

NEWS CAPSULE

LS adjourned

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The Monsoon Session of the Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die today after 19 sittings that saw the passage of 14 legislations and the suspension of six Congress members. - PTI

Babri hearing

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The Supreme Court today decided to hold the final hearing in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title December 5 and made it clear that no adjournment shall be given in any circumstance. - PTI

HPC revival

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The government is considering revival of the two closed mills of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited in Assam. This was conveyed to a delegation of Assam Congress MPs by the PMO. - Sp! Correspondent

CBFC head

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The government today replaced Phubhal Nihalani with songwriter-poet Prasoon Joshi as the chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification. Nihalani made headlines for a number of controversial moves. - PTI

Right to privacy

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The Supreme Court today indicated that it may deliver its verdict on whether right to privacy constitutes a fundamental right under the Constitution next week. - PTI

Safe schools

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The Supreme Court today put in the works for not coming up with guidelines on disaster management to make schools safer. - PTI

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

Over 3 lakh people affected in second wave of flood



Villagers repairing a makeshift bamboo bridge with increasing water level due to heavy shower in the last few days, at Dholagaon in Bongaigaon district on Friday. - UB Photos

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: A total of 54,326 people from 781 villages under 45 revenue circles of 15 districts of the State have been affected by the second wave of flooding following rainfall activities over the North East region for the past 24 hours.

The official flood bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said here this evening that the affected dis-

tricts include Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia.

It also said that the Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger level at Neamatighat and Dibrugarh, while the Burhidihing is flowing above its danger level at Khowang, the Dhranshi (South) is flowing above its danger level at Numaligarh, the Jia Bharali is flowing above its danger level

at N T Road Crossing, the Puthimuri is flowing above its danger level at N H Road Crossing and the Sankosh is flowing above its danger level at Golokganj.

With its 1,44,502 people hit by the floodwaters, Dhemaji district has emerged as the worst hit by this wave of flood so far.

The local administrations have opened 39 relief camps and 14 relief distribution centres for the benefit of the flood-affected people. In all, 13,743 people are taking shelter in the

relief camps, said the bulletin.

The respective revenue circle administrations and the DRDF and the NDRMF men have to engage themselves in rescue operations in Dhemaji, Bongaigaon, Majuli, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.

Altogether 756 marooned people have been rescued by these agencies in these districts, the bulletin said.

It also said that 20,761 big animals, 14,026 small animals and 31,872 poultry have been affected by this wave of flood.

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The armed forces are prepared to face any eventuality, Defence Minister Arun Jaitley today assured the Lok Sabha amid the ongoing standoff between Indian and Chinese military in the Doklam area.

In response to a question on reports of troop movements in Tibet by China amid the ongoing Doklam standoff and a senior Army officer's statement that Pakistan's defence ministry was better than India's, Jaitley said the armed forces have adequate defence equipment to tackle any emergency.

"Our defence forces are ready to take on any eventuality," he said without making any specific reference to Doklam.

A question was also asked about a CAG report which stated that the defence forces have ammunition that can last for 22 days in an event of a war, instead of the mandatory 40 days.

Responding to this, the Defence Minister contended that significant progress has been made on this front thereafter,

Doklam standoff

Forces prepared to face any eventuality: Jaitley

but did not elaborate. "No body should have a doubt on that," he asserted.

In response to another question on the government's target to achieve indigenisation by 2022, Subhash Bhamre, minister of state in the Defence

Swaraj meets Bhutanese FM

TATHMANDU, Aug 11: External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj today met her Bhutanese counterpart Damcho Dorji here and is understood to have discussed bilateral issues, amidst the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in the Doklam area of the Sikkim sector.

Both the leaders are here to attend a meeting of foreign ministers from the countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), a grouping of countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia. - PTI

Ministry, said taking into consideration the next 15 years, the forces have a Long Term Integrated (LTI) perspective on this.

Jaitley also sought to allay fears of closure of ordnance defence factories, saying all these factories and defence PSUs are going to continue and no employee will be retrenched. - PTI

JOCOSERIOUS



While preparing the scheme on the Brahmaputra we must see how the Centre will be benefited out of it!

Venkaiah Naidu sworn in as Vice President

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: M Venkaiah Naidu was sworn in as the 15th vice president of India.

President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to Naidu, 68, at a brief ceremony in the Durbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan attended by political leaders cutting across party lines.

Wearing his trademark white panche (lungi) and white shirt, Naidu took oath in the name of God. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar – who has joined hands with the BJP in his state – also attended the ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

After the ceremony, President Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ex-Vice President Ansari, Vice President Naidu and Advani were seen together. Naidu's wife M Usha was also present. - PTI

30 children die in UP hospital

GORAKHPUR, Aug 11: At least 30 children died in the state-run Baba Raghav Das Medical College here during the last 48 hours, district magistrate Rajeev Rautela said today, but gave no reasons for such a large number of deaths.

He said 17 children died in the neo-natal ward, five in AES (acute encephalitis syndrome) ward and eight in the general ward.

An inquiry committee has been set up to ascertain the exact causes of the deaths and it has been asked to submit its report by tomorrow evening. Action will be taken against those responsible, he said.

Rautela said that seven deaths (neo-natal ward – 3, AES ward – 2 and general ward – 2) were reported since last midnight, while the remaining 23 deaths (neo-natal – 14, AES – 3 and general – 6) were reported since midnight of August 9–10. PTI

HC grants bail to RH Khan

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: The Gauhati High Court today granted bail to RH Khan, one of the prime accused in the multi-crore-rupme NC Hills

A to n o m o u s Council scam.

Khan's counsel filed an appeal in the high court after the NIA special court on May 22 had convicted the former government officer and fourteen others. The NIA

court had sentenced Khan, then deputy director of the social welfare department, to twelve years imprisonment under Section 17 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

He was charged with diverting development funds to the now disbanded DHJDHJ militia group.

Senior advocate Narayan Dutta Bhuyan told *The Assam Tribune* that a division bench of the high court comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice PK Phukan granted bail to Khan, while his sentencing has been kept under suspension till the appeal is disposed.

The bail was given against a bond of Rs 1 lakh. Further, Khan was directed not to leave Guwahati without the court's permission. He was also directed by the high court to cooperate with the NIA.

Khan has been in jail since May 31, 2009. The NIA had registered two cases in 2009 based on allegations that huge sums of money were being siphoned off from the development funds allotted to the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council in complicity with contractors and government servants and being routed to the DHJDHJ for procurement of arms and ammunition and other subversive activities.

The CBI is also investigating two corruption cases in the NC Hills Autonomous Council.

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Life is inherently risky. There is only one big risk you should avoid at all costs, and that is the risk of doing nothing.

— DENIS WAITLEY

The Assam Tribune

Stop the farce

The experiences in the past 32 years since the signing of the Assam Accord should leave none in any doubt whatsoever about the indifference of successive governments at the Centre and in the State towards resolving the issue of illegal cross-border influx from Bangladesh to Assam. Indeed, it is largely the apathy of the Government, particularly the Centre, that has allowed the problem to fester for such a long time and confront the State's indigenous populace with an existential crisis. First, the porous Indo-Bangla border along several stretches still remains unfenced or without an effective vigilance mechanism. Secondly, the detection and deportation process for illegal Bangladeshi migrants continues to be shabby and cumbersome, with the result that very few illegal migrants have actually been sent back to their country of origin. The official data that only two infiltrators could be deported to Bangladesh in the past three years speaks for itself. This is as shocking as it is laughable, and calls for an urgent rethink on the mechanism to have illegal migrants deported. The biggest stumbling block in this regard happens to be the Centre's reluctance to take up the matter of deportation with the Bangladesh Government. Much was expected on the front after the BJP Government assumed charge at the Centre riding on a high-voltage anti-Bangladeshi poll campaign in Assam. All the sound and fury, however, has come a cropper with the Government sitting over its poll pledges for over three years now.

Loopholes continue to abound in the government machinery in detecting and deporting Bangladeshi infiltrators. Illegal migrants invariably manage to evade arrest once they are declared as such through the judicial process. Despite repeated strictures from the Gauhati High Court, the authorities seem reluctant to get their hands on the illegal migrants, thereby rendering the exercise of foreigners' deportation a farce and allowing them instead to enjoy the privileges meant for bona fide citizens. It has also become a routine for the migrants to do the vanishing act once the illegal status of their citizenship is determined in the courts. This, together with the fact that the Indo-Bangla border remains porous with below-par vigilance mechanism and the strange inertia of the Centre to discuss the matter of deportation with Bangladesh, lays bare how very little has been achieved in the all-important matter of detection and deportation of illegal migrants. The immediate task before the government authorities is to arrest the illegal migrants and put them in detention camps till the time they are pushed back to the country of their origin. For this, the number of detention camps should be increased and it also needs to be ensured that the detention camps have proper amenities. An extradition treaty with Bangladesh is another imperative and there is no reason why India cannot convince Bangladesh to take back their citizens, and in reasonably quick time. We only need a strong political will for this.

Enforcing accountability

Two cases of stalking of girls have lately hit the headlines. Coincidentally, the alleged culprits in both cases are related to BJP leaders in States in which the party is in power. The first case is more tragic. In Uttar Pradesh, a 17-year-old schoolgirl was stabbed to death by a psychopath who had been stalking her for several months. In fact, he had been earlier apprehended for stalking the same girl, but let off with a warning. It is not known how much the fact that the alleged assailant was the son of a BJP Panchayat chief was responsible for the earlier let-off, but given the nature of Indian democracy, wielding of political clout is not unlikely. The second case, though less tragic yet equally condemnable, involves a stalking and kidnap attempt of a girl by the son of less a person than the Haryana's BJP chief, along with his friend. Fortunately, timely response of the police to the distress call of the girl prevented the episode from taking a tragic turn. There are two facets to the latter episode. First, as is to be expected in male-dominated societies, there has been an attempt at foisting the blame on the victim. Certain voices in the BJP have questioned why the girl was driving on the road "so late at night!"

Such assertions insinuate the unacceptable idea that just because they are girls, they should not be out on the roads at certain hours. One needs to note that the victim was a professional and her being on the road was related to her profession. The character of the Indian work-force has changed dramatically and today many women are engaged in professions that involve working in late hours. If they are to be blamed for doing so, there is something basically flawed about our social values and ethos. In theory, within a society which makes pretence at being egalitarian, women should be free to go where and when they want. However, reality being different, it is up to the authorities to ensure that women are not coerced into curtailing their movements just because predators are on the loose. One way of ensuring this is to enforce accountability on the perpetrators. The police have now admitted that powerful political pressure had resulted in the preliminary arrest in which the alleged offenders in Chandigarh were booked under less serious charges. Only after a national hue and cry was raised were the duo rearrested and the more serious charge of stalking with intention to kidnap was framed against them. It is laudable that the authorities have reacted positively to public response and warded off political pressure. One of the means of dealing with such predatory crimes is to mete out exemplary punishment so that others desist from them.

Controlling floods: proactive steps needed

■ Dr Nalini Kanta Dutta

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Assam on August 1 last announced a flood package for NE and steps to undertake a permanent solution to the flood problem with several crores of rupees of financial assistance by the Centre. Looking back, it can be said that this is the first time that a Prime Minister has visited Assam and NE at a crucial moment during a natural disaster and providing a considerable fund for relief.

The dynamic nature of various flood parameters call for evolving suitable flood management methodologies in order to save lives, properties and agricultural production. Floods have become not only an unfortunate annual event in most of the river basins all over the world, but are also encompassing new areas and in new hydrological models, causing great havoc and extensive losses. Many of the rivers that traverse India, cause floods during the monsoon period. The colossal damages caused by the recent floods in Assam is a threat to the existence of human habitat. The study on the nature of floods along with landslides so far put forward for their control and management seems to have not been effective, rather the damages caused by repeated deluges have been steeply increasing due to increase in plain land occupancy either for developmental activities or encroachments, deforestation, climate change and other environmental degradation. Environmental degradation is the order of the day.

Out of many causes of floods, the five primary reasons are (1) heavy rains (2) synchronising of the peak of floods of the main river and the tributaries (3) inadequate and inefficient drainage of low-lying and flat areas (4) snow-melt run-off along riverbanks and (5) typhoons and cyclones. Fall in infiltration rate and percolation area due to rapid sifting of rivers and reservoirs, urban and industrial expansion and construction of embankments have contributed a lot to the flood problem. Low water retention and increase runoff overland due to heavy erosion, over-exploitation and misuse of catchments causes flood inundation in countries like India. As a part of flood control measures, the first and foremost responsibility of the Government is to create and implement effective laws to prevent ongoing activities causing environmental degradation. The idea of building dams, ropeways and other disturbing activities in the NE region for regeneration of power, creation of entertainment facilities and the developmental programmes may enhance the chances of natural calamities. There are other alternatives for obtaining the required power – from gas, thermal and non-conventional energy sources such as solar and wind energy, biogas and biotechnology etc.

which can provide sufficient energy if trapped as done in some other parts of the country.

An appropriate flood management programme includes a good number of measures to be undertaken and policies that need to be pursued. The National Commission on Floods, 1980 submitted a study report along with the programmes and policies for modifying the susceptibility to flood damage and modification of the loss

report. Rainfall conservation at field level by bunding and induced ground water recharge, storage, *kheri* channels and embankments planned integrally can help in flood mitigation. Selective afforestation and efficient agronomic measures can be supplemented to enhance the effectiveness of the programme. At the time of severe floods, any sort of retrieval operation becomes impossible. So the level of preparedness for flood management at the Centre and in the states requires considerable strengthening.

Repeated experience of failure in mitigating flood hazards in States clearly indicates that the plan and policies for flood management is extremely insufficient. Both short-time and long-time strategies with the use of modern technology are required for an effective flood management system.

burden. The report delineated the technological feasibilities as well as policies need to be pursued for substantial reduction of the susceptibility to flood damage. Altogether four methods of flood management – (1) modifying the flood (2) modifying susceptibility to flood damage (3) modification of the loss burden and (4) bearing the loss i.e., living with flood are listed in the

studying (i) flood-inundated and drainage-congested areas (ii) extent of damages to crops, structures etc. (iii) river configuration, silt deposits, shoals etc., and vulnerable areas of bank erosion (iv) watershed characteristics and land cover/land use in command areas and (v) hydrological and meteorological data transmission from data collection platform.

The National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad is dealing with supply of remote sensing data on hydrology, physiography, forestry, soil resources etc., to the states as per requisition. The Remote Sensing Application Centre, Assam may take initiative for the State Government to begin the programme for flood management in Assam. Relief and rehabilitation works during and after floods is an emergency service for the affected people. But this is not a permanent solution. The remote sensing satellite data can be used effectively in (i) mapping flood-affected and drainage-congested areas (ii) flood forecasting (iii) identification of erosion-prone areas (iv) flood damage assessment and relief. All these works are to be performed under the National Disaster Management Authority as per the Act.

Apart from the measures for flood control suggested in the discussion above, the Government of India as well as of Assam should take stringent measures to evict the foreign nationals living in areas like *charis* where habitation is not permissible on scientific grounds in the interest of ecological balance leaving aside motivated political interests.

Community Information Services through public libraries

■ Sanjoy Kr Hazarika

The subject experts describe "information" as the fifth need of man after air, water, food and shelter. In fact, in view of the vital role played by information in daily life, it should be considered as the first need in terms of survival. This is because it is information about the availability of food, which food to be eaten, how to build a shelter, protection of territory, ensuring security and success, etc., which are primarily of organic importance. Without this information, it is difficult to go through the most challenging process of life i.e. development. Development is a greater challenge in the third world or developing countries and this challenge is much more serious in view of the constraints on their information resources. That is, the economic development of a country depends on soundness of the information system of its economy.

Allan Bunch who had first attempted to synthesise the definition of Community Information (CI), states that CI has two aspects: "one is concerned with the nature of the information provided, that

is, information in the community to help people with daily problems of solving or in raising the quality of their lives; the other is concerned with the nature of the clientele served, namely, those who belong to the lower socio-economic group or are disadvantaged through an inability to obtain understand, or act on information that affects their lives."

Community Information (CI) is a combination of two terms, i.e., Community and Information. The term "Information" is used to identify many concepts; hence, it is extremely difficult to define it precisely. Normally, information is a message, communicated by a communicator to a receiver. Giggey (1988) defines community as "a group of people who have something common. This can be their age, education, religion, interest, political affiliation, activities, work, possession or a combination of two or more of these". CI is information for the survival and growth of the community, or information required by members of the community to make effective use of the available resources around them. The information service through

which CI is provided to communities is called Community Information Service (CIS).

The generally accepted definition today is services offered by all types of libraries and other organizations to provide people with information relevant to their everyday life, particularly those in the lower-economic and disadvantaged groups who need to learn how to obtain, understand, and use information. It was originally intended to help eradicate deprivation and illiteracy in the rural areas. CIS activities include health, education, employment, agriculture, village industries, daily necessities, consumer services, and so on.

The Government of India launched the Common Services Centres (CSC) Scheme in 2006 as a part of its initiative under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). The Common Service Centres (CSCs) are the Hub or Community Centres for the delivery of all e-governance and other services to the rural people. The idea is to provide sustainable digital access to rural India giving the necessary impetus for uplift. Information services and products range from e-governance services, utility services, payments, deposits,

insurance and other financial services and a host of e-information and e-learning facilities which are delivered through these CSCs. Each CSC is positioned at a rate of one CSC for every six-census villages.

A CSC in a village is completely operated by the Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE). The aim of the scheme is not only to roll out IT infrastructure but also to build a network of over 28000 rural units across India. To that effect, the CSC scheme has been designed to create a value proposition for all stakeholders and alignment of their economic interests.

CIS is concerned with the provision of problem-oriented information. UNESCO (1972) states that "the public library must offer to adults and children the opportunity to keep in touch with their times, to educate themselves continuously and to keep abreast of progress in sciences and arts. Its contents should be a living demonstration of the evaluation of knowledge and culture, constantly reviewed, kept up-to-date and attractively presented. In this way, it will help people form their own opinions, and develop their creative and critical capacities and powers of appreciation. The public is concerned with the

communication of information and ideas, whatever the form in which these may be expressed." The public library is rightly designated as an agency for the promotion of universal education. Its task is to disseminate information and enrich personal and social life. The idea of public libraries offering information on everyday societal problems is not new. However, public library involvement in this area in the UK and USA increased after World War II, with active cooperation among governmental and social agencies to help disadvantaged segments of the community. During the 1960s and 1970s, a shift took place and libraries started offering CIS directly. CIS was introduced by public libraries in the Western countries in response to an expressed need at a time when general library service was more or less universally available. The New York Public Library is one of the most active in offering CIS. Community services could be taken as extension services by libraries. CSC can be set over the existing public library system for free and impartial use of Community Information. And this will lead to a better CIS.

(Published on the occasion of Librarians' Day today)

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir.—It seems the BJP-led

Assam Government has forgotten for during the elections. They have stopped talking about '*Jati Mai-Bheti*' now. It is irrelevant to name 22 proposed colleges after Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, a Jan Sangh leader, who had no contribution towards Assam. All the colleges could have been named after 22 eminent personalities of the State. It could have been a great opportunity to pay tribute to eminent personalities like

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya colleges

Lakshminath Bezbaroa, Anundo Ram Barooah, Hem Chandra Barua, Padmanab Golain Barua, Bhimbar Deuri, Sitanath Brahma Choudhury and many more. There is no mention of such personalities in the school textbooks too which keeps the young generation ignorant of these great personalities. The school textbooks now come from the NCERT, which hardly covers any topic about Assam. Then, how will the new generation know about the eminent personalities of Assam? In spite of the opposition of several

organizations and a cross-section of the people, the Government has gone further to set up the colleges in the name of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. It clearly reflects the indifference of the BJP Government towards the eminent personalities. Yours etc., JUNAID ALI AHMED, Tezpur University.

APSC answer keys

Sir.—Apropos the letters 'APSC Answer keys' published from time to time in connection with the General Studies paper as well as Optional Papers of the CC (Prel) Exam, 2016 held recently, the Commission stands by the concerns expressed by the candidates. Further, the Commission acknowledges that it has received similar complaints from the concerned candidates with supporting documents to substantiate their claims against the official answer keys offered by the Commission. Such objections are being sent to the empanelled designated paper setters for their comments. On receipt of the responses from the paper setters, the same will again be uploaded in the APSC's website which will be treated as the final answer keys. This is the procedure that has been followed by APSC over the years to

maintain transparency and accuracy in the interests of all stakeholders. Yours etc.,— PRINCIPAL CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS, Assam Public Service Commission, Guwahati.

Turn rhetoric

Sir.—From the Prime Minister of our country down to almost all BJP leaders, each one is known for his/her unique style of rhetoric. Recently our Chief Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal very eloquently condemned corruption in public life and vowed to eradicate the same during his tenure.

Let me cite a few examples of corruption which effect common people like us. The Guwahati-based sister departments of GMC and GMDA should cater to the welfare and needs of the citizens but both are known to be dens of corruption.

Its officials, peons, clerks, officers namely engineers, architects and heads of various branches do not move your papers in absence of graft.

They will create such a condition for you that there is no way but to cough out your hard-earned money. Be it L, land sale/purchase, assessment/reassessment of your dwelling, building permission, contractors bill—the papers will simply stagnate for months and years. Again, regarding building

permission, even if papers are through, you are coerced to contribute 1% of your estimated building cost to Assam Building and other construction Workers Welfare Board (ABCWWB). This Board was very recently in the news that a huge sum of Rs149 crore was unearthed, the details of which was never known afterward. To make my narration short, we suspect that a gullible commission seeker has paid with tens of thousands rupees for obtaining or clearance for a dwelling house construction in addition to graft going beyond Rs. 25000/- . This is the reality with one or two aspects of GMC/GMDA works. Now just imagine what would be volume of graft generated in the two departments when we consider all aspects of their works. Let Sonowal take a note of it.

If corruption is to be uprooted it is to be dealt with at the top level. I mean at the ministry or top bureaucratic levels. Yours etc., PRASANNA KUMAR PHOOKAN, Lakhnagar, Guwahati.

Kudos to Rashmi Dey

Sir.—Through your esteemed daily I would like to congratulate Rashmi Dey of Hojai for her selection in the under-19 Indian women cricket team's trial camp which will be held in Karnataka from

August 16. She has proved that hard work can outweigh poverty. She also proved that cricket is no more a game of players of big cities.

It gives me immense pleasure that player from a town like Hojai is now knocking at the door of under 19 women's national team. Performance of women cricket in the recently concluded women cricket world cup has definitely encouraged a player like Rashmi Dey.

The Assam Cricket Association (ACA) was established in the year 1947 and got affiliation of the BCCI in the year 1960. Even after 70 years of its establishment it has not been able to produce a single player who can represent India national team. Many players like Abu Nechin Ahmed, Krishna Das etc., failed to fulfill our dream after raising hopes to play for India. Now our hopes have shifted to Rashmi Dey. It is duty of ACA to give her full support both morally as well as monetarily so that she can fulfill the dream of cricket lovers of Assam. Let us hope that she get selected in the under-19 women cricket team and then the national team. Yours etc., DIPAK CHANDA, Lanka.

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

Call for review of SC verdict on 'misuse' of Sec 498A IPC

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: A number of women's organisations and activists from Assam have joined a national drive asking the Chief Justice

of India to review the judgement, which leaves women in a highly vulnerable condition.

The women's organisations argued that Section 498A was already surrounded by myths like its misuse by women for falsely implicating the husband and his family, and the SC ruling has institutionalised the practices with more thrust on saving the marriage instead of saving women from violence.

North East Network; Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS); Mumabi's Special Cell for Women; Shishi Sarothi, All India Progressive Women's Association; activist Nishamoni Borah; Sakhi—One Stop Centre – Kamrup Metro; Legal Centre for Human Rights; Asom Mahila Sangha; All India Democratic Women's Association, Assam and Human Rights Law Network, Assam have asked the SC to review its July 27 judgement.

As per the latest ruling in the case of Rajesh Sharma and others vs State of UP and another, the court directed the police and magistrates that there would be no automatic arrests or coercive

actions arising out of complaints lodged under Section 498A without ascertaining the veracity of the complaints and setting up of a family welfare committee in every district of the country.

The organisations argued that with the power of the police being diluted, the ruling would have adverse implications on women, leaving them more open to abuse during the investigation period.

"It further shifts the burden of investigation to the victim to produce strong evidence of cruelty against her. The courts term 'strong evidence' is also not defined here as we all know such crimes happen behind closed doors and collecting strong evidences is very difficult since most of such crimes are perceived as personal matter," Nilanjali Dutta, a legal expert, on women's issues stated.

The organisations have also given some suggestions regarding the profile and experience of the family welfare committees recommended by the SC, for an effective intervention into the issues of cruelty against women.

"The judgement begins by

noting that 'the institution of marriage is greatly revered in this country' and expresses its concerns over the 'phenomenal increase in matrimonial disputes in recent years'. However, by expressing fear of sudden increase in the breakdown of families and by advocating the retrogressive ideas of preservation of the marital institution over women's individual rights within the household, the court has taken the struggles of the women's movement decades back in time," Anurita Pathak Hazarika of the North East Network said.

"Further disheartening is the fact that though the rate of conviction under Sec 498A was taken into consideration, it is only 15 per cent, suggesting that the remaining 85 per cent cases are false. On the other hand, the NFHS-3 data showing that at least 53 million women have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence in the preceding 12 months, has not been taken into account. Going by the data it is evident that less than 0.17 per cent of women actually filed a case under Sec 498A," she said.

ASSAM POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED

NOTICE

The advertisement published through APGCL's website on 24/07/2017 regarding 'Special Recruitment Drive for Persons with Disabilities' contained a few unintentional errors. The same has been corrected and amended.

Details may be seen in APGCL's website www.apgcl.org.

Applications already received against the earlier advertisement which are found to be fulfilling eligibility criteria as per the amendment shall also be entertained.

Sd/-
General Manager (HR)
APGCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Guwahati-1

APS/2017/55

ASSAM ELECTRICITY GRID CORPORATION LIMITED

CORIGENDUM

SPECIAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWD)

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

Sl No	Name of Posts	No. of Posts	Reserved for PWD candidates
1	Asstt. Accounts Officer	2	Hearing Impaired / Locomotor
2	LDA-cum-Typist	3	Hearing Impaired / Locomotor
3	Peon	2	Hearing Impaired

The details can be downloaded from the AEGCL website: www.aegcl.co.in

Sd/- General Manager (HR) I/C
AEGCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Guwahati-01
EA/2017/53

POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD: ASSAM

BAMUNIMAIDAM : GUWAHATI - 781021

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

As per provision of the Government of India's notification on Environmental Impact Assessment dtd. 14/9/2006, a Public Hearing for proposed "Construction of GCS at BK-1 well-site with 180000 m³ Gas Handling Capacity and Laying of 29.3 Km underground 3.5" seamless Pipeline from well BU-2 to BK-1, including interconnecting pipelines of 4 additional wells at Tehsil Silchar, District-Cachar, Assam by M/S. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. will be conducted at the venue, date and time mentioned below:

Dates & Time

15th September, 2017 Proposed GCS site premises at Vill-Dhonebari PH-II, PO-Sonabarihat, Dist-Cachar, Assam, PIN-788013 under Sonabarihat Gaon Panchayat.

Interested persons of the locality including bonafide residents, environmental activist groups, NGOs within the neighbourhood of the proposed project are hereby requested to attend the aforesaid Public Hearing on date, time and venue as stated above for getting their statements, suggestions, comments, views recorded regarding likely environmental impact and mitigation measures if any. Also, they may send their views and opinions within one month from the date of publication of this Public Hearing notice to the Head Office of the Board.

To know details of the proposed Project, interested public, groups etc. may go through the Executive Summary of Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report and Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will also be available in the Board's Website at <http://www.pcbassam.org>.

Date : 11/08/2017

Member-Secretary, I/c

POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD : ASSAM

BAMUNIMAIDAM, GUWAHATI-781021

website : www.pcbassam.org

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

As per provision of the Government of India's notification on Environmental Impact Assessment dtd. 14/09/2006, a Public Hearing for Setting up of 50TPD Formaldehyde and 50TPD Resins at Palasbari Industrial Estate-I, Mirza Palasbari Road, P.O.-Palasbari, Dist-Kamrup, Assam by M/s. Century Adhesive (A Division of Century Plyboards India Ltd.) will be conducted at the venue, date and time mentioned below :

Date & Time

14th September, 2017 Mahendra Mohan Choudhury High School Campus, Manpur, at 11:00 AM (Kokjhar), near Mirza, P.O.-Palasbari, District-Kamrup

Interested persons of the locality including bonafide residents, environmental activist groups, NGOs within the neighbourhood of the proposed project are hereby requested to attend the aforesaid Public Hearing on date, time and venue as stated above for getting their statements, suggestions, comments, views recorded regarding likely environmental impact and mitigation measures if any. Also, they may send their views and opinions within one month from the date of publication of this Public Hearing notice to the Head Office of the Board.

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- The Deputy Commissioner's Office, Kamrup District, Amligaon, Assam.
- District Industry Center, Kamrup District, Mirza, Assam.
- The President, Kochpara Gaon Panchayat, Manpur, District-Kamrup, Assam.
- Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Kamrup District, Assam.
- Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, Regional Office, Upland Road, Laitumkhrah, Shillong-3.
- Regional Office Guwahati, Govt. Press Road, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21.
- The Head Office of the Board, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21.

The Executive Summary of Draft EIA report and Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will also be available in the Board's Website at <http://www.pcbassam.org>.

Date : 11/08/2017

Member-Secretary, I/c

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: Under the banner of the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), the Assam State unit of All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) participated in a demonstration held yesterday at Bhangarghat here.

The demonstration was organised to oppose the anti-people banking reforms, writing off of corporate NPAs and increase in different service charges.

"We have been observing that the burden of the corporate NPAs is put on the shoulders of the common people in the form of hike in fees, charges and penalties for all types of banking services. UFBU also demands immediate implementation of the Parliamenta-

ry Committee recommendation on recovery of NPAs and adequate recruitment in banks," the confederation said.

The UFBU, an umbrella organisation of nine units of state-run banks in the country, had called for a nationwide bank strike on August 22 to press for fulfilment of its various demands and protest the anti-people reforms in the banking sector.

About 10 lakh bank employees and officers from all the nine unions will observe the strike. On August 16, another demonstration programme will be organised at all centres across the states. The demonstration in Guwahati is scheduled at 5:30 pm in front of UBI, Pan Bazaar, Guwahati. A daylong dharna programme will also be held at Dighalipukhuri on August 18.

Illegal timber seized

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: The Lower Assam Flying Protection Squad of the forest department intercepted a truck (AS 25 AC 8643) carrying illegal timber worth Rs 1.5 lakh near Lokhra Chariali this evening. The driver, Milan Deka, has been detained. – Staff Reporter

Inconvenience that may cause to our valued consumers is highly regretted.

Sd/- Assistant General Manager
Guwahati Electrical Division (S)
APDCL

EA/2017/52

Bank officers' body stir

STAFF REPORTER

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GUWAHATI, Aug 11: The Lower Assam Flying Protection Squad of the forest department intercepted a truck (AS 25 AC 8643) carrying illegal timber worth Rs 1.5 lakh near Lokhra Chariali this evening. The driver, Milan Deka, has been detained. – Staff Reporter

Inconvenience that may cause to our valued consumers is highly regretted.

Sd/- Assistant General Manager
Guwahati Electrical Division (S)
APDCL

EA/2017/52

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

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CIN No : L40101DL1989G01083121

प्राइवेट लिमिटेड

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.: BN17AG118

Tender No.: BGR_50506_1

Procurement of Work for conversion of 2500 tcm farm area into a model tank farm inside Bongiogam

Dowmawang, District-Cachar.

Download Period : 12.08.2017 to 02.09.2017

Bid submission closing date : 03.09.2017

Contact Person : ELE Contracts, Ph: 0364-253390

Email : gencor@indianoil.in

Visit www.indianoilindia.in for detailed information.

Please read the tender documents, Addendums/contingencies, if any, shall be hosted on this website only.

Job opportunities in IndianOil, only for those who have registered on IndianOil.com for detailed information.

Download Period : 12.08.2017 to 02.09.2017

Bid Submission Date : 03.09.2017

Last Date for Submission of Bid : 03.09.2017

For details please visit the official website : www.iitg.ac.in.

Sd/- Director

NIT No. IIITG/ADMIN/01/2017/01 Dated: 11.08.2017

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations are invited from experienced Firms/Transporters for providing "Bus services to transport Students". Interested parties may submit their quotations till 3 p.m. of 21-08-2017. Quotations will be opened at 3:30 p.m. on the same day.

For details please visit the official website : www.iitg.ac.in.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. IIITG/ADMIN/01/2017/01 Dated: 11.08.2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.: NESH-CSM/NET/Ex-ndt-1 Dated: 29.05.2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.: NESH/CSM/NT/Ex-ndt-1 Dated: 29.05.2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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Concern over move to set up college at Bengal florican habitat

SIVASISH THAKUR

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: The move of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) and the State Government to set up a full-fledged Agro-Forestry and Biodiversity College at the site of the defunct Central Seeds Farm (later Kokilabari Agri Farm) at Kokilabari on the fringes of Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve could destroy one of the few remaining habitats of the critically-endangered Bengal florican. Endemic to a few pockets

of the Indian subcontinent besides Vietnam and Cambodia, the global Bengal florican population is less than 1,500, with a sizeable number finding a secure home in Manas. And the area in and around the abandoned agri farm has been a major breeding ground for this rare bird.

"Sources in the Forest department told *The Assam Tribune* that the move to set up a college would be a severe blow to Bengal florican conservation, as the construction of a full-fledged

Manas National Park

college and its subsequent functioning would effectively drive out the birds from the area.

"A shy and elusive bird, the Bengal florican needs undisturbed habitat. The seeds farm and later the agri farm did not particularly affect it, as those have been in an abandoned state for long. But the presence of a full-fledged college is bound to cause irreparable damage to its habitat," sources said.

Significantly, among the five major locations of the

Moreover, the area also serves as an important wildlife corridor for many animals including the tiger. "The area, in fact, is critical for Manas Tiger Reserve as a whole. There should be no dearth of site for construction of a college without harming the Bengal florican and Manas. The authorities should explore other options," sources added.

"The area – around 9 sq km – has been a secure

widespread deforestation and fragmentation. "The least we can do is to hasten the fragmentation process. There will be lots of suitable places for construction of the college," he added.

The site of the Seeds Farm was leased out from Kokilabari Reserved Forest in 1972. The lease was extended once in 2002. Conservationists feel that the Forest department should have taken back the land's custody instead of extending the lease in the greater interest of Manas.



Meet on flood contingency measures organised

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, Aug 11: A day-long awareness cum training programme on flood contingency measures was organised at Naruwa village near Mukalmawa in Nalbari district by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Nalbari.

The awareness meeting was held in collaboration with the State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development (SIPRD) Nalbari on August 7. Taking part as a resource person, Dr Mridul Deka, chief scientist and programme coordinator of KVK, Nalbari told the farmers about various agricultural measures to be taken in the flood-affected areas. He also emphasised on growing short duration paddy varieties such as Luit or Dishing in pre and post flood situations.

Speaking in the awareness meeting, Manabendra Bharali, Specialist (Agronomy), KVK, Nalbari described in details the various technologies available and developed by AAU, Jorhat including rice varieties and management practices for flood and drought-like situations. He also urged the farmers to raise community nurseries as a contingency measure for flood. About 50 farmers of Naruwa (Mukalmawa) area took part in the programme.

OBITUARY

Jiten Sharma

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: Jiten Sharma, a retired Allahabad Bank officer and a resident of Borsajai, passed away at Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi on Tuesday last. He leaves behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives. His death has been widely mourned.

Malabika Das Sarma

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: Malabika Das Sarma, an ex-officer Superintendent of Indian Railways and a social worker passed away on August 8. She was 98.

The residents of Alandangan, Panbari have lost a dedicated social worker in her passing.



A school submerged under floodwaters in Chirang on Thursday. – UB Photos

Scribe body demands land rights for indigenous people of BTAD

CORRESPONDENT

KALIAGAON, Aug 11: The Udalguri District Journalists' Union has requested the State government and the BTAD administration to grant *myati patta* to all indigenous people living in the BTAD since or before its creation.

According to the union's president, taking advantage of the loopholes of the government's land policy, most of the roadside agri and hill lands have either been encroached upon,

transferred or allotted to non-indigenous people for setting up of industries, factories or educational institutions causing massive destruction of forest and biodiversity.

Lopards, snakes, lizards etc., have been displaced out of their habitats. The union has requested the government to enact new laws prohibiting transfer, sale or lease of such lands other than for the purpose of agriculture.

Regarding the land status in the BTAD or in other districts

protected under the Sixth schedule of the Indian constitution, the union urged that sale, lease and transfer of lands to anybody other than indigenous people of Assam must be banned.

Most importantly, the Assamese people have been deprived of *myati patta* even after living in BTAD for decades. The president of the union has requested the government to consider the issue for peace and prosperity for all indigenous people living in the BTAD.

and means to address their grievances.

Ex-servicemen, Veer naris and war widows from Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts and Itanagar in neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh will attend the rally.

The General Officer Commanding, Formidable 56 Division, will attend the inaugural session of the rally on that day.

Representatives of the PCDA(P)-Allahabad, Medical and Health Re-employment,

the Zila Sainik Board, the Army Recruitment Office-Jorhat and officials from the State Bank of India (SBI) will also take part in the rally and address the grievances of ex-servicemen.

Health check-up of ex-servicemen will be conducted on the occasion.

A felicitation programme along with distribution of gifts among ex-servicemen, Veer naris and war widows, will also be held on the occasion.

Ex-servicemen's rally in Lakhimpur on Aug 20

CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, Aug 11: A rally for the ex-servicemen will be organised by the Gunners under the aegis of Formidable 56 Division of the Indian Army at the North Lakhimpur College here on August 20.

The main aim of the rally is to provide opportunities for a comprehensive interaction among ex-servicemen, Veer naris and war widows,

and means to address their grievances.

Ex-servicemen, Veer naris and war widows from Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts and Itanagar in neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh will attend the rally.

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Rise in human trafficking a cause of concern in Assam: NGO

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: Even though women in Assam traditionally enjoy a respectable status in the society, their socio-economic status has been greatly affected due to human trafficking and rise in crimes against them in the State, as per a study conducted by the Drishit Street Adhyayan Prabodhan Kendra.

The study, conducted in 91 villages of Hailakandi, Dima Hasao, Kokrajhar, Tinsukia and Jorhat districts, found that uneducated and poor girls in these districts are being lured into prostitution and other forms of immoral and illegal acts by agents who offer them jobs mainly as domestic help outside the State.

The study was released at the Vivekananda Kendra, Uzambazar here.

Naba Doley, Minister of Social Welfare, Panchayat and Rural Development, Culture and Sports, while expressing concern over the emerging trends related to crimes against women, laid stress on the financial independence of women to strengthen their position in the society.



he added.

Drishit Street Adhyayan Prabodhan Kendra is a Pune-based information, documentation and research centre working in the field of women issues. It has conducted its study in Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

The NGO further intends to carry out similar studies in other parts of the Northeast as well.

Speaking on the occasion, Geeta

Gunde, founder trustee of the Drishit Street Adhyayan Prabodhan Kendra, said unlike many other States in the country, discrimination against women traditionally does not exist in Assam.

"The menace of human trafficking has increased in poor countries throughout the world and the reasons are known to the conscious citizens. However, to bring in the desirable changes, we need to focus on the key factors of human trafficking, which are social as well as financial," she added.

Assam State Commission for Women chairperson Chikimiki Talukdar and Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairperson Rumumi Gogoi shared their experiences on these issues.

Krishna Das, chairperson of the Assam State Social Welfare Board, also talked about several initiatives of the State Government to intervene in such issues.

Earlier, Dr Devika Barman, coordinator of the Kendra in Assam, delivered the welcome address. The objectives of the programme were highlighted by secretary Dr Anjali Deshpande.

Paddy purchase centre opened at Kaliabor

ANN Service

KALIABOR, Aug 11: A paddy purchase centre established under the auspices of the Kaliabor Sub-Divisional Administration in collaboration with the Dhang Niyantrik Market Committee was inaugurated at Hatigong here recently by State Water Resources and IT Minister Keshab Mahanta in the presence of officials concerned and others.

Inaugurating the centre, Mahanta, in his speech, dis-

closed that the paddy purchase centre would play a significant role in the progress and development of farmers in the State. The Government has launched the Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Utsavayan Yojana, a mega project for the development of rural areas of the State, he said, adding that there would be nine mini missions under that mega project.

To implement this project, the State Government would provide 26,000 tractors to farmers of 26,000 revenue vil-

lages. Further, the Government will spend more than Rs 1 crore to establish all facilities in the villages, he added.

Earlier, Dinsenra Borua, executive magistrate, described basic objective of the SDO (function, while P Chakravarty, SDO (charge), Kaliabor gave his welcome address.

I-Day programme: The Independence Day will be celebrated at the Gandhi Maidan, Kaliabor here centrally on August 15 under the auspices of the Kaliabor Civil Sub-Divisional administration.



Students taking part in a rehearsal for the Independence Day parade at Gohpur High School field, in Gohpur on Thursday. – UB Photos

Jorhat-Majuli ferry service suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT: Aug 11: The ferry service between Jorhat (Neamati Ghat) and several ghats of Majuli island and also from the island today remained suspended due to increase in the water level of the Brahmaputra.

On the other hand, about 30 villages have been submerged in Majuli after water level entered several areas of the island due to rise in water level of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries since yesterday reportedly after NEEPCO released twice water level from Raniganj Dam on Thursday.

In Jorhat district, 22 villages falling under Teok, Jorhat West, Jorhat East and Titabar revenue circles have been

submerged by flood waters. However, the water level of Jhanji and Bhogdoi rivers were below the danger level.

Memo submitted: All Assam Diploma Agricultural Engineers' Association (ADAEA), has recently submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, seeking 80 per cent job reservation in various State and Central Government departments, public sector unit undertakings, a press release issued by the AADEA stated.

STATE

Dibrugarh grapples with devastating flood

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH: Aug 11: In yet another flash flood, thousands of homes and several tracts of agricultural land in the district have come under the devastating flood water.

The rising flood water has continued to submerge human habitations and standing crops in the region at stretch since yesterday afternoon.

Several have been rendered homeless and their cattle and poultry birds have also been affected. Although vast majority has taken shelter in high land areas, others have moved to nearby relief camps set up by the district admin-

istration and NGOs. Officials monitoring the situation said that the affected people were estimated around 30,000 in the district till 1 pm.

As always, the worst affected have been the villagers of Rohmoria, and Dadiha under Chabua revenue circle and Lezai, Kalakawha and Gourdharia areas under Dibrugarh West revenue circle due to its proximity to the mighty Brahmaputra and Sessa river respectively. Flood has also inundated homes and crops in Tengakhat, Moran and in Dibrugarh East revenue circles.

About 3,255.75 hectare area has been affected by the

flood in the district while affected crop area has been measured about 1,547.85 hectares till this afternoon. The district administration rushed SDRF teams with at least five boats for rescue operations, particularly in Dadiha and Rohmoria. Eight medical teams have also been moved to the affected areas. Relief materials like rice, dal, salt, tarps, mosquito repellants and mosquito nets have also been dispatched for distribution, Dipitik Hatiakoti, District Project Officer, District Disaster Management Authority, Dibrugarh told *The Assam Tribune*.

Deputy Commissioner Laya Madduri also visited some of the affected areas and interacted with the flood victims.

Meanwhile, the veterinary office here has also rushed its team including doctors and their staff to various affected areas. Dr RB Pradhan, Sub Divisional Veterinary Officer told this correspondent.

"We have asked the administration to immediately supply us fodder and other animal feeds for the affected cattle and birds," said Dr Pradhan.

The deluge may take its worst part as the heavy downpour is continuing and the river water of the Brahmaputra and tributary Sessa, Dehing and Disang etc., are reported flying above danger level el in an increasing trend.

One drowned
CORRESPONDENT

BISWANATH CHARIALI, Aug 11: The Gohpur town area and some other parts of the sub-division in Biswanath district got inundated again due to the incessant rain that has been going on since yesterday morning.

Serubasti, Timukinia and Kekurjan in Halem revenue circle in Gohpur sub-division. Communication along the Timukinia-Buroi Tea Estate road was also disrupted while the campuses of Nehru High School and Nehru ME School and the local graveyard is under flood water.

Gohpur inundated again

CORRESPONDENT

In Gohpur, ward no. 6 is the most affected area as the surging water of Chatrang river breached its dyke that was repaired recently. On the other hand, the sudden rise of water level in the Brahmaputra river breached the dyke near Kekurjan and flooded the villages of Nalinibari, Bogabati,

Nikhil Bharat Krishak Sabha stages dharna at Ghilamara

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAMI: Aug 11: In demand of adequate compensation to the flood-hit people, early solving of flood-related problems and permanent solution to the flood problems of the Jadhav, Karbi, Kumata and Na-nadi in Golaini Mouza under Subansiri Revenue Circle, the Ghalamara and Dewali anchalkhi samitis of Nikhil Bharat Krishak Sabha in cooperation with the flood-affected people here staged a dharna on August 9 in front of the Circle Officer's Office of Subansiri Revenue Circle.

The activists took out a rally from Ghilamara Krishni Bhawan to Subansiri Revenue Circle Officer's Office at 10 am by holding banners and fests in their hands and shouting slogans against the State Government for fulfillment of their demands. The rally led by Girish Ghosh and Khagen Chutia, president and secre-

tary of the Ghilamara anchalkhi and Ghana Gogoi and Sudsil Sinha, president and secretary of the Dewali anchalkhi unit of the organisation demonstrated a strongly expressed their resentment in front of the Circle Officer of Subansiri Revenue circle.

They also strongly demanded for permanent solution to the flood problem in the mouza. In this regard, the activists demanded the government to recognise the flood problem of Assam as a national problem and solve it accordingly.

The agitators also urged the authority to repair and reconstruct the damaged and breached roads and bridges by the recent flood in the mouza soon. The activists also urged the authority to frequently send medical teams in the flood-hit areas with medicines and drinking water.

On the other hand, the activists also demanded for exempt of the land revenue in the flood-affected mouza.

The one of the unidentified body was found floating at the edge of the Brahmaputra at Janiji Bagan panchayat under Dhakukhama Police Station at 7.20 pm.

The body was later sent to Lakhimpur Civil Hospital by Dhakukhama police for post-mortem.

While, another body was noticed floating by the local people at the Khera river yesterday morning. The body was identified as Ghana Gogoi of Hilloidih village here.

Women NGO carry out collection drive for flood-hit people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT: Aug 11: Swadhin Nar Shakti (SNS), a Guwahati-based NGO involved in work related to the empowerment of women across Assam, today carried out a collection drive among the public from different areas of the town here for flood victims of the State.

The three-member team of NGO comprising Rhea Das, general secretary, Baranali Das, executive president, and Sudakshina Bhuyan, chief executive officer (Women and Child Development) carried out the collection drive with an appeal to the people to donate at least Rs one to offer a helping hand to the flood-affected people.

Shubham said that the drive carried for over two hours in busy market areas of Gar Ali, AT Road, KS Road and Kharo Road near the district court campus here led to a collection of Rs 4,000 with several persons donating above Rs 500 and the highest amount being Rs one thousand by an individual.

Bhuyan said that the NGO recently carried out similar drives in Guwahati, Nagaon and Nalbari towns and the money collected will be used to help those who are still stranded in the State.

She said that the teachers to distribute medicines, sanitation and food items among the flood-affected people.

The money collected in Jorhat will be used to buy items for Majuli island flood victims, which will be distributed soon.

The CEO said that today a two-member team comprising Alpana Sarma, president, and Mousami Prabhat Bora, executive secretary of SNS visited Ladhakpur district and distributed relief items to flood-affected victims.

Bhuyan said that tomorrow the NGO will carry out a collection drive among the public in Tezpur. She added that a signature campaign to prohibit liquor in the State too is also planned in Tezpur.

Silver jubilee of Hailakandi Women's College observed

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI: Aug 11: Various programmes were organised on the occasion of 25th foundation day of Hailakandi Women's College held here recently.

The inaugural function was presided over by the president of the governing body of the college, former minister Gautam Roy. Speaking on the occasion, the Director of College Development Council of Assam University, Dr Debashis Kar said that the system of read-

ing in present day has changed drastically due to the introduction of digital education. There is no scarcity of information in the internet and the students can get all sorts of information in the net. He hoped that the students of Women's College can also use the e-learning process. Students will be mainly benefitted through digital India Dr Kar said.

He stressed the need of extensive women's education for the development of the society and said that the development of the community and

the backbone of family.

The meeting was also addressed by eminent poet Ashutosh Das, retired college teacher, Dr Bidhan Chandra Deb, Ashok Duttagupta, Zakir Hussain Choudhury and the principal of the college, Bijoy Kumar Dhar among others. The secretary of College Council, Sumita Das also addressed at the outset of the meeting.

LIBRARIAN'S DAY TODAY

DERGONA, Aug 11: The 125th birth day of Dr SR Ranganathan, the father of Library Science in India will be celebrated as Librarian's Day tomorrow.

The Golaghat District Library Association will also celebrate the day with a day-long programme in association with Joya Gogoi College, Khamtai tomorrow.

The programme will start with *smriti tarpan*. An open meeting will be held under the

presidency of Khogeswar Borah in the chair where a popular lecture on library service

will be held. – Correspondent

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No: NHM/PROC/RBSK/3324/2017-18/10978 Date: 10/08/2017

NOT FOR ENTERING INTO RATE CONTRACT OF COCHLEAR IMPLANT DEVICE AND PREPARATION FOR HEARING AID NATIONAL DEMAND DRAFT

e-Tenders in Bid System (Technical Bid and Price Bid as BOC to be uploaded online) offering court fee stamp of Rs 8.25 or IPO of Rs 10/- are invited from manufacturers or authorized distributors/dealers for entering into rate contract for "Supply of Cochlear Implant Device and Digital Programmable Hearing Aid" for RBSK Programme.

The complete e-tender documents may be obtained from the website: <http://assamntenders.gov.in> and the tender document will have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <http://assamntenders.gov.in>. The tender should be submitted on-line in the portal <http://assamntenders.gov.in> or before 05/09/2017 up to 2:00 PM. e-Tender Notice may also be seen in the NHM official website: www.nhmassam.in.

The Bidder shall also submit a proof for payment like non-refundable demand draft of Rs. 200/- and EMD worth Rs 17 Lakhs (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs) only in the form of Demand Draft/BG favouring "State Health Society, Assam".

The Original Demand Draft/BG for Tender Fee, EMD and Court Fee Stamp (Rs 8.25)/IPO (Rs 10/-) along with the hardcopy of technical bid only should be submitted to the Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam, Sankia Commercial Complex, Shringeri Path, Christian Basti, G S Road, Guwahati-781005. Assam on or before the last date and time of submission of the tender. The scanned copy of all the same should also be uploaded in the portal <http://assamntenders.gov.in>.

Important dates of the tender:

Sl.	Subscribed	Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1	Tender Document	12/08/2017	10:00 AM		
2	Tender Document	12/08/2017	01:00 PM	04/09/2017	01:00 PM
3	Bid Submission	31/08/2017	10:00 AM	05/09/2017	02:00 PM
4	Pre-Bid Meeting	22/08/2017	03:00 PM		
5	Bid opening	05/09/2017	03:00 PM		

Sd:-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

ASSAM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Assam Undertaking)
R. G. Baruah Road, Guwahati-781024

Ph.: 0361-2201215, 2202116, Fax: 0361-2200060

CIN - U7512AS1965SGC001246

Date: 11-08-2017

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for filling the following vacant posts in Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited (a Govt of Assam undertaking), Guwahati.

Name of Post	No. of Post	Academic Qualification/ Experience	Age Limit	Pay Band + Grade Limit
Additional Financial Controller	1 (one)	Should be CA/Cost Accountant with 4 years post-qualification experience	35	Rs of ₹12,000- ₹40,000/- GP of ₹6,000/-
Technical Officer	4 (four)	Should be Graduate in Engineering from a recognized University/ Institute having minimum 1½ years experience in reputed Industrial Organizations in their respective fields of specialization.	30	PB of ₹12,000- ₹40,000/- GP of ₹5,400/-
	1 (one)	Preference will be given to the candidates securing 1 st class in Degree in Engineering and also possessing MBA qualification.		
	1 (one)	Should be Graduate in Engineering from a recognized University/ Institute having minimum 1½ years experience in reputed Industrial Organizations in their respective fields of specialization.		

General Conditions:

- Age Relaxation may be given as per State Govt. Rules.
- Reservation exists as per State Govt. directives.
- Applications with full details along with attested copies of certificates in support of educational qualifications, experience, age, caste, permanent residence etc. along with a recent passport size photograph should reach the Managing Director within 20 days from the date of publication of the advertisement.
- Candidates presently employed in Government/Department/Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Organizations should send their applications through proper channel or produce NOC at the time of interview, failing which their candidature will not be entertained.
- Incomplete applications/applications with wrong particulars will not be considered.

Sd:- Managing Director

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No:NHM-CW/SNIT-NCD-Cell/Repair and Rent/NPCDS/Different District/PIP(2016-17)/Assam/3539/17/22

Dated Guwahati the 11th August/2017

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (INT)

The Office of the Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam invites bidders for works under NHM in single bid system (in F2 form) affixing court fee stamp of Rs 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Twenty Five Paisa) only for the works as detailed below:

Sl No	Name of the Health Institution with District	Grp.	Value of work (In Rs.)	Bid Security (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (from the date of issue of work order)
<i>Repair and Renovation NCD-Cell at DCHU/DHS office complex in Different District of Assam under NHM'</i>						
1	At Udalguri District Hospital in Udalguri	A	Rs.2,50,00,000	Rs.12,500.00	2000.00	2 (Two) months
2	At Goalpara Civil Hospital in Goalpara	B	Rs.2,50,00,000	Rs.12,500.00	2000.00	2 (Two) months
3	At JI. DHS Office Complex in Bongaigaon District	C	Rs.2,50,00,000	Rs.12,500.00	2000.00	2 (Two) months
4	At JI. DHS Office Complex in Cachar District	D	Rs.2,50,00,000	Rs.12,500.00	2000.00	2 (Two) months
5	At JI. DHS Office Complex in Dibrugarh District	E	Rs.2,50,00,000	Rs.12,500.00	2000.00	2 (Two) months
6	At Sonapur District Hospital in Kamrup (M) Dist.	F	Rs.2,50,00,000	Rs.12,500.00	2000.00	2 (Two) months
7	At Hafong Civil Hospital in Dibrugarh District	G	Rs.2,50,00,000	Rs.12,500.00	2000.00	2 (Two) months
8	At JJB Civil Hospital in Chirang District	H	Rs.2,50,00,000	Rs.12,500.00	2000.00	2 (Two) months

Eligibility Criteria:-

- Registered APWD (Bldg) Class I-A, B,C/Class-II /CPWD Contractors/Reputed Const./Company/ Agency registered under Govt./ Public sector undertaking.
- Contractors having at least one similar nature of completed work valued at not less than 80% of the proposed project cost during last 5 (Five) year.
- Contractors having at least one similar nature of completed work valued at not less than 80% of the proposed project cost during last 5 (Five) year.
- etc. are ELIGIBLE to participate in the bid process.

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

(f) The intended bidders or their authorized representatives are to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

(g) The intended bidders or their authorized representatives are to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

(h) The intended bidders or their authorized representatives are to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

(i) The intended bidders or their authorized representatives are to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

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(s) The intended bidders or their authorized representatives are to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

(t) The intended bidders or their authorized representatives are to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

(u) The intended bidders or their authorized representatives are to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

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WEATHER NORTHEAST

Forecast for NE: Moderate rain-thundershower is very likely to occur at most places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura.

Warnings: Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 12 and 13 over Arunachal Pradesh. Heavy to very heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places with isolated heavy falls on August 12, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 13 and heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 14 and 15 over Assam, Meghalaya. Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 12 and 13 over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Temperatures

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	27.5	24.4
Tezpur	27.5	24.4
Silchar	27.8	25.6
Dhubri	27.0	25.7
Jorhat	27.4	24.7
Mahakalipur	27.3	26.0
Shillong	22.4	15.7
Imphal	27.4	22.4
Itanagar	27.3	22.0
Aizawl	26.7	11.4
Agartala	25.2	23.2
Kohima	25.4	22.4
Pasighat	25.1	22.2
Cherrapunjee	21.2	18.6



A massive landslip occurred at the National Highway connecting Banderdewa to Nirjuli, disrupting the surface communication at Karsingsa in Arunachal Pradesh on Friday. — UB Photos

Flood, landslides snap communication in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, Aug 11: Surface communication in several parts of Arunachal Pradesh has been disrupted in the second wave of flood and landslides triggered by heavy rains since the last couple of days.

Surface communication between Banderdewa and Itanagar has been affected after a portion of the NH-415 near Karsingsa eroded today. However, the administration has diverted the traffic from Banderdewa to Nirjuli via Haukti-Domukh road, an official report said.

Incessant rain also triggered landslides in several parts of the State. Anjaw district remained cut off from rest of the State after several stretches on Tezni-Hawai road was hit by landslides in the last two days severely hampering connectivity of the occasion on a grand scale.

Officials said that in different parts of the State capital security has been beefed up. This is a routine security measure that the security apparatus undertakes before holding of events in the State.

As part of the celebrations different events have been lined up at different places apart from the customary hoisting of the flag at Polo grounds. "Chief Minister Mukul Sangma would hoist the flag at Polo Grounds," officials said.

Deputy Chief Minister R C Laloo would hoist the Tri-Colour at Jowai Home Minister HDR Lyngdoh at Ampati, Roshan Warji, health Minister would hoist the Tri-Colour at Nongstoin, Congress president and former CM Minister, DD Lapang at Nongkrem are the other dignitaries who would join the celebrations across the State.

Incessant rains inundate villages in West Khasi Hills

SHILLONG, Aug 11: The incessant rains over the past couple of days has swelled the Kyshni river in West Khasi Hills district and inundated several villages in the district.

According to district authorities the river is flowing above the danger mark and the water has flowed into villages near the River. The district administration has already made preparations to tackle the flood.

In one of the worst affected villages, Kyshni, the residents have been advised to move to higher grounds. The district administration has made all emergency arrangements for these residents.

District officials said a high alert has been sounded in the district owing to the continuous rain and the swollen Kyshni River and officials are out on the ground to assist the people. They have advised people residing near the river and also rivulets like Nonbali and Nondeing to be prepared for an emergency situation as the rains have shown no sign of respite so far.

Authorities added that the disaster management team is ready to tackle any eventuality and would move out people from low lying areas if necessary.

The officials are in touch with village heads to undertake evacuation of the residents if necessary and provide them with temporary relief till the flood water abates. — Staff Correspondent

IMD warns of rapid rise in NE river water levels

GUWAHATI, Aug 11: Meteorological department today issued advisory forecast of rapid rise in water levels of rivers in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Sikkim for the next five days.

A release of Union Ministry of Water Resources said that heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy rainfall are very likely to occur in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Sikkim.

Putumari and Padiglaya rivers in Assam, Kamrup and Nalbari districts of Assam are likely to flow in moderate to high flood situation between August 10 to August 14 as also Beki and Manas rivers in Barpeta district during the period from August 10 to August 15.

The department said, Aagurang and Chirang districts of Assam are likely to flow in moderate to high flood levels in some reaches during the period at Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang and Goalpara districts of Assam.

Kansabari river in Dhubri district of Assam is also likely to flow in similar levels during the same period.

Rivers in south Sikkim are also likely to flow in moderate flood situation during the period. — PTI

Arunachal BJP unit breaks alliance with PPA

ITANAGAR, Aug 11: The Arunachal Pradesh BJP unit has severed relations with its North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) partner, the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA).

The announcement to this effect was made by state BJP president Tapir Gao during the State executive meeting of the party here yesterday.

NEDA Convener Himanta Biswa Sarma passed on the decision of the BJP central leaders to break alliance with PPA to Gao, who made the announcement yesterday, a party release informed here today.

"The BJP will treat PPA at

par with the Congress as an opponent political party," the release added.

The BJP has 47 MLAs in the Arunachal Pradesh assembly with effective strength of 59 with 12 independent supporters. The PPA has 9 MLAs and the Congress has one Legislator.

The NEDA was formed on May 24, 2016 by BJP along with regional political parties like Naga People's Front, Sikkim Democratic Front, People's Party of Arunachal, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) in the North-east. — PTI



Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal receiving a cheque of Rs 1 crore to the CM's Relief Fund from NEEPCO CMD AG West Kharkongor in Guwahati on Wednesday.

New initiatives to boost coffee production in Nagaland

KOHIMA, Aug 11: Nagaland having a favourable land for coffee farming would be undertaking plantation of 64 lakh coffee seedlings during this current year. Disclosing this during a training programme on coffee plantation here, Director of Land Resources Department, Hoto Yephlo said as nodal department of the Government for coffee plantation in the State, the department would be giving seven lakh coffee saplings to the coffee farmers throughout the State.

The coffee seedlings, provided by the Coffee Board of India (CBI) to Nagaland, has increased from 300 kg to 620 kg in 2016 and 2400 kg this year, which comes to about 64 lakh seedlings.

Yephlo informed that the survey conducted by Coffee Board of India has graded Nagaland soil and weather condition very favourable for coffee, while the department has entered into an agreement with South African-based coffee company 'Noble Cause' for export of all coffee produced in the State.

Yephlo encouraged the local people to take up coffee farming with all earnestness in order to yield self-sustainable income and enhance economy. He also urged them not to try to demand for subsidy alone but labour hard to yield the fruit.

"Let us join hands together to grow coffee and enhance the economy of the State in general," Yephlo appealed.

Joint Director (Research) for Coffee Board Dr C G Anand expressed the hope that the persistent effort of the department will not only increase coffee plantation in Nagaland, but will produce the finest of coffee to put the State in the coffee map of the world.

District project Director, Dr Menusiusuo Tsekiha, informed that Kohima is presently leading the State in planting coffee with 7.5 lakh seedlings planted since 2015 while another 7 lakh seedlings would be planted in 304 hectares of land during this current year. — PTI



NPP delegation meets Union Food Processing Minister

CORRESPONDENT

TURA, Aug 11: Despite being one of the largest producers of banana in the entire Asia continent, the Kharakutta block does not have a banana trading market in the State as well as food-processing centre that has upset the farmers in the locality. The demand for a food processing centre in Kharakutta may finally come true after a delegation of NPP met Union Food Processing Minister Har-

simant Kaur Badal.

"Banana is the fifth most traded agricultural commodity in the world after cereals, sugar, coffee and cocoa. It is the second most important fruit crop in India, next only to mango. Its year-round availability, affordability, variety and medicinal value makes it the favourite fruit among all classes of the

people," said Rupert Momin. "Kharakutta in North Garo Hills in Meghalaya is one of the largest producers in South East Asia, and supplies to West Bengal, Bihar, UP and Orissa. The recent trend of market regulation has been unstable and the farmers are suffering a lot," he added.

"We met the Union Minister and apprised her about the availability of banana production in the area and urged her to establish a food-processing centre in and around the area for the benefits of the farmers," said Rupert.

The delegation was led by

MNF opposes Citizenship Amendment Bill

ALIZAWL, Aug 11: The Mizoram National Front (MNF), the main Opposition party in Mizoram, has opposed to the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill.

"The Citizenship Amend-

ment Bill 2017 is to be introduced in the upcoming winter session of the Parliament. If passed, the Bill will allow many Chakmas foreigners in Mizoram who infiltrated from Bangladesh to become citizens of India. As Chakmas are listed as Scheduled Tribe in Mizoram, Chakma foreigners will enjoy the same rights with the Mizos," MNF president and former Chief Minister Zoramthanga said here today.

Zoramthanga called upon the State Government, all political parties, NGOs and students organisations to oppose the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill as it poses direct threat to our own existence.

He also urged all the other north-eastern States to oppose the Bill as they have the same problem of immigrants from Bangladesh. — PTI

Pema Khandu congratulates Venkaiah Naidu

ITANAGAR, Aug 11: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has congratulated Venkaiah Naidu on being sworn in as the Vice President of India today.

In his congratulatory letter, Khandu wrote, "I, on behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh extend our heartiest congratulations to you on assuming the charge as the 13th Vice President of India. The country is fortunate to have you as our Vice President who have vast knowledge and acumen in myriad subjects."

"The country under your able stewardship will sail to new heights in years to come. Congratulations!" the message added. — PTI

The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Assam proposes to introduce Assam Yoga Council Bill, 2017 to regulate Yoga and Naturopathy system of Medicines in Assam. Salient features of the draft Bill are as follows:

• To grant recognition and accreditation to institutions teaching Yoga or to withdraw affiliation and accreditation.

• To confer registration on the institutionally qualified professional practitioners.

• To confer registration to other Yoga Practitioners fulfilling the terms and conditions as laid down in the draft Bill.

• To regulate various course curriculum of studies for registration by Yoga Practitioners.

• To advise the State Government and academic institutions in the matter of research in Yoga.

The draft Assam Yoga Council Bill, 2017 is placed in public domain with a view to elicit the comments/views of the stakeholders and the general public. The draft Bill is available in the website www.assam.gov.in and www.mhrm.assam.in. The comments/views may be forwarded to the Director of AYUSH, Assam, Banphool Nagar Path, Basishtha Road, House No-1(2-A), Dispur, Guwahati-6 or emailed at namassam15@gmail.com on or before 25.08.2017.

Sd/- Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Health & Family Welfare Department, Dispur, Gh-66.

ASSAM SKILL DEVELOPMENT MISSION
NAYANTARA BUILDING (5TH FLOOR)
SIXMILE :- GUWAHATI-781022
Advertisement
11/08/2017
No. ASDM/2017/11/17 Applications are invited in prescribed form published in the official website of ASDM www.egm.assam.gov.in for engagement on contractual basis for the following posts under Assam Development Mission (ASDM).
Post in Assam State Project Unit
1. Skill Project Manager - Human Resource & Administration 01 post
2. Skill Project Manager - Placement & Post Placement Tracking 01 post
3. Project Manager-MIS 01 post
4. Ass't Skill Project Manager - Human Resource & Administration 01 post
5. Ass't Skill Project Manager - Agricultural & Allied Sector 01 post
6. Ass't Skill Project Manager - Textiles, Handicrafts 01 post
7. Ass't Skill Project Manager - Industries 01 post
8. Ass't Skill Project Manager - Services & Tourism 01 post
9. Project Assistant 02 post
10. PS to MD 01 post

1. **How to Apply:** Job seekers who are willing to apply must send their application in the prescribed application form. The prescribed application form is available in the website of ASDM www.egm.assam.gov.in. Application submitted other than the prescribed form will not be considered. Last date of submission of application is 05.09.2017 till mid night.

Sd/- Mission Director
Assam Skill Development Mission
Janasanayog972/17
Assam, Guwahati

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No. NHM/HRD/MO(Ayur)/3340/2017-18/11112 Date: 11/08/2017

This is to notify that the candidates who are interested to apply for the advertisement No. NHM/HRD/Adv/322/2017-18/P-16946 dated 03/07/2017 for the following contractual post under NHM, Assam that the date of interview of the shortlisted candidates is fixed as per schedule below:

SI	Name of Post	Roll No.	Date of Interview	Reporting Time	Time of Interview	Venue
1	Medical Officer (Ayur)	001-210	19/08/2017	10:00AM	10:30AM	Govt. Ayurvedic College, Jalukbari, Guwahati-781013

The list of shortlisted candidates is published in the NHM Website www.nhmassam.in.

The shortlisted candidates shall bring all original testimonials for verification along with a set of self-attested photocopies of the testimonials to appear the interview. No separate call letter will be issued and No TADA will be paid for attending the interview. Please visit the website www.nhmassam.in for details.

Sd/-
Mission Director NHM, Assam

No. SS/Child/2015/

RE-SHORTENED TENDER NOTICE

The Secretary, Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra Society (SSKS), Panbari, Guwahati- 37, invites tenders affixing court fee of Rs 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Twenty Five Paisa) from well experienced and registered contractors for the following work to be executed at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra campus.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estd. Cost	Earn. Money	Cost of Tender Pap	Time of Completion
1.	Supply and installation of Multi Activity Children Play Equipments at SSKS Campus (additional works)	8,00,000/-	16,000/-	500/-	21 days

Detail terms & conditions with scope of work can be obtained from the information counter of Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra during office hours from 14th August to 21st August, 2017. The last date of submission of tender is up to 2:00 P.M. on 22nd August, 2017 and will be opened at the same date at 3:00 P.M.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject all or any tenders without assigning any reason and does not bind herself to accept the lowest rate.

Sd/- Secretary

Srimanta Sankaradeva. Kalakshetra Society

CAPSULE**Samsung India**

BENGALURU, Aug 11: Samsung India (Consumer Electronics) Director Rishi Suri today said the company is targeting to be numero uno player in washing machine category in 2017-18. — PTI

Sun Pharma

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Drug major Sun Pharmaceutical today reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 424.92 crore for the quarter-ended June 30, mainly due to one-time exceptional item. — PTI

Blue Star

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Air-conditioner maker Blue Star has reported an increase of 13.75 per cent in its consolidated net profit to Rs 58.46 crore for the quarter-ended June 30. — PTI

Godrej Ind

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Diversified firm Godrej Industries today reported a decline of 32.14 per cent in consolidated net profit to Rs 75.75 crore for the first quarter-ended June 30. — PTI

Ashok Leyland

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Hinduja Group flagship Ashok Leyland today said it has bagged an order worth over Rs 120 crore from logistics firm Rivo. — PTI

Cochin Shipyard

MUMBAI, Aug 11: State-run Cochin Shipyard today had an impressive debut on the bourses despite a slump in the markets. — PTI

Cadila Healthcare

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Drug firm Cadila Healthcare today reported a 65.26 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 138.4 crore for the first quarter-ended June 30. — PTI

Zee Media

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Media firm Zee Media Corporation today reported consolidated net profit of Rs 7.38 crore for the first quarter-ended on June 30. — PTI

PTC India

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: PTC India reported 15.77 per cent jump in standalone net profit at Rs 65.35 crore in the first quarter-ended June on back of higher revenues. — PTI

Tata Global

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Tata Global Beverages (TGBL) today reported an increase of 13.20 per cent in consolidated net profit at Rs 142.97 crore for the first quarter to June, led by improved operating performance. — PTI

Allahabad Bank

KOLKATA, Aug 11: Allahabad Bank clocked a net profit of Rs 28.84 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal as against a loss of Rs 56.46 crore in the previous similar period. — PTI

Ipc Labs

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Drug firm Ipc Laboratories today reported a standalone net loss of Rs 20.25 crore for the first quarter ended June, mainly on account of dip in sales in both domestic market and overseas. — PTI

Alkem Labs

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Drug firm Alkem Laboratories today reported a 73.78 per cent dip in consolidated net profit to Rs 63.78 crore for the first quarter-ended June, mainly on account of decking due to GST. — PTI

JSW Energy

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: JSW Energy today reported a 40 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 217.18 crore in the first quarter-ended June 30, mainly on account of higher fuel costs and dip in revenues. — PTI

Policy stability important to nurture industry, opines Maruti Suzuki

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India has said policy stability and predictability are important to nurture industry ecosystem as business environment is becoming more and more uncertain.

While the "fast changing regulations have also created a dynamic business environment", Maruti Suzuki India MD and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa said, "the auto industry is a policy sensitive one, and a change in regulation can have far-reaching impact on our growth or direction of technology and manufacturing".

In his address to shareholders in the company's annual report 2016-17, Ayukawa said: "One of the important lessons we learnt last year was that the business environment is becoming more and more

Economic survey reflects optimism, anxiety

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: India Inc today said the Economic Survey has rightly reflected a "combination of optimism and anxiety" towards the country's growth outlook.

Industry bodies CII and ASSOCHAM also hailed steps taken by the Government to resolve the "twin balancesheet" problem.

"The survey is a comprehensive and forthright document which lucidly and cogently articulates the current challenges and offers credible solutions for restoring the economy on its potential growth path,"

CII Director General Chandrjit Banerjee said in a statement.

At the same time, CII agrees with the survey's assessment that factors such as agricultural stress, exchange rate appreciation and sector-specific issues will impinge on the short-term outlook for the economy, he added.

Expressing similar views, FICCI said the survey clearly laid out opportunities and risk factors that could have a bearing on the near to medium-term growth performance of the Indian economy.

Developments such as introduction of GST, in principle decision to privatise Air India, steps taken to address the twin balancesheet problem and the continuous roll-out of reforms across segments lend confidence, it said.

However, "there is an element of anxiety on account of factor such as farm loan waivers, dip in non-cereal food prices and weakening performance of sectors such as power and telecommunications."

The deflationary impulses in the economy need to be countered through all pos-

sible policy levers as identified in the Economic Survey, FICCI said.

ASSOCHAM Secretary General DS Rawat said the survey has highlighted the stress in various sectors such as power and telecom even as deflationary impulses are due to subdued demand.

"The survey rightly pin-pointed moderation in growth in industrial output as also services, the key drivers of the economy. Both these sectors need some immediate steps like resolution of the bank NPAs and a pragmatic approach for the

twin balance sheet problem," he added.

The survey today said bringing electricity under GST would improve the competitiveness of Indian industry because taxes on power get embedded in manufacturers' costs, and can be claimed back as input tax credit.

For the telecom sector, the survey said stiff price competition in the telecom sector led to dip in rates of voice call and data services, but simultaneously its share in the non-performing assets of infrastructure has increased. — PTI

RBI's key policy rate may dip by 25-75 bps

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: With inflation ruling low, there is scope for reducing RBI's key policy rate by 25-75 basis points, said the Economic Survey Part II.

For the first time today, the Government came out with second or mid-year economic survey for 2016-17 highlighting newer factors the economy faces since the last such exercise.

The Survey further said broadly real neutral interest rates hover around 1.25-1.75 per cent, adding "that implies neutral nominal rates — assuming a target inflation of 4 per cent — of 5.25-5.75 per cent".

"Today's rate is 6 per cent or about 25-75 basis points above neutral rates," it added.

Noting that during 2016-17, gross bank credit outstanding grew at around 7 per cent on an average, the Survey said, "The sluggish growth can be attributed to several factors, including incom-

plete transmission of the monetary policy as banks had not passed on the entire benefit of monetary easing to borrowers."

It further pointed out that the twin balancesheet problem — at the end of banks and corporates — more attractive interest rates for borrowers in the bond market and from non-banking financial institutions are other reasons for slow bank credit growth.

The Reserve Bank of India cut the policy rate by 50 basis points during 2016-17.

However, it shifted its monetary policy stance from accommodative to neutral in February 2017 and cut the repo rate by 25 basis points in August 2017.

The Survey also said sluggish growth and increasing indebtedness in some sectors of the economy have impacted the asset quality of banks, which is a cause for concern. — PTI

Inflation to stay below RBI's target of 4%

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Signaling price stability, the Economic Survey-II today said retail inflation at the end of March 2018 will remain within RBI's medium-term target of 4 per cent.

In a first, the Government today presented second or mid-year Economic Survey for 2016-17, highlighting newer factors the economy faces.

The Survey said the fact that current inflation is running well below the 4 per cent target suggests that inflation by March 2018 is likely to come in below the RBI's medium-term goal of 4 per cent.

It dubbed the current low level of inflation "a historic moment", instilling confidence in price stability.

According to the Survey, CPI in-

declined to 4.5 per cent during 2016-17, with a broad-based price decline in all major commodity groups. It has been below 4 per cent for the past eight months.

It noted that the economy underwent a transition — possibly, structural and permanent — from high to low inflation in the last three years.

"Significant moderation in CPI headline inflation during the last three years, CPI inflation fell to a series low of 1.5 per cent in June 2017," the Survey noted.

Noting that most States and UTs saw a sharp decline in CPI inflation in 2016-17 compared with the previous year, the document stated, "Both rural and urban inflation declined in 2016-17 and the gap between rural and urban inflation has narrowed in recent months." — PTI

"There is possibility of a contagious spread of farm loan waiver to other States," according to the



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at the working session of the 15th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting in Kathmandu, on Friday. — UNI

Farm loan waivers may cause deflationary shock

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The Economic Survey today warned against farm loan waivers, saying if all States start offering them, the total burden could swell to Re 2.7 lakh crore and cause deflationary shock to an economy yet to gain full momentum.

Form loan waiver has been presumed to be inflationary. But the short-term consequences are likely to be "quite deflationary", it said.

So far, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have announced farm loan waivers. But the Supreme Court has stayed the decision of the Madras High Court to provide loan waivers to all farmers instead of only to small and marginal ones.

"There is possibility of a contagious spread of farm loan waiver to other States," according to the

mid-year 2016-17 Economic Survey released for the first time.

If other States follow the UP model, an upper bound of loan waivers at the all-India level would be between Rs 2.2 and Rs 2.7 lakh crore, it said, adding that demands for farm loan waivers have emerged at a time when State finances have been deteriorating.

Assuming that the Centre will not take responsibility for the waivers and if States finance on their own, then aggregate demand would be affected.

"Loan waivers could reduce aggregate demand by as much as 0.7 per cent of GDP, implying a significant deflationary shock to an economy yet to gain full momentum," the Survey said.

The aggregate demand could be affected as a result of deflation in private consumption and

higher borrowings by States, among others.

"However, the actual impact will depend on the number of States that actually decide to grant waivers, and how they distribute them over time," it added.

It is estimated that for States with fiscal space, loan waivers would add Rs 6,350 crore to demand via the additional interest costs. For States without such space, waivers could reduce demand by about Rs 1.9 lakh crore.

Uttar Pradesh has announced waivers of upto Rs 1 lakh for all small and marginal farmers, while Punjab's limit is Rs 2 lakh for small farmers without defining who these are. But Karnataka has limited the waiver amount to Rs 50,000. But Maharashtra's waiver terms are still unclear, the Survey said. — PTI

Mallya's plea against SEBI order dismissed

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) today rejected fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya's appeal against SEBI barring him from the market and asked him to appear before the regulator within three weeks.

The tribunal also dismissed his plea against the SEBI order that barred him from holding any board position at listed companies, including as the chairman of his group firm United Breweries Ltd (UBL).

Mallya has been asked by SAT to appear before SEBI "in person or through a legally authorised representative" to make any submission within 21 days, so that the regulator can consider his plea for relaxing any restrictions imposed through an interim order passed in January relating to alleged illegal fund diversions at his erstwhile flagship United Spirits Ltd.

"Thereafter, SEBI shall consider the same and proceed further in the matter and pass final orders expeditiously and preferably within a period of four months in accordance with law to give finality to the issue," the tribunal said in its 25-page order.

SEBI is free to relax the restrictions as early as possible and according to the law, if the regulator finds the reply of Mallya appropriate, the tribunal noted.

In January, SEBI had barred Mallya and six former officials of UBL from securities markets in a case related to illegal fund diversions. — PTI

Big policy intervention not required in telecom'

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Large-scale policy intervention may not be required for telecom as "green shoots" have become visible in the sector during the first quarter, according to a source in the inter-ministerial group on telecom.

At the same time, the group is considering certain measures, including increasing period of deferred spectrum payments to 16 years, a proposal that could bring some relief to the industry.

The inter-ministerial group constituted to look into the financial stress in the telecom sector and give its recommendations — met here today to discuss the issues.

The sources said the next meeting could be held on August 16 and there is a possibility that the report may be sighted on August 17.

The recommendation of the group will be placed before the telecom commission and ultimately to the Cabinet.

Emerging from the one-hour meeting, the source who participated in the meeting said that the general thinking in the IMG is that big long policy intervention may not be required given the "green shoots" that are now visible in the industry. — PTI



Medilight Managing Director Dr Srinivas Yadav (C), launching 'H-Rich', India's first hydrogen-rich alkaline anti-oxidant water ionizer, in Hyderabad on Thursday. — UNI



In 2016-17, the auto industry had to face uncertainties such as the Supreme Court ban on registration of high-end diesel cars and SUVs having engine capacity of 2,000cc

and above in Delhi and NCR, and sales of BS-III vehicles. Big cars and SUVs are now facing possible hike in taxes under the new tax regime with the GST council recommending increasing the maximum ceiling to 25 per cent from 15 per cent over and above the top tax rate of 28 per cent.

MSI Chairman RC Bhargava, while welcoming the Government's decision to promote electric vehicles (EVs), said the company "would not hold back in introducing EVs as soon as we determine that the customers are ready to buy them".

"Meanwhile, efforts must continue to be made to enhance fuel efficiency. Hybrid technology is already resulting in significant improvements in fuel efficiency and is acceptable to customers," he added.

Bhargava further said: "We will continue to promote such vehicles as a step towards electric mobility. A lithium-ion battery pack plant is also being established by Suzuki, in a joint venture with Toshiba and Denso. This will help to reduce costs and promote hybrids and EVs".

When the Government withdrew incentives to mild hybrids under the FAME scheme, MSI's Ertiga and Ciaz models were hit the most.

Stressing that new technologies are going to be enormously important in the years ahead, Bhargava said, "Failure to keep up to technological change can have severe consequences for any company. In India, we have to deal with issues of energy security, environmental protection and safety. The aspirations of the young, technologically savvy customers have to be met". — PTI

In the Fall semester of 2015, in New York on a Fulbright grant, I was working on a project that tried to situate the traffic between the US and Indian theatres. Invited to speak at several institutions such as the CUNY Graduate Center, Columbia University, among others, on Indian theatre – I found that a very lopsided conversation (and so not a conversation at all) ensued. It goes without saying that Indian theater academics and students (I among them) read extensively on the western modes of theatre, theory, traditions *et al* – but our western counterparts engage little with our contemporary theatre.

But it also revealed an interesting thing – many of the students I was engaging with were familiar with the early Sanskrit theatre of India; mainly with *Mricchakatikam* – Sudraka's *The Little Clay Cart*, which is a play set in Ujjain of around the fifth century BC. So what is it that makes this classic still only the most well-known and well-read example of Sanskrit play, but also the most performed Sanskrit play today?

Which brings me to my focus here – the June 2017 production of *Mricchakatikam* in Assamese, translated by the late Arun Sarma and designed by Abinash Sarma for Zerifa Walid Productions. Arun Sarma's version was first performed by a mobile theatre group in the year 1983, and is often remembered as a remarkable

Timeless classic



event. Arun Sarma had initiated the revival, and Zerifa's group took it up with Abinash Sarma at the helm. Sadly, Arun Sarma passed away before the start of the play.

So, how was one to cut short a four-hour long, 10-act play with an ensemble cast of around 37 people without altering the desired effect of the original text? Director Abinash Sarma accomplished the monumental task of editing it to fit the attention span of the contemporary audience to 150 minutes; he also ensured that the production carried us back in time through an

adroit use of semiotic elements – the column, the wheel and, of course, the little clay cart that serves as the core metaphor of the play. Special mention must be made of the lighting design and its aesthetically researched exercises, and the flawless use of light design to make the best possible use of the stage. The music design was a little eclectic, but perhaps necessarily so, given the number of dances incorporated in the play: perhaps these might have been reduced to make the play more compact.

Over the years, one has become used to Kopil and Zerifa effortlessly getting

into the skin of their characters. Zerifa simply glowed as the enchanting courtesan Vasantserna, while Kopil brought subtle shades to the character of the brooding Chakravarti. He was a protagonist dispossessed of his wealth, struggling to live a life of dignity and in love with a woman wealthier than him. Ranjan Sarma as Mitreya was particularly entertaining. Almost the entire cast performed adequately with the period flavour of the spectacle that was mounted, although a few did have a tendency to overdo their brief. But the fact that all the thematic threads were kept alive through

the end of a full 150 minutes was quite a feat achieved collectively by the ensemble cast.

In a discussion of this kind, it is important to refer to intertexts that can give us a more nuanced and layered understanding of the play. The 1984 Shashi Kapoor film *Utsav* is the version that many of us are familiar with. This was a film that focused on the romantic and the sensuous aspects inherent in the context of the time; it even featured Vatsayana, the author of *Kamasutra* as narrator. This was exactly what was emphatically not what a few did have a tendency to overdo their brief. But the fact that all the thematic threads were kept alive through

about. And this is important. Anyone who has read the text will understand that the title of the play is immensely significant. *Mricchakatikam* or 'the little clay cart', uses this central image to speak about the uneven distribution of wealth (and thereby power) in its time. Sudraka's consistent and schematic references to the marginalisation of specific sections of the citizenry, the hierarchies of a social order dominated by the wealthy, the flawed machinery of justice and governance, and the refuge offered by Buddhism were all addressed consistently in this production. It is also important to note that women seem to have occupied a unique space in this social milieu – Vasantsena enjoys both wealth and power with none of the stigma attached to her profession, and can seamlessly move to domesticity if she so desires.

Mricchakatikam is a play that is centuries old and yet carries in its heart issues that make it so resonant in our own time. Happily, Zerifa Walid's production, under Abinash Sarma's able direction and careful conceptualisation, chose to valorise the economic and socio-political issues over the romantic or the erotic, and was, therefore, an important pointer to the world in our own times. No wonder that Arun Sarma had wanted a revival – he must have sensed these resounding similarities – tragically, his seat remained unoccupied during the performance.

Rare melodies

Priam Production, a Guwahati-based production firm, recently organised a musical evening on the unpublished and unsung lyrics of the first Jnanpith Award winner from Assam – Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya and Tafuzzul Ali. The programme was held at the Tirthanath Sarma Bhawan Auditorium on July 30. Nine songs of Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya and Tafuzzul Ali, which had never been published, were set to tune by Ratan Das, Sunirmal Chakraborty and Krishna Sarkar, with conceptualisation by Biekabananda Bagchi.

With the intention to introduce the

Chandana Deka

deeply moving lyrics of the literary geniuses to the new generation, the musical evening was inaugurated by renowned music composer Ramen Baru by lighting the lamp and paying floral tributes to the stalwarts. Ramen Baru, in his small speech, encouraged the initiative of Prism Production and spoke about his wonderful memories with these literary geniuses.

The daughter of Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya – Juri Bhattacharyya, and son-in-law Madhuryadeep Chakraborty, along with the wife of Tafuzzul Ali – Johura Ali, and his son

Rubayut Ul Ali, were also present on the occasion. The musical evening started with a Sattriya dance by the students of the State Bal Bhawan, Guwahati. The Principal of the State Bal Bhawan, Kabitab Sarma Bhattacharyya was also felicitated during the occasion.

The evening started with the song *Mou mat mardibor mukher mu sereng* and penned by Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, followed by two more of his songs – *Kore nu pasuwa auei baweli*, *Korenu posuwa boi*, *Rupor bonor chapha maya*. Then came *Koto borokhar ojal smriti barikhati nibo diuti*, *Montu nohot daworiya akash meghali* of Tafuzzul Ali, and other songs of these two geniuses that were beautifully presented by the students of the State Bal Bhawan, along with other artistes.



Brisk preparations at Rajmukut Theatre

Brisk preparations are on at Rajmukut Theatre for the coming season. The theatre, produced and guided by Manasi Kalita, has already announced the names of the three plays that they are going to stage during the new season. They are Champak Sarman's *Mon Toi Nakandibi Joraj Returns and Bishakho Prem Sikoi*.

The cast includes Champak

Sarman, a popular actor, storyteller and director of mobile theatre, and popular actor Prasenjit Borah. The other artistes in the cast include Meenakshi Neog, Sankarjyoti Rakhowa, Gayatree Borah, Tarak Das, Bhaskar Barman, Surabhi Kotoky, Pramod Chutia, Biju Chutia, Jadab Baishya, Champak Medhi, among others. The musical score is by Palash Gogoi and Kushal Das.

Parashmoni's Sur

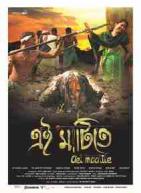
An album, titled *Sur* by popular singer Aparashmoni was recently released at a

Barnali Kalita, Mousumi Saharia, along with writer-educationist Dr Gajendra Adhikari and Professor Jayanta Bisshaya. All the songs have been written and tuned by Parashmoni and have been sung by prominent singers like Tarali Sarma, Zublee, Pranamika and Ranjita, under the banner of Ashoka's Music.

On the occasion of the release function, a book of lyrics – *Geete Kothare* by Parashmoni was also released.

Aei Maatite set for October 6 release

Recently, the official trailer of the first full-length Assamese feature film on witch-hunting – *Aei Maatite* was launched. The movie is scheduled for release on October 6 in all major cinemas across Assam and the North-East. The trailer was released by veteran film and theatre personality Anil Das; Dr Rajeev Doley, actor and director of the Centre for Inclusive Development in Tezpur University; actor Sansasa Samir, and the director of the movie Dr Sitanath Laihkar.



– Features Editor

Nature's disciple

Pranjyoti Nath

The person who shone like a bright star in the all-India art front is none other than Debananda Ulup, the worthy son of the distant Ulup village in Margherita. Born in the year 1964, the Nature-artist credits his birthplace for instilling in him a free spirit. "Apart from Singhipur, many tribes have been living happily with great affinity in the Margherita region, such as the Tai Phakes, Khamtis, Tangsas, Ahoms, Morans, Nepalis, Adivasis, etc. Being born and brought up in such a society, I have inherited a free mind as well as a free spirit. The natural environment and the people living here bestowed on me the freshness of my mind."

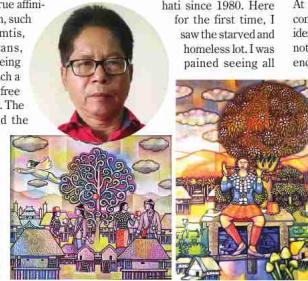
By converging the art and culture, lifestyle and folklore of the Singhipur, artist Debananda Ulup has put on canvas his recent collection titled *My valley*. Ulup is a much sought after and widely appreciated artist. To understand him and his works, I asked him a few questions. Excerpts:

Nature has played a major role in your works. Didn't you also perform and instal banners on the problem of pollution of the river Brahmaputra?

Yes, it was organised at the Uzbanzara ferry ghat in Guwahati as public art and named *The Yell of a River*.

This peripheral project was under the initiative of the Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi. I tried to establish the river as a woman. Therefore, I visualised the Brahmaputra as a Singhipur girl. It was heartening to see that even the passengers of a ferryboat and the fishermen around took part in the event.

Your themes have been very varied right



In the year 1987, most of my paintings were like *Street of Hunger*. But I feel these were the creations of an inexperienced hand as I had only started painting then.

In the year 1999, I started drawing the *Yellow Bird* series. The ten paintings had taken over the lands of my birthplace Margherita. I felt like a rebel on seeing this. I had painted these pictures to express myself from the pain, rage and to control my emotions.

Kangana Ranaut on *Simran* controversy

Kangana Ranaut recently cleared the air about the controversy over writing credits of her upcoming Bollywood film *Simran*. During the trailer launch of *Simran*, Kangana Ranaut said that Apurva Asrani was given all the dues for writing the film.

The 31-year-old actor said, "There is a lot of misconception regarding this. I would like to clarify there are no dues pending. It has been made to look like he hasn't been given his due, whereas we have done exactly what he asked for."

She further added, "He suggested I take additional dialogue credits. All the documents and contracts were signed to. Post that we also worked for a schedule together. After many months, he decided to write this note when *Rangoon* flopped and two-three people attacked me, which I thought was in very bad taste. It was planned and extremely deliberate."

Then I did the *Patkai* series on the open cast mining going on in the Patkai ranges of the mountain near Ledo in Margherita; this portion of the Patkai mountain has been made hollow inside. The loot has been continuing for ages.

After a long journey, around 2010-11, I wanted to free myself from the tactical, show-in-shove out mentality. At that time I drew several paintings contrary to my usual track. Actually, the ideas come to me automatically. You cannot force it to appear. Time and experience too bring out something worthwhile. After a long voyage, staying away in far off lands, one is reminded about one's motherland. In the same way, I feel pangs in my heart for my place near Margherita. These feelings have been put in the creation of the *My Valley* series of paintings.

Which famous artist's life and style has influenced your work? Some people say that the illustrious artist Ramkinkar Baij can be seen in your art forms...

I do not know where I resemble the great artist Ramkinkar Baij. But in the beginning of my journey, I was drawn to the artist Ganesh Pyne. I like his pictures. I feel enlightened to know about the famous personalities. But I refrain from comparing myself with them. I am content with my life.

You bagged the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust Award in 1977. I will be happy if you'd let me know about some other recognitions that have been bestowed on you.

The prize mentioned by you is the recognition of my earliest phase. Since the time I got deeply engrossed in the creation of art, I have no craze left for prizes and recognitions anymore. Now, when I draw I feel bliss deep inside me, a sense of indescribable happiness. That happiness and the comments by my admirers are the biggest rewards for me.

Prabhakar's *Saaho* to have colonial connection

After the super success of *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion*, all eyes are on what Prabhakar's next will be. While we all know that the actor is currently focussing all his attention on his upcoming film, *Saaho*, not much is known about the movie yet. However, there's news coming in from the sets that *Saaho* has a colonial connection and you will see a few scenes from the pre-Independence era.

Currently, *Saaho* is being shot at a huge set created inside Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad. As a source reveals, "The team of *Saaho* has taken over a huge garden area in Ramoji Film City and is shooting a few crucial scenes over the past few days. The scene shows actors present in colonial India with British flags all around the ground. Hundred-plus horses have been brought to the set and a huge action sequence with them is going to be shot. Currently, everyone is undertaking training and choreographing the battle. A scene of a game of polo was also shot the other day."



ROVING EYE



Gangs of Northeast set to hit screens

A upcoming movie, which is currently creating a trend for a more market-driven product with its saucy trailer and eye-catching posters, is the much anticipated romantic-action thriller *Gangs of Northeast*. It is all set to hit the screens on August 18. Co-produced by Sanjeev Narain and Kenny Lyngdoh under the banner of AM Television and Tumein Infotainment, this film will be released in Hindi, Assamese and Khasi, which also makes it a strong contender for national distribution, given its potential for significant commercial appeal.

Most importantly, the film tries to project the cultural ethos, sentiments and lifestyle of the North-East region. Debutant director Rupak Gogoi, who has worked with complete creative autonomy, also makes an attempt to tap into audiences' appetite for constant action. The story of the film revolves around the life of a teenage girl and her single mother in the idyllic locale of Shillong, and how everything changes when fate reconnects them to their past.

Aei Maatite set for October 6 release

Recently, the official trailer of the first full-length Assamese feature film on witch-hunting – *Aei Maatite* was launched. The movie is scheduled for release on October 6 in all major cinemas across Assam and the North-East. The trailer was released by veteran film and theatre personality Anil Das; Dr Rajeev Doley, actor and director of the Centre for Inclusive Development in Tezpur University; actor Sansasa Samir, and the director of the movie Dr Sitanath Laihkar.

Readers are hereby invited to contribute original articles related to culture of the North-East (film, music, drama, etc.) along with photographs. They may be e-mailed to cultural@assamtribune.com.



Saga of sacred songs

Assam, situated in the Northeastern part of India is a blend of diverse cultures and forms of art. People belong to different strata of society like the ones from the plains or those from the hills – all have their distinct forms of art and culture. Among these cultures, one of the folk traditions is *Oja Pali* music. In *Oja Pali* music, the main singer is called the *Oja* and the rest are called *palis*. The group of these *palis* also includes a prominent singer, who is called *Datinapali*. The term *Oja* means *teacher* or *guru*, which refers to a teacher. *Oja*, the main singer, teaches *Oja Pali* to his disciples.

The *Oja* organises and controls the whole process of the performance. *Oja Pali* music is presented in a group or choral form. The main feature of this art is that it is a presentation of narrative poetry through singing, instrumental music, dance and semi-acting. Thus, the presentation includes all the four forms of art. In this art, the stanzas of the songs and the poetic compositions are presented in poetic and prose styles of simple

language through dance steps, expressions and dialogues. This art form is based on the teacher-student tradition and it is presented in oral form. Its presentations are related to the episodes of religious topics and, therefore, it is presented in temples, Vaishnava *sattras*, and during different religious and auspicious occasions. *Oja Pali* music is male-dominated music but in some parts of Assam the traditional *Oja Pali* singing is presented by women in the *Ajti Oja pali* tradition.

According to the text and content, *Oja Pali* can be divided mainly into two parts: the epic-based *Oja Pali*, which is known as *Vaisnava Oja Pali* and the non-epic-based *Oja Pali*, which is known as *Shakti Riti Oja Pali*. The epic-based *Oja Pali* presents stories related to Lord Vishnu, Narayana, Sri Krishna, etc. These songs are related to episodes from the *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, *Puranas*, etc. These forms are known as *Vyas Gowa Oja Pali*, *Sattriya* or *Bijayha Oja Pali*.

Non-epic based *Oja Pali* presents songs or poetic compositions based on stories of folk goddesses or other popular religious folk stories.



These forms include the *Sukanani Oja Pali* and the *Manasha Oja Pali*. The *Vyas Gowa Oja Pali* and the *Sukanani Oja Pali* or *Rongowa Oja Pali* are the most ancient singing traditions. On the basis of these traditions, the other forms of *Oja Pali* developed subsequently. While it is believed that *Vyas* music originated from the stories of the epics, the term *Vyas* may also have a different meaning. According to the Sanskrit *Abhidhan*, *Vyas* was the title of a Brahmin who used to read out and interpret the stories of ancient epics to the audience. In *Vyas Gowa Oja Pali*, a minimum of five *pals* are necessary for the performance. The solid instrument *kutti taal* is used while performing this.

Numerous ancient books were written in the Assamese folk language in association with Assamese poets and composers between the 12th and 15th century.

The performance of *Oja Pali* music has been divided into four types that are similar with the *Dhrupad* style. *Oja Pali* music begins with the *Aalap*, pronouncing auspicious letters like *ha, ta, na, etc.* *Dhrupad* also begins with *Aalap* like *Om, Hari*, etc. In *Oja Pali*, six *Ragas* and 36 *Raginis* have been mentioned. *Rag-Ragini* classification was developed in the medieval age of Indian classical music.

According to *Vyas Gowa* and *Sattriya Oja Pali* artists, *Rag-Ragini* are an essential part of *Oja Pali*. According to *Oja Pali* artists, the three *svaras* of *Oja Pali* are *Mandra*, *Madhya* and *Staar*, which can be compared with the three *saptakas* (scale) of Indian classical music. According to Indian scholar Kapila Vatsyayana, "The dances of the *Oja* bear many resemblances to the classical dances of India." It proves that even though *Oja Pali* is a folk traditional music, it does have classical elements.

ries and *Oja Pali* singers gained the base of their singing in Assamese language. There are many Sanskrit words found in the *slokas* and *geets* in *Oja Pali* music, which indicate that perhaps earlier they used to sing in the ancient Sanskrit language. According to evidence, the great Vaishnavite saint and reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva, and later on the other Vaishnav saints, developed a new style of *Oja Pali* in the 15th century on the basis of the ancient *Oja Pali* music. The devotional songs developed to a great extent during this period. In this period, the impact of classical music is also evident on devotion songs.

Even if the singing style of *Oja Pali* music has its own specialty, there are similarities with the *Dhrupad* (classical) style of music.

The performance of *Oja Pali* music has been divided into four types that are similar with the *Dhrupad* style. *Oja Pali* music begins with the *Aalap*, pronouncing auspicious letters like *ha, ta, na, etc.* *Dhrupad* also begins with *Aalap* like *Om, Hari*, etc. In *Oja Pali*, six *Ragas* and 36 *Raginis* have been mentioned. *Rag-Ragini* classification was developed in the medieval age of Indian classical music.

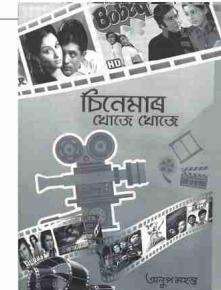
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BOOKSHELF

Those were the days

Joykanta Sarma

There is no denying that mainstream Hindi cinema is still very popular not only among youngsters, but even among senior citizens, notwithstanding the off-repeated criticism as regards its aesthetic sensibility. The Sixties and Seventies of the last century were undoubtedly the heydays of the Hindi cine industry, with actors like Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Sunil Dutt, Guru Dutt, Dev Anand, Rajendra Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Rajesh Khanna, Balraj Sahni, Upal Dutt, Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Shashi Kapoor, Feroz Khan, Amol Palekar, Sanjeev Kumar, Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri, etc., and actresses like Vyjayanthimala, Madhubala, Nutan, Nargis, Suchitra Sen, Waheeda Rehman, Hema Malini, Sharmila Tagore, Shabana Azmi, etc., ruling the roost. Thousands of songs were sung by golden voices like Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammed Rafi, Mukesh, Kishore Kumar, etc., under the able music direction of Sachin Dev Burman, Naushad, Hemant Kumar, Madan Mohan, Shankar Jaikishan, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, RD Burman, etc.



Chinemar Khoj Khoj
Anup Mahanta,
Published by the author,
Price: Rs 150/-
Rekha Smita Patil, Rakhi Zeenat Aman, etc., ruling the roost. Thousands of songs were sung by golden voices like Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammed Rafi, Mukesh, Kishore Kumar, etc., under the able music direction of Sachin Dev Burman, Naushad, Hemant Kumar, Madan Mohan, Shankar Jaikishan, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, RD Burman, etc.

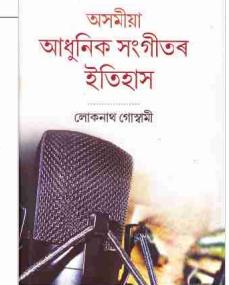
It is in this backdrop that the book under review – *Chinemar Khoj Khoj* by connoisseur Anup Mahanta will definitely whet the appetite of the eager readers. There are many behind-the-scene stories mentioned in the book that may evoke nostalgia among those who are in and around their sixties, like the author himself. As for instance, many among today's generation may not know how cine heroes and heroines of that time were attracted to each other. Dev Anand-Suraiya, Raj Kapoor-Nargis, Uttam Kumar-Suchitra Sen, Guru Dutt-Waheeda Rehman, and Dhananjay-Hema Malini's love stories were much talked about in those days.

Mahanta has also dwelt exhaustively on icons like Prithviraj Kapoor, Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar and Dev Anand. There is also considerable discussion on parallel cinema of the Seventies and Eighties, which was quite different from mainstream Hindi cinema. Almost every knowledgeable cine-goer is aware that directors like Shyam Benegal, Govind Nihalani, Girish Karnad, Basu Bhattacharya, etc., were the for-runners of creating high-standard parallel cinema which brought to the fore actors like Shabana Azmi, Deepa Naval, Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri, etc. In Bengal, however, maestros like Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen and Ritwik Ghatak had already made a series of art pictures attracting worldwide applause and accolades. Ray's *Pather Panchali*, made way back in 1955, is still regarded as the *avant garde* of the new wave.

An engaging history

Apurba Kumar Das

The book under review – *Asomia Adhunik Sangitor Itihas*, written by noted singer-composer and writer Loknath Goswami is a compilation on the origin and chronological development of Assamese modern music, including the work of singers, lyricists, composers, along with the evolution of various media like radio, gramophone records, cinema drama, TV cassettes and CDs, etc.



Asomia Adhunik Sangitor Itihas
Loknath Goswami,
Rekha Prakashan, Guwahati,
Price: Rs 350/-

The 500-page book is divided into five chapters, wherein the first chapter deals with the historical and social background in the light of India, vis-a-vis Assam, including theatre-music, mobile theatre music, gramophone records and Akashvani. The second chapter starts with Jyotioprasad Agarwalla and ends at the present day with a critical analysis. The third chapter covers the pioneers, 35 of them, including Lakshminath Sarma, Lakshminath Bebarwa, Jyotioprasad Barua, Bishnu Prasad Rabha, Bhupen Hazarika, etc. The fourth chapter incorporates the first line of the lyrics of some everlasting songs, numbering around a 100, as also the full text of around 150 songs. Chapter five contains lists of music directors, gramophone records, instrumentalists and books on lyrics penned by noted lyricists.

It is needless to emphasise that the growth of the trend of modern song and music in Assam is intricately associated with the evolutionary growth of Assamese language and literature. Some people still endeavour to keep the spirit of creative alive and they do new experiments following the footstep of legendary creators. But lately, it seems as if the trend is being downgraded into a din and bustle of instruments, voice modulations and meaningless lyrics. In the world of modern Assamese songs, wild irregularities have come to dominate the space earlier occupied by fine tunes and meaningful lyrics. Listeners of 'good songs' often complain about cheap thematic values and misinterpretation of Assamese language.

The different aspects and areas of Assamese music that the author has dwelt upon not only give the reader a deeper understanding of the rich tradition, but also provide a clear understanding of the trends.

The book is a highly appreciable work, throwing light on the transition of Assamese modern music. The writer has also engaged in projecting various aspects of Assamese modern music through different media.

Acting accolade

Kasturi Borgohain Das



Artiste Biswanath Biswas is a dedicated actor of Assam known for his passion and sincerity for the cause of amateur theatre. He has recently been bestowed with the Enjori award for acting. Passionate about acting since his childhood, during which he watched his physician father acting and enjoying the art even amidst his busy schedule, the young artiste in Biswas took root to blossom later as a complete artiste of amateur theatre. His contribution to Assamese drama and acting cannot be over-emphasised, as his single-minded devotion to amateur theatre since long has played in part in keeping amateur theatre as a vital and popular performing art in the State and the North-East.

Born in Guwahati to Dr Anil Kumar Biswas, Biswanath Biswas developed a keen interest in acting as a child. His interest in acting was a result of watching his father perform to the applause of the audience during several evening shows.

Performing in various plays at venues in and around Guwahati, Biswanath Biswas captivated theatre enthusiasts with his acting for a long time. Some of the plays where he received rave reviews as the protagonist include *Doctor Babu*, *Hybrid Clinic*, *Porinaam*, *Hisa Panir Maas*, *Protishruti*, *Ahok Raee* and *Aditek Honday*, to name a few.

Biswanath Biswas is a film studio founded by Himangshu Rai in Malad, Mumbai, in 1934. One of the biggest sound studios in the pre-World War II Indian film industry, it was also the only major private-sector enterprise launched as a fully-fledged corporate body, with a board of directors that included several prominent names in the Indian and international film industries. The studio's origins lie in the several silent Indo-European co-productions initiated by Rai and his colleague Niranjan Pal.

Rai was a London-based playwright and screenwriter, who probably originated the idea of filming Edwin Arnold's epic poem *The Light of Asia*, which Rai co-produced in 1925 with Emelka Film, Munich. A spectacular film, directed by the German Franz Osten, in which Rai himself played Gautam Buddha, it launched a successful genre of Indian orientalist erotica, followed by films such as *Shiraz* (1928) about the builder of the Taj Mahal.

E-mail your questions with answers to: coloseum@assamtribune.com

harmonisers

From Adish Agarwalla, Moranhat –
2) Which painter is also known as India's Frida Kahlo?

3) Who is known as the 'Father of Tamil Literature'?

4) Who founded India's first Startup magazine *Coutourer*?

5) Which 19th century painter from the State of Travancore is known for his depiction of graceful, sari-clad woman?

unities

From Sudhanta Pathak, Dibrugarh –

6) Who is the Statesman who founded the first TV channel in India to have its own TV channel, with the inauguration of Manva TV in March-2011?

7) Which superstar won the United Producers' Talent Contest and made his debut in Chetan Anand's *Ashok Khati*?

8) Which popular figure of Indian cinema made her breakthrough with a song titled *Mr John ya Baba Khan ya Lala Roshan Daan* in the film *Baurish* (1957)?

the colosseum

■ Neelopal Deka

1) *Picture Clue:* It is a childhood picture of a Russian playwright and short-story writer, who is considered to be among the greatest writers of short fiction in history. He is known for his quote, 'Men are like piles of lawless wind and literature my mistress; when I get tired of one, I spend the night with the other.'

(Satyajit Ray, Hospital Road, Tangla)

11) Which hill station literally means 'Three Rivers' in Tamil and Malayalam? (Adish Agarwalla, Moranhat)

do-re-me

9) Dr Purnima Devi Barman, a renowned wildlife biologist was nominated for the Whitley Awards honouring her relentless efforts and campaigns for the conservation of the Great Arunachal. Who is it also known as in Assam? (Joydeep Baruah, Dibrugarh)

10) In May 2017, the film *Shaukhan Baby* became the highest earning non-Hollywood foreign film in China, going past a Japanese film called *Your Name*. If *Shaukhan Baby* refers to a type of sport, how do we better know this film in India? (Hirak Jyoti Lahari, Dergaon)

12) This Bollywood actor was best known for playing supporting roles in Hindi films like *Wanted*, *Tumko Na Bhool Payenge*, *Kahaani*, *Pyar Na Ho Jaye* and *Khalidali*. He passed away of cardiac arrest recently. (Shajid Khan, Tangla)

13) Which word is of Greek origin and means 'a place for seeing'? (Smita Sarma, Khanapara)

14) How is the French-British Marie Grosholtz better known as? (Rubi Nath, Howly, Barpeta)

15) Which famous weekly newspaper had its headquarters at 67 Radha Bazaar, Calcutta? (Adish Agarwalla, Moranhat)

ANSWERS 1) Anton Chekhov 2) Amrita Sher-Gil 3) Agastaya 4) Adhish Verma and Arumraj Rajendran 5) Raja Ravi Varma 6) Andlum Pradeesh 7) Rajesh Khanna (real name – Jatin Khanna) 8) Helen 9) Haargila 10) Dangal 11) Mummar 12) Inder Kumar 13) Theatre 14) Marie Tussaud (Madame Tussaud) 15) Bengal Gazette.

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Mehbooba claims PM's support on status quo for Article 370

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given 100 per cent assurance that he would back the PDP-BJP government's Agenda of Alliance, which says that the status of Article 370 can't be "fiddled with", Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti said today.

However, she refused to give a direct reply on whether the Prime Minister had given an assurance on safeguarding the constitutional status quo for the State.

Mehbooba met the Prime Minister amid reports that she was seeking help against attempts to alter constitutional provisions that give Jammu-

and-Kashmir its special status.

The very basis of the Agenda of Alliance in the State was that no one would try and alter Article 370, Mehbooba told reporters after the meeting. "Our Agenda of Alliance was based on a foundation that the status of Article 370 can't be altered or fiddled with... so none of us (PDP-BJP) can go against that," Mehbooba said in response to repeated questions on whether she had got an assurance from Modi on supporting the State government on Articles 35A and 370. Pressed further on the issue, she said, "The Prime Minister has given 100 per cent assurance for the Agenda of Alliance."

She also said that Modi had given a "very positive" response to the issues raised in the meeting.

The Agenda of Alliance, between the PDP and the BJP states: "...While recognising the different positions and appreciating the perceptions BJP and PDP have on the constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir, considering the political and legislative realities, the present position will be maintained on all the constitutional provisions pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir including the special status in the constitution of India."

The meeting comes in the backdrop of the debate on Article 35A of the Constitution that grants special status to the State and is being challenged in the Supreme Court.

The Chief Minister said the law-and-order situation had worsened last year. "When the wounds of last year are getting healed, discussions on Article 35A leave a negative impact on the people."

"After all Jammu and Kashmir is an important part of this nation... When someone is trying to

come out of troubled waters, we are pushing him back by such debates on Article 35A." She said she had informed the Prime Minister that people feel their identity is at stake and the Centre should give a message on maintaining the State's special status.

"After all Jammu and Kashmir, despite being a Muslim-majority State, rejected the two-nation theory and joined with India so that the identity of its people was protected," she said. - PTI



AICTE to close engineering colleges with less takers

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: With over 27 lakh seats lying vacant in various engineering colleges across the country, the AICTE today said it has decided to close down those technical colleges which recorded less than 30 per cent admissions in the last five years.

Anil D Sahasrabuddhe, Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), which is the regulator for technical education in the country, today said such colleges will be closed

down from next year.

"In the past few years, the AICTE has been actively working on reducing the quantity of engineering institutions across the country due to poor demand and falling quality of education," he said at a two-day world education summit. "We have also reduced the penalty for closing down an engineering institution that was a deterrent for many colleges which were willing to shut amid poor demand," he said.

According to ACTED data, there are 10,361 engineering institutions in the country that are approved by the AICTE with a total intake capacity of over 37 lakh students. Out of this, 27 lakh seats are lying vacant.

"Apart from closing several colleges we are also focusing on life skills and solving real life problems. The number of jobs are diminishing in the country and to cover that up AICTE has formulated the National Student Startup Policy," the AICTE Chairman said. - PTI

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According to ACTED data,

NIA files charge-sheet against ISIS-linked man

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: A charge-sheet was filed today against a man linked to terror outfit ISIS for allegedly trying to wage war against the country by planning to kill judges, politicians and police officers in Kerala.

The supplementary charge-sheet was filed in a court in Kerala's Ernakulam district against Moinudeen Parakadath, who was deported from the UAE in February this year, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said in a statement.

A case was registered at the NIA Police Station in Kochi on October 1 last year against eight people hailing from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, besides other unknown persons.

The day after, five accused—Mansoor Mehmood, Suliv Mohammed, Rashid Ali, Safwan P and Jasim NK—were arrested from Kannur, while they were conducting a secret meeting of the ISIS/Daesh module as part of preparations to wage war against the Government of India, it said.

Later on the same day, Ramshad NK, another member of the module, was arrested, after

incriminating communication on social media amongst members of the terrorist module regarding the criminal conspiracy and their pursuant preparations were recovered from his digital device seized during search at his residence, the release said.

A charge-sheet was filed against all the accused, besides the abducting Shajeer Mangalassery, under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, it said.

Forensic analysis of digital devices including mobile phones, tablet PCs and storage media recovered from the accused persons has revealed that the ISIS/Daesh module had conspired and conducted preparations to target prominent persons including judges of high court, political leaders and senior police officials in Kerala," the release said.

The accused had organised themselves into a terrorist gang, owing allegiance to the ISIS/Daesh, named Ansar Khilafat-Kerala that was headed by Mangalassery, who had performed "hijra" (migration) to Afghanistan from the UAE in 2010 to join and support the ISIS/Daesh. - PTI

Bill to repeal 131 redundant laws introduced in LS

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: A Bill to repeal 131 redundant laws, including the one dealing with transfer of money deposits of people to Pakistan who had left India after the partition, was introduced in Lok Sabha today.

The Repealing and Amendment (second) Bill, 2017 seeks to scrap 131 Acts, nine ordinances created by the then Governors General and rectify certain mistakes made in three laws.

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

One of the oldest laws it seeks to repeal is the Caste Disabilities Removal Act of 1850.

The Transfer of Evacuee Deposits Act, 1954—which is also on the chopping block—was enacted to provide, following an agreement with Pakistan, for the transfer to that country of certain deposits belonging to people who had shifted there after the partition and receipt in India of similar deposits belonging to displaced persons. - PTI

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AIADMK leaders in Delhi, TN CM meets PM Modi

NEW DELHI/CHENNAI, Aug 11: Amid growing speculation over the merger of two factions of the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister K Palaniswami today met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi, maintaining that he only discussed exempting the State from the purview of all-India NEET exam.

This was the second meeting since last month between the two where Palaniswami took up the issue of exempting the State from NEET, the all-India medical college entrance test.

Palaniswami "reiterated the request of exemption from NEET for Tamil Nadu", a brief official release in Chennai said today.

Accompanied by Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M Thambiyudhan, the Chief Minister called Modi at the Office of the Prime Minister in Parliament House, the release added.

In the meeting said Dhinakaran's elevation to the post, hours before his aunt Sasikala Natarajan was taken to a jail in Bengaluru, was against party bylaws, a condition for the merger which former Chief Minister A Panneerselvam's AIADMK had been pushing for.

Palaniswami had earlier met Modi on the same issue on July 25. He and some of his Cabinet colleagues, including Health Minister C Vijayabaskar, also met Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Home Minister Rajnath Singh. Tamil Nadu has been seeking exemption from NEET, saying it would benefit its students. - PTI

Stalled negotiations on the merger of two AIADMK factions picked up again yesterday after a meeting in Chennai. At the meeting presided over by Palaniswami, the parties agreed to the appointment of TTV Dhinakaran as AIADMK's deputy general secretary.

A resolution passed in the meeting said Dhinakaran's elevation to the post, hours before his aunt Sasikala Natarajan was taken to a jail in Bengaluru, was against party bylaws, a condition for the merger which former Chief Minister A Panneerselvam's AIADMK had been pushing for.

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UK to face Islamist terror threat for decades: MI5 ex-chief

LONDON, Aug 11: The UK will continue to face an Islamist terrorist threat for the next 20 to 30 years, a former head of British intelligence agency MI5 said today.

Jonathan Evans, who stepped down as director-general of the agency in 2013 and now sits in the House of Lords as a crossbencher peer, described the issue as a "generational problem".

"I think on the terrorism side we are at least 20 years into this. My guess is that we will still be dealing with the long tail in another 20 years' time," he told the BBC.

"I think this is genuinely a generational problem. When I left MI5 in 2013 if I had been asked I would have said that I thought that we probably were the worst over the years of the Al Qaeda threat. That may have been quite

true but of course not the development and emergence of IS (Islamic State) with the same ideology and many of the same people," Evans said.

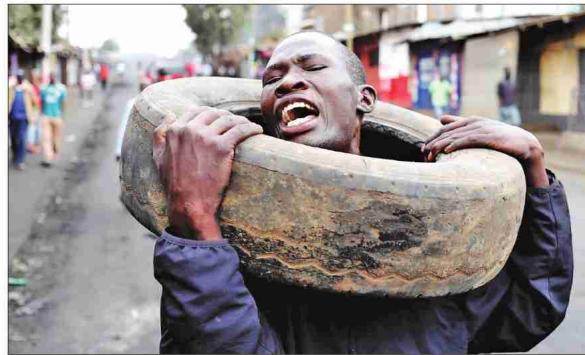
"I think that we are going to be facing 20, 30 years of terrorist threats and therefore we need absolutely critically to persevere and just keep doing it," he said. Lord Evans also said that the devices connected to the Internet needed to be made more secure in the face of emerging cyber threats and warned of a threat from Russian hacking.

"It would be extremely surprising if the Russians were interested in interfering in America and in France and in various other European countries but were not interested in interfering with the UK because traditionally I think we have been seen as quite

hawkish," he said. The peer stressed the importance of Britain defending against cyber-attacks in the face of a "growing dependence on the Internet".

"As our vehicles, as our air transport, as our critical infrastructure is resting increasingly on the Internet we need to be really confident that we have secured that because our economic and our daily lives are going to be dependent on the security that we put in to protect our infrastructure from cyber-attack," Evans warned.

Meanwhile, the head of the UK's national counter-terrorism policing described the current Islamic terror threat a "culturist movement" compared to Al Qaeda which was "a very tight network of wicked individuals". - PTI



A supporter of Opposition leader Raila Odinga shouts in Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya on Friday. - UNI

EU calls eggs talks as scandal spreads to Asia

BRUSSELS, Aug 11: The EU today called an emergency meeting to stop "blaming and shaming" over the insecticide-tainted eggs scandal as it emerged for the first time that the crisis had spread to Asia.

Hong Kong, Switzerland and 15 European Union countries have all received eggs contaminated with the chemical fipronil, which can harm humans, the European Commission said.

With concern going global, the commission said it had now called a meeting of ministers and food safety chiefs from affected EU countries, setting a provisional date of September 26.

Blaming and shaming will bring us nowhere and I want to stop this, "Yvesia Andrukaitis, the European Commissioner for health and food safety, told AFP as he announced the meeting.

Andrukaitis urged the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany – the countries at the epicentre of the crisis – to stop trading accusations about who is responsible for the scare.

Dutch Health Minister Edith Schippers, speaking publicly about the matter for the first time, admitted late Thursday that errors had been made in the government's handling of the crisis. - AFP

36 killed, 13 injured in bus crash in China

BEIJING, Aug 11: A bus rammed into a tunnel on an expressway in China's northwestern Shaanxi province, killing at least 36 people and injuring 13 others.

The accident occurred at around 11:34 pm (local time) when a mini bus carrying 49 people hit a wall of the Qingshui tunnel on the Xian-Hanzhong Expressway, Shaanxi public security department was quoted as saying by state-run Xinhua news agency.

The coach was en route to Luoyang City, China's central Henan Province, from Chengdu City, capital of the country's southwestern Sichuan Province. The coach has a designed carrying capacity of 51 people.

The State Administration of Work Safety and the Ministry of Public Security have dispatched work teams respectively to oversee investigation and handling of the aftermath of the accident. The injured have been admitted to a hospital and rescue work is underway, it said. - PTI

BIMSTEC nations vow to take 'concrete' steps to combat terror

KATHMANDU, Aug 11: BIMSTEC nations, including India, today agreed to take "concrete" steps to boost cooperation in combating terrorism with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj saying the grouping has worked out collective strategies to counter the scourge.

Describing BIMSTEC as a "natural choice" for India to fulfil its key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East', Swaraj said the grouping enjoys the unique strengths of connecting South and Southeast Asia.

Swaraj, while addressing the ministerial

be security cooperation. Specific follow-up measures in these areas are now under progress," she said.

In a joint statement issued after the meeting, the grouping expressed its "strong commitment" to combat terrorism, "which remains the single most significant threat to peace and stability in our region, in all its forms and manifestations."

The foreign ministers of BIMSTEC countries agreed to take "concrete measures to step up cooperation and coordination among our law enforcement, intelligence and security organisations."



meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) here, asserted that peace and security are essential for development to take place.

She highlighted that the first meeting of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs in New Delhi in March 2017 adopted a holistic approach to tackle traditional and non-traditional security challenges that threaten the region. "We worked out collective strategies to counter the scourge of terrorism, violent extremism and transnational crimes, as also to strengthen our maritime and cy-

"We also agree to expedite the ratification of the BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking, signed in Myanmar on 11 December 2009 and also to complete the internal procedures to sign the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters at the earliest," the leaders of the delegation said in the statement. The statement emphasised the need for greater cooperation in trade and investment in order to deepen regional integration in the Bay of Bengal region. - PTI

Gene editing may pave way for pig to human organ transplants

BOSTON, Aug 11: Scientists have edited the pig genome to deactivate a virus that spreads to other cells, an advance that may pave the way for animal-to-human organ transplants.

The shortage of human organs and tissues for transplantation represents one of the most significant medical needs. Pig organs are particularly compatible for transplantation in humans.

The pig genome, however, includes porcine endogenous retroviruses (PERVs),

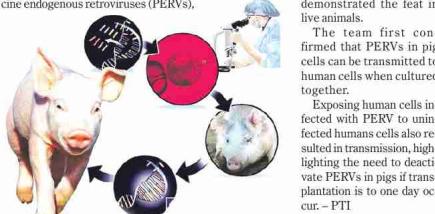
which can be passed on to other cells when cultured together.

Gene editing techniques could prove useful for removing virus genes from the pig genome, paving the way for pig-to-human transplants, yet efforts have so far only been successfully demonstrated in cell lines, not live animals.

Researchers including those from Zhejiang University in China and Harvard Medical School in the US demonstrated the feat in live animals.

The team first confirmed that PERVs in pig cells can be transmitted to human cells when cultured together.

Exposing human cells infected with PERV to uninfected human cells also resulted in transmission, highlighting the need to deactivate PERVs in pigs if transplantation is to one day occur. - PTI



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PE WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (NIEPM)

(Dept. Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Diyanjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI)

ECR, Muttukadu, Kovai Post, Chennai-603112, Tamil Nadu.

Fax: 044-27472389, Tel: 27472113, 27472423,

Toll Free No.: 1800425033

Website: www.niepmd.tn.nic.in, Email: niepm@gmail.com

Invitation of Proposals for EOI under PPP

NIEPM invites proposal from North East region CSOs/NGOs registered under Societies Registration Act or Trust Act and SSAs/RMSA/IEDSS/UMSA/State Depts./State sponsored projects/National Trust registered organization SNAC & LLC/RCI reorganized Institutes/for partnering with NIEPM, Chennai for conducting various programs for Persons with Disabilities in the North Eastern Region. For further details visit: www.niepmd.tn.nic.in. The proposals will be considered based on the merits of past experience and field contribution.

davp 38118/1/0016/1718

Sd/- Director

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES			
1. GARRISON ENGINEER (I) (AF), ELEPHANT FALLS CAMP, POST NONGLYER, SHILLONG-793009 invites application from enlisted MES, PWD, CPWD and Railway Contractors of the appropriate Class for issue of tenders for following works:			
2. Bidder shall upload copy of Provident Fund Code number and Service Tax Regn Cert which are mandatory. Bidders not in possession of Provident Fund Code number and Service Tax Regn Cert shall be disqualified in "Technical bid evaluation and their finance bid shall not be opened". Any Sub Contractor engaged should also have Provident Fund Code Number and Service Tax Regn Cert.			
(Note : The details / documents required to be submitted by bidders in cover 1 shall be checked online also)			
Srl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost in lakhs (Rs.)	Earliest Money in (Rs.)
1.	SPECIAL REPAIRS/REPLACEMENT OF OLD EXISTING PIPE LINES AND ALL WORKS AT CANTT-19 MARRIED CIVILIAN/ACCN AREA AND CAMPAAREA AT HQ EAC (I), AF UNDER GE (I) AF SHILLONG	43.64	87,300/- Rs. 500/- in the form of the demand draft in favour of GE (I) (AF) Shillong
2.	SPECIAL REPAIRS TO HT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OCBS AND ALLIED WORKS AT HQ EAC (I), AF UNDER GE (I) AF SHILLONG	44.21	88,500/- Rs. 500/- in the form of the demand draft in favour of GE (I) (AF) Shillong
3. FOR THE WORKS DETAILS/CRITERIA SEE INDIAN TRADE JOURNAL PUBLICATION DATED 02 AUG. 2017 OR MES WEBSITE : www.mes.gov.in davp 10102/11/0932/1718			

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Srl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost in Lakhs (Rs.)	Earliest Money In (Rs.)	Cost of Tender
1.	TERM CONTRACT FOR ARTIFICERS WORKS AT ZONE 'B' FOR SMO AREA AT E/FALLS CAMP UNDER GE (I) AF SHILLONG	25.00	50,000/-	Rs. 500/- in the form of the demand draft in favour of GE (I) (AF) Shillong
2.	TERM CONTRACT FOR ARTIFICERS WORKS AT ZONE 'C' FOR OTM AREA AT E/FALLS CAMP UNDER GE (I) AF SHILLONG	25.00	50,000/-	Rs. 500/- in the form of the demand draft in favour of GE (I) (AF) Shillong
3.	SPECIAL REPAIRS TO BLDG NO. P-10, P-11, P-12, P-13 AND P-14 AT HQ EAC (I) AF UNDER GE (I) AF SHILLONG	48.09	96,200/-	Rs. 500/- in the form of the demand draft in favour of GE (I) (AF) Shillong
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PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS AUTHORITY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

S-2, 'A' Block, NASC Complex DPS Marg, Opp. Tadapur Village, New Delhi-110012

Tel: 011-25848127, 25842846 Fax: 011-25840478

Email: ppvra-agri@nic.in Website: www.plantauthority.gov.in



ANNOUNCEMENT

"Plant Genome Savior Community Award" 2015-16,

"Plant Genome Savior Farmer Reward" 2016 -17 &

"Plant Genome Savior Farmer Recognition" 2016 -17

The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) invites applications for the above mentioned Award/ Reward/ Recognition.

The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) has been established by the Central Government for implementing the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001. The Authority grants exclusive rights to the breeders, farmers and researchers who have bred, evolved or developed any plant varieties. The Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority, under the provision of section 45 of PPV& FR Act, 2001 read with Rule 70 (2) (a) of PPV & FR Rules, 2003 has instituted Plant Genome Savior Community Award. To implement section 39 (1) (ii) of PPV & FR Act, 2001, the Central Government has notified the PPV & FR (Recognition and Reward from the Gene Fund) Rules, 2012 for rewarding and recognizing the farmers.

The Authority confers the "Plant Genome Savior Community Award" annually on the basis of short listing and site verification of the applications received from the community of farmers/farming community based organizations who have a long track record for conserving plant agro-biodiversity. Applications are now invited for the award, which is open to all Indian farmers, community of farmers, particularly the tribal and rural communities engaged in conservation, improvement and preservation of genetic resources of economic plants and their wild relatives particularly in the areas identified as agro-bio-diversity hotspots. The list of the agro bio-diversity hotspots is available on website of Authority. There shall be maximum of five awards in a year, each consisting of cash of Rupees ten lakhs each, a citation and a memento.

The Authority also invites applications for the "Plant Genome Savior Farmer Reward" and "Plant Genome Savior Farmer Recognition" from the farmers engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of landraces and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation and the material so selected and preserved has been used as donors of genes in varieties registered under the PPV & FR Act, 2001. There shall be a maximum of 10 rewards and 20 recognitions (each comprising of citation, memento and cash amount of Rs. 1.5 Lakh and Rs. 1.00 Lakh respectively). It is essential for the applicants to forward their applications through Chairperson/Secretary of the concerned Panchayat, Biodiversity Management Committee or concerned District Agricultural Officer or Director of Research of concerned State Agriculture University or concerned District Tribal Development Office. Farmers whose applications are shortlisted for Reward and Recognition shall be required to deposit specified quantity of seeds or propagating material, which will be communicated later.

The applicants who have applied in pursuance of earlier year advertisement they may also apply but if selected for award/reward/recognition in pursuance of earlier advertisement their second application will not be considered in accordance with Rule 5 (7) of PPV & FR (Recognition and Reward from the Gene Fund) Rules, 2012.

Application form: Application form and detailed guidelines may be downloaded from the website of the Authority www.plantauthority.gov.in or may be obtained in person or by post on any working day from the office of PPV & FR Authority or its branch offices at Ranchi and Guwahati between 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Applications may be filed either in Hindi or English. There is no application fee and only complete form with supporting document(s) is to be submitted. The proposals should be duly verified by designated authorities as mentioned in the application form. If required, site verification may also be undertaken by the Authority at the decision of the Authority shall be final. The applications received after due date will be automatically treated as application for the next year award/reward/recognition.

Last Date of Submission: The duly filled application forms along with supportive information, evidence/details/ proof of the claims made shall reach the office of the Registrar, Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, S-2, 'A' Block, NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Opp. Tadapur, New Delhi-110012, within three months from the date of publication of this advertisement. In case of any clarifications, Registrar (FR), Deputy Registrar(Ranchi) and Deputy Registrar(Guwahati) may be contacted at 011-25843853, 0651-2450055 and 0361-2366755 and email: prakash.ravi@nic.in, dr-ranchi-ppvra@nic.in, and dr-guwa@ppvra@nic.in respectively.

Ravi Prakash
Registrar, PPV & FRA

davp 01146/11/0002/1718

Popular messaging apps Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp leave people exposed to fraud or hacking because users do not know how to use important security options, scientists have warned.

"We wanted to understand how typical users are protecting their privacy," said Elham

about potential threats and encouraged to make sure their messages were confidential. However, only 14 per cent of users in this phase managed to successfully authenticate their recipient. Others opted for ad-hoc security measures like asking their partners for details about a shared experience.

Authentication ceremony

WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger leave users vulnerable to fraud, warn scientists

Vazipour, PhD student at the Brigham Young University.

Even though WhatsApp and Viber encrypt messages by default, all three messaging apps also require an authentication ceremony to ensure true security.

However, since most users are unaware of the ceremony and its importance, "it is possible that a malicious third party or man-in-the-middle attacker can eavesdrop on their conversations," said Vazipour.

The authentication ceremony allows users to confirm the identity of their intended conversation partner, and makes sure no other person – even the company providing the messaging application – can intercept messages.

In the first phase of a two-phase experiment, the research team prompted study participants to share a credit card number with another participant. Participants were warned

Kids

CN
12:30 Ben 10: Alien Swarm
13:00 My Name Is Li Ri Si;
13:30 Red No. 21;
13:30 Uncle Grandpa;
13:30 Ben 10: Alien Swarm;
18:00 Kite Aur Shar Ruhi Ki;
18:30 Ben 10: Alien Swarm

Star Plus
12:00 Kehne Do Na Amala Ka!
13:00 Dhoja Di Prem
13:30 Ek Asma Aisi Bhise
14:00 Love Ka Hain Intzaar
14:30 Rishabh Ka Chakravah
15:00 Dance Plus
16:30 Ishqbaaz
17:00 Rishabh Ka Chakravah
18:30 Mera Durga
19:00 TuScoops Men Saari Phirni

BEN 10
21:00 My Name Is Li Ri Si;
22:30 Dragon Ball Z
23:30 Telephoing

Play
12:00 Dorothy and the...
14:00 Chhota Bheem: Paanch
16:00 Superhero Ashki!...
17:30 Chhota Bheem
18:00 The Great Cuckoo Doo
20:00 Chhota Bheem
21:30 Takeethi Castle
22:00 Chhota Bheem
22:30 M.A.D.
23:30 Telephoing

Infotainment
ANIMAL PLANET
12:00 Jaws and Claws
13:00 Fast and Fierce
14:00 Jaws and Claws

Discovery
12:00 Food Factory
12:30 The Great Kitchen Factory
13:00 Food Factory
14:00 Food Factory
14:30 Food Factory
15:00 Munchies
16:00 Discover India
17:00 Man Vs Wild Reloaded
18:00 Man Vs Wild
19:00 American Digger
21:00 Discovery Home
22:00 The Kapil Sharma Show
23:00 Hour Chai

Colors
15:00 Tanzania's Best Kept...
15:30 Tanzania's Best Kept...
16:00 Tanzanian's Best Kept...
17:00 Gangland Killers
18:00 Lion Country Night...
19:00 Wilder Africa
20:00 Modern Marvels
21:00 Gangland Killers
22:00 Jaws and Claws
23:00 American Digger Select

National Geographic Channel
12:00 India Unlocked
13:00 India Unlocked
14:00 India Unlocked
15:00 Do Or Die
15:30 Brain Games
16:00 Brain Games Club
17:00 World's Most Extreme
18:00 Science Of Stupid
18:30 Modern Marvels
19:00 National Geographic
19:45 Nat Geo Investigate
20:00 Field Survivor
21:00 Lost Land Of Jigawa
21:30 Tiger Queen
22:00 Field Survivor

raing
12:00 Counting Cars
12:30 Baggage Battles
13:00 Prodigies
14:00 Modern Marvels
15:00 India Unlocked
16:00 Food Tech: Soured Fried
17:00 Storage Wars
17:30 Baggage Battles

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14:00 Modern Marvels
15:00 India Unlocked
16:00 Food Tech: Soured Fried
17:00 Storage Wars
17:30 Baggage Battles

National Geographic Channel

NEWS LIVE
07:00 Breakfast Live
08:00 Good Morning Assam
08:30 Good Morning West
11:30 Korda Barla (R)
12:00 Mid Day Live
13:00 Mid Day Live
14:30 Afternoon Live
17:30 Good Morning Assam
18:00 Good Evening
19:00 Good Evening
20:00 Discussion Show
21:00 Superprime Time
22:00 News 10
22:30 Nook Ghatwali
23:00 Noor Boker

MICROS 18
07:00 Breakfast
08:00 Good Morning Assam
08:30 Good Morning West
11:30 Korda Barla (R)
12:00 Mid Day Live
13:00 Mid Day Live
14:30 Afternoon Live
17:30 Good Morning Assam
18:00 Good Evening
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Military option with N Korea locked and loaded: Trump

WASHINGTON, Aug 11: US President Donald Trump today said a military option against North Korea was "locked and loaded," his latest salvo in an escalating war of words with Pyongyang's nuclear-armed regime.

"Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely. Hopefully Kim Jong-Un will find another path!" Trump tweeted. The US president's Twitter missive ratcheted up his already bellicose rhetoric with Kim over North Korea's weapons program, as Beijing appealed to the two leaders to dampen their fiery exchange.

A day prior Trump had hardened his warning that Pyongyang would face "fire and fury" if it kept threatening the United States, saying maybe his tough talk "wasn't tough enough."

Trump also warned North Korea it should be "very, very nervous" of the consequences if it even thinks of attacking US soil, after Pyongyang said it was readying plans to launch missiles towards the Pacific territory of Guam.

Pyongyang said the scheme to target the island, a key US military outpost in the western Pacific, was intended to "sig-

nal a crucial warning" as "only absolute force" would have an effect on a US leader "bereft of reason." Beijing today pleaded with the US and North Korea for restraint, urging the two parties "to be cautious with their words and actions."

China should be neutral if N Korea strikes US: report

BEIJING, Aug 11: A Chinese state-run newspaper called on Beijing today to "stay neutral" if North Korea strikes first in a conflict with the United States, despite a mutual defence pact between Trump and Kim. — AFP

The nationalistic *Global Times* tabloid said in an editorial that Washington and Pyongyang were playing a "reckless game" that could lead to "mutual destruction."

"Beijing is not able to reconcile Washington or Pyongyang to back down at this time," the *Global Times* said.

"It needs to make clear its stance to all sides and make them understand that when their actions jeopardize China's interests, China will respond with a firm hand."

The commentary came after Wash-

ington warned North Korea this week it faced "fire and fury like the world has never seen" if it continued to threaten the US with its missile and nuclear programmes. That prompted a defiant Pyongyang to threaten a missile attack on Guam, a tiny US territory in the Pacific that is home to major US air and naval facilities.

China – which has been accused by the US of not doing enough to maintain that political dialogue is the only solution. China fought alongside the North in the 1950-53 Korean War and the two nations signed a mutual defence pact in 1961, but the *Global Times* suggested Beijing should remain on the sidelines if Pyongyang launches the first salvo in a new conflict with the United States. — AFP

levels of greenhouse gases are polluting the atmosphere, acting like a blanket to capture heat around the Earth, the report emphasized.

All the major greenhouse gases that drive warming, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and nitrous oxide, rose to new heights, it said.

Atmospheric CO₂ concentration reached 409.9 parts per million (ppm), surpassing 400 ppm for the first time in the modern record and in ice core records dating back as far as 800,000 years.

"Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing humanity and life on Earth," said the peer-reviewed publication, put together by nearly 500 scientists around the globe and released each year by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the American Meteorological Society.

The entire 280-page report is available online. — AFP



Nawaz wife files papers as PML-N candidate

LAHORE, Aug 11: Pakistan's ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif's wife Kulsoom Nawaz was today fielded by the ruling PML-N party as a candidate from the seat vacated by her husband who was disqualified by the Supreme Court last month.

Pakistan Muslim League (N) party members Asif Khan and Captain Sardar filed the nomination papers of Kulsoom, who is in her late 60s, for the upcoming by-poll for the NA-120 seat at the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Lahore office, Dawn News reported.

"NA-120 will prove to be Waterloo for (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) chief Haider Ali Khan and his opponents of Nawaz Sharif," Kirmanshi was quoted as saying by the report. The National Assembly seat fell vacant after 67-year-old Sharif was disqualified by the Supreme Court in the Panamagate case on July 28. The former prime minister died earlier this month, announcing his younger brother Shahbaz Sharif's name as the party candidate. His name was later withdrawn as party members deemed his presence in Punjab too important.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's candidate Dr Yasmeen Riaz also submitted her nomination papers in the morning.

When asked about Kulsoom's candidacy, Rashid said that the difference between them is that she is a "hardworking middle-class woman who will represent the ordinary people of the country," whereas Kulsoom comes from what he described as "ruling family." Rashid has called the "ruling family," Kulsoom, "the Ruling family." Rashid further said that the PML-N was being "forced" to contest the by-election due to Nawaz's ouster, adding that they should do so on a level playing field without using government machinery. — PTI

Chinese Navy eyes Indian Ocean as part of PLA's plan

ON BOARD PLA SHIP YULIN, Aug 11: China's Navy wants to join hands with India to maintain security of the Indian Ocean, amid growing concerns in New Delhi over the increasing presence of the PLA fleet in India's backyard.

Through its open strategic South Sea Fleet (SSF) base in the coastal city of Zhanjiang to a group of Indian journalists for the first time, People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) officials say the Indian Ocean is a common place for the international community.

"It is my opinion China and India can make joint contributions to the safety and security of the Indian Ocean," Capt Liang Tianjun, Deputy Chief of General Office of China's SSF said. His remarks came as China's Navy embarked on a massive expansion to extend its global reach. Liang also explained the growing forays of the Chinese warships and submarines into the Indian Ocean, where China for the first time established a naval base at Djibouti in the Horn of Africa.

Defending the first Chinese overseas naval base against criticism that it would amplify China's growing influence, he said it will act as a logistics centre and support anti-piracy, UN peacekeeping operations and humanitarian relief missions in the region. The Djibouti base will also provide a resting place for Chinese navy personnel, he said. But analysts feel the opening of the



China and India can make joint contributions to the safety and security of the Indian Ocean

first Chinese military base abroad was in tune with PLAN's ambitions to expand its global reach amidst China's growing economic and political footprint.

"The Indian Ocean is a vast ocean. It is common place for the international community to contribute to the peace and stability in the region," Liang said. — PTI

Planet marks new highs for heat, pollutants, sea level in 2016: report

WASHINGTON, Aug 11: The Earth set a series of dire records in 2016, including hottest year in modern times, highest sea level and most heat-trapping gases ever emitted, a global climate report said on Thursday.

A range of key climate and weather indicators showed a planet warming, including increases in warmth, both record high-annual temperatures sweeping Mexico and India, a trend that shows no signs of slowing down, said the annual State of the Climate Report.

"Last year's record heat reflected from the combined influence of long-term global warming and a strong El Niño early in the year," said the report.

"The major indicators of climate change continued to reflect trends consistent with a warming planet," it added, noting that several markers – such as land and

ocean temperatures, sea level and greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere – broke records set just one year earlier.

The ominous news comes two months after President Donald Trump announced the United States would withdraw from the 2015 Paris Agreement on global warming, a decision that sparked widespread international criticism.

In the past billionaire Trump has called climate change "a hoax" invented by the Chinese, dismissing scientific evidence of human contributions to rising temperatures.

But as humanity continues to rely on fossil fuels for energy unprecedented

levels of greenhouse gases are polluting the atmosphere, acting like a blanket to capture heat around the Earth, the report emphasized.

All the major greenhouse gases that drive warming, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and nitrous oxide, rose to new heights, it said.

Atmospheric CO₂ concentration reached 409.9 parts per million (ppm), surpassing 400 ppm for the first time in the modern record and in ice core records dating back as far as 800,000 years.

"Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing humanity and life on Earth," said the peer-reviewed publication, put together by nearly 500 scientists around the globe and released each year by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the American Meteorological Society.

The entire 280-page report is available online. — AFP



OFFLINE UTILITY FOR UPLOADING INVOICE DATA AND OTHER RECORDS FOR CREATING GSTR-1



Easy Steps to Create GSTR-1 with Offline Tool and Excel Worksheet

Available on GST portal www.gst.gov.in free of cost.

GST Portal provides simple-to-use Offline Utility for uploading invoice data and other records for creating GSTR-1.

Download and Install the Offline tool on your computer.

Enter/Import all invoice data in downloaded Excel template.

Keep adding invoice data to the Excel worksheet.

Import data from the Excel to generate file using Offline tool.

Upload created file on GST Portal for preparing GSTR-1.

Key Benefits:

- Facilitates daily/weekly upload of B2B invoice details and other records.
- The GSTR-1 Excel worksheet can be used to prepare data for GSTR-1 without connecting to Internet in offline mode.
- Java offline tool converts data of the excel worksheet into a format acceptable to GST Portal.
- Offline tool also performs certain computations and validation to minimize errors in Return preparation.
- Output generated from accounting software can also be imported into the offline tool.

System Requirements:

- Operating system Windows 7 & above
 - Best viewed in:
 - Internet Explorer 10+
 - Google Chrome 49+
 - Microsoft Excel 2007 & above
- Please Note:**
- The tool does not work on Linux and Mac operating system.
 - Currently this tool is released for GSTR-1 form only.

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

Issued in public interest by

Commissionerate of State Tax, Government of Assam



Government of India Ministry of Minority Affairs



Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes 2017-18

Applications are invited from the students belonging to six minority communities notified by the Government of India for availing Scholarships under three scholarship schemes viz. Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes for the year 2017-18.

Timeline activities as under :

Activities	Date
Submission of Online applications for Fresh (first time applicant) scholarship by students	1 st June to 31 st August, 2017
Submission of Online applications for Renewal (applicant who have got scholarship during 2016-17) scholarship by students	1 st June to 31 st August, 2017

Eligibility

- The applicant should belong to any one from the notified minority communities viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parisis) and Jains.
- Pursuing studies in India in Government or Private Universities/Institutes/colleges/schools.
- The course being pursued is of one or more years.
- The applicant should have secured 50% marks in the last annual Board/Class examination.

INSTRUCTIONS

For applicants

- Applicants are advised to apply online against any one of the scholarship schemes on the Website of National Scholarship Portal at www.scholarships.gov.in. (a link to the site is also available at www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).
- Detailed "Instructions" for filling in online application and "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)" are available on the National Scholarship Portal homepage.
- Applicant is advised to give only that bank account details which remains in active mode or compliant as per bank's instructions so that payment of scholarship does not fail.

For Universities/Institutes/colleges/schools

- All Universities/Institutes/colleges/schools, where a minority student is studying, should get themselves registered (if not done earlier) on National Scholarship Portal by October, 2017.

For detailed information, visit the website of Ministry of Minority Affairs i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

Gulyev wrecks van Niekerk double hopes, USA take two

LONDON, Aug 11: Wayde van Niekerk's dreams of emulating legend Michael Johnson's 200m/400m world double lay in tatters as Turkey's 9/1 outsider Ramil Gulyev edged the 200m final.

Gulyev's win last night may not have been fulfilling the script the organisers wished for after two-time doping cheat Justin Gatlin's win in the 100m upset superstar Usain Bolt's farewell.

Normal order was restored, however, in the night's other two finals with the United States going one-two in both.

Christian Taylor won his third world title in the triple jump with his great rival Will Claye taking silver just as he has done in two successive Olympic Games.

However, Olympic 400m hurdles champion Dalilah Muhammad was unable to add the world gold as she was run out of first by compatriot Kori Carter, the 25-year-old previously regarded as a journeywoman.

Van Niekerk, who had won the 400m earlier in the week, took a swipe at people who he feels have belittled his achievements.

"There are many people who don't think I deserve this," said the 25-year-

old, who produced the performance of the Olympics last year breaking the 400m world record in winning gold.

"I work just as hard as every other competitor. I don't think I got the respect I deserved after the 400m (winning the world gold) but it's only the beginning and I will show my dominance."

As Gulyev's win was confirmed after a thrilling finish to the 200m, some 800000 rang out and thousands of spectators couldn't make the exit quickly enough.

The 27-year-old Azerbaijani-born sprinter, who became a Turkish citizen in 2011, then draped himself in both the Turkish and Aztec flags as he performed his lap of honour.

"It's not a shock. I wanted to win and this year I thought it was possible and I made it," said Gulyev. "Yes I believed in myself."

Taylor won well enough but the threatened assault on Jonathan Edwards' 22-year-old world record never materialised.

He did show his champion's mentality by twice coming back to better Claye's marks and leave his 26-year-old rival to add another silver to his ever growing collection in his trophy cabinet.

"Will makes it tough every single time," said 27-year-old Taylor who added he will move up to the 400m only when he breaks the world record and has a permanent reminder of the 18.30m he needs to do so on his wrist.

"I have this watch from my sponsor with 18.30 on it. I will try to fight, I will get this number," he said.

"The record is still on. I am still motivated to break that record."

Carter, who is managed by American athletics legend Allyson Felix's brother Wes, more than justified her decision to opt for athletics ahead of her first love for football.

"When you work so hard and sacrifice so much for something, for it to pay off in the end is so satisfying," said Carter. "It's a surreal experience right now. Me and my coach (Bobby Kersee), our whole goal and focus was to get to the podium this year; that's what we've been committed to."

Caster Semenya looked to have more than recovered from her exertions in the 1500 metres where she took bronze as the two-time world champion eased through her 800m heat to reach today's semis. - AFP



Turkey's Ramil Gulyev (C) wins the final of the men's 200m at the IAAF World Championships at the London Stadium.

Davinder Singh Kang reaches javelin throw final

LONDON, Aug 11: Under-20 javelin thrower Davinder Singh Kang pipped a more-fancied Neeraj Chopra to become the first Indian to qualify for a final in this edition of the World Athletics Championships.

Kang's participation in the World Championships had been in doubt after he tested positive for marijuana in June but he was named in the 25-member Indian team as the banned substance was in the specified list of the WADA Code and does not attract automatic suspension.

"After I came to know that Neeraj did not qualify, I wanted to qualify for the final round. I wanted to do something for the country. I wanted to do something which no Indian has done before. By the grace of God, I did something for the country," Kang told PTI after his event.

No Indian has ever qualified for the men's javelin throw final round in any World Championships and Kang's performance brought some relief for the Indian camp, which has put up a shoddy show at the global event.

While it was Chopra, a junior World Champion, who was touted as India's biggest hope, it ended up being Kang



Davinder Singh Kang became the first Indian to reach the men's javelin throw final of the IAAF World Championships.

who came out from nowhere to attain the qualifying mark of 83m with his third and final throw that cleared a distance of 84.22m.

Chopra's best effort of 82.26m was slightly short of the qualifying mark.

Coming into the championships, Chopra was the cyno-

sure of all eyes for the Indian contingent as he was considered the best bet for a top class show. His best effort came in his first qualifying throw.

He fired his second attempt before clearing only 80.54m in his third and final throw to finish seventh in his group and 15th overall. - PTI

Rakibul Hussain resigns as NSA president

NAGAON, Aug 11: Former minister Rakibul Hussain resigned as the president of the Nagaland Sports Association on Wednesday.

According to sources, an executive meeting of the NSA was held at the sports club pavilion which was chaired by Hussain.

During the meeting the matter of no confidence motion against secretary Pradip Kumar Hazarika was placed for discussion and that created an alteration among the members present. At this juncture Hussain rendered his resignation from the post of presidency and requested senior vice president Alok Goswami to conduct the meeting. - Correspondent

Anand draws with Vachier-Lagrave

ST LOUIS (USA), Aug 11:

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand played out a draw with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France to remain in joint lead after the end of the eighth and penultimate round of the Sinquefield Cup, a part of the Grand Chess Tour. Anand played his last white game in the tournament against Vachier-Lagrave and had a small advantage but the Frenchman was quite up to the task in defence and steered the game to a draw. - PTI

Lahiri share 33rd spot with Spieth, McIlroy

CHARLOTTE (USA), Aug 11: Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri repaired a shaky start with a composed finish to card a modest one-over 72 for a share of the 33rd spot on the opening day of the 99th PGA Championships here.

He struck two birdies in the last three holes on a golf course that was playing easy by any means. Lahiri was at one stage, three-over after eight holes yesterday.

That he managed to hang in finish at one-over 72 gave him ample confidence that he was in better form in the second round when he plays in the morning.

Dane Thorbjorn Olesen shot a four-under 67 in the morning to take the lead and in the afternoon wave, Kevin Kisner hole'd three birdies in last five holes to join him in shared lead.

Kisner played with a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole, Jordan Spieth, seeking a career Grand Slam, struggled on the greens during his 72 and Rory McIlroy ended with the same score after being one-under at the turn.

McIlroy was done in by a bogey and double bogey at 13th and 14th and both were T-33rd.

Lahiri said, "Frankly I played solid but it was only in the second nine that I got going. I had a shaky start but as the round progressed things became better."

The greens were a lot slower than what I expected, but they were firmer as they had dried up. I ended up leaving a lot of putts short. I really struggled with the speed of the greens.

Speaking of his misses, Lahiri explained, "On the second nine (the front side of the course) I missed two makable putts from short distances like from six feet on fifth (par) and from five feet on eighth (birdie)."

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The five included rookie Grayson Murray, whose win at Barbasol two weeks ago in the same week as the British Open, earned him a PGA spot.

He was tied third alongside US Open champion Brooks Koepka, Gary Woodland, DA Points and Chris Stroud, who won last week at Barracuda forced him to change plans as he qualified for the PGA Championships.

Hidetaka Matsuyama rode a roller-coaster as he opened with two birdies, but turned in one-under. On the back nine, he had three bogeys in a row from third to fifth, before stemmung the rot with a par and then closed the day with three straight birdies for a card of one-under 70 and was Tied-15th.

Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els had a miserable start to their 100th Major as they shot 79 and 80 respectively. Mickelson's record of not having missed a PGA cut since 1995 is now in danger. - PTI

Federer into Montreal Masters quarters, Nadal knocked out

MONTREAL, Aug 11: Roger Federer maintained his career-long winning streak over David Ferrer to advance to the quarterfinals of the ATP Montreal Masters on Thursday after a three-set battle with the veteran Spaniard, while Rafael Nadal suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Denis Shapovalov.

Federer, 36, had never lost in 16 previous meetings with the 35-year-old Ferrer, whom he first defeated 14 years ago at the Vienna Indoor tournament.

While Ferrer managed to take the opening set – ending Federer's 32-set streak – the Swiss ace raised his game to win 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

"I actually feel really happy because I know I can play a lot better. David can play a lot better, too," Federer said. "We battled, both tried to find a way to win. You know, he had a good start, I had a better finish."

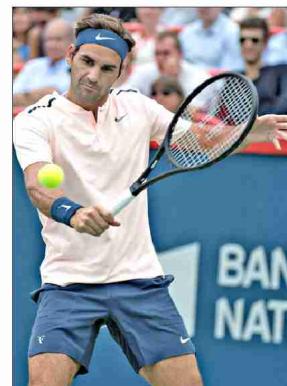
Strangely error-prone Federer was unable to generate his usual fluency early on, and quickly found himself giving away early breaks to trail 4-1 in the first set.

Nowhere was Federer's wayward performance better illustrated than in the seventh game, when he squandered three break points at 40-40 to allow Ferrer to take a 5-2 lead.

Federer held for 5-3 and looked to have clawed his way back into the set with a break of Ferrer's serve in the next game to make it 5-4.

But Federer was struggling again as he served to level the set, finding himself set point down. He saved the first with an ace but Ferrer made no mistake with his second set point, converting to take the opener 6-4.

Federer responded quickly in the second set, going up to lead 3-2 before holding for a 4-2 lead. - AFP



Roger Federer of Switzerland returns the ball to David Ferrer of Spain during their third round match at the Rogers Cup in Montreal. Federer won 2-1.

India end Belgium leg of Euro tour with 1-3 loss

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The Indian men's hockey team suffered its second successive loss, going down 1-3 to Belgium in Boom for a disappointing end to the first leg of its ongoing tour of Europe.

The Red Devils dished out a spirited performance late last night and came back from a goal down to beat India and pocket the two-match series 2-0 in as many days.

India had earlier lost by a solitary goal to Belgium in their opening game of the tour on Wednesday.

The match yesterday began under overcast conditions with India having the momentum to begin with.

Young goalkeeper Suraj Karkera made a brilliant save in the first few minutes of the opening quarter to deny the Belgians.

The Indians, who have fielded an experimental team here with as many as six players making their debut in the senior national side, started on an aggressive note and surged ahead in the fourth minute when Armaan Qureshi scored a brilliant field goal.

India got an opportunity to double the lead soon from a penalty corner but failed to convert. The visitors maintained the pressure to keep Belgian goalkeeper Vincent Vanasch busy.

Vanesch extended their lead through Cedric Charlier's field strike. - PTI

Qureshi took two back-to-back shots on goal but Vanasch was up for the challenge and denied India any further lead.

The lead didn't last long as Belgium scored the equaliser through Amaury Keusters (9th minute).

The second quarter saw both the teams trade penalty corners. While India wasted their chances, Belgium found success through Loick Luyckx who converted a set piece in the 21st minute.

Just as the stroke of halftime, Belgium extended their lead through Cedric Charlier's field strike. - PTI

Pliskova into Rogers Cup quarters, Venus bows out

TORONTO, Aug 11: World number one Karolina Pliskova advanced to the quarterfinals of the WTA Toronto hardcourt tournament while a pair of high seeds Venus Williams and Angelique Kerber crashed out in straight sets on Thursday.

Pliskova's opponent Naomi Osaka abandoned due to a muscle injury, leaving Pliskova to advance 6-2, 6-7(4), 6-1.

After taking the first set, Czech top seed Pliskova was given a scare after Osaka fought back to level in the second set tie-break. But with Osaka clearly in discomfort, the Japanese teenager scratched in the decider.

It was a frustrating end for Osaka, who had to pull out of events in Prague and Madrid earlier this year with the same abdominal injury.

Elina Svitolina easily dispatched the 37-year-old Williams 6-2, 6-1 while American Sloane Stephens crushed two-time major champion and winner Angelique Kerber by

identical 6-2, 6-2 scores.

Pliskova meanwhile was left satisfied after pounding down 12 aces and not dropping her serve once.

She admitted how-

ever that she faces a tough challenge holding on to her world number one ranking.

"It's going to be tough," Pliskova said.

"There are a few tour-

naments to go before the end of the year and I know Simona's (Simona Halep) behind me. I'll do my best to stay there as long as I can – hopefully a few more weeks."

Pliskova will now face

former world number

one Caroline Wozniacki in the last

eight. Denmark's Wozniacki advanced

to the last eight with a 6-3, 6-1 win

over 10th-seeded Agnieszka Radwan-

ská, a close friend.

Williams, who was the oldest player in the draw, fell behind 5-0 in the first set and failed to muster

any sort of challenge after fifth

seeded Svitolina.

"I was just trying to focus on my

game and play one point at a time,"

Svitolina said.

"I was trying to be there in the right

moment, move quick, look for the ball

and play as deep as I could to make

her feel uncomfortable."

"I needed to stay

calm tonight and just

really be focused on

each point. I'm very

happy that I could win

in straight sets."

The seven-time

Grand Slam winner

Williams made 21 un-

forced errors to just 10

for Svitolina.

Williams, who was involved in a

fatal car smash two

months ago, hit six

winners in the one

hour match.

Stephens needed just 58 minutes to send German third

seed Kerber packing.

Stephens stepped up her game

against Kerber after a couple of long

three set wins against Yulia Putintseva and Petra Kvitova in the first

two rounds.

"I'm just pleased to be playing well

and just happy to be back on the court again," said Stephens.

"In the first match, I played well,

someone that I don't think I have ever

played before. And then second match

playing Kvitova she's a lefty, which I

haven't played in a really long time."

"The same thing today, I just really

went out and played my game."

In other action on Thursday,

France's Caroline Garcia defeated

Catherine Bellis of the United States

6-4, 6-2.

Garcia will face second seed Halep

in the quarterfinals. Halep, the defending champion, bundled off Barbora Strycova of the Czech Republic in under an hour, winning 6-1, 6-0.

Elsewhere, Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic defeated Ekaterina Makarova of Russia 6-3, 6-7(3), 6-2. - AFP

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7	3			5
5	2	3	1	
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Solution of last problem

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

