

NEWS
CAPSULE

GST praised
WASHINGTON, June 27: US President Donald Trump today praised the Modi government's Goods and Services Tax (GST) initiative, saying the largest tax overhaul in India's history will create "great new opportunities" for the Indian people. — PTI

Drone deal

WASHINGTON, June 27: The US has cleared the sale of Guardian drones to India, as President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged today to deepen their defense ties. The drones will boost Indian Navy's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. — PTI

Visa issue

WASHINGTON, June 27: The H-1B visa issue that was looming on the Indo-US relationship in the run-up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's maiden meeting with President Donald Trump did not figure in the talks between the two leaders. — PTI

Global ultra

NEW DELHI, June 27: The US President's decision to declare Syed Salihuddin a global terrorist would help in choking his movements and financing. Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi said today. — PTI

Fast withdrawn

GUWAHATI, June 27: Congress MLA Ranjyoti Kurni today withdrew his indefinite hunger strike after the Governor assured a party delegation that he will take up the inter-state border dispute issue with the Central Government and the State Government forwarded the legislator's memorandum to the President. — Staff Reporter

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

US declares Hizbul chief Salihuddin as 'global terrorist' Modi, Trump vow to fight terror

WASHINGTON, June 27: In a stern message to Pakistan, India and the US today asked the country to ensure that its soil is not used for cross-border terror with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump vowing to boost their fight against terror groups like ISIS, JeM, LeT and D-Congress.

As the two leaders held their maiden meeting at the White House and displayed a lot of chemistry, the two countries also called on Pakistan to "expeditiously" bring to justice the perpetrators of the Mumbai, Pathankot attacks and other cross-border terrorist assaults by Pakistan-based groups.

Modi and Trump vowed to strengthen efforts to fight terrorism and eliminate safe havens for terrorists.

"Eliminating terrorism is among the top-most priorities for us," Modi told reporters in his joint press statement with Trump at the White House Rose Garden.

A joint statement issued after their meeting said the two sides "called on Pakistan to

ensure that its territory is not used to launch terror attacks on other countries."

Ahead of the meeting, the US State Department had set the tone for the summit by declaring Syed Salihuddin, chief of Kashmiri militant group Hizbul Mujahideen, as a "global terrorist".

The State Department's action sent out a strong message against the terrorism emanating from Pakistan which is

high on symbolism, there was no mention of contentious issues like the H-1B visa reform and climate change.

The Trump administration also confirmed that it had given its approval to the multi-million dollar sale of a transport carrier to India, along with a separate package of around 20 Guardian drones.

"I would say that the relationship between India and the United

States has never been stronger, has never been better," Trump told Modi as they made press statements.

"I look forward to working with you, Mr Prime Minister, to create jobs in our countries, to grow our economies and to create a trading relationship that is fair and reciprocal."

Modi highlighted his government's economic reforms

(See page 7)

China protests Indian troops 'crossing boundary'

BEIJING, June 27: China today lodged a protest with India over the alleged "crossing of boundary" by its troops in the Sikkim section and demanded their immediate withdrawal, as Beijing warned that future visits of Indian pilgrims to Kalash Mansarovar will depend on the resolution of the standoff.

"Our position to uphold our territorial sovereignty is unwavering. We hope the Indian side can work with China in the same direction and immediately withdraw the personnel who have overstepped and trespassed into Chinese border," Chinese Foreign Minis-

try spokesman Lu Kang told a media briefing here.

"We have lodged solemn representations in Beijing and New Delhi to elaborate on our solemn position," he said.

About the fate of the pil-

grims headed to Kalash Mansarovar, who had returned to Gangtok after denial of permission by China to enter Tibet, Lu said their visit was

called off because of security reasons. He also linked future visits of pilgrims to India "withdrawing the troops" from the area.

"On the upcoming actions we have to depend on what the

(See page 7)

Sikkim section, I think the Indian side is very clear about this. For a long time the Chinese government has made enormous efforts to provide the necessary convenience to those Indian pilgrims," Lu said.

"But recently the Indian border personnel trespassed Chinese border to obstruct our construction, we have taken necessary actions. Out of se-

curity consideration we have

put off the pilgrimage by the Indian pilgrims through the Chinese pass," he said.

In another development, po-

lice said that Manju Govind Shetty, whose death sparked the

protests in the prison, was alleg-

edly tortured and a stick was in-

serted in her private parts.

Manju, 45, died at the gov-

ernment-run JJ Hospital on

Friday night after allegedly

being beaten up by a woman

official of the jail on June 23.

"These allegations are part

of the FIR filed against the jail staff. We are probing the mat-

ter," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-3), Akhilsh Singh told PTD.

The Nagaland police, investi-

gating the case, have filed an

offence of murder against the

jail staff. "We are seeking

(See page 7)

Indrani moves court over assault

MUMBAI, June 27: Sheena Bora murder case accused Drinal Mukerjee, booked along with other inmates in a women's prison for rioting sparked by the death of a convict, today moved a court alleging she was beaten up by a jail official on the jail on June 23.

"These allegations are part of the FIR filed against the jail staff. We are probing the matter," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-3), Akhilsh Singh told PTD.

The Nagaland police, investi-

gating the case, have filed an

offence of murder against the

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(See page 7)

Excise reforms plug revenue leakages

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Sources revealed that at least 18 bonded warehouses were functioning all along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border areas. Majority of the owners of the warehouses showed on paper that they were selling liquor in Arunachal Pradesh. But in reality, they were selling liquor in Assam (See page 7)

Collection up by 21 pc

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

I'd rather be a failure at something I love than a success at something I hate.

— GEORGE F BURNS

**Cautious approach**

By now the global leaders have learned, some the hard way, how unpredictable and wayward the new US President, Donald Trump, can be. Little wonder that, reportedly, his advisers had warned India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi to steer clear of controversial topics in his 20-minute person-to-person chat with Trump during his first official visit to the US. Indians cannot but speculate on the fact that five months have passed since Trump became the President and he has met over two dozen world leaders in the White House within the period. Apparently, the Indian Prime Minister had to wait his turn somewhere in the back of the queue, and be satisfied with a short interaction and a dinner hosted in his honour. Contrast this with the effusive and personal welcome accorded to the Chinese President almost immediately after Trump's inauguration, the latter hosting him at his retreat in Florida. It is obvious who the businessman who stumbled into becoming the US President considers to be the alpha dog in Asia! However, perhaps it is a blessing that Trump has left it so late to invite the Indian PM, or that he has not shown the effusiveness with which Barack Obama had greeted Modi. Perhaps it has enabled Modi to gauge what the most pragmatic approach would be towards the new US President, and decided that contentious issues were best avoided!

Thus the joint declaration after the President-PM deliberations was a mere Xerox-copy of previous ones made in other times, the highlight being yet another warning to Pakistan not to harbour terrorists or indulge in cross-border terrorism and to bring to justice the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and those on the Pathankot airbase. There is also a call to Pakistan to declare the dreaded terrorist Syed Salahuuddin as a global threat, and the pledge that all his US assets would be frozen and America would not conduct business with him. Both parties agreed that the situation in Afghanistan was alarming and that North Korea was a global threat! Apparently, for the nonce, the India-America joint military strategy treaty worked out between Obama and Manmohan Singh will not be disrupted; Trump would go ahead with next month's naval exercises with India and Japan even as he cleared the predator Guardian drones sales to India so that the latter can keep an eye on the Indian Ocean. Nary a word on India's concerns about Trump's 'America First' policy which is causing job losses for Indians both within the country and the US, or about Trump's disdain of the Paris Accord or even the growing hate crimes in America against Indian origin citizens. With Modi following the adage that discretion is the better part of valour, it would apparently be up to the bureaucrats to sort contentious issues out.

Boosting horticulture

While the State's horticultural produce has increased in recent years, the full potential of this important sector is nowhere near realization. Not just Assam, the North-east as a whole has the required geo-climatic conditions for triggering a horticultural boom but unresponsive government authorities have stood in the way of tapping this potential. Food processing which is intrinsically linked to horticulture, too, has failed to gain ground for the same constraints. We only need to look at States like Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh and the neighbouring nation of Bhutan to see the role of horticulture and food processing in their economies. Such a horticultural boom has been possible in those States because of the active involvement of governments which are aggressively promoting horticultural entrepreneurship. Improvement in the sector will also entail technological interventions and quality planting material. Constraints plaguing key sectors such as horticulture and food processing in which we have an inherent advantage should be addressed. Indeed, horticulture can open up new vistas for the farmers and arrest the sluggish growth of agriculture. Assam is endowed with the ideally diverse soil and climatic conditions for growing a variety of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental, medicinal and aromatic plants besides spices, mushroom and plantation crops. Sadly, the commercial prospects of horticulture remain largely ignored whereas it is an area with tremendous scope for export. All this can change if our growers are provided access to the emerging trends and innovative expertise necessary for attaining excellence in the field. Another perennial drawback hindering the growth of our farming sector concerns the absence of market linkage and cold storage facilities. This dual constraint ensures that our farmers often have to resort to distress sale at throwaway prices benefiting the middle men. This means that even when there is good production, neither the farmer nor the consumer gets any benefit. All the tall talk of the State Government about fast-tracking agricultural growth will sound hollow as long as the farmers do not have access to storage facilities and market linkage.

Of late, a lot of emphasis has been placed on expanding organic farming, and organic cultivation of horticulture can do a world of good to horticulture and food processing as well. This is particularly relevant to exporting organic horticultural products, including processed food, that have a huge demand in the international market. The Act East Policy, too, needs to be oriented towards facilitating a sustained growth of sectors such as agriculture and horticulture with an eye on capturing the lucrative markets abroad. With the Government as facilitator, horticulture can effectively create a new breed of entrepreneurs. Horticulture being labour-intensive, it can generate large-scale employment in the rural areas. For developing horticulture as an industry, areas like crop diversification, technological intervention, value-addition, etc., will need adequate thrust.

Influx and 'voluntary departure scheme'

■ Dibyajyoti Dutta

Of late, the issue of illegal immigration has been occupying the centre stage in the popular political discourse in the Assam predominantly because of the ongoing update process of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the hasty introduction of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in the Lower House of Parliament seeking Indian citizenship for persons belonging to the minority communities, namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. While the Apex Court-monitored NRC update process is being lauded at different quarters except for some agitations on the ground of 'homogenization of genuine Indian citizens', the precipitous move towards granting citizenship to certain 'religious' communities have been decried and reprobated without much disagreements. The common people sense politics in the timing of the introduction of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 as it is perceived that the proposed changes in the Citizenship Act, 1955 would influence the NRC update process thereby muddying up the entire illegal immigration issue into further contestations and conflicts. It is criticized that acting contrary to the electoral assurance of protecting *Jati, Manti, Bheda* (nation, land and hearth), the ruling Government led by the BJP has been working against such spirit.

It is argued that a solution needs to be reached at in order to settle the question of illegal immigrants in line with the Assam Accord. Thus, the Government can nullify an arrangement which could help in a big way to deport the illegal immigrants from the soil of Assam. The Voluntary Departure Scheme (VDS) is relatively a new concept and is being tried by countries like the United Kingdom, Israel and France to deport persons who are illegally staying in their territories. As part of the scheme the illegal immigrants are asked to return home and are provided with all administrative support and logistics. The French Government has been offering one-time financial assistance so that once home, the beneficiaries can start a small business and earn a living.

This is undoubtedly true that the nature of migration to the European countries does not match with the case of India or for that matter Assam. Owing to the geographical, lingual, cultural and religious similarities and the socio-political conditions conducive for their cause, the immigrants find a safe abode in Assam. If continued unabated, the issue has the potential to make and unmake the political discourse in the State. The legal battles are taking a long period of time to deport the illegal immigrants, therefore a parallel system – VDS – may be considered as a matter of policy. Questions may be raised as if how and why VDS can become an effective tool since a large chunk of the immigrants has already been accom-

modated in the greater social fabric. Why accept the Assam Accord as sacrosanct and supreme when it does not possess the attributes of a law?

These questions invite serious and rational deliberation.

To clarify its stand on the foreigners' issue, the Government of Assam came up with a White Paper in 2012. As part of the Accord, the paper states: "The citizenship status was provided to those who came to Assam between January 1, 1966 and

Since the entire exercise rests on the idea of voluntary deportation, hence, it does not involve lengthy administrative impediments and legal intricacies. The person wishing to go to his/her home country expresses his/her willingness voluntarily and thus deportation becomes easier.

March 24, 1971 after disfranchising for a period of 10 years subject to registration. Thus, those who migrated without proper legal documents to Assam or on or after March 25, 1971 are illegal immigrants. But, the children born to these illegal immigrants may or may not be lawful citizens of India by birth. Section 3 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 would apply to determine their citizenship. Without any doubt, it evidences the fact that March, 1971 deadline to deport illegal immigrants is a far

cry since the Citizenship Act, 1955 treats persons born India on or after January 26, 1950, but before July 1, 1987, as a citizen of India by birth irrespective of the nationality of his/her parents. How a person born to illegal immigrants during this period can be called an immigrant?

The VDS could become a very effective instrument as those persons who are willing to leave Assam may have a dignified exit. Those who have been living in the State for a longer period of time may not consider it, but those who are still struggling to assimilate may come forward. This is indeed a complex process and hence, the Central Government must initiate negotiations with Bangladesh (which is considered to be the source country).

A cordial relationship with the source country of immigration, stringent adherence to the rules in the host country to identify and expedite the process of deportation, new laws restricting engagement of alleged migrants

as cheap labourers, making land sale and settlement rules tougher, etc., are some popularly-cited remedies to address infiltration. Apart from that, a strong political will and active citizens' participation also hold significance. The following factors must be remembered for implementing the VDS: (a) Most of the immigrants entering Assam are illiterate, poor and ill-informed about legal intricacies. (b) They settle in the *barter areas* where the administration has no or little reach. (c)

Assimilation becomes easier because of the common language, ethnicity and religion. (d) There exist strong political differences, confusing statistics and contesting viewpoints with regard to the presence, identification and deportation of illegal immigrants.

Since the entire exercise rests on the idea of voluntary deportation, hence, it does not involve lengthy administrative impediments and legal intricacies. The person wishing to go to his/her home country expresses his/her willingness voluntarily and thus deportation becomes easier. Questions may be raised at this point as what would happen, if the source country expresses reluctance to accept the person? It is in fact a strong apprehension. A friendly and cordial relationship with the source country and by signing agreements to accept genuine persons may definitely pacify such apprehensions. One-time financial grants may also be announced so that once home, the person can start some business to earn a living. Apart from that, a special amnesty scheme may simultaneously be announced to expedite the process.

There are certain sections of believers who contemplate that man-made borders should not divide societies and cultures. Unless it poses an existential threat to the indigenous communities, in-migration should not be controlled with iron hands. The justifications behind such humane arguments are really laudable. But, such projections do not have wider acceptance in Assam because of strong political assertions. Against such backdrop, a scheme which ensures dignified exit of the foreigners may be considered.

Prospects of pharmaceutical industry and education

■ Dr Nitul Sarma, Manoj Kumar Sarma

The Indian pharmaceutical sector is one of the fastest growing markets in the world which produces 20-24% of the world's generic drugs in terms of value and employs thousands of workers directly or indirectly in production, quality control, marketing, drug development and other research-related activities. Multinational companies (MNCs) are also active in the Indian market with 15-20 of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies making their presence felt in India. The Indian pharmaceutical companies meet various demands for pharmaceutical products from almost all the countries; nearly 70% of the demand for bulk drugs is met by India. The industry is manufacturing practically the entire range of therapeutic products and has been recognized as a low-cost producer of quality bulk drugs and formulations. The Indian market before 1970 was dominated by the MNCs, but within a decade of the Patent Act, the Indian firms have begun to dominate the domestic market and gradually the Indian MNCs were born in the pharmaceutical

sector and started operating soon after the post-1991 economic liberalization. The Indian pharmaceutical industry is now mature enough to adjust and participate in the domestic as well as international market place, consolidating existing strength and pursuing new opportunities.

The expected sustained high growth rate of the pharma industry is envisaged from multiple drivers such as the health care demand and large patient base in India, growth in consumption pattern, increasing intensity of newer disease patterns, the outsourcing trend in drug development and discovery processes adopted by the MNCs, drug policy, pricing and trend in health care insurance. Still the Indian pharmaceutical industry has to tackle with many challenges like increasing competition and ensuring universal access at affordable prices, building up research and development capability, obtaining high quality manpower support, cooperation from health care and related institutions, vigorous marketing drives and building up responsible and dynamic sales organization and

most importantly, confronting the menace of spurious drugs floating in the market. In this perspective, it is necessary that the pharmaceutical sector adopts strategies for participation in contract research, investment in creation of new drugs for the local as well as global market, creation of drugs that are off-patent or are soon to be off-patent and spending sufficient fund on research in design and development of new, versatile drugs.

The future of the pharmaceutical industry is closely related to the state of pharmaceutical education in the country. The rapid growth of the pharmaceutical sector and its internationalization entails the need for trained manpower both in terms of quality and quantity. The need for upgrade of pharmaceutical education is a perceived need felt around the world in the developed as well as the developing countries. The existing pharmaceutical institutions have to tackle with many challenges like increasing competition and ensuring universal access at affordable prices, building up research and development capability, obtaining high quality manpower support, cooperation from health care and related institutions, vigorous marketing drives and building up responsible and dynamic sales organization and

position in drug discovery and development and to continue to excel in formulations, human resources/talent pool, R&D and innovation are very critical. Keeping in view the increasing demand of skilled manpower in the field of pharmaceutical education and research, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India established the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) at Mohali in 1998 with the objective of developing a centre of excellence in education and research in pharmaceutical sciences. Later, the Ministry started another six other similar institutions with the help of mentor institutes and the NIPER-Guwahati is one among them established in 2008 which is functioning under the mentor institute Gauhati Medical College with the objective of preparing professionals to suit the need of the pharma industry as well as the academic arena. The NIPER-Guwahati offers a two-year PG course along with PhD programme. It is a matter of pride that in the formative stage, the NIPER-Guwahati has been able to maintain high standards of education and research. The activities

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir: — The Gorkhaland movement or the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland within the Republic of India is not the struggle of one community alone. I think it is the struggle of everyone who believes that cultures are to be shared and not to be made obligatory. Every Indian who believes in the ethos of our Indian Constitution should come forward to protect the rights of the oppressed communities and identities like the Indian Gorkhas. Nepal is a constitutionally-recognized language and the demand for Gorkhaland on the linguistic basis is constitutional as well. The demands for separate states are not new in India since Independence. So, the new state that the Indian Gorkhas have been demanding may be created out of West Bengal the same way the State of Gujarat was created out of Bombay, Haryana out of Punjab, Andhra Pradesh out of Madras, Uttarakhand out of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand out of Bihar and Chhattisgarh out of Madhya Pradesh.

The Indian Constitution

Gorkhaland a legitimate demand

empowers the state to take positive steps to protect and preserve the language and culture of the minorities. The Gorkha people are asking for their constitutional rights in their own land in order to protect their identity, culture and dignity. Yours etc., BASANTA NIROLA, Biswanath.

A virtual world

Sir: — Once upon a time not very long ago, our outside world was the radio and the newspaper. A few English and vernacular magazines and the Bihari and Puja editions of the periodicals were the additional source of information, humour and entertainment. Things were calm for a while and nothing phenomenal happened in communication and mass media other than films in the movie halls. The early 80s suddenly took us by storm when the wonder box, or rather, the much-vilified idiot box, hit our lives. Immediately it brought the small worlds closer. The entire neighbourhood flocked to the house whose living room was adorned by the television set for community viewing of programmes, especially sports. The initial days of television were literally black and white and

programmes were meant for family viewing. News was read discretely by composed readers. But it did not last long; either, and the cable and dish TV invasion left our lives topsy-turvy. The world did become a global village but the very core of family life was shaken based on personal exigencies for television viewing. That rocky phase somewhat settled for some equilibrium after a while with much difficulty.

Then in a masterstroke the internet upturned the reel to the real time and the world went virtual — love, relations, marriage, job, money, everything. In a click the world is in every sense is virtually global and metaphorically intensely individual. One can only remember those days now. Yours etc., DR ARCHANA DEKA, Basantpur, Tezpur.

Compartmental classes

Sir: — Through your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the attention of the State Education Minister and the officials concerned regarding the extra classes for the compartmental HSLC examination during the summer vacation. It would be harsh for the teachers for taking classes during vacations. As per the service rules, the teachers get the summer vacation instead of earned leave. But these classes will deprive them of availing their rightfully due vacation. Most of the teachers are now feeling insecure as their rights and privileges are going to be jeopardized for their engagement during the summer vacation against the service rules. We are not against the goodwill gesture of the Government but we request it to reconsider the move. Yours etc., A CONCERNED TEACHER, Jorhat.

Defective packaging

Sir: — Even when the branded medicinal products cost much higher than its generic counterparts, the quality of those branded medicines are always in question. Cheaper quality or poorly packaged medicines are being sold at exorbitant rates and the authority concerned is seen doing nothing to change the scenario and control the dishonest practices. Few days back, I bought a bottle of Trisiliv (Medley capacitor) from a medical store. After breaking the seal, I again locked the aluminum cap and started to shake the medicine. But, surprisingly, I found the cap was loose and whenever I

shook the bottle, few droplets of liquid medicine kept coming out. I immediately stopped using the defective medicine due to the leakage. I tried to inform the company about the incident by writing an email. But I was unable to locate any direct mailing address in their website to register my grievance. The authorities like the State Health Department ought to introduce regulations in this regard so that the companies cannot flood the market with substandard products. Yours etc., DHANJIT MEDHII, Guwahati.

GST implementation

Sir: — At the time of the introduction of VAT in 2005, the idea was to unify the nation with one rate of tax, and tax was to be charged at the last point. Unfortunately, CST was not abolished and different States started charging different rates on the same commodity. The entire move had been frustrated. One wonders whether this time the GST would be implemented in true spirit. Yours etc., NIRMAL AGARWAL, Guwahati.

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

Steps to carry forward cultural legacy of Kumar Bhaskar Natya Mandir

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 27: With renewed vigour, the Kamrup Natya Samiti has decided to launch several initiatives to carry forward the cultural legacy of the Kumar Bhaskar Natya Mandir.

Other than planning a cultural calendar to streamline the programmes, the Samiti is also preparing to create a corpus fund for sustenance of its new projects.

The new executive committee of the Natya Samiti for the year 2017-18 under its president and veteran social activist Dhiren Baruah has decided to stage at least three quality full-length plays at the Kumar Bhaskar Natya Mandir, Uzai Bazaar.

"Kumar Bhaskar Natya Mandir has a legacy of its own and the Natya Samiti's initiative is to make it a thriving centre of cultural congregation through revival of its glory and also by offering some quality choices to the discerning audience," Samiti president Dhiren Baruah told *The Assam Tribune*.



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal attending the meeting for technological solutions to add teeth to police efficacy, at Janata Bhawan in Guwahati on Tuesday. – UB Photos

Annual meeting of Purvottar Janajati Shiksha Samiti

GUWAHATI, June 27: The annual general body meeting of Purvottar Janajati Shiksha Samiti (PJSS) was held at Shankardev Vidyapeet, Vishwanath, RG Baruah Road on Sunday, said a press release today.

The meeting, presided over by PJSS president Longki Phangho, was attended by Robinra Chamaria, executive member of Vidyapeet Bharati Akhil Bhanjana Shiksha Sansthan; Dr Joy Kanta Sami, president, Vidyapeet Bharati Purvottar Kshetra; Anima Sarma, secretary, Vidyapeet Bharati Akhil Bhanjana Shiksha Sansthan; PT Jamir, president, Janajati Shiksha Samiti, Nagaland and Brahmaji Rao, organising secretary of Vidyapeet Bharati Purvottar Kshetra. Delegates from Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh also attended the meeting.

On the occasion, tributes were paid to Mohanlal Agarwala, founder president of PJSS and former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Kalikho Pul.

Anima Sarma spoke in detail on the birth of Purvottar Janajati Shiksha Samiti as well as the system of education in Vidyapeet Bharati, Sanchiran Jayaram, secretary of Purvottar Jana-

jati Shiksha Samiti spoke on the minutes of the organisation's last meeting and the annual report for the session 2016-17.

Robinra Chamaria spoke on the organisational and educational side of PJSS and offered some suggestions in this regard. Dr Joy Kanta Sami spoke on the working system of Vidyapeet Bharati and the spread of *janajati shiksha*.

Brahmaji Rao spoke on various training programmes to be organised at different places and time in the north-eastern states during the ensuing summer vacation. He also said that progress and development of the hilly areas would not be possible only by planning from the plain areas. For the progress of the people of such hilly areas the number of workers needed to be increased in the real sense of the term.

Longki Phangho laid stress on proper training to meet the need of the people and students of hilly areas for their further development. Sharing knowledge and time is required for their development, he asserted.

In between the programme, two patriotic songs were presented by Dipen Rabha and Swadhin Bader Bagia.

Guwahati airport to have new radar system

GUWAHATI, June 27: The Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport here will have a state-of-the-art surveillance air traffic control (ATC) radar system covering almost the entire northeastern sky, according to the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

The upcoming radar system is part of the Airports Authority of India undertaking a project for replacing 20-year-old radar systems with the new state-of-the-art technology, said an AAI press release.

It is AAI's continuing endeavour for modernising air navigation services (ANS) with new radars, ADS-B (automatic dependent surveillance-broadcasting) equipment and ATIS (automation tooling systems) at various locations in the country, the release said.

The data from the new radar will be integrated with

the INDRA TS automation system of the local approach control and area control centres in Guwahati. The same data will also be provided and integrated with other automation systems for providing satisfactory radar coverage at the required redundancy levels over the northeastern air space, it said.

The radar is of high resolution and has extensive digital signal processing capability. The software used in the new primary radar is complex and gives excellent monitoring of the various types of aircraft in the sky. AAI said. The message processing technique gives detailed information of all aircraft, which can give high precision information to give high resolution and smooth flow of air traffic, thereby setting new standards and high quality air traffic control over the entire sky of the Northeast, it added. – PTI

Sonowal asks DGP to strengthen criminal tracking network system

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 27: In a move to empower Assam Police with technological solutions and criminal intelligence for increasing its efficiency, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has asked the Director General of Police to ensure that no slackness creeps in while connecting all police stations in the State with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS). CCTNS is a comprehensive

and integrated system for augmenting the efficacy of policing by adopting the principle of e-governance and creation of a nationwide networking infrastructure for evolution of IT-enabled state-of-the-art tracking system around investigation of crime and detection of criminals'.

At a meeting held in the conference room of his office at Janata Bhawan here today, the Chief Minister asked DGP Mukesh Sahay to ensure that the State police is fully em-

powered with crime and criminal tracking network system for real-time sharing of crime records and investigation of crime and criminal activities.

Sonowal also asked the DGP to introduce a police helpline along the national highways in the State and make helpline No 100 more active and responsive for police assistance to reach out to people in distress.

Though at present 312 police stations in the State are covered by this tracking network, Sonowal asked the

State police is fully em-

powered to revamp the system for making the police functioning more citizen-friendly and transparent by automating the functioning of police stations.

The IT-enabled network system, besides connecting the police stations horizontally and vertically, is also expected to improve citizen-centric services, reducing manual and redundant record-keeping through effective use of Information Communication Technology (ICT).

Inclusive education NGO coordinator takes part in US prog

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 27: Amvalika Senapati, coordinator of the Disability Law Unit of Shishu Sarothi, an NGO working for persons with disabilities, had taken part recently in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Anniversary Fellowship Program on Inclusive Education, at the University of Minnesota, United States.

Under the fellowship, professionals with work experience or for NGOs, government, universities, schools or community-based organisations, were invited to travel to the US as part of the programme to learn about inclusive education, and upon return to their respective home countries, to be responsible for implementing a project to foster the adoption or improve the quality of inclusive education in their settings.

The fellowship was a merit-based competition open to candidates in Kazakhstan, Armenia, Ukraine and India. Out of 400 applications from early to mid-career professionals, 28 participants were selected with seven fellows from each country.

The fellowship programme, sponsored by the US State Department and conducted by the University of Minnesota in collaboration with the University of Arizona, hosted 20 Fellows in Minnesota and remaining eight in Arizona. It included a five-week stay at Minneapolis/Azona and the last week at Washington DC.

"The programme offered rich learning experience in inclusive education and on universal design for learning (UDL), a pedagogy, which en-

deavours to make expert learners of all students, including learners with disabilities. Our existing inflexible, one-size-fits-all curricula often raise unintentional barriers to learning, even for learners without disabilities and UDL would promote diversity in the classroom as strength rather than becoming a barrier. I am confident that this could work wonders for all children to achieve to their best capabilities and I'm keen on initiating the concept and idea of UDL so that slowly we can start implementing it," said Amvalika.

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Management graduates to be appointed block coordinators

STAFF REPORTER

tors from other line departments like Fisheries, Agriculture, IT, etc.

Sarma said that the Mega Mission Society, which will implement the schemes, has already been registered. Three mini-missions under the Mega Mission – each from Agriculture, Sports & Youth Affairs

Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana

and IT – have also been registered. Six more mini-missions will be formed.

The objective of the scheme is to double the farmers' income by the year 2022. For this, the government will spend Rs one crore in each of the 2,600 villages.

"The Mega Mission has already accumulated a fund of Rs 1,500 crore, given by the government in two instalments," the minister, who was flanked by Agriculture

Minister Atul Bora and Mission Director of the five-year mission RTJinal.

As entry-point activity under the Mega Mission, the government has decided to go for farm mechanisation, development of a playground and a knowledge centre in each village.

Under farm mechanisation, the government will provide one tractor in each village. A group of eight to 10 farmers are eligible to apply for the tractor which will have 70 per cent government subsidy and another 20 per cent facilitated by bank loans. The beneficiaries will be free to buy tractors of their choice. In case there are more than two applications from a village, the district-level committee will make the selection. The vehicles will be GPS-fitted and geo-tagged so that the beneficiaries are not able to misuse them and use them in non-agricultural activity.

Modi, Trump vow to ...

(Contd from page 1)

and the ease of doing business in the country.

"We consider the United States as our primary partner in India's socio-economic transformation in all our flagship programmes and schemes," Modi said.

"I'm sure that convergence between my vision for a new India and President Trump's vision for 'Making America Great Again' will add a new dimension to our cooperation," Modi said, in reference to Trump's signature campaign slogan.

The leaders also affirmed their support for a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that will

travel to the meeting, however, seemed to be dominated by the discussions on cross-border terrorism with the leaders announcing increased cooperation to prevent terrorist travel and to disrupt global recruitment efforts by expanding intelligence-sharing and operational-level counter-terrorism cooperation.

The leaders also affirmed their support for a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that will

advocate the principles of non-violence and peaceful resolution of disputes.

Trump said both nations are

"determined" to destroy terrorist organisations and the radical ideology that drives them. – PTI

sage that no cause or grievance justifies terrorism, the joint statement said.

During his address to the media the Prime Minister said, "We talked about terrorism, extremism and radicalisation and agreed to cooperate on this. Fighting terrorism and doing away with the safe havens, sanctuaries, and safe havens will be an important part of our cooperation."

Trump said both nations are

"determined"

to destroy terrorist

organisations and the

radical ideology that drives them. – PTI

China protests ...

(Contd from page 1)

Indian side will they have to take action to improve the security situation," Lu said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang last night said, "China urges India to immediately withdraw its border guards that have crossed the boundary and have a thorough investigation of this matter."

The spokesperson said,

"The Indian border guards

crossed the boundary in the Sikkim section of the China-India border and entered the territory of China, and obstructed normal activities of Chinese frontier forces in the Dabong area recently, and the Chinese side has taken counter-measures."

His statement came after the Chinese Defence Minister yesterday accused the Indian troops of objecting to border roads in what it claimed was Chinese territory. The dispute over construction of a road was apparently the reason why China stopped a batch of 47 Indian pilgrims from crossing through Nathu La border in Sikkim to Tawang.

La border in Sikkim to Tawang.

– PTI

Indrani moves ...

(Contd from page 1)

formation from eyewitnesses and other inmates in this connection," a police official said.

Gujan Mangla, the lawyer of Indrani, filed an application in the court saying when she went to meet the media executive she told her that she was beaten up by jail officials and the superintendent was threatened

with sexual assault for protesting against the death in jail.

Following Manju's death, the enraged inmates rose in protest on Saturday, some of them went up to the prison's terrace while others made a bonfire of newspapers and documents inside the premises and threatened to express their anger. – PTI

Indrani Baruah ...

(Contd from page 1)

Gauhati High Court that the application of the Act was

not sent accordingly.

He leaves behind his wife, a son and a host of relatives.

His last rites were performed at the Nabagraha

cremation ground this afternoon.

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR ASSAM STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION, GUWAHATI.

WALK-IN- INTERVIEW

Walk-In-Interview for engagement of 4 (four) Nos. Junior Engineers (Civil), on Contract Basis for a period of 11(Eleven)months with a monthly fixed remuneration of Rs. 10,000.00/- (Rupees Ten thousand/- only) against various posts of 11 Nos. State Transport Corporation within the State of Assam will be held on 05-07-2017 at 10:30 A.M. in the office of the undersigned.

Educational Qualification: 3(Three)years Diploma in Civil Engineering from any recognised institute.

Other qualification: Diploma in Computer application with Auto cad.

Age: Must not be less than 18 (Eighteen) years and more than 43 (Forty three) years as on 01.07.2017. Upper age relaxable as per Government norms for the candidates belong to SC/ST/ OBC & MOCB vide O.M.No.ABP/6/2016/04 dt.03.03.2016.

Experience: Minimum 1(One) year working experience as Site Engineer in respective field.

Interested eligible Indian citizens may appear in the said Walk-In-Interview as scheduled along with bio-data, original testimonials and a passport size photograph.

Sd/- (A.P. TIWARI,IPS)
Managing Director,
A. S. T. Corporation, Guwahati.

BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, ASSAM

Bamunimaidam, Guwahati- 21

Notification No. SEBA/AB/ER/24/9611

Dated Guwahati, the 22nd June, 2017

In continuation to this office Notification No. SEBA/AB/ER/24/9617 Dated Guwahati, the 4th June, 2015, this is for information of all concerned that as per the decision taken in the Board's meeting dated 23.05.2014, the candidates who failed in the HSLC/ AHM Examination, 2017 and desire to appear in the HSLC/ AHM Examination, 2018 will be required to take re-admission in Schools/ Madrassas. All candidates appearing in the HSLC/ AHM Examination, 2018 would be Regular Candidates.

The following are to be noted in connection with re-admission for the current year :

1. Candidates may take re-admission in the same School/ Madrassa from where they appeared HSLC/ AHM Examination, 2017 but failed.

2. Re-admitted candidate will have to appear with the same regularity as the previous year.

3. Schools/ Madrassas where the candidates will take re-admission will make arrangement for assessment of practical of the candidates for the period of study and practical marks/ internal assessment will be required to be sent accordingly.

4. The Heads of Schools/ Madrassas shall complete re-admission process on or before 31st August, 2017.

(Kamaliyoti Gogoi)
Secretary

Board of Secondary Education, Assam

Guwahati- 21

Dated Guwahati, the 22nd June, 2017



A rally being taken out on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking, by the Biswanath Police at Biswanath Chariali, on Monday. — UB Photos

International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking observed

CORRESPONDENT

KOKRAJHAR, June 27: Along with the rest of the country, International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking was observed here with a day-long programme.

The programme was centrally organised by the Kokrajhar district administration at the Kokrajhar Basic Training Centre.

In order to create awareness against the use of drugs and illicit trafficking, the Kokrajhar district administration took out an awareness rally yesterday morning throughout the town. The rally was flagged off by Bhaskar Das, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Kokrajhar and was enthusiastically participated in by hundreds of college and school-going students of Kokrajhar town along with several other socially-conscious local people.

The students and other participants displayed placards and banners and raised slogans against the ill-effects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The rally passed through the main thoroughfares of Kokrajhar town.

Following the rally, an awareness meeting was also held at the Kokrajhar Basic Training Centre, which was addressed, among others, by ADC

Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

A function in this connection was organised by Bhergaon civil administration in association with ROSS and Golden Society NGOs of Tangla. The programme was held at the Gopsachua High School in the midst of picnics nature surrounding.

An awareness rally against drug abuse and illicit trafficking was inaugurated by DN Hazarika, ADC of Udaguri-cum-incharge SDO (C) of Bhergaon sub-division, at 9 am. Several hundred students, teachers, villagers and officials participated in the awareness rally which walked through several villages with the participants holding placards and banners saying 'No to Drugs' followed by an awareness meeting at 11 am.

A meeting was held at the hall of 7th APBn headquarter at Charikhola in Kokrajhar district. In this connection a meeting and seminar were held. The Commandant of 7th APBn Mon Mohan Boro and Dr RC Debnath, among others, attended the programme and spoke on the topic.

It may be mentioned that in 1987, the UN General Assembly resolved to observe June 26 as International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

In Kalangon: People of several remote villages of Bhergaon in Udaguri district took an oath to fight drug abuse and illicit trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against

even school dropouts.

He also mentioned about the negative role played by the extremist organisations, Jayanta Das, District Coordinator of Aryabhatta Science Centre of Udaguri had an interactive session with the students present as the appointed speaker. He informed the gathering as to why and how children, mostly school dropouts fall victim to drugs and illicit trafficking.

He requested all not to be persuaded by agents of drugs and human trafficking in the district.

The awareness meet was also addressed by Dhirendra Nath Kaitala, Officer-in-Charge, Tangla Police Station, Ashim Roy, president and Likhan Das, secretary of Tangla Nagarik Samiti, senior journalist Ganesh Deka, Dr Santanu Daimari, SDMO of Bhergaon, Lalit Boro, president of NGO ROSS, etc.

The meeting feted Samaru Boro, a student of Gopsachua HS, who attended the NCSC national session in Maharashtra last year as a child scientist from Assam. School teacher Udangsha Brahma was also felicitated for her role as a guide teacher. Before the meet concluded, all the people present took an oath to continue their lifelong fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking besides watching illegal trafficking of women, girls, children and

Scribes feted

HAFLONG, June 27: In connection with the celebration of Narad Jayanti, the Haflong branch of the Biswa Samabd Kendra felicitated all the local journalists who are working in both the print and the electronic media at a function held at Namsong Bhawan on Monday.

The day's programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Monoranjan Pradhan, *Pranita Prachar Pramukh* in presence of Rishinara Langshwa, 'Singh Chalak', RSS and Sonmen Longmaili, 'Bibhang Karayabah.'

Surjith Thaosen, *Jila Prachar Pramukh* gave the welcome speech. Later, Dima Hasao Journalists' Union presenting the *Dima Hasao Post*

his speech appreciated the effort of the organisers. He suggested that more discussions on the role of the media be held to highlight positive and objective news for the all-round development of the picturesque Dima Hasao district so that peace and harmony is maintained in the region. — Correspondent

Sorry state of NH-37 hits civilians



CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, June 27: The condition of the NH-37 from Numaligarh to Kakodonga river bridge in Golaghat district is deteriorating day by day. The condition of the NH is so bad that big ponds like ditches are

seen on the road. People say that the ditches are not on the road but the road is in the ditch. As the construction of the four lane express highway is also going on from Numaligarh to Dergaon, the repairing of the public here has demanded immediate repairing of the road.

Interested teachers, scholars and students have been advised to send their research papers along with duly filled-up registration form and abstract not exceeding 300 words on or before July 25, besides full length research papers not exceeding 3,500 words on or before July 31.

OBITUARY

Nilakanta Bharali

GUWAHATI, June 27: Nilakanta Bharali, retired Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD, Assam and a resident of Fatasil Ambari Tinihal passed away on June 22 last. He was 83.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, two daughters and a host of relatives.

Soneswari Dekha

GUWAHATI, June 27: Soneswari Dekha, a resident of Khudaraha village near Baihata Chariali in Kamrup (Rural) district passed away on June 23. She was 92.

A pious woman, her demise was condoled by many people and organisations of the locality.

She leaves behind five sons, five daughters-in-law, three daughters, one son-in-law and many grandchildren.

Hailakandi dist secures 7th position in Gunotsav

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, June 27: Hailakandi district secured the seventh position in the recently-declared results of Gunotsav, which was held in the LP and ME schools of eight districts April last.

It may be mentioned here that altogether 66,377 students of 1,519 LP and ME schools of Hailakandi district were covered during the three-day Gunotsav programme. The target of the students during Gunotsav was 78,057 within the district, and among them, 14,80 per cent students were absent during the evaluation.

Education Department sources informed that only three per cent schools of Hailakandi district secured A+

grade, while 32 per cent schools got D grade. The charge of the District Mission Coordinator of Sarbo Siksha Mission (SSA), Durba Hathiwarhu informed that follow-up action will be taken against the schools which got C and D grade, i.e., after the summer vacation.

In a formal programme at No. 213 Haricharan Mahamaya LP School on Friday, Hathiwarhu handed over the A+ grade certificate. In this school, 138 students were evaluated during Gunotsav. Of them, 21 have got A+, while 36 got A grade. Moreover, 24, 22 and 35 students secured B, C and D grade respectively.

The meeting held on the occasion was presided over by the Headmistress of Haricharan Mahamaya ME School Kavita Nath, and Rajesh Nath, among others.

All the speakers stressed on the need of organising Gunotsav annually to assess and upgrade the academic standard of the schools.

Meanwhile, mixed reaction

was witnessed among the authorities of different LP and ME schools of Hailakandi district over their poor performance in the Gunotsav programme.

'Silent terrorism of drug abuse destroys mankind'

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, June 27: District Health Society, Sonitpur and NCC Tezpur College, Tezpur, observed the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Monday.

Marking the day, a mass awareness rally was taken out with the theme 'Say no to drugs – a threat to life' highlighting the health and additional risks associated with the use of drugs, which was flagged off by Dr Juri Bhattacharya, Joint Director of Health Services, Sonitpur. Among those who took part in the rally were Dr Durjoy Ch Saikia, District Surveillance Officer, Sonitpur, Prof Mitul Nath, In-charge, NCC, Tezpur College, students of nursing school, students of Government Boys School, Bengali Boys and Bengali Girls'

High School, Rashtrabhasha, Academy High school, Darrang College, various NGOs, NCC, and other prominent persons of the town.

The rally was followed by an awareness meeting at the conference room of the Joint Director of Health Services. From the president's chair, Dr Durjoy Ch Saikia, District Surveillance Officer, Sonitpur, said that drug use disorders are both preventable and treatable.

He also stated that by resolution no. 4/112 of December 7,

1987, the UN General Assembly decided to observe June 26 as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. The aim of the Day is to raise aware-

ness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society. "Listen First – Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe. "It is an initiative to increase support for prevention of drug use that is based on science and thus is an effective investment in the well-being of children and youth, their families and their communities," Dr Saikia said.

He added that addiction to narcotics is now recognised

globally as one of the real dangers, which the world faces.

It is very important to understand that it damages the individual and the society very silently.

This "silent terrorism" of drug abuse destroys mankind and hence it is better to lead a healthy life and "Say No To Drugs" the first time and every other time."

He also said that aware-

Citizens urged to join hands with police to curb drug abuse

CORRESPONDENT

Charuapeta Police outlined the objectives of the observing the Day. The meeting was followed by an awareness rally throughout the town.

The Darrang district chapter of the National Health Mission, organised a meeting at the auditorium of the GNM Training School. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Nirmal Ch Baria, SDM & HO, Mangaldoi gave a brief account of the serious effects of drug abuse in the society. In this regard, he pointed out that about one in every nine youths of 11.4 per cent of young people in the age group of 12 to 25 used prescription drugs non-medically within the last one year. Most unfortunately 25 per cent of those who began abusing prescription drugs at the age of 13 or younger met the clinical criteria for addiction sometimes in their lives, the speaker added.

Dr Jonali Choudhury, SDM & HO, Jalgudi, Dr Malika Gogoi, Senior Medical Officer, Sabana Choudhury, DPM, Darrang

Chakrabarty among others.

The Superintendence of Police

while highlighting the alarming rise of drug abuse and illicit trafficking among the young

generation, urged the conscious citizens of the society to join hands with the police in curbing the threat posed by it for the future society.

Earlier Chandan Goswami, Officer in

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Earlier Chandan Goswami,

TENDER

NIT.NO.ATPO/MDTC/Fire & Main/2016/129/
Dated -27-06-2017
Assam Trade Promotion Organisation invites sealed quotation from reputed Firms/Contractors having valid license for Operation and maintenance of Fire Fighting Systems for providing AMC service at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati.

The last date of submission of tender is 12-07-2017. For details may contact the undersigned.

General Manager, ATPO
Maniram Dewan Trade Centre
Bekuchi, Guwahati-35

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NIT.NO.ATPO/ASIDE/S-Device/MDTC/2011/8/1/PI-II
Dated -27-06-2017
Assam Trade Promotion Organisation invites sealed proposals from reputed firms having wide knowledge & experience on CCTV surveillance system for (1) supply, installation & commission of CCTV surveillance system along with operation & maintenance services and (2) Repairing & rectification of existing CCTV surveillance system along with operation & maintenance services at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati.

The last date of submission of proposals is 13-07-2017. For details may contact the undersigned.

General Manager, ATPO
Maniram Dewan Trade Centre
Bekuchi, Guwahati-35

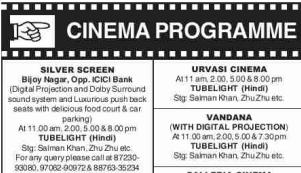
NOTIFICATION

If for general information of all concern that the R.T.A. Nagaon decided to introduce uniform of colour of vehicle like Auto Rickshaw and Magic etc. which are plying with permit to ply covering inside town and outside town of Nagaon District. Colour identified as follows:

1. Vehicle like Auto Rickshaw Magic etc plying with permit to enter Municipal area.	Total Yellow
2. Vehicle like Auto Rickshaw Magic plying outside the Town Area (with permit not to enter town area)	Top Green body Yellow
3. Enter and Exit through right hand door to be closed. 4. Use of multi tune horn is prohibited.	

The above proposal will come into force wef 1st August 2017 without fail. Failing to comply with the above order fitness certificate and permit will not renew for further time.

**Sd/- District Transport Officer
Nagaon::: Assam**



12-hour Dhemaji-Lakhimpur bandh passes off peacefully

CORRESPONDENTS/ ANN Service

SILAPATHAR, June 27:

The 12-hour bandh in Dhemaji-Lakhimpur districts called by the Indian Youth Congress, Lakhimpur Lok Sabha committee in association with Jonai Youth Congress Committee, passed off peacefully here today. During the bandh, shops, vehicles, financial institutions remained closed at Silapathar and its adjoining areas. The bandh was called in protest against the killing of Hiranya Doley, a Congress leader.

It may be mentioned here that Hiranya Doley was shot dead by unidentified miscreants on Saturday midnight at Dhemaji under Dhemaji district.

The Indian Youth Congress has condemned the incident and urged the State government to institute a proper investigation to unearth the facts behind the killing.

Dhemaji district police have

arrested three persons, who are suspected to be involved with a Mising insurgent group, Liberal Democratic Council of Mising Land (LCDML). Sources maintained that the LCDML might have been involved in the killing of Hiranya Doley.

DHEMAJI: The normal life in Dhemaji town and its adjacent areas were affected by the 12-hour Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts bandh today called by the Asam Pradesh Youth Congress in protest against the killing of Congress leader Hiranya Doley on Saturday night by unidentified miscreants at Jonai, and Lakhimpur businessman Gujar Khan on June 21 last by some unknown miscreants.

All the shops, markets and business establishments including banks and educational institutions remained closed in Dhemaji town during the bandh period. Likewise, no four-wheeler was seen plying in Dhemaji town

and in the surrounding areas during the bandh. No untoward incident has been reported during the bandh.

JONAI: The 12-hour Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts bandh called by Youth Congress Committees received a partial response and passed off peacefully in Jonai subdivision.

Banks, shops and business establishments in Jonai bazaar

closed during the bandh. Apart from some private vehicles plying to and fro, passenger vehicles were off the roads and attendance in the government offices was thin. Of course, educational institutions functioned normally during the bandh as the school and college students were exempted from the bandh.

The bands call was given in protest against the killing of businessman Gujar Khan at Lakhimpur and Congress leader Hiranya Doley at Jonai, who were shot dead by unidentified miscreants on June 21 and

24 last respectively. A group of Youth Congress members, who had positioned themselves on the National Highway-15 at Jonai and Rukins in the morning, resisted vehicular movement along the road. The police later picked up ten of them and detained them at Jonai police station for the day.

No untoward incident during the bandh hours has been reported from any part of the subdivision.

Meanwhile, the police yesterday arrested three persons, including Ranjana Puit Doley of Jonai Lakhimpur, Robin Kumbang and Bipul Doley of Dekapani in connection with the murder of Hiranya Doley of Dekapani (case no. 13/2017, U/5/484/302/34 IPC and R/W sections 25(1)(A)/27 of Arms Act). They were produced before the Subdivisional Judicial Magistrate at Jonai today. The trial has been remanded to two-day police custody.

Three rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, June 27: At least three persons suspected to be mentally-challenged, were rescued from different locations of the city by police today.

The suspected mentally-challenged persons included two men and a woman. All of them were wandering on the streets of the city since past several months with hardly any decent clothes on their bodies.

The Dibrugarh police rescued the persons with the help of Muslim Yuva Parishad (Pragatishabha) volunteers and their ambulance. The woman was picked up from Shantipuri while one man was picked up from AT Road and the other from Manicktola Road, police said.

All the three were produced before a magistrate and were later shifted to Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) for treatment.

Policemen had carried out a similar exercise earlier also and had rescued three women from the city streets.

Workshop for rural scribes at Mangaldai

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, June 27:

The Press Information Bureau, an organisation under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt of India, will be holding a workshop for the rural journalists of Darrang district in association with the Darrang district administration on Thursday here at the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner.

The main objective of the day-long workshop, organised for the first time in the district, is to disseminate information among the local media fraternity about the three flagship programmes of the Central government, namely, Goods and Services Tax (GST), Beti Bachao-Beti Porhao and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, Ashok Kr Barman will grace the inaugural function scheduled from 11 am as the chief guest while Bhupesh Ch Das, chief executive officer, Darrang Zilla Parishad cum Project Director, DRDA, Monishad Dinory, Superintendent of Tax, Mangaldoi and Pulak Nath of India Postal Service will attend as resource persons in relevant topics.

OBITUARY

Rajen Baruah

GUWAHATI, June 27: Rajen Baruah, an ASTC employee and a resident of RG

Baruah Nagar, Noonimati here passed away on June 25.

He leaves behind his wife, a son and a daughter besides a host of relatives.

According to reports from the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), even as the flow of water is steady, water level of river Barak at the Annapurna Ghat gauge station was recorded at 20.21 metres at 5 pm on Tuesday. The danger level at this point is 19.83 metres.

According to Shamsur Ahmed Laskar, project officer, DDMA, Cachar, the embank-

ments at Hatirhat under Shalparia block, Mahadevpur in Borjoria, Sonbariagh, Kali Bari Chor and Malugaram areas have been marked vulnerable.

On the other hand, sensing an imminent emergency, the Cachar district administration organised a preparatory meeting to combat the flood situation.

Expressing concern over the situation, Cachar Deputy Commissioner, S. Vishwanathan has directed officials of concerned departments to remain alert and carry out rescue operations. He has also issued notices to those employees who are on leave to report to their respective departments with immediate effect.

The rising water level is a cause of concern. All field level staff have been asked to remain alert and teams from the Water Resources department

are working to mend the embankments in the vulnerable areas of the district. We are closely monitoring the developments," the Deputy Commissioner said. He was quick to add that though the next 24 hours will be crucial, the district administration is ready with relief materials and will carry out rescue operations in the district if need be.

Meanwhile, people in the low-lying areas of the district have already started to seek shelter in various refugee camps across the district.

TENDER
NITNO.ATPO/MDTC/Operation (S4)/2017/152

Dated: 27.6.2017

Assam Trade Promotion Organisation invites sealed quotation from reputed Firms/Contractors/organizations/ individuals having expertise in operation and maintenance of Solar Light & Audio Visual equipments for providing services of Operation and Maintenance Contract of such type of systems at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati.

The last date of submission of tender is 11.07.2017. For details may contact the undersigned.

General Manager, ATPO
Maniram Dewan Trade Centre
Bekuchi, Guwahati-35

No. SHC 8/94/p/97 dated Dispur, the 27th June, 2017
SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotation affixing Court Fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & paisa twenty five) only is invited from registered firms for supply of following items, specified below:

1. White folding Umbrella - 25 inch. (one Logo needs to be printed which will be intimated later) and had to be supplied within 15 (fifteen) days at the office of the undersigned after placement of order.

The approx requirement of umbrella is 4600 (four thousand six hundred). A sample of the umbrella may be submitted along with Quotation.

The last date of submission of quotation is 03-07-2017 upto 04:00 PM. The quotation will be open all the same date and time in presence of the tenderers of their authorized representatives.

The rate should be quoted in figure and word in ink or types and inclusive of all taxes. The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest rate and reserve the right to reject any quotation, if found incomplete in any respect.

Sd/- Executive Officer & Secretary
Joint State Haj Committee, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland etc. Dispur, Guwahati-781006

RIMC ADMISSION TEST IN DECEMBER 2017

1. Applications are invited from Boys for admission in to the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) Dehradun for July, 2018 Term which will be conducted at Selected Centres on 1st (Fr) and 2nd (Sat) Dec, 2017.

2. **Entry Age:** Candidates appearing for the above test should not be less than 11½ years of age but should not have attained the age of 13 years as on 01 July, 2018, i.e., they should have been born not earlier than 02 July 2005 and not later than 01 Jan, 2007.

3. **Education Qualifications:** Candidate should either be studying in class VII or passed class VII from any recognized school at the time of admission to the RIMC, i.e. on 01 July, 2018.

4. **Scheme of Examination:** The examination comprises of:

(g) **Written Examination:** The written part of the examination will consist of 3 (three) papers namely 1) English, 2) Mathematics and 3) General Knowledge. The examination shall be held on 1st (Fr) and 2nd (Sat) Dec, 2017. The examination will be conducted as under:-

01.12.2017 English 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

Mathematics 02:00 PM to 03:30 PM

02.12.2017 General Knowledge 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

(h) **Viva-Voce:** The interview date shall be on 5th April, 2018 (Thu). Interview will be held for only those candidates who qualify in the written examination. Minimum pass marks in each paper including interview will be 50% and the date and venue of interview will be intimated to them by early March, 2018. Intelligence and personality of the candidate will be tested in the interview.

(i) **Medical Examination:** The candidates selected after the interview will undergo a medical examination at selected Military Hospitals and only those candidates found medically fit will be considered for selection and admission to the RIMC. The medical examination of the candidates forms only a part of the system of selection and does not imply the final selection.

Note:-

As per Government of India, Ministry of Defence letter No. A/26105/GS/M-T-D(GS-II) dated 03 Sep, 2014, the wards of central Government employees can undertake their exam and viva-voce in the place of posting of employee/ domicile state. However, their domicile will also be per as original domicile state and accordingly, their candidature will also be considered as per the state of domicile.

The interviews will be held for only those candidates who pass the written exam; their list will be sent to the respective State Governments by RIMC after approval of MT Directorate.

It is mandatory for all the selected candidates (including candidates from all India Reserve Merit List, if selected) to join RIMC within 10 days of commencement of term as per the joining instructions. If the selected candidate fails to join within 10 days, his candidature will be cancelled and next reserve candidate will be called to join.

Vacancies for Jul Term 2018, in all respect will be filled by 31 Aug 2018. No candidate will be allowed to join RIMC after 31 Aug 2018 under any circumstances (Incl medical).

Reserve and joining instructions will be regularly updated on RIMC website. It is candidate's responsibility to check the status regularly.

6. **Examination Centres:** Gopal Baba Govt. Higher Secondary School, R.P. Road, Ganeshguri, Dispur, Assam-781006.

7. **Fee:** Fees at RIMC is heavily subsidized by the Central Government. The fee structure is Rs. 400/- per year. An increase from time to time at the time of entry a Security Deposit of Rs.20,000/- is to be made. This is returned when the boy passes out.

8. **Scholarships:** Govt of Assam provides scholarship to the meritorious students studying in RIMC Dehradun @Rs.30,000/- per annum. Continuation of Scholarship once granted by the State is subject to merit, income and discipline of the cadet and his performance during the year.

9. **Procedure for obtaining Application Forms:** The prospectus application form and booklet of old question papers can be obtained from The Rashtriya Indian Military College, Garhi Cantt, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Pin-248003 through speed post by forwarding self addressed slip and an account payable bank demand draft of Rs. 600/- for General Candidates and Rs. 55/- for SC/ST candidates alongwith cast certificate. The demand draft will be drawn and dispatched to the COMMANDANT RIMC DEHRADUN, DRAWEE BRANCH, STATE BANK OF INDIA, TEL BHAVAN, DEHRADUN, (BANK CODE-01576), UTTARAKHAND. The address should be TYPE WRITTEN clearly. LETTERS OR PIN CODE AND CONTACT NUMBER. RIMC will not be responsible for any postal delay or loss in transit of prospectus caused by illegible or incomplete address.

Note:-

• The application forms issued by RIMC only shall be valid. Locally printed or photocopied and without RIMC Hologram (Seal) forms shall not be accepted.

• No refund of the application fee on any condition.

10. **Last Date:** Applications in duplicate on prescribed form with documents to be attached with application form like passport size photograph, Domicile Certificate of the candidate, Birth Certificate (issued by Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat, SC, ST Certificate and Certificate from principal of the School in original with photograph on it) stating date of birth and in which Class he is studying. Application forms should reach the respective Govts. (as specified in the press note) of which their parents/guardians are domiciles of, by 30 September, 2017. The wards of Central Govt. employees, in order to verify the antecedents of such candidates, the State (where such candidates intend taking written test) are free to ask for service certificates over and above the routine documentation. The states which have not issued service certificates should satisfy themselves with respect to place of duty of the parent/guardian. Other than the above, states are to ensure that no other candidates must be allowed to appear for the written examination in a state other than which the candidate is domicile of. Kindly note the application forms must be sent to the respective State Govts and not to the Rashtriya Military College, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, else the form will be invalid.

Application should be submitted to the Office of the Director of Secondary Education, Assam, Kahilpara, Guwahati - 781019.

Director of Secondary Education, Assam
Kahilpara, Guwahati-781019.



Flood situation in Karimganj dist remains grim

ANN Service

NILAMBAZAR, June 27:

The flood situation in Karimganj district has worsened in the past 24 hours after a brief span of normalcy. Thousands of villages have been affected and three main rivers of the district are flowing above the danger level of 17.78 metres.

The Kushiyara river water level was 14.81 metres at 8 am today and its danger level is 14.98 metres. The river flows through the northern part of the district as near as the international bordering point of Bangladesh.

The water level of Longa river, which flows in the north and southern parts of the district and a certain part of Potharkandi constituency, was recorded at 22.00 metres this noon. It is flowing above its danger level of 22.00 metres.

The water level of River Singra, which flows in the southern part of the district and a portion of Ratabarai constituency is Baghbari, Baruah, Srimanta Kanishali, Subash Nagar, Gura under Ratabarai constituency.

It may be added here that the total number of flood-affected people which have been severely affected by the flood situation are: Baghbari, Monbari, Srimanta Kanishali, Subash Nagar, Gura under Ratabarai constituency.

Around 200 flood-affected people have taken shelter at Sribhumi Vidyapeeth relief camp.

It may be added here that the total number of flood-affected people which have been marked vulnerable.

On the other hand, sensing an imminent emergency, the Cachar district administration are working to mend the embankments in the vulnerable areas of the district. We are closely monitoring the developments," the Deputy Commissioner said. He was quick to add that though the next 24 hours will be crucial, the district administration is ready with relief materials and will carry out rescue operations in the district if need be.

Meanwhile, people in the low-lying areas of the district have already started to seek shelter in various refugee camps across the district.

The rising water level is a cause of concern. All field level staff have been asked to remain alert and teams from the Water Resources department

are working to mend the embankments in the vulnerable areas of the district. We are closely monitoring the developments," the Deputy Commissioner said. He was quick to add that though the next 24 hours will be crucial, the district administration is ready with relief materials and will carry out rescue operations in the district if need be.

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The rising water level is a cause of concern. All field level staff have been asked to remain



One GNLA militant killed

RESPONDENT

TURA, June 27: One Gorkha National Liberation Army (GNLA) militant was killed during an encounter with the police in South Garo Gara Hills district today.

Acting on a tip-off police raided a hideout of the GNLA which allegedly had about 20 cadres, including its 'commander-in-chief' Sohan D Shira near Rongshu village.

"When we approached the suspected GNLA camp, our team came under heavy fire from the militants and we retaliated. The exchange of fire between the police and the militants lasted for about 15 minutes," said district police chief Abraham T Sangma.

Later, a body of a slain cadre identified as Ading Ch Marak (Lukseeng Ch Marak) was recovered from the spot along with incriminating documents. Marak was also a personal body guard of Sohan according to police sources. The police also recovered AK 56 ammunitions, GNLA identity cards, GNLA flags, a laptop with charger, demand notes from the site of the encounter.

Assam State Biodiversity Board: Guwahati NOTICE
The last date of receipt of applications from Post-graduates in Zoology, Botany, Animal Ecology & Wildlife Biology, Microbiology, Environmental Science, and Geography for 3 months "Internship Programme on Biodiversity Conservation" has been extended to 20th July, 2017. For further details, please visit www.asbb.gov.in

Sd/- Member Secretary-ASBB
Janasanyog/659/17

**অসম লোকসেবা আর্যোগ
ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**
NOTIFICATION
It is for general information to all concerned that in connection with recruitment to the various posts in State Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics under Higher Education (Technical) Department (Vide Advt. No. 5/2017 dated 25.05.2017) the commission has decided to extend the last date for receiving of application forms upto 7th July 2017.
**Sd/- Deputy Secretary,
Assam Public Service Commission,
Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22**
Janasanyog/4313/17

CORIGENDUM
Dated : 27/06/2017
The notice of the interested parties are invited to the following corrections/modifications made in reference to the EOI vide no.AYUSH/00/2015/7300 dated 09/06/2017 for selection of Service Provider/Agencies/Firms for providing Human Resources to the 100 Yoga Blocks in the State of Assam:
1. In the Clause I (i) & (ii), the word "tender fee" is omitted.
2. In the Clause 5. B (a) "Incorporated organization" or "entity" under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 or Companies Act, 2013 is added.
3. New Clause 5.B(d) added as NGOs/Organization must be registered under NITI Aayog Portal and should submit the copy of system generated Unique ID on the day of EOI bid Opening".
4. In Clause 5(A) point 5(a)"Service tax" word is omitted and "All bidders should be registered under GST timely" is added.
5. In the Clause 5(B) is added as "Service provider will not charge any fee from the trainee participants for the purpose of Yoga training in the Yoga Centre".
6. In the Annexure-B of the EOI, the Annual turnover of the bidder for last three years is to be read as 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. All other terms and condition of the EOI shall remain same.
Sd/- Director of AYUSH, Assam.
Janasanyog/1459/17



Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh addressing a congregation on 'Development of North-Eastern Region', in New Delhi on Monday. - UNI

Congress demands resignation of Tripura Minister

AGARTALA, June 27: The Congress in Tripura today demanded immediate resignation of Social Welfare Minister Bijita Nath, who received a CBI notice for interrogation in connection with the Rose Valley chit fund scam.

The Minister said she had received the CBI notice on Saturday in which it was said that a CBI official would meet her at her official residence on June 29.

Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Gopal Roy said

that Nath should either resign or Chief Minister Manik Sarkar should dismiss her for the sake of an impartial investigation by the CBI.

"We were also surprised that the CBI official would question her in her residence. We demand that the CBI question her in its office," Roy, an MLA and spokesman for the party, said.

Roy said that over 14 lakh depositors in the State had been cheated by 142 different

chit fund groups in the State over the last two decades due to indulgence by the Left Front Government. He demanded that the State Government make arrangement for return of their deposits.

The Left Front Government brought a Bill named 'Tripura Protection of Interest of Depositors (Financial Establishments) Act, 2000', but formulated the rules only after seven years in 2007.

"During the seven years

time, the chit fund companies looted the people of Tripura in various ways. Why the Government delayed the process of formulating rules for seven years?" he wanted to know.

In 2008, Chief Minister Manik Sarkar had inaugurated Rose Valley amusement park at Amtili here, Roy pointed out, saying that the Congress would organize "massive movement" in the coming days if their demands were not fulfilled. - PTI

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CAPSULE

Exim Bank, IFCI, SIDBI heads

NEW DELHI, June 27: The government is likely to appoint heads of four public sector financial institutions—Exim Bank, IFCI, SIDBI and IL&F—by the middle of next month. The Finance Ministry has already concluded interviews of 32 candidates for the post of managing directors as these posts will be sent to Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. —PTI

Coca-Cola prices

NEW DELHI, June 27: Coca-Cola has decided to marginally raise prices of its most popular beverages but will cut rates of packaged drinking water Kinley and hold those of juices and juice-based drinks to reflect tax incidence under the incoming GST regime. Announcing the impact of goods and services tax (GST) on consumer rates, the company also said it will launch an affordable range of aerated beverage to cater to price-sensitive consumers and another affordable value water segment priced significantly lower than Kinley water. —PTI

Raymond plans

NEW DELHI, June 27: Textile and apparel major Raymond will invest a total of Rs 1,400 crore in a phased manner in its new plant at Amravati in Maharashtra, which will go on stream by this year-end. The company has made an initial investment of Rs 200 crore for the first phase of the new unit that will produce cotton shirts, linen and denim, among others. —PTI

Vodafone offer

NEW DELHI, June 27: India's second largest mobile operator Vodafone has joined hands with Netflix to offer its video-on-demand service up to one-year subscription of the internet television network, on select plans. New postpaid customers opting for Vodafone Red plans as well as existing Red customers will get Netflix subscription worth Rs 1,000, Rs 1,500 or Rs 6,000 based on their plan, a company release said here. —PTI

Jio-GST solution

MUMBAI, June 27: Retailers Association of India (RAI) has tied up with Reliance Jio-GST for introducing a simple secure tax compliance solution for implementation of GST and services tax by retailers. Reliance Jio is one of the GST Suvidha Providers. Jio-GST solution will assist retailers to maintain records, file tax returns and to comply with the provisions of GST law. —PTI

Apollo Hospitals

MUMBAI, June 27: Apollo Hospitals, Asia's largest multi-specialty chain of hospitals, today announced the extension of its air ambulance services network to several smaller cities and towns like Madurai, Mysore, Kakinada, Karukudi, Karur, Trichy and Vizag through its current hubs in Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. —PTI

Reynolds foray

NEW DELHI, June 27: Reynolds today said it has tied up with pen manufacturer and distributor Flair to re-launch eight products and increase its footprint across the country. —PTI

People may have to face initial problems, says Jaitley

NEW DELHI, June 27: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said people may have to face some difficulty initially as the GST is rolled out, but in the long run the new indirect tax regime would help cut taxation and bring down prices.

He also said the GST Council will look at bringing real estate within the GST net by next year and revisit taxing of petroleum products under the new regime in 1-2 years.

"To begin with, people could face some difficulties because any changeover has

its own problems. But it will settle down and the country will benefit from the new indirect tax regime," Jaitley said at an event organised by ABP News.

The goods and services tax (GST) will be launched on July 1 and will subsume all forms of indirect levies like excise, service tax and VAT.

"We insisted on that, then the deal would have been broken. The Constitution amendment provides that petroleum products can be taxed under GST as and when GST

Council decides. And once GST is implemented, in 1-2 years once again the Council will get opportunity to revise it," he said.

Jaitley said he personally was in favour of a proposal mooted by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to bring real estate under GST, but a few other States were not in favour.

"It was then decided that let GST be implemented first, and then after one year we will deliberate on this again," he said. —PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Netherlands Mark Rutte during a joint interaction with the Dutch CEOs, at Amsterdam, Netherlands on Tuesday. —PIB

NPPA releases provisional ceiling prices of 761 medicines

NEW DELHI, June 27: Drug price regulator NPPA today announced provisional ceiling prices of 761 medicines, including anti-cancer, HIV, diabetes and antibiotic, with a majority being reduced ahead of the GST implementation.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said however that the actual increase or decrease in prices after the rollout of new indirect tax regime is expected to be in the range of 2-3 per cent depending on States.

"These prices will be notified as formal revised ceiling

GST effect

Similarly, price of Gemcitabine will come down to Rs 4,813.94 per pack from the current Rs 5,019.49. Also, breast cancer treatment medicine Trastuzumab injection pack has been fixed at Rs 54,382.25 post July 1, down from Rs 56,912.82 earlier.

Price of single tablet of dia-betes drug Metformin has come down to Rs 3.31 from Rs 3.45 previously. Paracetamol 500 mg tablet cost has been fixed at Re 0.82 from Re 0.85.

Ceiling price of drug-eluting stents will remain however unchanged at Rs 30,180. Ceiling price of Atorvastatin tablets, used to treat hypertension, has also been reduced.

Similarly, the ceiling prices of various antibiotics like Azithromycin, Ciprofloxacin, Clarithromycin, Ampicillin, Amoxicillin have also been lowered. Ibufen and Imatintab prices are also fixed at a lower slab. Price of oral tablet of Entecavir, used to treat hepatitis B, has come down to Rs 69.44 from Rs 72.40. —PTI

Natural gas may be included in GST, ONGC to benefit

NEW DELHI, June 27: The GST Council may decide to include natural gas in the goods and services tax (GST) regime as a measure to provide tax paid towards furtherance of business, no credits on input GST will be available to the oil and gas industry.

Currently, crude oil, petrol, diesel, jet fuel or aviation turbine fuel (ATF) and natural gas are not included in the new indirect tax structure, which is set to kick in from July 1.

This essentially means that various goods and services procured by the oil and gas industry will be subject to GST, but the sale and supply of oil,

gas and petroleum products will continue to attract earlier taxes like excise duty and VAT.

Unlike other industries which can take credit for any tax paid towards furtherance of business, no credits on input GST will be available to the oil and gas industry.

"There is a recognition even in the Finance Ministry that the current situation is not right. They are also making efforts to get the GST Council to see reason," he said.

"There is an agreement that natural gas can be included in GST. Natural gas is largely an industrial product and so its inclusion will not be a problem," he said.

The move will benefit companies like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) as well as gas retailers like IGL. —PTI

both men and women in similar roles were rewarded equally at their workplace, much higher than the global average of 79 per cent who thought so.

Besides, 88 per cent felt that both men and women are equally supported while seeking a promotion, the report added.

"Gender diversity may be high on the agenda for India Inc today, but what I believe is diversity is not just a goal or a guideline, it is a business imperative. All the corporate and government initiatives are just a start, the real change can happen when we succeed in addressing the deep-rooted mindsets about the role of women at work," said Paul Dupuis, MD and CEO, Randstad India.

Nearly 57 per cent respondents from India had a male manager preference and a vast majority (70 per cent) pointed out that currently they work with a male manager.

"This was even higher than the global average of 67 per cent, who said they currently work with a male superior," the report said. Moreover, team diversity is highly appreciated by all employees globally. In India, 89 per cent said they prefer to work in a gender-diverse team while 86 per cent believed that such teams perform and achieve better results than single gender ones.

The Randstad Workmonitor study covers 33 countries around the world. It is conducted online among employees aged 18-65 years, working a minimum of 24 hours a week in a paid job (not self-employed). The minimum sample size is 400 interviews per country. —PTI

Bias still at work: men preferred over women in hiring

NEW DELHI, June 27: Gender diversity may be a politically correct proposition, but when it comes to corporate hiring, the reality is men are preferred to women even if the two are equally qualified for the same job.

This is one of the findings by a Randstad Workmonitor survey, where 55 per cent of overall respondents from India indicated that men are favoured over women when two candidates are equally qualified for the same set of responsibilities.

Giving a break-up, 61 per cent males and 47 per cent females held this view.

Globally, the figure stood at 70 per cent. But there is a silver lining. Interestingly, despite numerous reports on gender pay gap, a whopping 91 per cent of respondents from India believed that

men and women in similar roles were rewarded equally at their workplace, much higher than the global average of 79 per cent who thought so.

Besides, 88 per cent felt that both men and women are equally supported while seeking a promotion, the report added.

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Software tests complete, ready for GST rollout: GSTN

NEW DELHI, June 27: GST Network, the company providing technology backbone for the new indirect tax regime, today said it has completed all software trials and testing necessary to successfully roll out GST from July 1.

Over 66 lakh taxpayers have enrolled on the GST portal, Chairman Navin Kumar said.

"GST IT system has undergone all mandatory tests and has been opened for new registrations and enrolments on June 25. We would like to assure everyone that the system is functioning smoothly," he said.

Hence, e-commerce companies will not have to collect tax at source from their suppliers for now.

Kumar said: "We are fully ready and all the tests including User Acceptance Testing and Beta testing have been completed successfully. We are fairly confident of the system and are expecting a hiccup-free transition."

The GST common portal will enable taxpayers to meet the GST compliance requirements like filing returns and making tax payments. —PTI

Govt to announce cruise tourism policy next month: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, June 27: A cruise tourism policy is in the making and will be announced next month, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said today, with an aim to tap India's vast potential on this front and attract more vessels.

The country draws nearly 70 cruise vessels a year, which is expected to go up to 700 with this initiative.

"Cruise tourism can be India's economic growth engine as there is a vast untapped potential. In a month, the policy will be ready as a joint working group comprising shipping and tourism secretaries is working on it," Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

Speaking to reporters here after chairing a workshop on development of cruise tourism, Gadkari said the action plan will be finalised in the next

three months that includes key steps on par with international standards, simplification of procedures, easy immigration and ways to make India a global hotspot.

Union Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma was also present.

At present, Gadkari said, India attracts 70 cruise vessels which can go up to 700 and a slew of steps are on to boost infrastructure that includes building cruise terminals at five major ports - Mumbai, Goa, New Mangalore, Chennai and Kochi.

India has a 7,500 km of coastline, has taken some key steps to promote cruise that includes relaxation of policies and roping in global consultants.

The idea is to put India on the global cruise map - both for oceans and rivers - which is seen to create about 2.5 lakh jobs and boost growth.

Basant Khetan bags MSME award

BUSINESS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 27: The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Govt of India, has awarded Basant Kumar Khetan with the prestigious 'Best Entrepreneur Award' for outstanding performance in the MSME sector in the North-east region.

Director of Necon Power & Infra Ltd, and Pro-Chancellor of Assam Kaziranga University, Jorhat, Khetan received the award from Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister of MSME, as a function held in New Delhi today on the occasion of the United Nations Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day. The event was also graced Girijai Singh, MoS, MSME, and Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary, MoS, MSME, a press release said here today.

In his reaction on receiving the award, Khetan wished to dedicate the award to the leadership of Dr Md Khetan, guidance of JP Khetan and support of Pradip Khetan, which have made it possible for Necon Infra Ltd to achieve such heights and be honoured with such a prestigious award.

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has honoured Necon Infra & Infra in relation to their special contribution to, and efforts in the MSME sector.

In the first four months of CY2017, black tea production in the major growing countries of India, Kenya and Sri Lanka witnessed a de-growth of 11 per cent, primarily due to significant drop in Kenyan production.

This decline in crop availability has led to firming up of

prices at most auction centres globally. The auction prices in USD terms in Sri Lanka and Kenya have increased by 44 per cent and 24 per cent respectively, the report said.

Prices of Sri Lankan teas, which are mostly the orthodox variety, have surged to touch \$4.08 per kg during the first four months of CY2017, as against \$2.84/kg in the corresponding months last year; while Kenyan tea prices, which are entirely of the CTC variety, touched \$2.98/kg vis-a-vis \$2.41/kg, it said.

India exports only around 20 per cent of the tea produced domestically. However, exports play a vital role in maintaining the overall demand-supply balance, and consequently price levels, in the domestic market.

"While the export performance in recent months is encouraging, the full-year performance will be determined by the volumes during the period June to August, when most of the export contracts are finalised.

"With the likelihood of a lower tea production outside India in CY2017, black tea production in the major growing countries of India, Kenya and Sri Lanka witnessed a de-growth of 11 per cent, primarily due to significant drop in Kenyan production. This decline in crop availability has led to firming up of



Minister of State for Commerce & Industry (Ind Charge), Nirmala Sitharaman and Myanmar Minister of Commerce Dr Than Myint during the sixth Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting, in New Delhi on Tuesday. —PIB

Presidential poll is not about 'Dalit vs Dalit': Meira Kumar

NEW DELHI, June 27: Opposition presidential candidate Meira Kumar today said she would contest the election on the basis of ideology not caste, stressing that her plank would be destruction of the caste structure and protection of democratic values.

Kumar, who will

contest against NDA's Ram Nath Kovind for the post of President, described the presidential poll as a "battle of ideologies" and not a "battle of Dalits".

"Dalit versus Dalit" fight as being out made out by some.

The former Lok Sabha Speaker is likely to start her campaign from June 30 from Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat after scrutiny of her nomination.

She will file her papers tomorrow in the presence of top Opposition leaders.

Addressing her first press conference after being chosen as the joint candidate of 17 Opposition parties, she said, "This unity is based on their firm ideological positions, democratic values, inclusiveness, social justice, freedom of press, transparency, end of poverty, destruction of caste structure as some of those cherished values which form an important component of this ideology."

"This ideology is very close to my heart. In the coming election this will be my plank on which I will contest."

In her view the fact that the election was being viewed as a contest between two Dalits reflected society's mindset.

"I don't want that this election for the top position in the country should be contested on the basis of caste. No countryman would want that. We are fighting this on the basis of ideology," said the former diplomat and daughter of Dalit leader Jagjivan Ram.

Never once was caste discussed in earlier presidential contests. What was up for discussion instead was the candidate's virtues, eligibility and achievements.

"But when Dalits contest, their caste is being discussed and their

virtues become subordinate. So I can clearly see how society is thinking in 2017."

"I want that we should wrap caste and bury it deep inside the ground and our society should move forward."

Referring to the perception that her selection was on the basis of her caste, she said this was the election for the highest position in the land. Caste had no role.

"Although its process of electing is political, the post itself is apolitical. For this post, in my opinion, there should be no one-upmanship of castes. I don't think caste identification should play a role."

On Union minister Sushma

Swaraj's releasing a video of a Lok Sabha speech to indicate how she was treated as leader of Opposition, Kumar said leaders of various parties had never criticised her for her style of functioning but appreciated it. "None had alleged that my style of functioning was biased."

Kumar described recent attacks on Dalits as "shameful". "We should hang our heads in shame, even if there is one incident of violence against Dalits. Even today in our country, atrocities are being committed on Dalits, the oppressed and weaker sections... My fight is against that," Kumar added.

She said she had not decided on

whether to appeal to JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to support her nomination. However, she had already reached out to each member of the electorate through her letter two days ago in which she made an emotional appeal to their "voice of inner conscience".

Kumar, also from Bihar, brushed aside charges of irregularities over a bungalow in Lutyens Delhi being converted to a memorial dedicated to her father. "These charges are baseless and are being levelled with the intent of tarnishing my image. The government has given the bungalow to a government body and later a government office." - PTI

President rues India Inc's lack of investment in research

NEW DELHI, June 27: President Pranab Mukherjee today said it is "unfortunate" that India Inc has not invested in a significant manner in research and innovation despite major economic development in the country.

"Many of them are doing it now, but better late than never," Mukherjee said at Lakshmipt Singhania IIM Lucknow leadership awards ceremony held here.

He said he would like to see the private sector play a major role in supporting the country's education sector as it has done in the healthcare system.

The government's policies, developmental paradigms and delivery mechanisms need to be more broad-based and effective to bridge vast income disparities that exist in India, he said.

Mukherjee added that India cannot occupy its rightful place in the high table of the international community if the country's education system is not converted into one of the best in the world, stating that other BRICS nations, including South Africa, Brazil and China, were way ahead in the sector. - PTI

Govt notification on Aadhaar Apex court refuses interim order

NEW DELHI, June 27: The Supreme Court today refused to pass an interim order against the Centre's notification making Aadhaar mandatory for availing benefits of social welfare schemes, with the government insisting it that no one would be deprived of them for want of Aadhaar.

The apex court observed that no interim order could be passed merely on the "apprehension" raised by the petitioners that somebody might be deprived of the benefits. Alternative IDs are valid as of now," it observed.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, told the bench that benefits of various social welfare schemes would be given to persons even if he or she does not have Aadhaar.

Referring to the February 8 notification regarding benefits of the public distribution system scheme, he said it was said that if someone does not have

Khanwilkar and Navin Sinha told the petitioners.

"We cannot pass orders which are uncertain. You are saying somebody might be deprived, but we have no such person before us," the bench told senior advocate Shyam Divan, who was appearing for three petitioners.

"The state is a democratic welfare state which is saying that they will not deprive anyone of the benefits. Alternative IDs are valid as of now," it observed.

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Referring to the February 8 notification regarding benefits of the public distribution system scheme, he said it was said that if someone does not have

Aadhaar, he or she would get the benefit of these schemes by using other identity cards like voter ID, driving licence, passport and PAN card.

"These means of identity are required so that a fictitious person does not get these benefits," Mehta said, adding, "ten other documents are valid for availing these benefits. Some identification is necessary to avoid bogus, fictitious and ghost beneficiaries. No one is prejudiced by this."

Mehta also told the bench that the Centre has extended the June 30 deadline to September 30 for enrolment for those who do not have Aadhaar and are availing benefits of various social welfare schemes. "If they have Aadhaar, it is okay. If they do not have Aadhaar, there is time till September 30 to enrol for it. Nobody will be deprived of these benefits in that period," he told the bench. - PTI

Militants planning to target Amarnath Yatra

JAMMU, June 27: Militants are planning to target 100 policemen and as many pilgrims participating in the Amarnath Yatra which will begin from Jammu tomorrow amid the "highest-ever multi-tier security setup", according to intelligence reports.

"Intelligence input received from SSP Anant揭露了恐怖分子已被指派到100名警察和约100名警察和官员," IGP Kashmir Zone Muneeb Khan said in a letter which was sent to the Army, the CRPF, and the DGP in the State.

A copy of the letter sent to the 15 Corps Headquarters, Srinagar, got leaked and went viral on social media.

The 40-day annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas will commence tomorrow, Divisional Commissioner Mandeep Bhandari told reporters.

The government has mobilised a heavy security blanket of over 35,000 to 40,000 troops including the police, the Army, the BSF and the CRPF.

The first batch of over 4,000 pilgrims will be flagged off by the Deputy Chief Minister for twin base-camps of Pahalgam and Baltal in Anantnag and Ganderbal districts.

This year's yatra will be 8 days shorter against the last years' of 48 days and conclude on Shrawan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 7. Situated in a narrow gorge at the farther end of Lidder Valley, Amarnath shrine

stands at 3,888 metres, 46 km from Pahalgam and 14 km from Baltal.

"The attack may be in the form of stand-off fire on army convoy which they believe will result in flaring of communal tensions throughout the nation," the IGP said in the letter which is being circulated in many groups on WhatsApp.

"The input is assessed to be a human intelligence and it needs further corroboration," the IGP said in the letter, adding that at this stage the possibility of a sensational attack by a terrorist outfit cannot be ruled out.

All the officers and officials deployed on the ground need to remain alert and maintain utmost vigil, he said.

Khan said there was no need to panic as it was part of information being shared with agencies to check its authenticity.

Jammu and Kashmir DGP SP Vaid said someone has spread it on social media to create panic.

About the intelligence issue, Special Director General of CRPF SN Shiravastava said, "I will not like to discuss the issue in public but we are aware about the situation in Kashmir. We have taken measures as per the these intelligence inputs. This (yatra) is a big challenge to us."

"Elaborate security has been put in place for an incident-free yatra and to ensure safety and security of pilgrims and camps," Shiravastava told reporters. - PTI

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40-day pilgrimage begins today

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Jammu and Kashmir DGP SP Vaid said someone has spread it on social media to create panic.

About the intelligence issue, Special Director General of CRPF SN Shiravastava said, "I will not like to discuss the issue in public but we are aware about the situation in Kashmir. We have

taken measures as per the these intelligence inputs. This (yatra) is a big challenge to us."

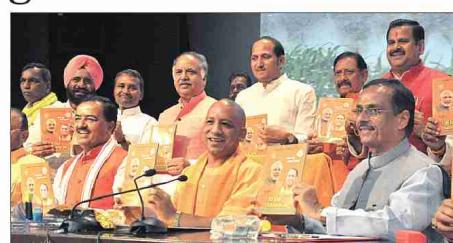
"Elaborate security has been put in place for an incident-free yatra and to ensure safety and security of pilgrims and camps," Shiravastava told reporters. - PTI

Yogi happy with govt's achievements in 100 days in office

LUCKNOW, June 27: UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today expressed satisfaction with the work his government undertook in its first 100 days even as he took a dig at previous governments for the lack of development.

Releasing a booklet "100 din wais ke" on his government's performance since he assumed office on March 19, he said, "We want to assure people that government has started initiatives to take UP forward on the path of development. The results for the mandate in favour of transformation have been positive."

Recalling the 100-day journey of his government, Adityanath said, "With the promise of transformation and develop-



UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Dinesh Sharma and KP Mauri releasing a book on completion of hundred days, in Lucknow on Tuesday. - UNI

ment, we took oath of office on March 19. 100 days' time is a brief period. The resources were rather limited, but we accepted the challenge. And at this point of time, I am experiencing satisfaction."

In a jibe at political rivals,

the Chief Minister said Uttar Pradesh lacked on the development front due to "corruption" and "neopatism" in past years.

Though it was billed to be a press conference at the Lok Bhawan, opposite the State Legislative Complex, the 45-year-old saffron clad Chief Minister took just one question from a media persons,

perhaps to avoid replying to queries relating to law and order and other challenges before his government.

Adityanath sought the cooperation of newsmen in helping him run the government when a scribe raised a question

relating to the plight of small and medium newspapers.

When another journalist rose to ask a question, the Chief Min-

ister, with folded hands, took leave of the media persons.

The BJP government, which assumed office on March 19 af-

ter haggling 325 of the 403 As-

sembly seats along with its allies, faces many challenges, some of these being raising funds for the farm loan waiver and law-and-order issues, includ-

ing communal clashes.

The loan waiver, a pre-poll

promise of the BJP, has the Finance Department burning the proverbial midnight oil as it tries to offload the sudden fiscal burden of nearly Rs 36,369 crore.

This, coupled with Rs

34,000 crore for the imple-

mentation of the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations, has put an additional bur-

den of Rs 70,000 crore on the

State's coffers.

Earlier, in his opening re-

marks, the UP Chief Minister

said that 2017 will be observed

as "Garib Kalyan Varsh".

"UP is associated with Jan

Sangh stalwart Deen Dayal Upadhyay. It has been its birth

place as well as work place.

The 100 days of the govern-

ment are an effective initiative

in fulfilling the aims and objec-

tives of Antyodaya (ensuring

that benefits reach the last strata

of the society)," he said.

The Chief Minister also said

that the UP government is fol-

lowing PM's clarion call of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" in let-

ter spirit.

Noting that the State's econ-

omy was agriculture-based,

he said his government was giving

priority to issues related to

farmers. "Real development

will be realised and visible when

there is an improvement of the

villages," he noted. - PTI

Put on hold lawyer's elevation as HC judge; Collegium to govt

NEW DELHI, June 27: The Supreme Court collegium is learnt to have asked the government to put on hold the process of appointing an Uttar Pradesh lawyer as a judge of the Allahabad High Court after it found that the candidate is facing a criminal case.

The collegium had recommended the candidate's name for elevation to the bench, but when it found that the lawyer is facing a criminal case, Chief Justice of India JS Khehar wrote to the government asking it to put on hold the appointment process.

The collegium – a body of top five Supreme Court judges, headed by the CJ – may take a call on its recommendation based on the final outcome of the case, sources said.

The collegium has recommended a total of 29 names in two batches of 19 and 10 to the government for appointment as judges of the Allahabad High Court.

While some candidates were from the subordinate judiciary, others represented the bar.

A few days back, the collegium had recalled a recommendation for elevating a district judge as an Allahabad High Court judge. The decision had come after Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Dilip B Bholai acted on an Intelligence Bureau (IB) inquiry report which had claimed that the district judge, based in Lucknow, had allegedly received large bribes to grant bail to former UP minister Gayatri Joshi.

In the last few days, a total of 28 judges have been appointed to different high courts. The approved strength of the 24 high courts is 1,079 judges, but they are functioning with a truncated strength of 629 – a shortage of 450 judges. - PTI

Composer seeks help from PM to finish project on ancient India

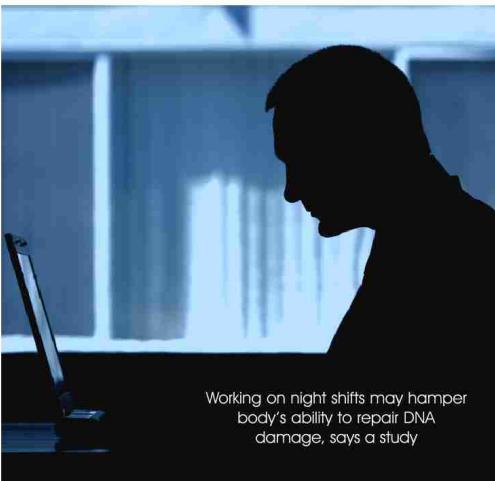
NEW DELHI, June 27: Composer and musicologist Shal Tyas today wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking help for the successful completion of a project on "Music in Ancient India".

Founded in 2011, "Songs of Mystery", attempts to discover and recreate music and musical instruments from Indus Valley Civilization, Vedic, Ramayana, Mahabharata and later times in India.

"This ambitious mission to recreate the incredible journey of Indian music cannot succeed without your help. It is my humble and hopeful request to you to kindly give an appointment for just 12 minutes out of your very busy schedule.

"I understand the seriousness of my request very well but it is extremely important for the successful completion of the project. Your active involvement will take it to new heights for which, not only me but Indian music will forever be grateful to you," Tyas wrote in the letter.

The project in its first phase has already completed prototypes of 10 instruments, like the Nandi Veena and Kumbha Tarangini from the Indus Saraswati Civilization. - PTI



Working on night shifts may hamper body's ability to repair DNA damage, says a study

Night shift 'problem'

If you are working on night shifts regularly, chances are that your body's ability to repair DNA damage may get hampered, suggest researchers led by one of Indian origin.

The findings suggested that night shifts suppress the production of 'sleep hormone' melatonin.

It revealed that a night shift worker produced lower levels of a chemical by-product of active DNA tissue repair called 8-OH-dG in the urine than his day counterpart, leading cells to harbour higher levels of DNA damage.

This indicated a reduced capacity to repair cellular damage, the study said.

The key factor behind this observed difference was likely to be suppressed production of the 'sleep hormone' melatonin during day sleep relative to night sleep, the researchers said.

"Our results indicate that, relative to night sleep, reduced melatonin production among shift workers during night work is associated with significantly reduced urinary excretion of

8-OH-dG," said Parveen Bhatti from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Washington.

This likely reflects a reduced capacity to repair oxidative DNA damage due to insufficient levels of melatonin and may result in cells harbouring higher levels of DNA damage," he continued.

If such effects are confirmed, melatonin supplementation should be explored as an intervention to reduce the occurrence of potentially carcinogenic DNA damage among shift workers," Bhatti added.

For the study published online in the journal *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, the team measured 8-OH-dG levels in the stored urine samples of 50 night shift workers, who exhibited the widest discrepancies in levels of circulating melatonin between night work and night sleep.

An analysis of the urine samples showed that melatonin levels were much lower when taken during a night shift than when taken during a normal night's sleep. - IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, June 28, 2017: This year you find that you generally receive what you request—within reason, of course. Others are highly responsive to you. Use your energy well, as it often is high. If you are single, others are unusually attracted to you as sailing partners. If you are married, you could be the two of you might opt for a change around your home. In the fall, you will enter a very romantic period. VIRGO can be demanding in his or her need for privacy.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Your attention to detail comes through once more. If someone seems careless, you will become unusually critical. Even if you choose to say little, sarcasm could define your words. You even might doubt your intuition, so it's best to write down what you see. Do for you.

TUERSON (April 20-May 10)

***** Your imagination knows no limits. You will find a situation challenging, as it demands quick responses. Often you prefer to mul over the possibilities and weigh the pros and cons of a master first. You might not have had luxuries until now. Trust your judgment. Tonight: Say "yes."

TAURUS (May 11-June 20)

**** You could be full of information. Understand what is happening around you, and ground yourself. Take in the present moment and use it for you. Honor what someone else says rather than question it. Know that there is more than one right answer. Tonight: A must appear.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** A conversation you have in mind could be weighing on you; however, right now isn't the best time to initiate it. Others might mean well in their responses, but what they say could be very different from what you are looking for. Tonight: Maintain a sense of humor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Be aware of the costs of forging ahead, especially financially. You believe that the path is clear, but perhaps it isn't. Be assertive and direct if you can. You might be inclined to take someone else's words too personally. Don't: Tonight: Treat yourself to a new item.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Oct. 22)

**** You have the power to manifest more of what you want. You can be direct and decisive, but others might misread your bluntness at the moment as sarcasm. You simply are moving quickly through a lot of work and responsibilities. Tonight: How about some fun time?

LIBRA (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** You respond much more than you realize, which delights someone else. Do not be surprised by this person's response, which might be a lot more intense than you had anticipated. This strong reaction might be in direct response to your openness. Tonight: Look for answers.

SCORPIO (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** You don't need to scheme in order to get what you desire; you simply need to express yourself. The first step is letting others know, especially if they are part of the goal. Though the answer might not fall in your lap, it will sooner rather than later. Tonight: Out and about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Take a stand, and know what you want. Give others the space to take action or at least to express themselves. Confusion could surround your housing or personal point of view. Try to detach and see where others are coming from. Tonight: Take a midweek break with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Reach out to someone at a distance for whom you have strong feelings. Catching up on each other's news will be delightful. Be careful with a loved one who might become jealous that he or she is not the center of your world right now. Tonight: Rest between the lines.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Relate closely to a key individual who is a big part of your personal or professional life. As you gain more understanding of this person's unique ways, you will experience stronger interactions between you. Be cautious with financial dealings. Tonight: Dinner for two.

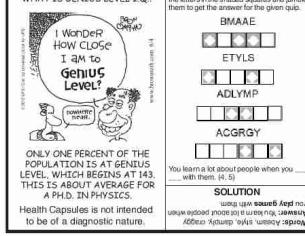
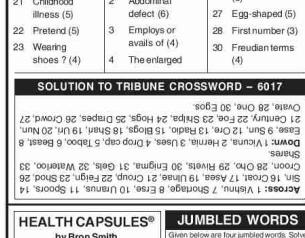
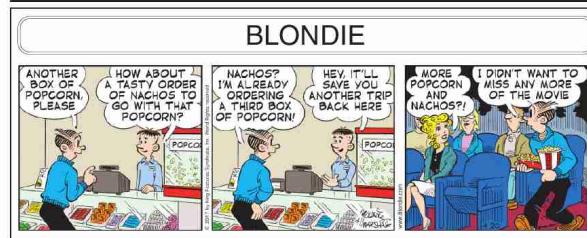
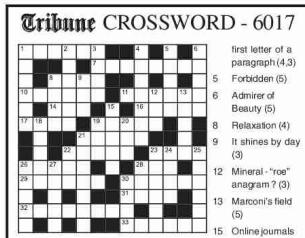
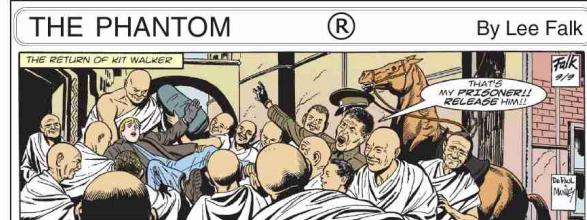
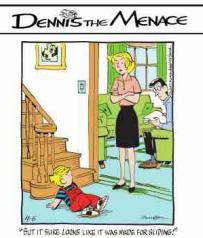
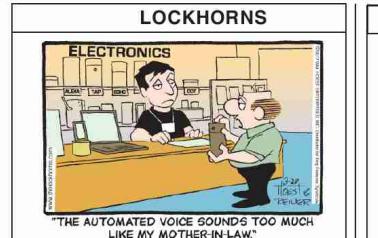
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** You would be well-advised to defer to the other party in a situation, as it might be a little too demanding for you alone to handle. You often carry too much responsibility on your shoulders. Learn to ask for help. Tonight: Do not be disillusioned by someone's reaction.

Thought for the day

There is no charm equal to tenderness of heart.

- JANE AUSTEN



Be GST Ready »»**GST coming from 1st July, 2017****Attention Importers and Exporters**

Indian Customs gears up for GST roll-out

What you need to know?**IGST, GST Compensation Cess, Bill of Entry, Shipping Bill and Courier forms**

1. With effect from 01-07-2017 Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) and GST Compensation Act would come into force.
2. IGST and GST Compensation Cess, wherever applicable, would be levied on cargo arriving on 1st July, 2017. It would be effective from midnight of 30th June, 2017.
3. Cargo arrived up to 30th June, 2017 would not attract IGST and GST Compensation Cess even though the clearance may happen after 1st July, 2017.
4. Additional duty of Customs would continue to be levied for imports of Petroleum and Tobacco products.
5. Importers may familiarize themselves with IGST and GST Compensation Cess rate schedule and exemptions that are available on CBEC Website (<https://www.cbec.gov.in>).
6. Customs duty calculator inclusive of IGST and GST Compensation Cess would be available on CBEC Website (<https://www.cbec.gov.in>) and ICEGATE Website (<https://www.icegate.gov.in>) after rates are notified.
7. New Bill of entry, Shipping Bill and Courier import and export forms – both electronic and manual– are available on CBEC Website (<https://www.cbec.gov.in>).

**Imports and Input Tax Credit**

1. All Importers/Exporters have to mandatorily declare GST Registration number (GSTIN) along with Import Export Code (IEC) in the Bills of entry, Shipping bills and Courier forms.
2. Provisional IDs issued by GSTN can be declared during the transition period. However, Importers and exporters are advised to complete their registration process for GSTIN.
3. Input Tax Credit of IGST would be available based on GSTIN declared in the bill of entry.
4. Customs EDI system would be GST ready by 1st July, 2017 and all out efforts are being made for smooth transition.
5. Customs EDI system would be interconnected with GSTN for validation of Input Tax Credit.
6. Bill of entry data in non-EDI locations would be digitized and used for validation of input tax credit data provided by GSTN.

Exports, Refunds, Drawback, Export Promotion Schemes, SEZ and EOUs

1. Exports are zero-rated supplies under GST law. Exporter would be entitled to refund of IGST paid on exports or refund of accumulated input tax credit on inputs used towards exports. Refund of IGST for exports would be based on GSTIN declared in the shipping bill.
2. Drawback scheme would continue. New Drawback Schedule would be released before 1st July, 2017.
3. Extant duty drawback scheme shall continue for three months from date of introduction of GST as part of transition to GST.
4. Imports from SEZ to domestic tariff area would attract IGST from 1st July, 2017.
5. 100% Export Oriented Units would attract IGST on imports from 1st July, 2017.
6. EXIM Scrips cannot be used for payment of IGST and GST Compensation Cess in imports and CGST, IGST and GST Compensation Cess for domestic procurement.
7. Imports under Advance Licenses and Export promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) are not exempted from payment of IGST and GST Compensation Cess.



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Where do I look for information?

Outreach programmes are being organized by each Customs House for the benefit of Importers, Exporters, Custom Brokers, Freight Forwarders and other stakeholders.

For help and clarifications contact local Custom Houses and www.cbec.gov.in, www.cbec-gst.gov.in, www.gst.gov.in, www.icegate.gov.in



Tweet us at @askGST_GoI for any GST related query



Directorate General of Taxpayer Services
CENTRAL BOARD OF EXCISE AND CUSTOMS & Commercial Department of States/UTs
www.cbec.gov.in, www.aces.gov.in, www.icegate.gov.in

Euro champs Portugal face Chile in Confed Cup semis today

KAZAN, June 27: UEFA Euro 2016 winners Portugal take on Copa America champions Chile in the first semifinal of the Confederations Cup on Wednesday.

It will be the first ever competitive fixture between the two teams as the two countries have met on previous occasions, but the two matches were friendly games.

Portugal have been one of the most dominant teams at this summer's competition. The side started the tournament with a 2-2 draw against Mexico and then defeated Russia 1-0 on matchday 2 before dismantling New Zealand 4-0 in their final group match. As a result, Portugal finished the group in first place on seven points ahead of Mexico thanks to the better goal difference.

On the other hand, known as one of the hardest-working squads in the world, Chile is starting to feel the wear and tear of its all-out style in the Confederations Cup.

And things won't get any easier for the South American champions when they face Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal in the semifinals.

Chile secured their semifinal berth with a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Australia on Sunday, and the team will have only two days of rest before facing Portugal in Kazan. The European champions played their last group stage match on Saturday, when Cristiano Ronaldo was substituted with more than 20 minutes left.

"We're obviously at a disadvantage," Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi said. "Having an extra day of rest at this stage of the tournament, and after the great effort that we've been making,



Portuguese players during a training session ahead of Wednesday's Confederations Cup semifinal against Chile.

favours the opponent."

Pizzi rested some starters against Australia, but Arsenal striker Alexis Sanchez and Bayern Mu-

nich midfielder Arturo Vidal played the full 90 minutes. Several times during the match, Sanchez gasped for air and rested his hands on his knees

after a run, not showing his usual burst of speed. Chile plays a very aggressive style, with high pressing and relentless attack. It helped the team

win back-to-back Copa America titles in 2015 and 2016, but it also exposes its defence to counter-attacks, something Ronaldo and strike partner André Silva will be ready to pounce on.

"Our style of play is very physically taxing, the players have to make a great effort," Pizzi said.

Other teams know it, they prepare for us, they don't take the initiative, and then they capitalise on our mistakes."

Chile and Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Charles Aranguiz left the game at halftime with an unspecified injury after a hard tackle by Tim Cahill, and Pizzi said he was "in a lot of pain."

On a positive note, goalkeeper Claudio Bravo returned after a 2-month layoff because of a calf injury and showed no signs of rust.

"World-class players have that ability," Pizzi said.

"We're talking about one of the best goalkeepers in the world, with an extraordinary career, and we're very happy that he's back with us."

At St Petersburg, Ronaldo took part in Portugal training on Monday as the European champions prepared for their Confederations Cup clash against Chile.

Portugal suffered a blow in their match against New Zealand as one of their best players, Bernardo Silva, picked up an injury.

And the Manchester City man is still clearly struggling with the blow as he missed out on Monday morning's training session.

This came despite Silva tweeting on Sunday: "Everything is fine with my ankle".

Silva could be back for Wednesday's game. Silva along with Raphael Guerreiro were absent during Monday's training session. — Agencies

'Pacquiao eyeing Mayweather rematch'

SYDNEY, June 27: A rematch between Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao could be on the cards if the legendary Filipino boxer wins his bout against Australian challenger Jeff Horn this weekend, his trainer said today.

Pacquiao, who was outpointed by Mayweather in the "Fight of the Century" two years ago, will be the strong favourite when he defends his world title against the unbeaten Horn in Brisbane.

But the Horn fight could be critical to whether the "Pac-Man" secures another superfight with his American rival, Freddie Roach told reporters in Brisbane.



"He (Horn) can derail us really badly. Manny is, I think, in a must-win situation. He wants a rematch with Mayweather," Roach said.

"And I mean to get Mayweather you have to look good against Jeff Horn, he has to look good, he has to be impressive. I think there is a lot riding on this fight and I feel Manny has to look really good in this fight and the way the training camp went, I think he will."

Pacquiao was coy about a possible rematch, stressing that his focus was on the World Boxing Organisation welterweight title fight against 29-year-old former school teacher Horn at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium.

"If there's a chance, why not. I'm willing, but let's focus first for this fight," the 38-year-old eight-weight world champion told reporters when asked about fighting Mayweather again. "We don't want to underestimate Horn thinking about another fight." — AFP

Federer to start 2018 at Hopman Cup in Perth



Against the odds, he went on to defeat old rival Rafael Nadal in a thrilling five-set final at the Australian Open, and followed it up with titles at Miami, Indian Wells and on grass at Halle two days ago.

The 18-time Grand Slam champion made his long-awaited comeback after six months out with a knee injury at the mixed team tournament in January, and it served him well.

"I'm very happy to be coming

back (to the Hopman Cup) because I had the best time on and off the court," said the world number five in a statement issued by tournament organisers.

"The fans were absolutely amazing, there were 10,000 people at my first practice which I couldn't believe, it was almost surreal walking into the stadium."

Outside the court, the Federer family visited tourist attractions and joined friends for an impromptu beach tennis match at Cottesloe Beach.

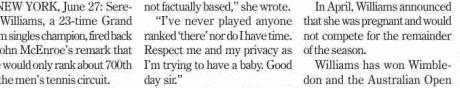
"Off-court we had a tonne of activities. My family and I had the best time. It was just a great relaxing start to the year," he said.

"Plus I played some really good tennis and I can't wait to play again in Perth."

Bencic was also excited about returning.

"The Hopman Cup was amazing for me earlier this year," she said. — AFP

Serena asks McEnroe for respect after comparison to men



NEW YORK, June 27: Serena Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, fired back at John McEnroe's remark that she would only rank about 700th on the men's tennis circuit.

McEnroe, a seven-time Grand Slam singles winner, called Williams "best female player ever – no question," in comments to National Public Radio aired on Sunday.

But asked why she should not be considered the best of all time, McEnroe added: "If she had to just play the circuit – the men's circuit – that would be an entirely different story."

McEnroe, speaking on a tour to promote his new book *But Seriously*, said he would place Williams "like 700 in the world" on the ATP Tour.

On Monday, Williams responded in two Twitter postings.

"Dear John, I adore and respect you but please keep me out of your statements that are

not factually based," she wrote.

"I've never played anyone

ranked 'there' nor do I have

anyone

as good as me. Good day sir."

Williams, 35, won this year's Australian Open for her seventh Melbourne crown and her 23rd Grand Slam singles title, setting an Open Era record and moving one shy of Margaret Court's all-time Slam singles title record.

In April, Williams announced that she was pregnant and would not compete for the remainder of the season.

Williams has won Wimbledon and the Australian Open seven times, the US Open six times and the French Open three times.

McEnroe, 58, is a former Wimbledon singles title holder. He won four US Open and three Wimbledon singles titles. — AFP

Injury scare for Murray



LONDON, June 27: Andy Murray has suffered an injury scare ahead of Wimbledon as the world number one pulled out of an exhibition match at the Birmingham Club due to a sore hip.

Murray had scheduled two matches at the Aspall Tennis Classic event following his shock first round exit against Australian world number 90 Jordan Thompson at Queen's Club last week.

The 30-year-old Scot had been due to face Lucas Pouille, but his management announced today that he would not take to the court because his hip was "a bit sore". The decision was described as a precaution, with Murray still planning to play the second match against an as-yet unnamed opponent in west London on Friday. — AFP

Malinga to face disciplinary inquiry



COLOMBO, June 27: Fast bowler Lasith Malinga will face a disciplinary inquiry from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) over certain comments made by him against Sri Lanka's Sports Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara.

The Board has appointed a three-member panel, which includes the SLC secretary Mohan de Silva and CEO Ashley de Silva, to look into the matter, a release stated.

Malinga, since his return from the Champions Trophy in London, had on two occasions acted in "contravention of the terms of

VIVO retains IPL title sponsorship in massive deal

NEW DELHI, June 27: Mobile manufacturer VIVO today retained the Indian Premier League's title sponsorship for the next five years with a whopping Rs 2,199 crore bid, a mammoth 554 per cent more than the previous contract.

"The premium global smartphone manufacturer bid Rs 2,199 crore, which is a 554 per cent increase over the previous contract. In the upcoming five IPL seasons (2018-2022), Vivo and IPL will have extensive collaboration in terms of sports events, on-ground activations and marketing campaigns," the BCCI said in a statement.

The annual break-up of the deal works out to nearly Rs 440 crore per year.

The Board had last month invited bids for the title sponsorship of the cash-rich and glitzy event for the period between August 1, 2017 and July 31, 2022.

VIVO had held the title rights for the 2016 and 2017 seasons. That deal was pegged at an estimated Rs 100 crore per year.

Speaking on the development, IPL Chairman Rajeev Shukla said, "We are delighted to have Vivo joining us once again as the title

sponsor for IPL for next five years. The association with Vivo has been great for the past two seasons and I am sure they will continue to make it bigger and better."

For the renewed contract, VIVO beat another mobile manufacturer Oppo, which had reportedly bid Rs 1,430 crore.

Vivo had taken over from soft drink giants Pepsi in 2014-15.

"Vivo as a brand has carved its niche and legacy in the market. We are extremely glad to have them as our title sponsor. We look forward to an enriching affiliation for both stakeholders," BCCI acting president CK Khanna said.

"We received an overwhelming response for the title sponsorship rights and we are glad to have Vivo back on board. It is a renewal of a fruitful relationship with the brand that will extend for the next five years," added acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary.

Pepsi claimed the right in 2013, bidding Rs 396 crore for five years.

The company had taken over from real estate group DLF, which was the tournament's first title sponsor from 2008 to 2012. — PTI

Ranieri unveiled as Nantes manager

NANTES, June 27: Claudio Ranieri has been unveiled as the new manager of French club Nantes after signing a two-year contract.

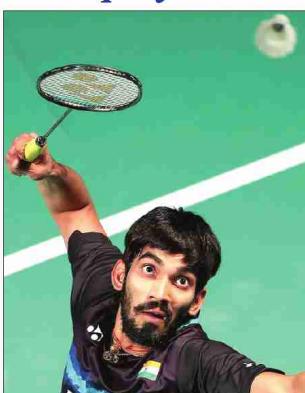
The 65-year-old Italian, who famously led Leicester City to an improbable Premier League title triumph in 2016, was presented with the distinctive yellow shirt of the Ligue 1 club and toured their Stade de la Beaujoire home before attending the training session with his new squad.

Ranieri was sacked by Leicester on February 23, with the club just one point above the relegation zone following a poor start to the domestic campaign.

He was officially confirmed as Nantes' new manager on June 15, replacing the Portuguese Sergio Conceicao, who finished seventh in the French top flight last season.

There was a slight hold-up because the Ligue de Football Professionnel (LFP), the French governing body, stipulated that coaches over the age of 65 must be granted special dispensation. — Agencies

I'll play to win at World Championship: Srikanth



HYDERABAD, June 27: Set to regain his place in the World top 10 after winning back-to-back titles, Kidambi Srikanth has now trained his eyes on the prestigious World Championship crown.

The 24-year-old Indian, who won the Indonesia Super Series Premier and the Australian Super Series titles, said he will play to win at the World Championship in August.

"It is good to be back in top ten. But, I did not play this tournament to be back in top ten. But, I played to win it," Srikanth told reporters on his return to Hyderabad.

"Even the World Championship, I will definitely play to win. That is the thing I am thinking about, not the ranking," he added.

Srikanth thanked Gopichand, the Badminton Association of India and the Government for their support.

Prannoy, who beat a few top players in recent tournaments, expressed happiness that Indian players have done exceptionally well in keenly fought tournaments.

"I am really glad that badminton is

growing in popularity and glad that I am a part of that. I just hope that we can produce even more better results in the coming days."

"We need to be much more consistent. This is not the end. Let us hope there are three or four in the top ten in the next couple of years," he said.

Singapore Open champion Sai Praneeth, who was also present on the occasion, hoped to do well in major tournaments like World Championship and Olympics.

Gopichand, who mentored the young players to reach the top, expressed happiness over several players doing well and hoped that the performances of Indian shuttlers would improve further in the coming days.

Though the success of Srikanth and other shuttlers can be compared with the top tournaments in Tennis like the US Open, he said there is still a lot to be done to put India ahead of others in World Badminton.

"There is still a lot to be done before making big statements," he said. — PTI

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

1	4	3	5	8	7	6	2
6	5	2	1	4	7	9	3
8	9	7	6	3	2	1	5
3	1	9	8	7	6	4	2
2	7	6	5	4	8	1	3
4	8	5	6	9	3	7	0
6	2	3	8	5	7	1	4
7	2	1	4	6	3	5	9

