurious, globe-trotting VIP lifestyle.

His notorious excesses included an \$18,000-a-month apartment in Trump Tower in New York and a separate \$6,000 unit in the same building just to keep his mob of family cats.

Blazer had pleaded guilty in 2013 to charges of racketeering, wire fraud, mail laundering and tax evasion as part of a web of corruption that spanned multiple decades.

"Chuck felt profound sorrow and regret for his actions," his attorneys said on Wednesday.

"He expressed sincere remorse towards his former constituents and colleagues, and to all the soccer players and fans disappointed by his conduct."

While FIFA banned Blazer in 2015, he had in fact agreed to deal to work with investigators years earlier, trying to recording device meetings to testify in his case against corrupt officials across the globe.

Blazer had risen to power through his work with CONCACAF; the ruling body for football in

North America, Central America and the Caribbean, where he served as general secretary from 1990 until 2011.

After the end of six rounds, Harikrishna has amassed a total of four points, courtesy of two wins and four draws. He is now joint first along with Alexander Grischuk and Teimour Radjabov.

In the seventh round of the tournament, Harikrishna will take on Alexander Grischuk from Russia.

Grischuk is an interesting player and is playing some solid chess, taking chances when the opponent slips," Harikrishna said.

"I hope to keep the good run going," he concluded. - PTI

Harikrishna stuns Aronian to climb to top spot

GENEVA, July 13: Indian Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna dished out a stellar performance to beat World No. 4 Levon Aronian of Armenia in the sixth round to climb to the top of the leaderboard at the Geneva FIDE Grand Prix chess tournament, here.

With the win, Harikrishna has taken a huge lead for a podium finish in the Candidates Tournament.

The World No. 22 Indian, playing on black pieces, started on a balanced note but capitalised as the top seeded Armenian slipped with a miscalculated move.

"It was a balanced position throughout the game but he miscalculated a move and from

there on I had the upper hand and won the game," the 31-year-old from Guntur said.

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"I hope to keep the good run going," he concluded. - PTI

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Mixed day for Assam boxers

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 13: It was a mixed day for the Assam boxers in the 1st Junior National Boxing Championship.

On the second day of the meet at the Deshabhakta Tarun Ram Phukan Indoor Stadium in RG Barua Sports Complex here today, three Assam boxers won their respective first round bouts while three others failed to make it through.

Harikrishna Yadav defeated Malawalpungwa of Mizoram in the 60-63kg Light Welterweight category while Diganta Rabha floored John Tagru of Arunachal Pradesh in the 54-57kg Featherweight category.

Himanshu Thapa was the third Assam boxer to win today who beat Aryan Vaghela of Gujarat in 46-48kg Light Flyweight group.

On the other hand, Om Bahadur Pradhan was beaten by Nanao Singh of Manipur in the 48-50kg Flyweight category while Meghalaya boxer Rishanlang defeated Dehsara Boro. Dipankar Kachari was the other Assam boxer to go down today who was beaten by MJ Sai Swapna of SSCB in the 44-46kg Fly weight group.

City challenge cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 13: Junior Blue and Senior Blue won their respective matches in the

City Challenge Inter Group Cricket Tournament at the Dispur Parade Ground here today.

Junior Blue beat Junior Red by three wickets while Senior Blue got the better of Senior Red by an identical margin.

In reply to Junior Blue's 58, Junior Red scored 59 for seven while restricting Senior Red to 100, Senior Blue put up 104 for seven.

Assam cricketers for exposure tour

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 13: The Assam Cricket Association has picked a 16-member team for the KSCA DK Thimmapuram Memorial Tournament to be played at Bengaluru and Mysore from July 22.

The team includes youngsters like Sanjiv Brahma, Akash Sengupta, Hrishikesh Tamuli, Rahul Singh and the team is being led by wicket keeper batsman Wasirup Rahman.

This is counted as an exposure tour for the State cricketers prior to the Ranji Trophy season.

Squad: Wasirup Rahman (capt & wk), Hrishikesh Tamuli, Sanjiv Brahma, Mrinmoy Dutta, Akash Sengupta, Jitomoni Kalita, Rahul Singh, Arup Das, Krishna Das, Pallav Kr Das, Rishav Das, Tarjinder Singh, Sarupan Purkayastha, Pritam Debnath, Sibankar Roy, Abu Nechim Ahmed. **Chief coach:** Sunil Joshi, **coach-cum-manager:** Subhrat Saikia, **physio:** Dr Koustubh Bharadwaj.

The apex court had directed

Anurag tenders unconditional apology in SC

NEW DELHI, July 13: Former BCCI president Anurag Thakur today tendered a fresh "unconditional" and "unequivocal" apology in the Supreme Court, saying it was never his intention to undermine the majesty of the apex court.

Thakur, a senior BCCI leader and a Member of Parliament from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh, was asked by the apex court on July 7 to tender an apology in explicit terms to get relief from the contempt proceedings initiated against him.

"I humbly submit that it was never the intention of the defendant to undermine the majesty of this court and since unintentionally some kind of mis-information and miscommunication has occurred, I unhesitatingly tender my unconditional and unequivocal apology to this court," he said in his affidavit filed today.

The apex court had directed

him to file a "one-page short affidavit" tendering an apology while making it clear that it was not going to consider his earlier affidavit of apology.

The apex court had also asked Thakur to present on July 14 to tender the apology, indicating that it was willing to accept the apology and close the contempt proceedings against Thakur.

Senior advocate PS Patwali, appearing for Thakur, had said that though his client was willing to tender an unconditional apology, he had a very good case on merit through which it can be proved that he did no wrong.

Senior advocate Golap Subramanian, who is assisting the court as amicus curiae (friend of the court) in the matter, had said if the court was magnanimous

in granting pardon to Thakur, then he has nothing to say, but the apology should be unequivocal and explicit in terms.

The apex court had initiated contempt proceedings against Thakur on January 2 this year

writing to the ICC on the issue. "The conduct of the President of BCCI in seeking a letter from the President of ICC in August 2016, after the final judgement and Order of this Court, is nothing but an attempt on the part of the head of BCCI to evade complying with the Order of this Court," the apex court had said while issuing a show-cause notice to Thakur.

Coming down heavily on the defiant BCCI boss, the apex court had on January 2 removed Thakur and Ajay Shrikhande as the president and the secretary for "obstructing" and "impeding" its directions for overhauling governance in the cricket body. It had also appointed a Committee of Administrators (CoA) to oversee BCCI's functions.

Three other members of the committee of administrators included historian Ramachandra Guha, Vikram Limaye, IDFC Managing Director and former Indian women cricket captain Diana Edulji. Guha had recently informed the apex court that he has tendered his resignation due to personal reasons to Rai. — PTI

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For Franchise Enquiries, please contact: 8910078957 / mainak.chakraborty@vlccwellness.com

*T&C apply | Photo may vary from person to person

Astha in Indian squad



GUWAHATI, July 13: Young State swimmer Astha Choudhury has been included in the Indian team which will take part in the 9th Asian Age Group Swimming Championship.

The meet will be held at Tashikhon from September 9 to 16.

On behalf of the Assam Swimming Association, secretary Bhaskar Ranjan Das congratulated Astha for her achievement.

Bhutia to join Premier Futsal

MUMBAI, July 13: Indian football great Bhaichung Bhutia will join the Premier Futsal as its talent director despite being involved with the AIFF, which does not recognise the venture.

The former captain will be heading it as Indian amateur talent hunt programme.

"Premier Futsal League has emerged as a category-defining offering in the Indian sporting landscape. It is a great honour for me to be a part of such a tournament," Bhutia said in a statement here.

Dinesh Raj, managing director, Premier Futsal League said, "It is a matter of great pride and honour for us to have a personality of Bhaichung's stature to be a part of Premier Futsal."

Interestingly, the 40-year-old Bhutia is also involved with Indian football and All India Football Federation in multiple roles.

Meanwhile, Brazilian football superstar and former FIFA Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldinho will be visiting Mumbai tomorrow and explore his future with Premier Futsal, a variation of football played indoors. — PTI

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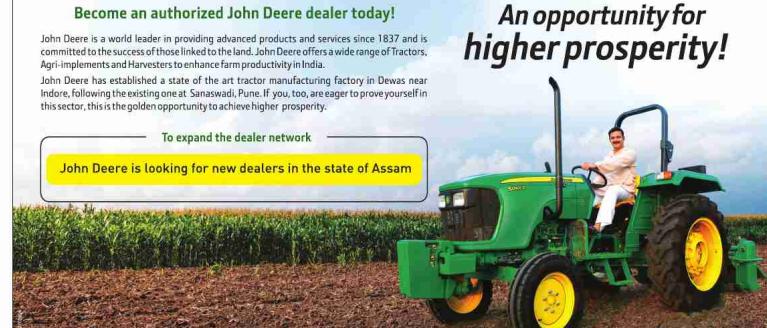
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A compassionate world

Pratyusha Talukdar talks about making the world a better place for animals



Our world is filled with beauty and wonder. It is brimming with life. A tree at the end of the field, a squirrel carrying away or the rose bud in our hands; everything has a story to tell. From toddlers we have been learning to classify all earthly beings as living and non-living. As we grow older we give them yet another name: biotic and abiotic components. There are numerous living beings in our surroundings. But do we really consider



them as living? Do we really think that they have a life? Human beings have evolved a lot since the historic times. They have changed so much that now humans are considered as superior to all beings. A developed brain and body have earned us this status. Over time, we humans have become so arrogant that we have started to consider ourselves as the rulers of this earth. We cut trees, pluck flowers, kill animals and destroy nature. But do we realise that these beings also have a life. As centuries have rolled by, we humans have turned into merciless and ruthless monsters. Compassion has slowly ebbed away from our hearts. If we continue at this rate, soon the earth will be a barren, lifeless planet. However, all hope is not lost. There is still light at the end of the dark tunnel. There are some people who do not succumb to their monstrous traits. These people can plant a tree, nurse an injured bird to health or contribute in some way to save our Earth. These "nature heroes" have mobilised others and have done many things to arouse compassion among humans and to protect our fellow human beings.

PETA, the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals is the largest animal rights organisation in the world with a network of five million members and supporters.

areas where animals suffer the most. PETA came into the limelight when it campaigned against experiments done on 17 macaque monkeys. Finally, in 1985, an amendment was made and PETA shot to fame.

Another organisation which is India's largest animal welfare organisation is People for Animals (PFA). It has 26 hospitals, 165 units and 2.5 lakh members. PFA



education programmes in schools and fights cases on animal issues in the parliament. PFA has campaigned against whipping; bullock cart races have been stopped in Andhra Pradesh, six hundred labs have been checked and over three thousand animals rescued. Like PETA and PFA, there are many organisations that campaign for animal rights. These are some of the examples that show that all is not lost.

One issue that has rocked the media in the recent times is Jallikattu, which is a sport where a bull is released into a crowd of people and contestants attempt to grab the large hump on the bull's back and hang on to it for as long as possible. Jallikattu is practised in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal celebrations. There is a lot of controversy related to the handling of bulls before and during Jallikattu. A running bull is stopped by knives or sticks, punched, jumped on or dragged to the ground. Sometimes the bulls escape on to the roads and gets killed. The Animal Welfare Board of India filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court of India to ban Jallikattu, but the Supreme Court allowed it for five months, although in 2014, it banned Jallikattu altogether. However, the practice continued under the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act. But the Supreme Court slammed the act, banned Jallikattu and made its practice offensive by law this year. This led to widespread protests all over Tamil Nadu. Due to the passionate protest, Jallikattu was once again allowed to be conducted in various parts of the State. This is really a sad example of being cold-hearted. The anti-ban supporters said that Jallikattu is their tradition. But is it a tradition to stab the bull, rub chili power in its eye or break its bones? Tradition cannot be a reason for animal mutilation.

Every year, during the monsoons, thousands of animals in our very own Kaziranga National Park are in distress due to recurring floods. Tigers, rhinos, buffaloes etc – we find their numbers dwindling every monsoon. We must do all we can to protect these animals from the jaws of death.

Plants and animals are an important part of our ecosystem. Without them, we humans cannot survive. The quality of our life depends on them. To strive to live, we must all live in harmony with nature. We cannot even imagine a life without plants and animals. When we exploit them, destroy them, we destroy our own lives. Humans cannot exist without animals. Yet we abuse and misuse them. Let us all form a magic circle of love around all living beings. Let us help even in little ways to form a greener and better Earth for tomorrow.

(pratyushanrc@gmail.com)



PETA prevents exploitation and mutilation of animals in the food industry, clothing industry, laboratories and in the entertainment industry. These are the four

rescues and rehabilitates sick and needy animals; it sets up and runs animal shelters, treatment camps and disaster rescue operations for animals. PFA also conducts



Beyond whey

Angshuman Dutta

If you are a fitness aficionado, you must be familiar with whey. A by-product of cheese production, whey has almost become a mandatory supplement for most gym goers. Of course, whey has a multitude of benefits: low calories, high protein, easy and fast digestibility and most importantly high bioavailability. However, in the rush to down that protein shake, most people ignore the fundamentals of sound nutrition. You can't make up for a poor foundational diet with just a protein supplement; according to me that is a myopic approach to nutritional planning. What is needed is a holistic approach to nutritional planning, one which complements and supports your fitness and athletic goals.

Besides protein, an athlete or an active individual may require a host of other nutrients to aid and assist in the recovery and performance. The most common but often ignored aspect of an athlete's diet is the intake of fibre. An active adult requires at least 30 gms of fiber per day for good intestinal and colon health. A healthy gut is the cornerstone to a healthy body. Today, most of our food intake is of the processed and packaged kind. They taste good, but very often don't provide adequate fibre. Fibre is best obtained from vegetables, fruits, nuts and complex grains. So aim to consume plenty of complex and fiber-rich whole food. We all know about eggs, milk and chicken being great sources of protein and they form the part of most active individual's diet. An important and effective source of protein which often goes under the radar is beans. Beans are one of the best sources of soluble and insoluble fibre; they will help reduce bad cholesterol and also keep you fuller for a longer period of time. When it comes to beans you are spoilt for choices – black beans, kidney beans, navy beans.

Curd/yoghurt should be a part of the daily diet of every athlete. Rich in proteins and calcium, curd contains probiotics that aid in digestion and also in maintaining the natural flora of the gut. Our region is abounding with plenty of locally available greens. Organic greens are rich in a variety of important and beneficial micronutrients. Aim to have at least one serving of greens, whether in the form of a drink or lightly cooked. A green smoothie, with a few slices of pineapple can be the perfect post-workout drink. Of course, there are hundreds of options to make delicious smoothies at home with fruits and greens; not only are they superior to commercially available ready-to-drink beverages, they also afford you control what ingredients would be most beneficial for you at that particular point of time.

Intense training causes a substantial amount of stress to the body, which, in turn, produces a lot of antioxidants. Vitamin C is a potent antioxidant. Care should be taken to ingest Vitamin C-rich foods like citrus fruits. Berries are excellent antioxidants; locally available berries like blackberries, strawberries, gooseberries can help to give you your daily quota. Training is also known to cause muscle soreness and inflammation. Ginger is an excellent herb to consume post-training; it acts as a mild NSAID (Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug), without the side-effects. It is also good in cases of mild nausea. So if you are prone to having stage fright on the days of competition, try popping in a few slices of ginger.

Nature is filled with all the tools we require to improve our fitness or improve our athletic performance. What is required is a little bit of smart planning in diet and training.

(The writer is a Strength and Conditioning coach and sports nutritionist. He can be contacted at angshumanduta@hotmail.com)

Kaustov Kashyap

Gender-balanced workforce

Increase profits

Once the performance of an employee shows significant improvements, the company's profits will also increase with time. Gender balance will provide the team with a diverse set of skills, such that the company can perform better. A study shows that by shifting from an all-male or all-female office to a balanced one can actually increase the company's revenue by 41 per cent.

Improve reputation

In an era where image and reputation plays a crucial role, a gender-balanced workforce could be a great strategy to drive the business. According to a recent study, women tend to seek careers in companies that demonstrate significant gender diversity rather than those with none. Thus, having a reputation as a gender-friendly business house will bring in more pluses for your future talent pool.

Widen talent scope

Gender cannot be used to define one's excellence. Even for highly-stereotyped jobs dominated by males such as IT workers, women can do a better job than men if given a chance to perform because of their keen eye for details. Men and women both have different traits and personalities.

However, instead of viewing the differences in a negative light and as an unfavourable condition, they should be viewed and recognised as powerful assets for your company. Without including more women in the workforce, the company will likely end up eliminating half of the available strong talent in the market, while losing out on the unique qualities they bring.

Support retention

Allowing many workers to quit within a short period of time is not good news for any company. Not only are you required to spend more money for hiring new talents, the company's project schedule will be disrupted as well.

Nobody wants to stay long in a rigid workplace that does not allow flexibility. Thus, gender diversity in a workplace that allows for flexible working arrangements between men and women is a key to talent retention in the long run. (pragatigroup08@gmail.com)

Why do you think gender-diversity is important in a workplace? How gender-balanced teams help boost productivity? How can HR managers work towards addressing the misconceptions held strongly about women in certain technically-skilled job roles? What should you do about it? How can you create gender-diverse teams? How can you propagate the need for gender-balanced teams in every organisation? This piece has some interesting trivia for you in store.

You will agree to the fact that certain fields have long been viewed as male-dominated industries such as IT, mining, mechanics, etc., to be represented by men in the workforce at large, leaving no opportunities for women to seek a breakthrough and prove their mettle. However, a recent study contradicts the past trends and showcases that the gap between men and women participation in technically-skilled job roles will be closing soon.

As organisations take small steps towards building gender-diverse teams syncing with the pace of change, recruiting more women into certain job roles should no longer be a taboo or seen as a mere formality to fulfil the clauses of employment law; on the contrary, it should be seen as a challenge to find the next great talents.

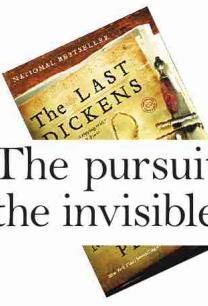
Talking about gender-balanced recruitment in workplaces means to offer equal opportunity for every individual, regardless of their gender to contribute towards the company's development goals.

From entry-level staff to those in the managerial cadre, everyone strongly relies on the decision-making capabilities of talent, and hence gender-diverse teams have a lot to offer in terms of advantages to the company. They help:

Boost performance

Gender diversity encourages employees with different perspectives to engage proactively; such that they can see a particular thing as a whole, rather than viewing it partially. Bringing together different perspectives helps in better decision-making and in putting in extra effort. Good cooperation between men and women can certainly make for a killer squad.





The pursuit of the invisible

When Charles Dickens passed away on June 9, 1870, he left *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, the novel he was working on, incomplete. In keeping with settled practice, the novel was serialised in journals both in England and in America. Dickens had toured America some years back and had drawn huge audiences who thronged his lectures. He was at the peak of his popularity and fictions such as *Great Expectations* and *Hard Times* consolidated his status as the foremost novelist of the land. Questions about the nature of the novel, a mystery one at that, and the tantalisingly missing part of its plot have persisted and continued to occupy the imagination of the reading public across the spatial and temporal dimensions from which it emerged. Meticulous and focussed, Dickens took great care in the crafting of his narratives, with the wealth of research behind the minute details surfacing in ways that resist simple encapsulation.

Matthew Pearl takes up the gaps that places the historical Dickens alongside the fiction the Victorian novelist was working on to weave a gripping story of power struggle and intrigue where the pursuit of the invisible throws up interesting results. *The Last Dickens* (Random House 2009) is a remarkable example of a literary whodunit that engages with an issue which has kept the aura surrounding the 'mystery' of its incompleteness intact. In placing the nature of his novel in context, Pearl writes: "The Last Dickens aims to portray Charles Dickens and the atmosphere surrounding his life and death as accurately as possible. Dickens' language, behaviour and personality as they appear in this novel incorporate many actual conversations and actions." The novel brings together the planes of history and fiction by having real and imaginary people on board. James Osgood, the young, energetic American publisher of Dickens in Boston sends his trusted ward Daniel Sand to collect the latest instal-

ment of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* from the docks, but Daniel is found dead, and the papers go missing.

(outenga@gmail.com)

LOVING LITERATURE Bibhash Choudhury

ing. James Osgood's association with Dickens is well attested, while the imaginatively created Daniel and his sister Rebecca (with whom Osgood embarks on a transatlantic quest to solve the mystery) are fictitious. Such interspersing provides the novel's grip that keeps the reader guessing. Pearl shows the movement of Osgood and Rebecca to England, and the ensuing unfolding of pieces of a large puzzle bring to light more possibilities about Dickens' last novel. It draws in the opiate trade which connects Charles Dickens' son Frank in India and the unlikely threads that combine the separate spaces across continents show that much more is at stake than what initially appears. Suspenseful and intriguing, *The Last Dickens* bears evidence of considerable research, which, however, does not weigh down the narrative's fluid readability. Pearl is conscious of the importance of the shift in locale – as the scenes in England, America and India are represented with great attention to detail. The novel relies on the presentation of environment, which changes and moves from the various dimensions of the gothic to the romantic with the contexts of British and American publishing history in the 19th century coming into the mix. Dickens' final novel has remained a source of intrigue, and Pearl's take is an imaginative exploration of the possibilities of approaching it from a given point of view. Interest in the subject has also seen the publication of *Drood*, a novel by Dan Simmons (Quercus, 2009) where the mode of engagement is from a different perspective with Dickens' contemporary, Wilkie Collins occupying centre-stage as a major contributor. Matthew Pearl's novel reflects the sustenance of a trend in contemporary literature where conditions of history are drawn upon to examine questions that have gone unanswered.

(outenga@gmail.com)

Ahmedabad has been declared as a World Heritage City (WHC) at the 41st session of UNESCO's world heritage committee at Krakow in Poland recently. With this, the 606-year-old walled city of Ahmedabad, which was founded by Sultan Ahmed Shah, has become India's first World Heritage City. The city was also the centre for India's non-violent freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi. The walled city has 26 ASI-protected structures, hundreds of 'pols' that capture the essence of community living and numerous sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi who lived there from 1915 to 1930. Ahmedabad has also stood for unity with its elegant carvings in its Hindu and Jain temples as well as standing as one of the finest examples of Indo-Islamic architecture and Hindu-Muslim art. Ahmedabad will now join world heritage cities like Paris, Cairo and Edinburgh. Out of the 287 world heritage cities across the globe, there were only two cities in the Indian subcontinent – Bhaktapur in Nepal and Galle in Sri Lanka.

In today's Master's Choice section, do try out a set of questions on 'Wimbledon Tennis Championship'. Meanwhile, keep writing to us with your responses, questions (with answers and full postal address) and interesting bits of information at: Quizone, Horizon, C/o The Assam Tribune, Maniram Dewan Road, Guwahati. SMS: 98640-26322 and e-mail at: tosallen@gmail.com or quizonesallen@gmail.com. To read Quizzone online, you can log on to epaper.assamttribune.com.

MASTER'S CHOICE

- The inscription above the entrance to the Wimbledon Centre Court reads, 'If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster, and treat those two impostors just the same' – which poem do these lines come from?
- In the Wimbledon 2013, Rafael Nadal lost in straight sets on the very first day of the tournament. Which player beat Nadal in the first round?
- In 2007, Roger Federer won the Wimbledon Championships, matching a record of five consecutive Wimbledon singles titles set by another former tennis great. Who was this player?
- Name the American tennis player that knocked out Novak Djokovic in the third round of Wimbledon 2016?
- What happened in the 2002 women's final, that hadn't happened since 1884?
- The year 1962 was especially memorable for the winner of the men's singles final, as he would go on to become the first player since Don Budge in 1938 to

Catastrophe

What not a shower of rain can do, in a city's day to day life! Gone are the days, When we would dance To the rhythm of the rain, And smell the wet earth. Now there is no delight, To watch the *krisnasura* And *radhasura* bloom On the hill side. One shower of rain, Can change your life – Someone's son Someone's father Someone's mother, Is washed away in the rain. A fear, a phobia Has gripped people's minds – The fruit of unplanned modern life!

Dr Arpana Hazarika,
Guwahati

The Ganga

Asoul so pure, An essence so spiritual. The cool breeze across my banks; Creates an unheard symphony. I am a gift, Of knowledge, of cultures; I am the poet's evening muse, Whose songs of forever and eternity. But your pride killed my soul, I am your mother, A treasure of happy places; Who lost her honour and dignity. Yet you sing of me, With bitter, sweet humility; But this time you put me to shame, Ruined my body. Sullied my good name.

I am Ganga, That still flows In this junkyard of humanity.

Neha Sharma,
Sivasagar

SCIENCE ZONE

Dr Gitarthra Roymedhi

In Indian and Chinese traditional treatments, green tea occupies a special place. Green tea is also known as Chinese tea. Apart from being refreshing, it has many other qualities.

The scientific name of the tea plant is *Camellia Sinensis*. Both green tea and black tea are made from the leaves of this plant. Green tea is made before the tea leaves begin to wilt after harvesting. Black tea is produced when the tea leaves wilt. Unlike green tea, black tea is made from the leaves that have been fermented. Fermentation of tea leaves reduces the level of many essential compounds; hence it reduces the medicinal quality of the tea. The medicinal effects of green tea have been found to be beneficial in many occasions. It helps to prevent, cure and heal many diseases. In Indian and Chinese traditional treatments, green tea occupies a special place. Green tea is also known as Chinese tea. Apart from being refreshing, green tea has many other qualities.

Medicinal properties of green tea
Many researchers around the world believe that the medicinal properties of green tea are beneficial for cancer patients. Green tea can be used as an antioxidant against the free radicals. Green tea, with a few drops of lemon and honey, form one of the best antioxidants.

complete a calendar year Grand Slam. Which Australian player was this?

7. In 2004, which Russian player became the first from her country to win the women's singles?

8. In 1988, Martina Navratilova's long reign as Wimbledon champion (she had won six straight) finally ended. Which player beat her in the final?

9. In 1997, which player became the youngest winner of the women's singles since Lottie Dod in 1887?

10. What unique connection was there between the respective men's and women's champions in 1974?

READERS' CHOICE

11. The Allahabad Pillar inscription of ancient India indicates the reign of which famous Gupta ruler? (Subrata Dutta, Tengla)
12. Which British leader termed the 1857 Revolt as 'A national revolt rooted in deep mistrust'? (Naina Devi, Guwahati)
13. Which variety of mango is a cross between *Dasher* and *Neelum*? (Bidyut Borali, Titabor)
14. Which main organ of the human body is affected by the Alzheimer's disease? (Amrita Nath, Guwahati)
15. RBI has made it mandatory to switch all magnetic swipe ATM cards to EMV chip cards by December 2018. What does EMV stand for? (Shajid Khan, Tengla)
16. Who is the writer of the famous travelogue *Rihla* in Arabic? (Tina Sharma, via SMS)
17. Who is the first Pakistani cricketer to achieve the 10,000 runs milestone in his International Test career? (Mridul Das, South Kamrup)
18. Name the gas which had leaked out of the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal in 1984? (Bidisha Mahtana, Jorhat)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

20. He was born on June 25, 1903 in the Mithi District of Bihar. In 1922, he joined the India Imperial Police Force and was posted to Burma. He served there for five years and thereafter resigned and returned to England. In December 1936, he travelled to Spain and joined a guerrilla group fighting against General Francisco Franco in the Spain Civil War and was badly injured. Later he became very famous in another field. Who was he? (Dhrubajyoti Das, Chaygaon)

FEELINGS

Sojourn in the woods

Woed by the rain the woods revel, In the stormy night the ardour swells. The moist wind breaks the peaceful trance, The swaying branches break into a cosmic waltz. Rain's loving caress unfurls glorious grace, The woods now burst in youthful exuberance. My sojourn in the virgin, verdant woods, Is a tryst with solitude. The silence broken now and then, By chirping birds, and clucking hens. . . The rain has long since departed, The sylvan setting lies serene, stated. Beneath the canopied fragrant tree, My grassy bed spread out neatly. As eyes look up, view sky bound, Solitude wraps in a tranquil bond. Through the sylvan web glitters, The diamond firmament, now in shatters.

Amita Chatterjee,
Alwar, Rajasthan

Rise

I shall rise from the ashes of my burnt past. I shall rise to live and love again. The sting of pain shall be my tormentor no more. Nor shall the thorns of roses draw blood from my fingers. Depression, I shall throw out of the window, And happiness I shall welcome through my door. The twinkling of stars shall dance in my eyes, While the fireflies lead me into a moonlight clearing. Dance I will, to the cadence of forest music, That music so clean and pure when one pays attention. The rain shall cleanse me of all my bruises and bloody lacerations. That I have as a plethora of memories. And I shall be drenched with sweetness, once again.

Madhulika Barooah,
Digboi

Darkness – I

The blue night wears a grey cloak, Embracing the once gleeful trail And turning it gloomy. The moon peeks through the veil of clouds, Forlorn shadows blinding its shimmer.

Liquid droplets of diamond, Evoke a new essence into the darkness. For some it's a heavenly pleasure, For some it's a stab of chaos.

He walks about on the street, Limping his way to his destination. A tattered umbrella in one hand, A walking stick on the other.

His lean frame covered in tattered clothing, His mind filled with shattered dreams. No one sees his tear-filled eyes in the rain, No one notices his broken heart in the dark.

Mridusmita Barman,
Guwahati

The tree top

It's a paradise unknown to them, Because they cannot escape, The smoky grey bustle of city life, and Stand where I stand now; The tree top, A perfect place, Which I have always dreamt of. My wings take me from One tree to another, But this spot is where I always Return to, from where I can discover things That they cannot! How invisible I feel, and How people passing by just Seem like players in a pantomime. I savour my freedom, Hero on the tree top; And let myself gladly into a Private utopia!

Niki Bordoloi,
Nagaon

Benefits of green tea

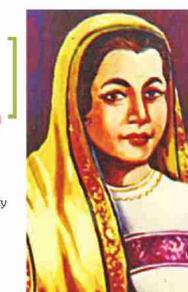
It can be used as a fat burner against obesity. It is one of the best diuretics that helps flush out toxins in the body through urine to maintain the function of the kidneys. Green tea also possesses antibiotic properties that act against many infections. It nourishes both the digestive and excretory systems. It prevents cardiovascular diseases, particularly coronary artery disease, by cleaning the plaques

deposited in the blood vessels. It promotes free and smooth blood circulation in the body that brings glow to the skin.

Proper blood circulation helps oxygen reach every single cell in the body. It also contains certain biological compounds that inhibit the growth of cancerous tumours. It is also a good source of vitamins that improve the body's immunity. Beside this, green tea also helps control the hormone and insulin level, and prevents conditions like diabetes.

Green tea is a gift of nature to the world. From the past few years, green tea has become one of the most popular beverages in the world. The medicinal qualities of green tea are not hidden from the world. In developed countries, about 50 per cent of the population prefers to have green tea other than any other beverages.

(gitarthraoymedhi83@rediffmail.com)



ANSWERS

1. *If* by Rudyard Kipling, 2. Steve Darcis (Belgium), 3. Bjorn Borg (1976-80), 4. Sam Querrey, 5. Two sisters played each other (Venus and Serena Williams), 6. Rod Laver, 7. Maria Sharapova, 8. Steffi Graf, 9. Martina Hingis, 10. They were engaged to be married to each other (Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert), 11. Samudragupta, 12. Benjamin Disraeli, 13. *Mallika*, 14. Brain, 15. Europe, MasterCard and Visa, 16. Ibn Battuta, 17. Younis Khan, 18. Methyl Isocyanate, 19. Madam Bhikaji Cama, 20. Eric Arthur Blair, better known by his pen name George Orwell.



Prodoyer Pran Saikia

Do you talk to dogs and frogs? Well, if you are a naturalist, an animal lover *per se*, a veterinarian, an animal psychologist, or your own pets, then may be you do talk to animals in general, and even to dogs and frogs in particular, at times. You may even, occasionally, converse with them imagining their human equivalent responses. But, do you hold conversations with them on a regular basis, especially with dogs and frogs? To converse on a regular basis, the two persons need to strike an intellectual compatibility unless it is in motherese, fatherese, brotherese, sisterese, or the like of it. We generally don't converse with dogs and frogs on regular settings.

What is a conversation? Oxford dictionary has defined a conversation to be "a talk, especially an informal one, between two or more people, in which news and ideas are exchanged". Conversation is a social skill that one learns and develops from childhood itself. Ever noticed children conversing with dolls and other inanimate objects or, at times, talking to self? They are rehearsing and developing the social skill of effective conversation. We are genetically primed to develop conversational skills. Children, who were barred from participating in discussions involving adults, might find it difficult to participate in conversations in their later years in social settings.

As conversations are social interactions, they follow the rules of etiquette and social conventions. Failure to adhere to these rules causes the conversation to deteriorate or eventually, to end. Contributions to conversation are responses to what has previously been said.

Did you know that as socially active human beings, we engage ourselves in various types of conversations during our lifetime? And most of the time we are not even aware of the type of conversations that we engage in. According to the Singapore Management University, a few types of conversations are: Conversation for Self-Reflection and

Learning, Conversation for Relationship, Conversation for Feedback, Conversation for Completion, Conversations for Stories and Assessments, Conversation for Clarity, Conversation for Common Commitment, Conversation for Opportunity, Conversation for Possibility, Conversation for Progress, Conversation for Coordination of Ac-

complishments. To find out how even small talk impacted task outcomes, psychologists of the university conducted a study. The participants were divided into three groups. The first group was allowed to spend 10 minutes getting to know each other. Afterwards they were given a series of cognitive tasks to complete.

The second group of participants were asked to engage in competitive conversations, and afterwards were given the same cognitive tests. The third group was simply given the cognitive tests upon arrival.

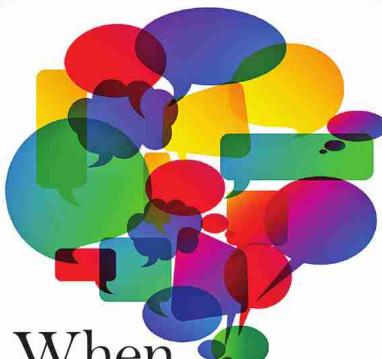
The group that engaged in friendly small talk performed significantly better in the cognitive tests than the group that engaged in competitive exercises. Researchers saw improvement specifically in the area of executive functioning, which is the area of the brain that controls focus, planning, prioritisation, and even organisation – all of which are essential skills in the workplace. So, it shows that healthy conversations, small talks included, can help develop our social and functional competencies.

Schools that encourage their students to participate in frequent non-competitive conversations register better year-on-year academic excellence. They produce confident individuals. Such schools have worthy teachers who are adept at human resource development methodologies. Such teachers cooperate with one another to find solutions to problems faced by struggling students. Such teachers do not engage in competitive conversations or one-upmanship with colleagues and students. But what can one expect from a school where teachers are unabashedly engrossed in gossips and giggling at the academic shortcomings of their students?

Healthy conversations are beneficial cognitively. In a broader sense, conversations could be either competitive or non-competitive. Whereas, organised competitive conversations, like debates and corporate war room brainstorming sessions, may not leave a section of the participants feeling inferior and hostile, but competitive conversations in casual and informal settings may have adverse outcomes. According to psychologists, non-competitive conversations boost performance levels, whereas competitive conversations inhibit performances. A study of the University of Michigan aptly demonstrated the impacts of competitive and non-competitive conversations on workplace performances. Even small talk can impact

Conversation for Accomplishment.

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When idiots talk

tion, Conversation for Accomplishment.

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Initiation Wells of Sintra

Near the historical centre of Sintra, Portugal, lies the Quinta da Regaleira, a spectacular estate. The cultural landscape upon which the Quinta da Regaleira sits dates back thousands of years. There are archaeological sites in the area dating back to the early Neolithic (5th millennium BC) and extending all the way through to the Iron Age.

The Quinta da Regaleira estate, which is sometimes referred to as 'the Palace of Monteiro the Millionaire' after its latest owner, consists of a palace and chapel with exquisite decor, including frescoes, stained-glass windows, and lavish stuccos. The estate grounds feature lakes, grottoes, wells, benches, fountains, and an extensive and enigmatic system of tunnels that connect to two spiralling wells. The pair of wells, known as the 'Initiation Wells' or 'Inverted Towers', consist of a winding staircase architecture, which carries a symbolic meaning, including the death/rebirth allegory common to many hermetic traditions. One of the wells contains nine platforms, which are said to be reminiscent of the *Divine Comedy* by Dante and the nine circles of Hell, the nine sections of Purgatory and the nine skies which constitute Paradise'. A smaller well, called the 'Unfinished Well', contains a set of straight staircases, connecting the ring-shaped floors to one another.

The beauty and symbology of the Quinta da Regaleira is like an open window into the past, and one of the last buildings in Sintra that carries the memory of the region's rich and varied history.

Contributed by: Mitu Moni Keot, Guwahati

THE ODD WORLD

Partha Pratim Hazarika

Facebook brings livestreaming to VR on Oculus Rift

Facebook has brought livestreaming to virtual reality (VR) by enabling people to share live videos with each other using the Facebook Spaces virtual reality app. Launched in April, Facebook Spaces is the company's first VR app built for the company's Oculus Rift VR headset, which is developed and manufactured by Oculus VR, a division of Facebook Inc.

According to a Facebook blog post, people could interact with other Oculus Rift users inside a virtual playground by chatting and drawing 3D animations.

"By going live from Facebook Spaces, you can share a whole new kind of moment with friends and family directly from VR. The people who matter most to you can now follow along in real-time on Facebook," the blog post said.



TECH TRENDS

Microsoft releases AI-powered app to help the blind 'see'

Microsoft has released a free iPhone app that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to tell the blind what is around them. If the phone is pointed at a park, the camera app, named Seeing AI, can describe how the scene looks like. Similarly, it can tell the amount of your restaurant bill or narrate just about anything it is pointed at.

"With this intelligent camera app, just hold up your phone and hear information about the world around you," Microsoft said. It describes Seeing AI as "a free app that narrates the world around you. Designed for the low vision community, this research project harnesses the power of AI to describe people, text and objects".

(IANS)

What do we understand by 'the fourth estate'?

"This term refers to the press."

"That I know. But why is the press called 'the fourth estate'?"

"Well, it was Lord Macaulay who in an article in the *Edinburgh Review* wrote about 'the fourth estate of the realm'. According to the traditional European concept, the other three estates comprise the clergy, the nobility and the commoners, known as Lords Spiritual, Lords Temporal and Commons, respectively. Macaulay, however, was not the one who coined the expression. There were others like Edmund Burke and William Hazlitt who used this earlier. *The Fourth Estate* is also the name of a 1996 novel by the famous novelist Jeffrey Archer."

"I see. Isn't the press also called the fourth pillar of democracy?"

"Yes. The press has much responsibility in upholding democratic values."

"And for that what is needed is the freedom of the press, as they say."

"Yes, you know, talking about freedom – the press use language in any way they wish to."

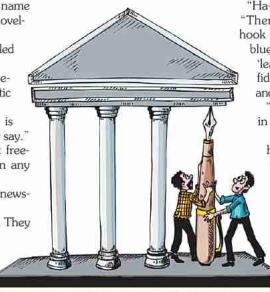
"You mean language used in a newspaper?"

"Yes, and also on TV and radio. They use a lot of clichés."

"Clichés? You mean overused expressions?"

MIND YOUR ENGLISH

Protim Sharma



"Exactly. The press seems to be fond of them. You know, after repeated use, these expressions lose their freshness. They also prevent your thinking capacity. George Orwell in his 1946 essay *Politics and the English Language* warns us against using clichés."

"I see. Can you give a few examples of clichés?"

"Of course. There are many. For example, we normally get to read or hear that the police arrived 'in the nick of time' and 'left no stone unturned' to 'nab' the culprit! You also hear of a successful person who was not 'born with a silver spoon in the mouth', whose parents worked hard 'to make both ends meet' and who eventually cracked some fancy exam by 'burning the midnight oil'."

"Ha-ha, yes."

"Then expressions such as 'by hook or by crook', 'bolt from the blue', 'by leaps and bounds', 'leave high and dry', 'fit as a fiddle', 'heart and soul', 'safe and sound', etc., are all clichés."

"How many clichés are there in English?"

"Several hundreds... Well, I have to go now. Office time."

"Wait! Give me some more examples, please!"

"You are all in all in your office, aren't you?"

"Yes, but mind you, this 'all in all' is also a cliché!"

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

The age of innocence

Anirban Gupta

There are several popular reality shows on TV that have serious impact on young minds. Often, teenagers, including minors, tend to follow the winners and mentors of these shows without really understanding the concept behind shows like these. Parents either restrict or appear to be indifferent to what their young ones are following. In some of these television shows, we observe screaming and abusing and use of foul language. It is as if without these ingredients, these shows will be incomplete.

Youths always hanker after what seems to be trending in the particular generation that they belong to. Although, there are exceptions to this rule, and there are quite a few young people who understand the futility of such pursuits, we have to be concerned about those who fail to grasp the difference between what's real and what's being played out in the name of entertainment. There is absolutely no harm in developing with the changing times but what if it is detrimental to the development itself. I am neither criticising each and every aspect of any of these shows. What I am trying to emphasize on is the responsibility of elders to be a bit more watchful towards their wards.

If an adolescent is introduced to the world of books and is properly guided to build an interest in them, then a second corner in a part of his or her delicate mind will be formed where a world of thoughts will open up naturally. Novels, short stories, plays, poems, newspapers and magazines are all parts of that wonderful world of intellect where a youth encounters new ideas. This habit of reading gradually unfolds new horizons before the young mind to give it a direction, and the endless worries of today's parents will be allayed as the adolescents will automatically gravitate towards good taste. Prohibiting adolescents from watching something only generates a feeling of confinement in their minds, wherefrom they want to break free. The act of introducing good taste in them through love, conversation and inspiring real-life stories is always a better way to help a youth from going astray. So, eventually, it all comes down to taste, and if good taste is developed from an early age, then everything else falls in line in the positive upbringing of young people.

(anirban.guptaassam@gmail.com)

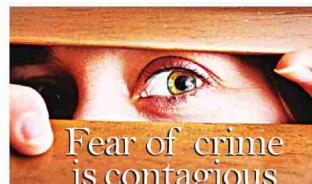


GRAPHIC PICK

Deborshi Gogoi

Where? Assam!!

DEVASTATING FLOOD IN ASSAM



Fear of crime is contagious

If you're terrified of being a victim of crime in your city, then you may want to blame those around you. A new study has shown that the fear of crime is contagious, and often doesn't correlate to the actual likelihood of experiencing crime.

Researchers hope their findings will help explain how a generalized fear of crime exists in cities and countries where crime rates are low.

A team from University College London looked at why people are scared of crime happening in their city. Rafael Prieto Curiel, who led the study, said, "The fear of crime can be considered contagious, because social interaction is the mechanism through which fear is shared and chronically worried populations are created. Even those that have never been a victim of crime can be seriously worried about it. Most studies about the fear of crime and perception of security are static observations of the current situation in a particular region or country."

To understand how fear of crime varies across populations, the researchers created three groups – one that was immune to crime, one that experienced a small amount of crime, and one that experienced the majority of crimes.

They found that when people from the group who never suffered crime interacted with people from their own group, they felt secure. But just a few interactions between groups was enough to change their perceptions of security.

(Agencies)



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



Jackets for women-II

Here is the second set of tips to keep in mind the next time you go jacket shopping:

- **Three-quarter sleeve jackets:** If you are wearing a jacket over your skirt or trousers, you can try a three-quarter sleeve, especially if you are looking to take the focus away from the hips.

• **Jackets and heavy bosom:** Wear jackets with upward pointing lapels if you have a heavy bosom. An upward point will bring the eyes up and away from the bust. Opt for styles without top pockets.

• **To disguise figure flaws:** Wear jackets with detail on the shoulders. Jackets with designs and trim on the shoulder can be very flattering. Emphasising your shoulders can draw the eyes up and away from any other figure flaws. Small shoulder pads can drop the kilos giving your shoulder a squarer look.

• **Danger zone:** The belly can be a danger zone. Coloured patch pockets can draw the eye to the

FASHIONABLY YOURS

Prasant Ghosh

hips. If your hips are your problem area, then avoid any decoration or colour enhancement to this area.

• **Winter jackets:** When buying a winter jacket, make sure it is longer than anything else you might wear.

• **Never roll up your jacket sleeve:** If your jacket sleeves are too long, then have it altered for the perfect fit.

• **Cashmere coat:** A quality cashmere coat, in either black or camel will complement any wardrobe.

• **Be aware of the fabric:** You jacket could be made out of fabrics such as gabardine, cotton, wool, silk, tweed, serge and flannel. Some jackets now are made with a little lycra added to the blend. This style of jacket is slightly more casual.

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



WEST SIDE STORY

No marriage for Idris

ACTOR Idris Elba has admitted that he is reluctant to exchange vows following two previous failed marriages. "Am I ever gonna get remarried? I don't think so. Marriage is an institution of sorts. And I've got it. It's not for everybody. It's not my life's calling," said the 44-year-old.

Elba's first marriage to make-up artist Hanne Norgaard, with whom he is a parent to teenage daughter Isan, ended in 2003 after just four years. A second attempt at marriage, to real estate attorney Sonya Hamlin, collapsed six-weeks after the couple exchanged vows in 2006.

Naomi's new love

SUPERMODEL Naomi Campbell, who has enjoyed many high-profile romances throughout her iconic 30s, is said to be "secretly dating" Egyptian multimillionaire Louis C Camilleri, 61. He is a divorced father-of-three, and former chairman of Philip Morris International and worth over £150 million.

Naomi, 47, reportedly met Louis through their shared love of Formula One as they frequented the same races and are said to have met and bonded at the events.

Neil Patrick slams James Woods

FUMING Neil Patrick Harris, 44, called James Woods "ignorant and classless" after he shared an image on Twitter of parents supporting their gender creative boy, and commented that the boy will grow up to murder his parents.

Harris responded to the tweet saying, "Utterly ignorant and classless, Mr Woods. I'm friends with this family. You know not of what you speak, and should be ashamed of yourself."

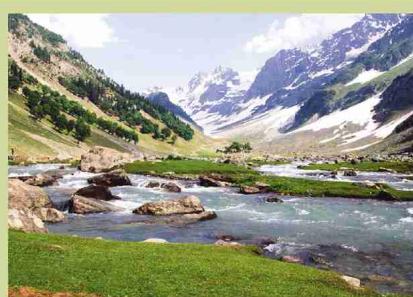


AGENCIES

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HORIZON

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE
GUWAHATI, FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2017



TRAVEL

Chiranjeeet Bhattacharjee

Srinagar

A curfew in Srinagar made us wait for 16 hours in Sonmarg. It was 1 am by the time we reached Srinagar.

In Srinagar, we stayed in a boathouse on the Dal Lake, which was furnished with teak wood and also had a library. In the morning, I sat on the mini verandah with my cup of tea, overlooking the serene Dal Lake with the white mountains in the background. Soon I was joined by the rest of my friends and family. We then took the *Shikara* ride – an exotic boat ride in the lake, which you will like, more so if you are a *Kashmir Ki Kali* fan.

We departed for the airport the same day. Since it was curfew-bound we couldn't move around in Srinagar, but we did visit the Mughal and Tulip Garde.

Our trip to Kashmir busted the myth that it is unsafe for tourists. Tourism is Kashmir's lifeline and everyone is dependent on it. So, everyone and everything is tourist-friendly and all Kashmiris are courteous and hospitable. But one should be careful not to get into any argument with the locals – remember it's their land. Local taxis, food, pony rides, guides, etc., may have exorbitant prices, so do your best bargain, but politely.

(chiran25@yahoo.com)

Summer sojourn in Kashmir

It was 40 degree celsius in Delhi, and I was on my way to work when suddenly my phone rang. Before I could say 'Hello', my friend exclaimed, 'Let's go to Kashmir!'

Images of snowcapped mountains and lush green valleys flooded my mind, and we soon booked our flight to Srinagar.

Gulmarg

Our first destination was Gulmarg. This enchanting ski town is 56 kms from Srinagar and if you stop by the apple orchards, it takes two hours of leisure drive. As we passed by the hamlet of Magam, we were greeted by the resplendent Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas – a sight you will simply fall for.

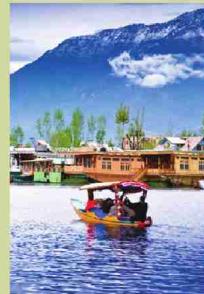
We soon reached our hotel. The pristine splendour of the lush green valley embracing the snow-draped mountains was visible from our verandah. After lunch and a brief nap, we took a nature walk by the serpentine road which borders the green valley spreading across 10 kilometres – a walk you must take and is bound to instil romanticism in you.

The next day, we were ready for the ropeway ride. The world's highest cable car ride of five kilometres has its own charm. Out there you can also try snow slides, soft skating or make snowmen; but I suggest you drink some coffee.

Sonmarg

After spending two days in Gulmarg, we drove to Sonmarg via Mughund. The road was rustic and pastoral – an exact replica of the Kohora-Buraphar stretch of Assam. During our drive, the river Sindh flowed by our side. The small town of Sonmarg is essentially an Army cantonment. It was much cooler than Gulmarg at six degrees Celsius as it is the abode of the Himalayan Glacier. Here the snow is clearer, and there are no markets. The only attraction is the Zero Point. So, post a delicious lunch, we hit the road, drove rapidly on the Kargil-Leh highway to reach our midpoint. Notably, this is the road which takes you to the Amarnath shrine.

The road to Zero Point was an adventurous one. It was precarious, but breathtakingly beautiful. The next morning we left for Srinagar.



MOM

DIRECTOR: Ravi Udaywar
STARS: Sridevi, Arshayee Khanna, Adnan Siddiqui, Sajal Ali, Nawazuddin Siddiqui

Sridevi has picked up from where she had left in *English Vinglish*. The actor, fresh from entering the 50th year in the industry, delivers yet another master-class in Ravi Udaywar's *Mom*, which also happens to be her 300th movie appearance.

Playing the titular character, Sridevi through her seamless display of a wide gamut of emotions – from a mother trying hard to smoothen her relationship with her stepdaughter, to an ailing mother – would once again attest why she, despite tiring over a huge lay-off from acting, is still considered as one of the most bankable female actors, capable of single-handedly carrying a movie on her shoulders.

The riveting process of storytelling in *Mom* just adds to her advantage. With a plot revolving around a stepmother and her mode of avenging her stepdaughter's rape, *Mom* touches some very subtle, yet relevant, shades of human relationships, which the audience would not find difficult to relate to.

In fact, the intricacy of a stepmother's strained relationship with the daughter of her husband's previous marriage and the perspective they nurture, is told grippingly enough to make a few checks wet.

The debutant director does show glimpses of maturity from the word go

and succeeds to derive the involvement from the audiences in a way, of course, backed by some polished performances by the lead characters – such that even some otherwise clichéd lines like not be everywhere and so he created mom's look quite genuine and escapes the cynic's eyes.

And if Sridevi is the soul of the movie, Nawazuddin Siddiqui who plays a private detective would make the audience love every bit of his witicism and one-liners. With delicate dialogue delivery and mannerisms, Nawazuddin remains true to his character giving the script the added zing.

Akhayee Khanna fills in the character of an eccentric crime branch cop leaving quite an impact.

The newcomer in Sajal Ali who plays Sridevi's step daughter definitely shows the making of a promising lead actress of Bollywood with her impressive stint.

Despite all these, the movie does leave the audience with some unanswered questions, especially in the post-intermission period. Why the crime branch let go of some clinching evidences quite easily during the course of the investigation proves to be a major tole.

The climax too, one believes, could have been more interesting.

The voice modulation and dubbing part, especially for the leading lady could have been looked after better. Like most of the new-age moms, the need for some facial lift and tucks for the actress was almost palpable.

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AT THE THEATRES

Sanjoy Ray



Archie



Mort Walker's beetle Bailey



On files and folders

When it comes to managing your office, File Management tops the first-things-first list. If your boss is waiting on the phone, asking to look urgently into a particular file which you aren't able to find, then you are in terrible tantrums!

You can spend hours of your precious time searching for documents that you've filed away somewhere, because it's easy to forget where you put it – or even to forget that you have the document in the first place. So how can you go about simplifying your work? Here are a few tips:

- **Avoid saving needless documents:** Don't make a habit of saving everything that finds its way to you. Take a glance through the content and save a file only if it's relevant to your work activity. Having too much cluttered documents adds to the mess and makes it harder to find things in the future. Be selective about what you keep.

- **Name your files and folders systematically:** For instance, divide a main folder into subfolders for customers, vendors, and co-workers. Give shortened names to identify what or whom the folders relate to. What's more, you can even give a different

MANAGEMENT MOVES

Saurav Somani

appearance or look to different categories of folders – this can make it easy to tell them apart at first glance.

- **Categorise your documents:** For example, store reports, letters, presentation notes, spreadsheets, paperwork related to a particular project or client in a single folder – rather than having one folder for presentations for all projects, another folder for spreadsheets for all projects, and so forth. This way, it's much quicker to find documents for a particular project.

- **Ongoing work versus completed work:** Some people prefer to keep current or ongoing work on



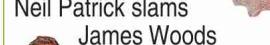
their desk until a job is completed. Then, once it's done, they move it to the appropriate location, where files of the same category are stored. At periodic intervals (for example, weekly or fortnightly), move files you're no longer working on to the folder where your completed work is stored.

- **Avoid overfilling folders:** If you have a large number of files in one folder, or a large number of subfolders in a main folder, break them into smaller groups (subfolders or sub-subfolders). For instance, you can divide a folder called "Business Plan" into subfolders called "BP1001", "BP1002", and "BP1003". The essence is to place every file into a logical folder or sub-folder.

- **Digitalise your documents with a scanner:** This is quite useful if you are short of storage space for your files or if you want to archive or back-up documents without destroying them completely.

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



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AGENCIES