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## NEWS CAPSULE

### Flood ex gratia

GUWAHATI, July 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of those killed and Rs 50,000 to seriously injured persons due to recent floods in Assam from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. - Staff Reporter

### Int'l roaming

GUWAHATI, July 28: The Central government has removed restrictions on international roaming in the country, asking mobile companies to provide the facility to foreign subscribers. Union minister Manoj Sinha informed this to the Chief Minister in a letter, a press release stated.

### Border roads

NEW DELHI, July 28: The government today said it was working on an ambitious project to construct and improve 519 roads with a total length of 22,225 km in the border areas of the country, including Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. - PTI

### IM autonomy

NEW DELHI, July 28: The Lok Sabha today passed the Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2017 that provides for giving autonomy to the IIMs by restricting the government role in their functioning. - PTI

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

## Pak PM Sharif resigns after SC disqualification verdict

ISLAMABAD, July 28: Pakistan's Supreme Court today disqualified Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for dishonesty and ruled that corruption cases be filed against him and his children over the Panama Papers scandal, forcing the embattled leader to resign.

It is the third time that the 67-year-old veteran politician's term as premier has been cut short. The much-awaited verdict plunged Pakistan into a political crisis at a time when the country is facing a brittle economy and a surge in militancy.

As the unanimous verdict by the five-judge bench was read out by Justice Ejaz Afzael Khan inside the grand courtroom 1 of the Supreme Court, a large number of opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters celebrated outside chanting the slogan, 'Go, Nawaz, Go'.

The court disqualified Sharif under

Article 62 and 63 of Pakistan's Constitution. The articles state that a member of Parliament should be "truthful" and "righteous".



"He is disqualified as a member of the parliament so he has ceased to be holding

## Nitish Kumar wins trust vote

PATNA, July 28: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar comfortably won today the crucial trust vote 131-108, after a vitriol-filled debate during which he defended his decision to return to the NDA fold, saying the opposition should not teach him a lesson in secularism.

The result of the floor test, held a day after he took office for the sixth time, jettisoning the RJD and embracing former BJP-led JD(U) was a foregone conclusion given the numerical superiority of the bloc supporting his government.

Four members in the 243-member house could not vote, reducing the total strength of the house during the trust vote to 239.

With the effective strength of the House reduced to 239 during voting, Bilar's new government needed 120 votes to win the confidence vote.

In his brief 10-minute speech, Kumar said, "I asked him (Tejaswi) to explain his position on gross allegations against him, but he was not in a position to respond."

He narrated events that preceded his decision to walk out of the grand alliance on July 26.

Kumar said he followed "co-alition ethics" and rebutted the charge that he betrayed people's mandate, which his detractors claimed, was for the grand alliance.

"People (the opposition) should not teach me lessons in secularism. Secularism is to be practised. I cannot be with people who commit the sin of amassing property through corrupt

means while hiding behind the shield of secularism," he said.

In his brief 10-minute speech, Kumar said, "I asked him (Tejaswi) to explain his position on gross allegations against him, but he was not in a position to respond."

Repeating to the debate on the confidence vote, Kumar tore into the likes of Prajad and others who criticised him for returning to the BJP-led NDA's fold.

"People (the opposition) should not teach me lessons in secularism. Secularism is to be practised. I cannot be with people who commit the sin of amassing property through corrupt

he said. - PTI

(See page 4)

## Doval calls on President Xi

BEIJING, July 28: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and other top security chiefs of the BRICS nations today called on Chinese President Xi Jinping, who praised their efforts in enhancing mutual trust and cooperation despite the vast geographical distance among the member nations.

The meeting comes amid a meeting between China and India in Doklam area in the Sikkim sector.

After day-long deliberations

over improving cooperation in a number of areas, the BRICS

(Brazil, Russia, India, China,

South Africa)

(See page 4)

## Bail in excise scam State govt to file review petition

SANJOY RAY

up before the high court in the next few days.

The State machinery came under severe attack from different sections after it did not oppose the bail of Bonto Gogoi, against whom the CID had already filed a chargesheet. The CID too smelt a rat in the entire development, stating that there were too much of coincidences to digest.

The court in its earlier order had stated, "Considering the period of detention and the fact that there is no prayer from investigating agency that

(See page 4)

## Large-scale flood damage in State: Central team

Report to be submitted soon for release of funds

STAFF REPORTER

He further informed the team

that a proposal was already submitted to the Government of India to take up 'Prime Minister's Special Programme for Flood and Erosion Control' for developing embankments of

adjacent areas due to the river's heavy undercutting, the Chief Minister also suggested the team to incorporate the survey findings in their report so that a holistic approach involving both the Central and



Inter-ministerial Central team members with Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, in Guwahati on Friday. - AB Photos

The State as road-cum-embankments stretching to a length of 5,000 km.

Suggesting the team to include the above proposal as one of its recommendations in its report, the Chief Minister said that once the 5,000-km-long embankment network is converted into road-cum-embankments, it would help rural people in terms of connectivity, besides benefiting rural economy and tourism. The initiative would also facilitate implementation of PMGSY to connect every village in the State, he said.

Citing survey reports of international organizations which revealed that the Brahmaputra has already outlived their life.

(See page 4)

## APSC case Supplementary chargesheet submitted

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 28: Disibrugarh police today submitted a supplementary chargesheet before the Court of Special Judge, Assam, naming three Assam Civil Service (ACS) officers as the accused in connection with the cash for job scam in the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC).

The chargesheet against the three ACS officers — Bhaskar Dutta, Amit Sarma and Bhaskar Chandra Sarma — were submitted by investigating officer Surjeet Singh Panesar and assistant

(See page 4)

State governments could be taken up for intensifying flood protection measures.

Sonowal also referred to the issue of resettlement of people who became homeless and landless due to floods and urged the team to incorporate the issue in their report for release of funds by the Centre for smooth rehabilitation of the flood-hit people.

Considering the gravity of the situation and the intensity of flood damage in Assam, Shashank Shekhar informed the Chief Minister that the team would submit its report at the earliest to the Government of India so that funds for tackling the flood-related issues could be released expeditiously.

Earlier, the Central team met Chief Secretary VK Pipersera in the presence of senior officials of various State government departments to brief him about their findings.

## JOCOSERIOUS



No, sir, the bridge is not hit by floods, incomplete only due to lack of fund!

## 979 electrocution deaths in State since 2001

AJIT PATEWARI

GUWAHATI, July 28: In a period of around 17 years, since 2001-02, 979 people have lost their lives in the State due to electrocution. The causes of such cases have also been determined, official sources here said.

According to the official figures, the highest number of electrocution-related death (88) cases was recorded in 2016-17,

while in the four months — April, May, June and July — of the current year, 57 such cases of death were reported.

In 2001-02, 26 people were killed in the incidents of electrocution, while in 2002-03, 73 people lost their lives due to electrocution. In 2003-04, 47 people were killed in such inci-

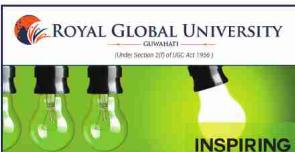
dents. Altogether 33 persons lost their lives in such incidents in 2004-05, while 41 people were killed in such incidents in 2005-06 and in 2006-07, 46 people were killed in such electrocution cases.

In 2007-08, 41 people were killed in such incidents. In 2008-09, 50 people were electrocuted. In 2009-10, 65 people were killed in such incidents.

In 2010-11, 56 human lives

were lost due to electrocution. In 2011-12, 60 human lives were lost in such cases. The next year, such incidents claimed 76 human lives, while in the following year, 77 human lives were lost due to such incidents.

In 2014-15, 68 people were killed in such inci-



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PG for girls with all facilities near Uzbarabar at Kharughli Road 94789117730. PG/P/1468/2/15

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PG for girls with all facilities near Uzbarabar at Kharughli Road 94789117730. PG/P/1468/2/15

CD/Edu/1781/15

**LOST**  
It is notified for the information that original Transfer Certificate No. 231739 in the name of Kamru Retaw Rawal D/o. Shankar Singh Rawal issued by K.V. Borbar has been lost. Lost/P/15048/1

It is notified for the information that original Transfer Certificate No. 231740 in the name of Nitish Rawal D/o. Shankar Singh Rawal issued by K.V. Borbar has been lost. Lost/P/15049/1

I have lost my provisional certificate of class X, bearing No. 666, for the year 1975 (SEB). Subha Sangma W/o: Galieni P. Sangma, Vill: Tairang, P.S. Sangmara, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya. Lost/P/PA265/1

PG for boys with all facilities near Uzbarabar at Kharughli Road 94789117730. PG/P/1468/2/8

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PG for boys with all facilities near Uzbarabar at Kharughli Road 94789117730. PG/P/146

## Gandhi seeks televised discussion with Naidu

NEW DELHI, July 28: Opposition's vice presidential nominee Gopal Krishna Gandhi today pitched for a televised dialogue with NDA candidate Venkaiah Naidu, and said he has approached the Rajya Sabha TV to arrange such a dialogue.

In an interview to PTI, Gandhi said such a discussion on issues of national importance would make people aware of their perspectives and allow the MPs to consider their suitability.

The 71-year-old former ambassador who also served as the West Bengal Governor between 2004-2009, said he believes that the vice presidential election is about the "safeguarding of our republican values", above and beyond party politics.

"It, therefore, welcome the opportunity to share the ballot paper with

Naidu and I look forward to discuss important national issues from the constitutional perspective with him."

"I have requested the Rajya Sabha

TV to arrange a joint discussion, not a debate, between us two on RS TV so that our perspectives can be shared not just with the electors but with the public at large in an atmosphere of cordiality and frankness," he said.

Asked why he chose to contest despite the numbers stacked against him, Gandhi said he did so as a "united opposition" made an "earnest request, over-

coming their own regional and political differences for reaffirming the country's republican values and democratic ethos.

Eighteen parties, including the JD(U)

which has just entered into an alliance with the BJP in Bihar, had supported the candidature of the Mahatma's grandson.

"I would like to believe there is no change in the JD(U) decision to support my candidature," Gandhi said, when queried about the recent political churning that saw Nitish Kumar resigning and then taking oath as Bihar Chief Minister with the

BJP's support.

Political experts believe Kumar's decision has exposed the fragility of unity among the non-BJP forces, but Gandhi feels the unity has already been projected to the masses, even during the presidential poll.

"And the fact that (Opposition presidential candidate) Meira Kumar got the largest number of votes that any opposition candidate in presidential election has ever got, is a very welcome sign for democracy."

"That coming together is for me in itself a very welcome sign, a welcome initiative, for democracy and for the unity of secular, republican forces. And as a person who belongs to no party, as an independent candidate I look to all the MP's to consider my suitability and vote as autonomous electors," he said. — PTI



Gandhi



Naidu

## Pak patient lavishes praise on Swaraj

NEW DELHI, July 28: Pakistan would have changed had Sushma Swaraj been Prime Minister, a grateful Pakistani woman said after India's External Affairs Minister directed the Indian High Commission in Islamabad to issue a visa for medical treatment.

Swaraj's direction to India's High Commissioner in Pakistan Gautam Bambawale came yesterday after a woman, Hijab Asif, sought the External Affairs Minister's urgent intervention in giving visa to a Pakistani requir-

ing medical treatment.

Touched by Swaraj's prompt response, Asif said, "Lots and Lots of Love and respect from here. Wish you were our Prime Minister. This country would have changed."

Minutes after Swaraj's tweet that it was in touch with the applicant,

"Ma'am, we are in touch with the applicant. Rest assured we will follow it up," the Indian High Commission said in a tweet.

Swaraj had a few weeks back said that Pakistanis nationals seeking visa for medical treatment in India must accompany their visa applications with a recommendation letter by Aziz.

"Dear ma'am, spoke to DHC (Deputy High Commissioner) in Islamabad, told the patient's current condition and he said it's all up to you. If you allow, Asif had tweeted earlier.

The patient is suffering from serious liver ailment and needs urgent treatment in India, she said.

After Swaraj's direction to grant a visa to the patient, Asif was effusive in her praise of the External Affairs Minister.

"@SushmaSwaraj What do I call you? Superwoman? God? No words to describe your generosity! Love you ma'am. Cannot stop praising you in tears!!!," she said.

In another tweet, she said, "My heart belongs and beats for you," adding that "Pakistan doesn't deserve her at all". — PTI

## Ex-driver reveals chilling details of Sheena's murder

MUMBAI, July 28: Indrani Mukerjee, former media personality and a key accused in the sensational murder of her daughter Sheena, set out looking for a "good place" days before the killing where she would dispose of her body, a Mumbai court was told today.

Shaymvar Rai, a former driver of Indrani, who was made an approver in the case in June last year, said she also wanted to kill Mikhail, Sheena's brother, while revealing chilling details of how she was done to death.

During his examination by the special CBI prosecutor Kavita Patil, Rai said in March 2012, Indrani, who was then abroad, told him through online video chat application that she wanted to kill Sheena and Mikhail, her two children from an earlier relationship. "Indrani said she will take care of my kids, their education and family's medical expenses, and assured that I will have a permanent job if he helped her," Rai claimed.

Sheena and Mikhail were "maligned" by her calling them their mother, and there was some dispute between her and

drami and the two siblings, she told Rai. Indrani had earlier told her friends in Mumbai that Sheena was her sister.

In April 2012, Indrani asked him to find places around Lonavala and Mumbai for dumping the bodies of Mikhail and Sheena after the murder. Rai told the court. The next day he picked up Indrani from airport, and on the way home she told him that she wanted to kill Sheena and Mikhail in two days, Rai said.

Indrani went with him to look for places to dump the bodies. At a spot near Khadala (near Lonavala) she said, "This place will be good for Mikhail."

Afterwards, she spoke to her husband Peter Mukherjee on phone in English, Rai said, adding "she said it was good place."

On April 24, 2012, the day Sheena was murdered, Indrani bought six bottles of medicine, one of vodka and two small water bottles, Rai said.

On reaching home she asked Rai to add the medicines to the liquor and water bottles.

It was Indrani who was to take

the drug-laced water to Sheena when she arrived that evening, Rai told the court.

As they were moving in Bandra-Pali Hill area, "Sheena was sitting in the car with eyes closed," he said. "Indrani asked me to stop the car and Khamma (Sanjeev Khanna, Indrani's former husband, a co-accused) got up and sat on the rear seat (next to Sheena and Indrani)." Rai said. He then saw Khamma grab Sheena's hair and Indrani strangle her. Indrani asked Rai to cover Sheena's mouth.

"First Sheena was making some sounds and was gasping for breath, later she fell silent," he said. "Indrani then sat on her (Sheena's) face and said 'Sheena has now got her 3-BHK flat,'" Rai said. The body was taken home, stuffed in a bag and kept in the garage, he said.

Rai told them there will be a problem carrying two bodies, and hence they should deal with Mikhail later, he said.

On April 25, Indrani and Khamma drove towards Pen with Sheena's body. On the way, Rai said, Indrani tidied Sheena's hair and applied lipstick. The body was taken to a spot near Pen where Khamma poured petrol on it and Indrani lit it on fire, he said. — PTI

## Venkaiah anguished over Cong charges

HYDERABAD, July 28: Amid questions raised over the business practices of his family members, NDA's vice presidential nominee M Venkaiah Naidu today said he felt anguished by the allegations and maintained that he never interfered with the business of his children.

Naidu, who was speaking at an event organised by his well-

wishers to 'meet and greet' him, however, said that such allegations were "inexcusable in public life".

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had also alleged that in June 2014, the Telangana government had placed an order of Rs 271 crore without inviting tenders for the purchase of vehicles for the police from two car dealers - Harsha Toyo-

ta owned by Naidu's son and Himanshu Motors owned by Telangana Chief Minister's son.

Ramesh had also alleged that on June 20, the Telangana government issued a "secret order" exempting the Swarna Bharat Trust of Naidu's daughter from paying development charge of more than Rs 2 crore to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority. — PTI

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I have changed my name from  
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Rajbongshi by an Affidavit  
before the Notary Public,  
Kamrup (Metro), Guwahati  
dated July 27, 2017. Henceforth  
I shall be known as Chabin  
Rajbongshi.  
PN/P/PA25/1

I, Dharni Kalita have changed  
my daughter's name from  
Tangmonee Kalita to Riya Kalita  
by an Affidavit sworn Notary  
Public at Kamrup on  
21.07.2017.  
PN/P/PA242/1

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## TENDER NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL  
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Short Tender Notice  
Sealed non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25/- (Rupees Eight and twenty five paisa only) and invited by Dr/ Authorized Dealers to supply  
Gum, Aspirin, Paracetamol,  
Tripar, Nagaland & Sikkim.

CID/LN/1906/1

## SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Court Expenses, Police Housing Corporation Ltd, Rebari, Guwahati-8, Assam invites bids for Setting up of Cane & Bamboo Technology Park at 13th Mile, G.S. Road, Burnhat in Assam (Balance Works) with a validity of 60 days from the date of opening of the tender document.

The EEU has banned the LTTE as a terrorist organisation and has maintained the LTTE on its list.

In 2014, the General Court annulled the restrictive measures concerning the LTTE due to procedural shortcomings. The 2014 judgement was appealed by the Council of the European Union at the European Court of Justice.

The EU said the LTTE will remain frozen despite the recent judgement by the ECJ to lift the previous restriction to freeze funds received from the period 2011 and 2015, the EU said in a statement. -PTI

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2500 to 98000 sq. ft Industrial shed/warehouse. Godown at Kharapara, Beliata, Lokhra, Aminigaon, Changari, Mirza, 9435403986, 9435403986. Godown/P/A294/30

## INTERNATIONAL

## Russia asks US to reduce envoys in response to curbs

MOSCOW, July 28: Russia's foreign ministry today announced counter measures in response to tough new sanctions proposed by the United States, ordering Washington to reduce its diplomatic staff.

Moscow ordered the US to reduce its diplomatic presence in Russia to 455 diplomats and staff and also barred it from using a s u m m e r storage facility.

US Ambassador John Tefft "expressed his strong disappointment and protest" at the development, the US embassy spokesperson told AFP, adding that "we have passed the notification back to Washington for review."

Versus

MR. MANOJ PODDAR

...Defendant

Mr. Meng Poddar

Son of Sri Ram Kishan Poddar

C/o - Dharma Kalita, HNo.48,

Patarkuchi Main Road, Bafotia,

Baistha, Guwahati-781028.

Witnesses, O.A. No. 184 of 2017

listed before the Presiding Officer on 19.07.2017.

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

O. A. No. 184 of 2017 is issued for hearing on 19.07.2017 before the Presiding Officer on 19.07.2017.

For reasons of convenience of the parties concerned, the date of hearing is 19.07.2017.

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### NF Rly Rajbhasa Committee meet

GUWAHATI, July 28: A meeting of the Regional Rajbhasa Implementation Committee of NF Railway was held earlier this week at the NFR headquarters, Maligaon.

The meeting was chaired by Chahatey Ram, General Manager of NFR, and it was attended by officials from the zonal railway.

The meeting discussed various steps being taken as per policy of the Centre to increase and popularise the use of Rajbhasa in official work. — Staff Reporter

### Durga Puja meeting

GUWAHATI, July 28: The Chirakhana Path Puja Uddipan Samiti is holding a general meeting on July 30 at 5 pm to discuss the ensuing Durga Puja celebrations. The meeting will be held on the Samañ Dharma Sabha premises, RG Barua Road.

### OBITUARY

#### Sankar Jibon Das

GUWAHATI, July 28: Sankar Jibon Das, retired chief inspector of boilers, died today following a protracted illness. He was 72.

Das, who was a resident of Khanpara, was actively associated with several socio-cultural organisations.

He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

# Lack of division bench in AHRC affects justice delivery

MAMATA MISHRA

GUWAHATI, July 28: Despite completing investigation into as many as 97 cases related to human rights violation in the State, the Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has not been able to dispose of the cases for want of a division bench for the past eight months.

At present running with only one judicial member who was appointed in March this year, the Commission, despite taking up cases, is completely helpless to deliver justice. As on date, the AHRC is having a backlog of 272 cases, which more than 180 have been registered this year.

The Commission is also in a headless state after its Chairman Justice AH Saikia demitted office in November last year following completion of his term. It needs mention that the non-judicial member of the AHRC has not been appointed in the Commission since 2013. "The Commission is registering fresh cases on a regular basis and ordering inquiries into several incidents

as suo moto cognisance as well. Though we have received the inquiry reports in 97 such cases, the Commission cannot dispose cases or award monetary compensation to the victims unless either a chairman or a non-judicial member is selected by the committee headed by the Chief Minister," judicial member of the AHRC Naba Kamal Bora told this reporter.

On the other hand, the State government's correspondence with other states of the country in search of a retired chief justice of a high court to take charge of the AHRC has also failed to fetch any positive response.

"We have not yet found a retired chief justice, who is willing to serve as chairman of the State's Human Rights Commission. A predicament is being faced by some other states of the country as well. We have to explore the option of approaching the serving chairman of a human rights commission of another state, who can also take charge of the AHRC," said LS Changsan, Commissioner and Sec-

retary of the State Home and Political Department.

Sources privy to the developments however stated that the AHRC had taken up the issue with the State government in June, 2016 but due to lack of a prompt action, the human rights body reduced to a nearly defunct status.

Several cases of serious nature including death in police custody, electrocution deaths, negligence by the government hospital authorities etc., are pending in the Commission.

Recently, the single-member bench had also directed magisterial inquiries into the police firing at Goalpara, reportedly resulting in the death of one Yakub Ali; death of Krishna Mandal in the ICU of GMCH after he was picked up by Gorkhupolice in a case theft; a departmental inquiry into the case of snapping of a high voltage power cable that damaged 20 houses in Chhayaon of Kamrup district and food poisoning in a school of Barpeta after the midday meal provided by the school.



A massive protest demonstration by midday meal workers over their demands led to a traffic jam at Ambari, in Guwahati on Friday. — UB Photos

### GMC directive to contractors

GUWAHATI, July 28: The Guwahati Municipal Corporation has asked all its contractors to complete the works allotted to them for the year 2016-17 before August 15.

A meeting with the GMC Mayor, the contractors were asked to speed up the work so that the utilisation certificates can be submitted to the government in time.

"For carrying out the next round of developmental work in Guwahati, every councillor would be given Rs 50 lakh and for the first time the area sabha members would be given Rs 5 lakh each," GMC sources said. Earlier, the councillors were given Rs 60 lakh for works in Guwahati. — Staff Reporter

### AIR talk show

GUWAHATI, July 28: The Regional News Unit of AIR Guwahati will hold a phone-in talk show Drishtipat at 8.30 pm tomorrow. Handloom and Textile Minister Ranjit Dutta will be the guest of the show. — Staff Reporter

## Cabinet decisions on flood aid, I-Day

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 28: The State Cabinet today decided that each of the State's ministers will donate one month's salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in aid of the flood victims. It also decided to urgently undertake repair of infrastructure like roads, etc., damaged by the recent wave of flood.

The State will celebrate Independence Day this time with a three-day programme from August 13. On August 13, competitions will be held among school students on various issues, including ones related with the freedom struggle of the country. This will be followed by runs for freedom on August 14 and on August 15 the usual Independence Day celebration functions will be held, said official sources here.

The Cabinet also decided that the government would set up a martyrs' memorial park near the Balaji Mandir here and for this purpose, a plot of land measuring 100 bighas has already been allotted, added the sources.

It was also decided at the Cabinet meeting today that yoga kendras would shortly be set up in 100 development blocks. Besides, the State government would pay pension to 20 journalists. The detailed announcement for the purpose will be made on August 14, the Cabinet decided. In case of the death of such a pension holder journalist, his/her family will be provided with the pension, the Cabinet decided, the sources said.

## CPI flays NEEPCO

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 28: Accusing NEEPCO of turning a blind eye to the suffering of the people of Assam, the Communist Party of India (CPD) has demanded a judicial inquiry into the activities of the NEEPCO authority that is threatening the life and property of people.

The party noted with serious concern the loss of lives of 70 persons, mostly in Lakhimpur district, when NEEPCO was responsible for the devastation. It demanded adequate compensation to the families of the dead persons. The party also demanded a judicial inquiry into this 'anti-people activity of the NEEPCO authority' that is threatening the life and property of people.

It also flayed the Centre and the State government on their handling of the flood relief measures, and said measures taken so far are not adequate.

## BIEO demand for chit fund scam accused

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 28: The State's Bureau of Investigation (Economic Offences) has secured custody of three accused involved in a major chit fund scam in the State. The accused were in a Bhuneswar jail.

The accused — Ramesh Poddar (57), Sulanta Deb (51) and Ramendra Mohan Sarkar (64) — were earlier arrested by the CBI. They had allegedly opened a com-

pany called Ramel Industry Limited, with its head office at Barasat in Bengal.

"The main office of the company in Assam was opened at Lumding. They had collected over Rs 30 crore from investors in the State, mainly in areas like Lumding, Patharkand, Barpeta, Badarpur etc., between 2007 and 2013. They had fled after shutting office in 2013," BIEO investigating officer of the case Prafull Barman said. Countrywide, the company had collected nearly Rs 2,700 crore.

"We got their production warrant and brought them here yesterday. They were produced before the court today and remanded to three days' custody."

The BIEO had earlier arrested four persons from Lumding in connection with the case. They are Ashish Ghosh, Subhash Dey, Samir Bordoloi and Samjoy Ghosh.

The BIEO is looking for four/five more people involved in the scam.

## 25 farmers undergo training in horticulture

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, July 28: A skill development training programme in horticulture held at the Horticulture Research Station (HRS), Kaliakuchi, concluded on Wednesday. The training was organised by the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IEE) with sponsorship from the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society under the State

forest department.

Altogether 25 leading farmers from Fatasimal block, Silbori forest range under Mangaldoi Wildlife Division participated in the training programme, where 20 scientists from HRS and Krishnayan Kendra, Kaliakuchi, were associated as resource persons.

The participants were trained in current prospects of good agricultural practices, integrated nutrient and

water management, nursery raising and propagation techniques, production technology and management practices, integrated pest and disease management, technology for commercial production and overview of organic farming.

At the valedictory function the participants were given certificates, training kits, horticultural kits and saplings.

## India eyes the future...



"With growing middle class and the growing economy, per capita consumption of polymers is going to grow."

- Narendra Modi

## 6th Petrochemical Conclave

Theme : India Petrochemicals 2030 – Opportunities and Challenges

### INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- India to drive global petrochemicals growth in the next decade
- Size of Indian petrochemicals industry estimated at USD 40 Billion
- Double-digit growth registered over the last decade
- A big contributor to employment generation
- 70 international petrochemical companies participating in Conclave

Dharmendra Pradhan  
MOS (IIC) for Petroleum & Natural Gas  
Govt. of India

Ananth Kumar  
Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers

### GUESTS OF HONOUR

Nitin Patel  
Dy. Chief Minister  
Govt. of Gujarat

Mansukh L. Mandaviya  
MOS for Chemicals & Fertilizers  
Govt. of India

29th July 2017, 9:30 am

at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Entry by invitation only.

For details, log on to  
[www.petrochemconclave.com](http://www.petrochemconclave.com)



## MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Worry is a misuse of imagination.

— DAN ZADRA

**The Assam Tribune****Significant Judgement**

In order to keep their flock together leaders of political parties take recourse to numerous measures, including appointing members of the legislature, who could not be accommodated in the ministry, as Parliamentary Secretaries. Though not invested with much of a workload or responsibilities, these appointees enjoy privileges equal to Cabinet ministers, including salaries, allowances, houses, security cover, etc. Such appointments are a blatant misuse of the taxpayers' money – unfortunately, the trend was pioneered by the erstwhile Tarun Gogoi Government in Assam and they picked up by other States. In December, 2004 the Congress Government in Assam passed the Assam Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act enabling then Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi to appoint eight Parliamentary Secretaries in 2005, 21 in 2012 and 13 in 2015, despite the fact that the legality of the appointment had become sub judice. It may be recalled that in 2005 a BJP member of the Assam Assembly had placed a petition before the Gauhati High Court challenging the Act, but later the case was transferred to the Supreme Court because it needed constitutional scrutiny. Though it has been a case of better late than never, it is only now that India's Apex Court, in a significant judgement, has declared the Act as invalid because it violated the mandate under Article 164 (1A) which limits the number of ministers a Government can appoint.

In 2004 the Constitution 91st Amendment Bill, 2003, was passed in Parliament with some modifications made to Article 75 and 164 of the Constitution. Article 164 (1A) of this Act stipulates that the size of a council of ministers should not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Assembly. When it was passed in Parliament, there were 36 ministers in the Tarun Gogoi ministry out of 120 Assembly seats, or 28.57% – clearly, the Assam Act had been enacted to circumnavigate the provisions of the Central Act and was constitutionally invalid. Though Tarun Gogoi lost his position as a Chief Minister, he has certainly passed on his own headaches to his successor, Sarbananda Sonowal of the BJP. In proportion to seats in the Assam Assembly, the State Government can have at most 19 ministers and thus Sonowal is confronted with the problem of plenty. While he cannot accommodate too many new MLAs in his Cabinet, he simultaneously cannot satisfy discontented members by offering them sinecures which the latest Apex Court ruling forbids. In the current Assembly, the BJP and its allies have 88 MLAs, and complaints are already being heard about the inordinate number of ministerial berths being given to the AGP and BPF. While it would be interesting to observe how Sonowal tackles his problems, equally interesting would be that of Chief Ministers in other States who had taken recourse to strategy similar to Assam.

**Flood preparedness**

The current wave of floods in the State has affected almost the entire State, inundating settlements and cropland, and destroying infrastructure besides claiming close to a hundred lives. Year after year, the recurring phenomenon of floods continues to expose our lack of preparedness even as we search for a permanent solution to the twin menace of flood and erosion. The Centre, too, has taken very short of helping the State to tide over the crisis over the years. While the State has persistently and justifiably been demanding that the floods be declared a national problem, the Centre's response smacks of insensitivity, with the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju telling the Parliament that the Centre had no such plan. National problem or not, the fact stands that floods have been heaping untold misery on the people of Assam every year, and that the Centre simply cannot wash its hands off the matter. Recent experiences have also exposed the Centre's discrimination towards Assam on the all-important basis of Central assistance for flood-affected States, with States like Jammu & Kashmir and Gujarat enjoying Central largesse while Assam keeps running from pillar to post for getting assistance. Then, the State Government in Assam also needs to look out of the box to find a way out of the morass during flood time, especially in matters of flood preparedness and easing the sufferings of the affected masses.

Pending a lasting flood control mechanism, a lot of thrust has to be accorded on the measures to be taken during and after floods. It is regrettable that despite Assam being a flood-prone State, our preparedness level remains abysmal. A quick-response mechanism in the form of adequate number of rubber boats and trained manpower continues to be conspicuous by its absence whereas this should have been the norm in all the districts. We now have a State Disaster Management Authority and it should be in coordination with the district administrations devise a sound rescue and relief mechanism for the flood-affected. The all-important exercise of providing foodstuff and other relief materials to the marooned people also leaves a lot to be desired. It is also time we blended traditional wisdom with modern technology to ease the flood situations. As we have a number of low-lying flood-prone areas, stress should be given on having housing structures on elevated platforms – a practice followed by certain tribes living near rivers. We can also think of erecting highlands in settlements for sheltering people and livestock during floods. With adequate forewarning, it is now possible to anticipate floods and an effective mitigation mechanism should have been the natural corollary. An emergency situation warrants greater coordination among different departments, voluntary bodies and the media. Unfortunately we are habituated to confronting a situation of chaos and confusion whenever a disaster strikes. With disaster management now a specialized field, and with huge funds coming for the purpose, it is highly questionable why we have not been able to evolve an efficient disaster management mechanism.

**Letters  
to the  
EDITOR**
**Letters****to the****EDITOR**

Sir, – Through your esteemed daily, I would like to bring to the notice of the APSC authority concerned regarding the answer keys of the General Studies paper of CC (Prelims) Exam 2016 held on July 2, 2017. The answer keys of the GS paper (Series C) are full of errors. The answer to the question No. 1 is given as (A) Sevagram, but the correct answer should be option (B) Dandi from where the civil disobedience movement started in 1930. Again all the given options are correct but according to the answer keys, option (C) Thermo-hygrograph is the correct answer. In Q.No. 42, it was asked who succeeded Robert Clive to lead the East India Company and the answer given by the APSC is option (C) Lord Hastings. But the accurate answer should be Warren Hastings. Warren Hastings led the company as a successor to Robert Clive and the first Governor General from 1774-85

**APSC answer keys full of errors**

while Lord Hastings led the company from 1813-23. There are a lot of mistakes in the answers given to Q.No. 49, Q/ No. 55, Q/No. 67 and Q/No. 79 too. Therefore, I would like to request the APSC to check carefully the questions and answers again and publish error-free answer keys immediately. Yours etc., JITU KALITA, Ganeshguri, Guwahati.

**Saving ourselves**

Sir, – Assam is way behind in development but we are not ones to learn from others' mistakes. Any developmental activity starts with axing the first tree that is in sight. Is it necessary to appear so foolish and not build a pavement around a tree? So thoughtless and careless that a road cannot be widened by saving a few trees! Not only does it give a green cover, it provides shade to the pedestrian in addition to upping the aesthetics. In the last three years, though there is not much headway in road construction but trees were felled in lakhs in astounding speed. Being one of the States receiving the highest rainfall, it is pathetic that we have no storm water drainage systems. We have no rainwater harvesting facilities. There is no strict enforcement of this in all the high-

rise buildings and apartments. No serious plans on banning plastics. We have flash floods and casualties in our cities just after one downpour. We are easy going, corrupt, short-sighted and greedy and that is good recipe for disaster. What shall we do with all the riches in our graves that we are unknowingly digging for ourselves? So is it not time that we take the cudgels into our own hands? Yours etc., DR ARCHANA DEKA, Basantpur, Tezpur.

**Raw deal**

Sir, – Through your esteemed daily, I would like to highlight the raw deal which our educated unemployed youth are being subjected to. It is the dream of all educated persons to get a good job, either in public or private sector. It is a culmination of years of sweat and hard work. They have a dream to get a job, buy a house and raise a family. These are but a few aspirations of any person, whether educated or uneducated. But of late what we have seen is utter chaos among the employers. The infamous cash-for-job scam in the APSC has totally demoralized the youths. In the recent past, the utter chaos and unprofessionalism in the conduct of the examination for jobs in the Forest Department of Assam had totally exposed the

callousness in the attitude of the authorities. The whole process was a farce. Again on July 26, in the Manoran Dewan Trade Centre, Gorkhak, the manner in which the 'Niyog Mela' (job fair) was organized reveals the lackadaisical attitude of the organizers. I strongly believe that our youths deserve a better deal and they should not be subjected to such humiliation. If we cannot nurture our youth to a better future, then I suppose we have failed in our responsibilities as citizens of the country. Yours etc., PRITAM MOHAN, Belota, Gauhati.

**Sports infrastructure**

Sir, – Healthy mind lives in a healthy body. Medical expenses can be reduced if we exercise regularly. We often talk about super specialty and multispecialty hospitals but we do not talk about 30 minutes exercise daily. People can visit stadiums and gyms in cities but the rural areas lack such facilities. In ancient times the rural people had a lot of physical activities but with the modernization of rural life, physical activities have been reduced to the minimum level. The sports authorities should think of constructing sports infrastructure in the rural belt

also. Rural sports infrastructure can also help us in tapping the sports talents from these areas. Human energy must be channeled for the growth of a nation. Only healthy people can build a healthy nation. No one should fall sick due to lack of exercise. No one should be deprived of sports infrastructure irrespective of city or rural areas. Yours etc., SYED SAJIDUR REHMAN, Guwahati.

**Building character**

Sir, – Character and conduct, during one's personal life, service period or in business ventures are vital for one's all-round growth. Actually these qualities should have been taught from the nursery to the higher education level. Institutional qualification, social responsibility, respect towards parents, self-respect, truthfulness, cleanliness – all this is what character and conduct mean. Unfortunately, the same is lacking among majority of people, especially the younger lot, today. If these qualities are there, one need not fear to perform his/her duty with responsibility. Yours etc., NRIPEN MAHANTA, Kahlipara, Guwahati.

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

**Bihar politics and its larger implications****■ Shibdas Bhattacharjee**

**T**he political drama in Bihar ended with JDU chief Nitish Kumar becoming the Chief Minister of Bihar again within just a day after snapping ties with the RJD on July 26 last and forming a fresh alliance with the BJP. The development took place on the backdrop of corruption charges against JDU chief and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav and mounting pressure from the RJD camp on Nitish Kumar to provide respite to the alleged RJD chief and others of the Lalu Prasad Yadav-led party which has ultimately broken the 20-month-old JDU-RJD alliance. But the manner the alliance ended and the trajectory of Nitish Kumar tendering resignation, immediately prompting support from the BJP to form a new government, Nitish's entry into the NDA, RJD's quick decision to join the new government in Bihar and, above all, making necessary arrangements to take the oath of office by the JDU-BJP alliance within 24 hours, certainly have perplexed all. The pace with which the situation changed gave the impression that everything was scripted before. So, what is the logic behind Nitish Kumar's stand on opposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi on every front so far? After all, this does not match his image and political stand regarding Modi and his policies.

But this is the game called politics where enmity turns to friend-

ship hardly takes time. The alliance formed in 2015 in Bihar comprising JDU, RJD, Congress and other like-minded parties was thought to be a shaky one since the beginning because of the kind of politics Lalu Yadav is accused of as well as the image of Nitish Kumar. But it is also true that the success of the Bihar model in recent poll politics provided fresh oxygen to the Opposition camp. Nitish Kumar had been in the NDA for 17 years. But that was during the Atal-Arvani era in Bihar. Nitish was ideologically closer to that leadership of the BJP who criticized Modi and did not hesitate to give lesson to the Gujarat Chief Minister regarding *rajdharm*. But the Gujarat stronghold of the BJP became the face of the party. The NDA initiated break-up of the ties between the JDU and BJP and finally, Nitish came out of the NDA. A changed situation brought the JDU and RJD closer before the last Assembly election. The experiment proved to be very successful and the grand alliance led by Nitish Kumar formed the Government in Bihar. Nitish has been a stern critic of Modi since beginning. During the last 20 months, Nitish not only criticized Modi but contributed to form an alliance with the Congress and other non-NDA parties to provide an alternative to the BJP. His

relationship with the leaders like the Congress president Sonia Gandhi, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, BJP chief Nabin Patnaik and other like-minded parties gave the impression that Nitish Kumar may help in putting the house of the Opposition in order and challenge the BJP formidable in the electoral battle in the days ahead.

But now the situation is completely different. Nitish Kumar's changing of stand and making po-

Yadav and RJD both in Bihar and national politics? These are the questions with which the present state of politics can be analysed and future course of politics can be explained. After all, the BJP becoming the part of power in Bihar means more than what meets the eye.

There is hardly any doubt that the BJP-Nitish tie-up will strengthen the NDA in the Hindi heartland. For the BJP which faced a rout in the Bihar Assembly polls just 20 months back despite its successive electoral victory as a resurgent political force across the country, the BJP-JDU alliance proves to be a master of much resipit for Prime Minister Modi and BJP president Amit Shah. As regards the defeat of the BJP in the 2015 Bihar election, Modi and Shah are often blamed for ignoring the party's Bihar unit. The new developments will not only help the BJP making the much-cherished dream of ruling Bihar a reality but also silence the voice of protest taking shape of a rift in the BJP's Bihar unit. This is no doubt a short-term gain. But the BJP-JDU realignment needs to be seen in the larger context too. This is both psychological and sociological gain for the BJP as the alliance will help in utilizing the so-called social engineering to shine the poll prospects of the BJP in the upcoming elections.

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar together send 120 members to the Lok Sabha and the NDA had won 104 of these in 2014. These two Hindi heartland States hold the key to the 2019 political battle. Nitish becoming a part of the NDA will go a long way to secure Bihar. As for UP, the BJP already has a State Government there. So Nitish Kumar severing ties with the RJD is more than just another case of political realignment confined to a State. The new caste combination could energize the BJP ranks and help beat incumbency in 2019. Nitish Kumar's popular appeal among the non-Yadav OBCs and poor sections in the Hindi heartland will only add to Modi's aggressive pitch among these sections. The new caste combination will not only add to Modi's aggressive pitch among these sections.

Apart from political implications, the rift between the JDU and RJD shows that despite forming a political alliance, Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad Yadav are ideologically different. But will Nitish Kumar, also called the 'Vikash Babu of Bihar', display commitment to deliver? This remains to be seen.

**Protecting border, securing nation****■ Dr Kamala Kanta Saharia**

**N** spite of the fact that science and technology have improved, exposure and experiences of the people have gained momentum, frequency of links among world leaders has increased, international forums are bringing up various norms, rules and regulations, understanding about peace and amity has received sound footing and the international community is equivocal in curbing insurgency, terrorism and radicalization, the general psychology of the common people has not changed much relating to the borders. The conviction is that it is the duty of the brave souls to protect the borders. People have forgotten issues of the international border areas, where the anticolonial feelings germinate, conflicts begin, racism flourishes and destructive motives propagate. Subsequently we fail to raise a sound, solid and strong voice against terrorism, trespass and tantrums in the international border areas. Issues like Kulbhushan Yadav, Uri conspiracy, Pathankot attack, arrest of fishermen every now and then, violation of ceasefire in J&K, illegal trades in all over the international border areas, Dokla La aggression, butchering of soldiers' heads, fake

curries, cattle smuggling, cyber crime and ill-designed influx of illegal migrants are no more burning concerns.

But, India's External Affairs Ministry is sharp, smart and proactive. In fact the fast manner in which Su Shanta Swaraj has taken initiatives in rescuing the troubled Indian citizens abroad has been commendable. The foreign policy and diplomatic wins during the tenure of the present Government are praiseworthy. The Home Ministry is also walking on a tight rope because of the Naxalites, terrorist groups, insurgents and most seriously, the law-and-order situation in Jammu and Kashmir. But Defence Ministry being run on an ad hoc basis is not well taken, especially where our country is surrounded by hostile neighbours. Anchored by Pakistan, choreographed by China and sponsored from below by few powerful nations, India's international borders are not safe. Although India could establish Pakistan as a terrorist country among the world community, some situational forces for a war cannot be ruled out. The Pakistani premier is deep down with corruption charges and his political future is at stake. In fact, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has on July 28 dis-

qualified Nawaz Sharif as the Prime Minister of the country. The Chinese premier is also seeking his second term in office. The Chinese economy is not flourishing as it did some half a decade back. So, both the nations need to take a bold step to consolidate their political careers. Under such circumstances, only the persons with tested bravery can survive in borders.

In India the soldiers are criticized, their integrity is questioned, their heroism is put to severe tests, strategic steps are doubted. The media coverage and the TV debates do the maximum harm to the morale of the military forces in India. In order to gain political mileage, the credits of the security forces for their selfless services are undermined most often than not. The duties of a soldier are the examples of hard work, discipline, dedication and sacrifice. Because of their bravery, sacrifice and the highest order of service, we the citizens can have the luxury of sound sleep. Even after that the security personnel at times cannot take the general people into confidence in matters relating to socialization and community life. But the fact is that, the extent to which our international borders are safe it is all due to the wholehearted contribution of the security forces. Their bravery, integri-

ty, discipline and sacrifice are never to be put into question but to be praised all along.

Considering the necessities of the safety and security of the nation in the face of political differences, demographic variations and ideological distinctions, it is sure that only guns, guards and governments cannot provide safeguard to the international borders in any country. In a resource-poor country like ours, purchase of arms would be cutting short the food and welfare activities. Further, arms are always aimed at destruction, never for construction.

The national mandate of India is to guide building a global prosperous society founded on the values of brotherhood, understanding, peace, progress and amity with the underlying principles of nationalism and patriotism. Under such circumstances, guns are not priority items.

Coming to the guards, they perform duties on the international borders. Whether it is the human guard or the lifeless walls or barbed wires, the fact remains that they are under disturbance and discontent. No concrete dictate can ensure hundred per cent efficiency in guarding the borders. It is more difficult in case of Assam which shares about 662 km with Bangladesh and 667 km with Bhutan. Situations in both

the borders are different, but the people on both the sides of the borders are similar making it more difficult for guarding. People have to be brave and alert to keep informing anything unusual.

Coming to the government, it has hundreds of responsibilities, priorities, crises, cases and constraints. However, the present Government has framed the policy to safeguard the borders with priority. But again, to expedite the matter, there is need of a responsible people's forum, especially of those who are living in the international border areas. There is a national arousal in the form of an organization the part of which in the NE region is known as Seemantha Chetana Mancha Purvottar. Active participation of such organizations, dedication of volunteers and the vision/mission of helping the government in handling border issues would lead to forming of a strong nation. All brave patriots and the nation-loving people should come forward with helping hands to make the international borders the place of peace and prosperity. Because the borders are considered like the skin of the body, an incision anywhere would lead to pain and malfunctioning of all organs of the body resulting in enduring illness and discomfort.



## WEATHER

## NORTHEAST

Forecast for NE: Moderate rain-thunderstorms is very likely to occur at many places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and light to moderate rain-thunderstorms are also likely to occur at a few places over Arunachal Pradesh.

**Warning:** Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at some places over the unshaded parts on July 31 and August 1, over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura on July 29, 30 and 31 August.

**Temperatures:**

	Max (°C) Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	33.4 26.2
Tezpur	29.0 25.5
Silchar	32.7 25.3
Dhubri	33.6 27.4
Jorhat	32.2 26.5
NI Lakhimpur	29.8 24.0
Shillong	23.9 14.8
Imphal	31.7 22.4
Itanagar	31.2 23.0
Aizawl	29.9 22.2
Moraitola	34.9 25.0
Kohima	27.0 18.4
Pasighat	35.2 24.9
Cherrapunji	24.8 16.9

MNF supports NGO Coordination Committee's demand

AIZAWL, July 28: The Mizo National Front (MNF) today announced that it supports the appeal made by the NGO Coordination Committee to all the political parties not to field candidates belonging to the Chakma community in the coming State Assembly polls scheduled to be held next year.

Former chief minister and MNF chief Zoramthanga, while addressing party workers at the party office here, said the NGO Coordination Committee's appeal was supported by his party and the MNF wanted the NGO Coordination Committee to pursue the issue.

Zoramthanga also said the party supported the demand of the NGO Coordination Committee that Fisheries Minister BD Chakma should be sacked for his alleged "anti-government and anti-Mizo" activities.

He claimed that the MNF during peace talks with the Government of India had demanded that the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC), which was imposed upon the people of Mizoram and was created without the consent of the Mizo people, should be scrapped.

The Centre refused to scrap the CADC as it was created by the Parliament with a constitutional amendment as it felt that it should send wrong signals to the people of the country," he said.

He said the MNF still demands that the CADC should be scrapped.

There are two Assembly constituencies—Tulchong and West Tuijpu—from where BD Chakma and former minister Nihar Kanti Chakma, both belonging to the ruling Congress, won the seats respectively in 2013 Assembly polls. —PTI

**'Healthy population is a must for inclusive development'**

ITANAGAR, July 28: Arunachal Pradesh Governor PB Acharya attended the inaugural function of the 10th General Conference of Arunachal Pradesh Doctors' Association here on Friday, stated a press release.

His inaugural address, Acharya said a healthy population is an essential element of inclusive development and nation-building. Universal access to minimum and quality health care is not only a social necessity but also an imperative for economic growth and prosperity, Acharya said.

The Governor said the teachers and the doctors are the most respected persons in the society. The cause of the doctors and teachers are always close to my heart, he added.

While underscoring that achievers must be givers, the Governor pointed that empowered people must explore ways and means to address the challenges of the society without involving the Government.

# NSF to strictly enforce Inner Line Permit in Nagaland

## CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, July 28: The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) said it would strictly enforce the Inner Line Permit (ILP) in Nagaland in close coordination with the State Government.

NSF president Christopher Ltu told media persons recently that the Federation decided to strictly enforce ILP in the State along with the State Government to check influx of illegal immigrants, especially from neighbouring countries.

The NSF has also demanded that the Dimapur area be brought under the purview of ILP as this commercial town has become a hub of illegal immigrants.

In this connection, the Federation will constitute a committee on ILP to coordinate with the State Government and bring out a blueprint on the matter. It has also asked the Government to make strong

## WHAT IS ILP?

Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside those States to obtain a permit for entering into the protected state.

mechanism in all entry points so as to effectively check the influx of immigrants.

Ltu said the NSF would intensify crack down on ILP defaulters through its units in coordination with the district administrations.

Another thrust area of the organisation is human resource development by streamlining system in schools and educational institutions and strictly implementing programmes and schemes

such as free textbooks, uniforms and Mid-Day Meal.

The NSF has also asked the Higher Education Department to look into the marking system in line with States other than Nagaland where Naga students are being deprived due to low marking system. All seats in technical and allied sectors are given to Naga students of Nagaland, it demanded.

The Federation took strong exception to rampant backdoored appointments in several departments despite a ban on the such practice since June last year. It has asked the Government to do away with all backdoor appointments.

Also, the NSF will take up the issue of deplorable road condition in the State. On the Naga political issue, Ltu said the NSF since its inception, was apolitical in nature and that it would continue to work towards that till honourable and acceptable solution is hammered out.



Students of Tura Government College and members of WGH Social Forestry Team planting saplings along the NH-44 near the Bolbokre village on Friday. The initiative was a part of the 'Van Mahotsav' as well as an awareness campaign. —Photo: Correspondent

## MOVE AGAINST ILLEGAL INFUX

## Govt mulls check posts in Churachandpur, Jiribam

## CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, July 28: In a move to check illegal migrants entering Manipur from neighbouring countries, the State Government is planning to set up two check posts in the State's Churachandpur and Jiribam districts.

Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh informed this in reply to a question raised by opposition Congress MLA RK Ima in the ongoing Assembly session on Friday.

The MNF still demands that the CADC should be scrapped.

A check post to check for

foreigners' influx was set up at Moreh, a commercial town bordering Myanmar, in 1968, but it was re-drawn as immigration check post in November 2014, Singh informed the House. The border fencing between border pillars no. 78 and no. 81 at Moreh is yet to be completed due to certain fac-

tors, Singh said.

Similarly three check posts for foreigners were set up at Imphal Airport in Imphal West district, Mao in Senapati district and Jiribam in Bishnupur district and these have been functioning since January 2011, he added.

Expressing serious concern

over the issue, he said the State Government is committed to protect the interest of the indigenous people of the State.

Meanwhile replying to a question by opposition member K Meghachandra on the present status of the three hills

which were passed earlier in the State Assembly in connection with the introduction of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) in Manipur, the Chief Minister said the Central Government intimated that the assent to bill namely 'The Protection of Manipuri People Bill No 16 of 2015' was withheld by the President.

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Two Central Government agencies—Engineering Projects India Limited and National Projects Construction Corporation Limited—are erecting the border fencing in Mizoram.

The Assam Rifles has

stepped up security on the India-Myanmar border along eastern Mizoram to stop drugs and arms smuggling, border fencing work

is on western Mizoram along the India-Bangladesh frontier, an official said here on Friday.

"Of Mizoram's 318-km border with Bangladesh, 233 km is to be fenced by March 2019," an official of Mizoram's Home Department said.

"Barbed wire fencing has been undertaken in 2005 to check various border crimes, smuggling of arms and drugs and cross-border movement of illegal elements."

An Assam Rifles official said the higher authority of the central paramilitary force has alerted troops deployed along the 510-km-long India-Myanmar border with Mizoram to tighten vigil along the porous border. The work would resume

soon," the official added.

The official further said the fencing work along the India-Bangladesh border with Mizoram has been delayed due to several reasons, including topographical adversities.

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Members of The Assam Tribune Employees' Union on their way to distribute relief materials to the flood-affected people of Aamolia area in Lakhimpur district recently. — AT Photo

**Brother,  
sister drown;  
father  
kills self**

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMIALI, July 28: In a tragic incident, two children of the same family of Dhaukukhanna Gowaigon under Dhaukukhanna Police Station, drowned on July 25. They were identified as Palash Boruah (9) and Rupnarina Boruah (12), the son and daughter respectively of Paresh Boruah of Dhaukukhanna Gowaigon, who also committed suicide the same night after the demise of his children.

According to sources at the Golaghat Health department, there was no project proposal for the construction of the required number of doctors and staff quarters in the drawing map that was subsequently handed over to engineers involved in the construction of the hospital. Already the appointments of four doctors, four staff nurses, two pharmacists, two ward boys and two ward girls had been completed but the question arises as to whether these appointed doctors and staff will be able to deliver 24-hour services as two operations theatres (OTs) including a la-

## No staff quarters at Kohora Model Hospital

CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, July 28: Notwithstanding the tall claims made by the State Health and Family Welfare Department, the newly-constructed 30-bed Model Hospital at Kaziranga (Kohora), is not likely to see the light of the day in the near future, as the construction work of the necessary staff quarters is yet to begin.

According to sources at the Golaghat Health department, there was no project proposal for the construction of the required number of doctors and staff quarters in the drawing map that was subsequently handed over to engineers involved in the construction of the hospital. Already the appointments of four doctors, four staff nurses, two pharmacists, two ward boys and two ward girls had been completed but the question arises as to whether these appointed doctors and staff will be able to deliver 24-hour services as two operations theatres (OTs) including a la-

bour room and general surgery need sufficient number of doctors and paramedical staff to perform operations like gall bladder stone surgery, appendicitis etc. There would be facilities for x-ray and ultra sonography also. Without having any staff quarters, these medical staff would have to stay either at Kokrah or some other places since Kaziranga does not have sufficient number of rented houses also, as most of the people rent out their available rooms to tourists during the tourist season.

Interestingly, the model hospital at Dergon, Khumta and Urianghat under Golaghat district have sufficient quarters for their doctors and staff. The building construction of the Kohora Model Hospital has been completed and is expected to be handed over to the State Health department within July 31.

Pradip Gogoi, a native of Kaziranga wondered what the Government was planning to do in this model hospital at

Kohora without constructing a single staff quarter because this would result in no benefits and services to the people of Kaziranga who had been demanding a good hospital having facilities to treat the patients during odd hours. He said this would create unnecessary chaos if doctors and nurses were not available during any emergency. It is worth mentioning that Kaziranga being an international tourists place, a full-fledged hospital with necessary doctors and staff are needed for 20 hours at Kohora so that proper services can be delivered to the needy, including international and domestic tourists. The Government now needs to step up its activities to start the construction of staff quarters at Kohora Model Hospital before its inauguration because the opening of the said hospital would lead to unnecessary chaos and confusion among the people of Kaziranga due to non-availability of doctors during night time.

## Stress laid on emancipation of Tiwa womenfolk

CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, July 28: A joint mock drill was conducted on Wednesday by NF Railways and NDRF's 1st Battalion at New邦加格然 Yard Siding under Rangiya Division.

The exercise was intended to check the readiness of men and materials in the eventuality of any train accident.

"This type of exercise is also important to check equipment performance, time management and efficiency of rescue team members," said NFR Chief Public Relations Officer PJ Sharma.

He said that during the mock drill, Accident Relief Medical Equipment train and Accident Relief Train were put into service.

"The readiness of officials from various departments like Safety, Mechanical, Telecom, Operating, Medical, Engineering, Electrical, Commercial and Security were monitored during the mock drill. Helpline numbers were also activated. The rescue operation to the injured passengers was done by NDRF team from the derailed coach. Two passengers with grievous injuries and 11 passengers with minor injury were trapped inside a coach and those were rescued by NDRF team and sent to hospital for further treatment during the mock drill," said Sharma.

## Media workshop today

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, July 28: In connection with the celebration of 'International Tiger Day' on July 29, 'Mangaldai Media Circle' and 'Aaranyak' in association with Mangaldai College and Mangaldai Wildlife Division is going to arrange a day-long 'Orientation Workshop on Green Reporting focusing at Wildlife and Environmental Writing and Reporting'. The

programme is scheduled to be held at Mangaldai College from 9.00 am to 4.15 pm. The Inspector General of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) Dev Prakash Bankhal, senior journalists and wildlife activists Sivasish Thakur and Naren Mitra respectively, Superintendent of Darrang Sreejith Thiruvian, Principal of Mangaldai College Dr. Khandendra Kumar Nath, DFO of Mangaldai Wildlife Di-

vision Sunnydeo Choudhury will take part in the workshop as resource persons. Jayanta Pathak of 'Aaranyak' and Mayukh Goswami, secretary of Mangaldai Media Circle have requested all the media persons including the freelancers of the district to take part in the event which will lead to a new dimension and further inspiration to continue the journey in the field of environmental journalism and conservation of nature.

## 5th child scientists' meet at Akash

ANN Service

JAMUGURIHAT, July 28: Akash, the science and environment education centre of children and a science organisation of Biswanath Chariali, the brain child of eminent science writer and recipient of the national award for popularising science, Kshirabhar Baruah, organised its 5th friendly get-together of child scientists on July 23 at Akash Bhawan, Biswanath Chariali.

Akash has already trained five batches of 40 children in each batch on Sundays from 10 am to 12 noon and has produced near-

ly 200 child scientists in the last 5 years. The function was organised to award certificates to the outgoing students and the new batch which will start from August next.

While Ripunay Bordoloi, secretary Akash explained the objectives, Prof Dhaneswar Borah inaugurated the programme and Kshirabhar Baruah, president, Akash presided over the function in the presence of a large number of child scientists and their guardians.

## Jorhat dist admin to make docu in Sadri language for TE workers

WASIM RAHMAN

JORHAT, July 28: The Jorhat district administration is planning to make a documentary film on tips to be followed for proper health and hygiene in the Sadri language (spoken by the tea tribes in the State) for tea garden workers to boost the Government's campaign on cleanliness in the labour quarters.

Jorhat Deputy Commissioner Virendra Mittal told *The Assam Tribune* that the district administration was preparing a master plan to carry out a massive campaign to improve health and hygiene standards in tea estates under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan from the second week of August next.

Mittal said that as part of the campaign under IEC (Information, Education, Communi-

cation) activities head, the administration has decided to make a documentary to be taken by the garden authorities and the daily task to be followed by the workers to maintain cleanliness to have a hygienic environment in the labour quarters.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the documentary, to be of about 30-minute duration, is being planned to be made in the Sadri by involving people from the tea workers' community to make it more easier and simpler for them to understand the need for having cleanliness and sanitation in their homes for improving their health conditions.

"By making the short film in the language the tea workers speak, we hope to get an extra boost in achieving our

objective fast," Mittal said. He said the process for making the documentary has begun with talks being held with representatives of different organisations of tea workers and students.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the administration has selected 40 persons, mostly youths, from across 86 tea estates in the district, who are being given training on cleanliness and health and hygiene tips to be followed by the workers.

Mittal said these 40 persons will be master trainers and they will train workers selected from each garden to propagate the campaign. He said as per the plan, the aim is to have one 'Swachhoot' (Cleanliness and sanitation ambassador) in each labour line of the gardens.

The DC said that the campaign will be an ongoing one till the goal was achieved. He

said to make the campaign a competitive one, the administration has planned to give awards (certificates) to the first 20 or 30 gardens that could become 100 per cent open defecation free (ODF).

Mittal said the competitive element is expected to push the garden managements to boost their efforts and hasten the process of becoming total ODF. He said the administration has held meetings with all stakeholders of the tea industry in the district since early this month to discuss about the implementation about the campaign.

Mittal said on August 5, UNICEF will organise an interaction among the tea gardeners' stakeholders of Jorhat, Sivasagar and Charideo districts in Jorhat to discuss about ways to boost the Swachh Bharat campaign in tea gardens.

## Daimary unhappy with works of Food & Civil Supply dept in Dhubri

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, July 28: State Minister for Food and Civil Supply Rhon Daimary has said that the works of the ongoing projects and schemes of the Food and Civil Supply department in the district is not only unsatisfactory but also faulty.

On his recent visit to the district headquarters, the minister interacted with the officials of the department and reviewed the works at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Dhubri where he admitted that the beneficiary's list under the National Food Security Act, in the district is faulty.

While stating that the list in the district has not included names of many legal beneficiaries, the minister asked the officials to prepare a new list of beneficiaries with utmost care within two months. He asked the officers of the department to include the names of only those beneficiaries who are poor and whose annual income is less than Rs 1 lakh.

The minister also urged people with income of more than Rs 1 lakh per year, to voluntarily take their names out of the beneficiary's list and stop taking benefits with their ration cards.

The trust had conducted its second International EQUANIMITY Olympiad in which over ten lakh students participated.

There were three modules of the Olympiad exam. Under module 1, exams were conducted specifically for students and schools for conducting the exam for the north-eastern States.

This year, exams can be conducted till August 20 and the school registrations are open till July 30, which can be done on its website www.equanimitolympiad.in.

Coordinator of the Olympiad, who is also the Olympiad Coordinator for the entire North-east, Monica Malhotra told *The Assam Tribune* that last year, 12,060 students of 66 schools from various districts of Assam participated in the Olympiad.

More than ten lakh students from 2,648 schools had participated in the exam from 20 states, one Union Territory and one international school of Oman.

## Relaxation for conducting EQUANIMITY Olympiad

CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, July 28: Into its third year, the International EQUANIMITY Olympiad is according special relaxation for conducting the exam for the north-eastern States.

This year, exams can be conducted till August 20 and the school registrations are open till July 30, which can be done on its website www.equanimitolympiad.in.

There were three modules of the Olympiad exam. Under module 1, exams were conducted specifically for students and schools for conducting the exam for the north-eastern States.

The Satyug Darshan Trust, the organiser, is not charging any fee from students and schools for the exam," she added.

The trust had conducted

its second International EQUANIMITY Olympiad in which over ten lakh students participated.

There were three modules of the Olympiad exam. Under module 1, exams were conducted specifically for students and schools for conducting the exam for the north-eastern States.

Students from Class 9 to 12 had participated in the exam without any discrimination in the basis of education board, sex, religion, caste and domicile.

More than ten lakh students from 2,648 schools had participated in the exam from 20 states, one Union Territory and one international school of Oman.

Principal of Mangaldai College Dr. Khandendra Kumar Nath, DFO of Mangaldai Wildlife Di-

vision, the Assamese language beside English, Hindi and Punjabi. The Satyug Darshan Trust, the organiser, is not charging any fee from students and schools for the exam," she added.

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## Cottonian Class of 75 extends relief to flood-affected people

CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, July 28: A ten-day mask-making workshop organised by Kolong Kala Kendra, Purnagidam in collaboration with Sangeet Naksh Akademi concluded on July 25. The workshop was formally inaugurated by folk singer, litterateur Golap Bora.

In his address, Bora observed that Assam has a glorious tradition of making masks and he called upon the younger generation to main-

tain it. Artist, sculptor Ashwini Sharma chaired the inaugural function.

Satraddhik Krishna Goswami while attending the concluding function praised Kolong Kala Kendra for arranging a workshop on a traditional topic. Golap Chettri, president of the host institution presided over the function.

Among the participants, Pan Kumar Bora and Manik Bora shared their opinion. Pinku Sharma, Chittaranjan Bora and Babu Bora were the resource persons in the workshop.

the team how floods and erosion by the mighty Brahmaputra have devastated their lives and villages. Waving his arm in a big arch, he said that 70 villages in the area have been

swallowed by the Brahmaputra during the span of last 30 odd years.



## OBITUARY

**Nirmali Kataki**

GUWAHATI, July 28: Nirmali Kataki, wife of late Parbatra Chandra Kataki, a resident of Lamb Road, Amherstere passed away due to prolonged illness on July 24. She was 80.

ANN Service

## Administrative measures did not help to address idea of Kashmir: Mufti

**NEW DELHI**, July 28: If special rights and privileges to the people of Jammu and Kashmir are tinkered with, then there would be no one in the State to hold the Tricolour, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today warned.

She said, on the one hand, "we talk about resolving the Kashmir issue under the framework of the Constitution and on the other hand we flag it".

"Who is doing it? Why are they doing it? (challenging the Article 35A). Let me tell you that my party and other parties who carry the national flag there (in Jammu and Kashmir) despite all risks... I have no doubt in saying that there

will be no one to hold it (National Flag) if it is tinkered," she said at an event here.

Mehbooba went on to add, "Let me be very clear. By doing all this (challenging Article 35A), you are not targeting the separatists. Their (separatists) agenda is different and it is totally secessionist. But, you are weakening those powers which are Indian and trust India and participate in elections and who fight to live a life honourably in Jammu and Kashmir. This is one of the problem."

In 2014, an NGO had filed a writ petition seeking the striking down of Article 35 A. The case is pending in the Supreme Court. Mehbooba said Kashmir is an idea of India.

"The basic question is how much is the idea of India ready to accommodate the idea of Kashmir? This is the basic crux," she said.

She recounted how during the Partition, Kashmir, even being a Muslim Majority State defied the two-nation theory and the divisive separation on grounds of religion and aligned with India. "There have been special provisions in the Constitution of India for the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Unfortunately, with the passage of time

something happened somewhere that both sides started doing dishonesty."

Both the sides, she said while indicating towards the Centre and the State, may be became more greedy and the State had to suffer for the last 70 years. "Rather than addressing the problem, we took administrative measures like dismissal of government or making charges of conspiracy, section... We had all these things against separatists which at times led to more security measures and increasing number of security people. "These administrative measures have not helped us to address the idea of Kashmir..." Mufti said. -PTI

### NOTICE

It is for information of all concerned that the place of posting for the newly appointed regular teachers in LP and UP Schools, who were appointed on 12th July, 2017 against the DEE, Assam advertisement No. EAU/SU/11/2017/25 dated 30/03/2017 and No. EAU/SU/11/2017/31 Dated 30/03/2017, has been finalized through Computerized Randomization on 27th July, 2017 at the Directorate of Elementary Education Assam, Kahilpara, Guwahati - 781 019 in presence of eminent dignitaries. The list will be displayed district-wise and category-wise list will be published in the website www.loupeachers.com on 30th July, 2017.

The already appointed teachers are requested to download their place of posting and join in their respective schools on 1st August, 2017. The teachers must show the Appointment Letter, Order for Place of Posting and Photo Identity Proof to the Head Teacher/ Head Master at the time of joining.

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At 3.30 pm - 5.45 pm  
**RAAG DESHMUKH**

At 10.00 am & 8.00 pm  
**MUBARAKAN**

At 12.30 pm - RAAG DESHMUKH

At 10.00 am & 8.00 pm  
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At 12.30 pm - RAAG DESHMUKH

At 10.00 am & 8.00 pm  
**MUBARAKAN**



Children buying sticks for Gudiya Mela on the eve of Nagpanchami, in Lucknow on Thursday. - UNI

## Three more Gujarat Cong MLAs resign

AHMEDABAD, July 28: In a rude jolt to the Congress in Gujarat, three more of its MLAs resigned today taking the number of legislators who quit to six ahead of the Raja Sabha polls, for which they had fielded its heavyweight Ahmed Patel.

The erosion from its legislature party has cast a shadow on the fate of Patel as his party has to zealously guard against further desertion of MLAs to ensure its victory in the election due to be held on August 8. Patel, 67, is the political secretary to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and has been re-nominated by the party.

With this, the Congress's

tally has come down to 51 in the 182-member Assembly.

After giving his resignation, Mansinh Chauhan said he was tired of "internal politics and gossips" in the Congress.

He cited the politics because

of Samantosh Vaghela, who

was in the BJP earlier. Then I joined the Congress after

Vaghela's party merged with it in 1998. Since then, many of us were waiting for the Congress to form the government. However, it never happened," Chauhan said.

"Instead of focusing on winning elections, Congress leaders always indulged in internal politics. Groupism was also

rampant. Thus, I was left with no option other than to resign.

I will take the decision to join the BJP later, after consulting Vaghela and other supporters," he said.

Ramnath Parmar claimed that he did not quit to help the party

in mind.

"My resignation has nothing to do with the Rayha Sabha polls. Since I had been in the opposition for the last 22 years, people of my constituency were complaining that developmental works were not taking place. Therefore, I decided to resign as the MLA," Parmar said. - PTI

## Palaniswami confident of merger of AIADMK factions

CHENNAI, July 28: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami today said he believed that the warring AIADMK factions, headed by him and his predecessor O Panneerselvam, would unite.

Panneerselvam, the leader of the Pratichi Thalaivam Anna faction, virtually brought down curtains on the proposed merger last month when he announced the disbanding of a seven-member panel, set up to look for unification of the AIADMK (Anna) faction led by Palaniswami.

The former Chief Minister had then said he was being "forced" to come up with the announcement as he had been

invited to a meeting of the AIADMK (Anna) faction led by Palaniswami.

Palaniswami's remark came in the wake of "sidelined" AIADMK (Anna) deputy general secretary, TTV Dinakaran, reportedly setting an August deadline for the merger, and indicating he will take up the effort if the others on either side failed to do the job.

Dinakaran, nephew of jailed party chief VK Sasikala, announced stepping aside from party activities in April this year.

While Palaniswami mentioned that the country's organ donation rate was about one per million, the minister said, "It is not even that. It is 0.58 million (or so)."

In a written reply, Union Health Minister P Nanda said guidelines had been issued in the recent past to facilitate organ donation and transplantation in the country.

Among others, the Allocation Criteria for Deceased Donor Kidney Transplant (Guidelines) was formulated in 2016. "The allocation criteria in respect of kidney has been prepared after taking the views of eminent doctors.... Nada said. - PTI

after a section of ministers revolted against him and Sasikala.

He was later arrested by the Delhi Police in a bribery case over the AIADMK's "Two Leaves" election symbol. However, on being released on bail last month, he said he would resume party work.

He had also said Sasikala told him to wait for two months to see if the merger happens.

Meanwhile, in Thanjavur, Sasikala's brother V Ramasamy, who was a member of the AIADMK (Anna) faction, had announced stepping aside from party activities in April this year.

During Question Hour

when the House was discussing a question related to organ

donations, Tharoor wondered

whether Speaker Sumitra Mahajan might want to encourage the members to set

an example by "pledging our organs on a voluntary basis".

"I have done so myself and I urge others to do so," the member from Kerala said.

To a query on having a massive national awareness

campaign on organ donation, Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel said the government is not leaving any stone unturned to ensure

that the awareness levels rise. "We want to increase the number of cadaver donations," Patel said.

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# A playwright's humanism

**A**sman has always had a glorious tradition of theatre, in several of the languages that are heard and spoken in this multilingual land. From Srimanta Sankaradev's *baonas* to the plays staged in a natural theatre within a forest, from adaptations of classics to musicals, from performances on a proscenium stage to our wonderful mobile theatre, from theatre festivals to drama competitions, the audiences in Assam have always had a wealth of experience as far as the theatre scene is concerned. And the heartening thing is that there is never a dearth of fine dramatic performances being staged on any given day in today's cultural capital of the State, Guwahati.

Many stalwarts have contributed to this rich scenario over the decades. And, of course, one of the foremost names in this area is that of Arun Sarma, whose multi-faceted talents brought him laurels from across the nation. One of the very few individuals to have been awarded both the Sangeet Natak Akademi and Sahitya Akademi awards, his prowess as a playwright over the decades has been showcased numerous times through the multiple stagings of his works.

*Siyor* (The Screen), written as early as 1972, is possibly the first work to be staged after the playwright's demise earlier this year. This brought a different kind of poignancy to the evening, since many in the audience were



avid theatre lovers who had shared many hours in fruitful discussion with the playwright earlier, and had watched most of his plays, as well as heard them on the radio.

Directed by veteran director Avinash Sarma, the performance at the Pragjyoti ITA Auditorium on the evening of July 22 saw a full house comprising a very responsive and sensitive audience.

*Siyor* is a play written, it must be remembered, before liberalisation, when the dominant mood of the country was one of socialism. Capitalism was a hated word, associated with exploitation and excesses and general moral degradation. The concept of the "ethi-

cal business-person" who creates jobs, and brings up the economy, was perhaps not prevalent at the time. And yet, such was the power of Arun Sarma's creative imagination, that this "owner versus labour" play does not seem at all dated.

The playwright's humanism rose above all other "isms". Like Shakespeare, he shaded his characters with elements that humanise, and also make us empathetic towards them. This is powerfully seen in the end, when the hero, after losing everything material, also realises that he has lost his wife.

It is also to the credit of the director whose

vision brought in these multiple aspects, over and beyond the written text. And, of course, some elements in the play still ring true, even today, such as the politician-businessman-bureaucrat nexus, which was humorously, but tellingly portrayed. Impressive also were the elements of pure theatre and mime that he incorporated into the performances, which spoke of his decades of experience and knowledge of what works on stage.

The sets, set with its huge Rubik's Cube that dominated over the action, was imaginative, elegantly created. Much of the success of the play depended on lighting and sound, and this was well done too, especially towards the end, af-

ter the shattering blast that destroyed everything. There was also the beautiful metaphor of the broken white kite floating through the set after the cataclysmic explosion.

The policeman and the corrupt politician and bureaucrats, as well as the drunken women, certainly provided humour. But perhaps the stereotype of the loose, party-going women could have been toned down somewhat.

This is a play which rests mainly on the shoulders of the protagonist, Amar Barua, the successful businessman. Manash Das's portrayal of this character was a revelation. Even though he was on stage for much of the time, he never faltered once, either verbally or through his body language. His was a layered performance, of a wheeling-dealing, rich businessman who gradually loses his power, and becomes, instead, a victim. His portrayal of the gamut of emotions was nuanced and pitch perfect, especially towards the end when he sees the clout of the workers whom he has been exploiting, come towards him, in tandem with the waves of toky geckos, the reptiles "koko saap" which are a metaphor for the power of the people.

The actors were all competent in their various roles. Neetai Das as Angela played a pivotal part. Here is an actor who is maturing beautifully on stage. Uttam Bhattacharjee as the corrupt politician dressed in pure white, too, was spot on.

A playwright's works need to be staged if their full flavour is to be savoured, beyond the pages of the script. It is to be hoped that more of Padmashree awardee Arun Sarma's plays are staged in the future, perhaps in a special festival dedicated to him.

## The elephant's tale

**D**rama is an imitation of life in the form of action, and the play *Haturi Kotha* is an imitation of the life of the rural people of Assam. Staged at the Bapuji Natya Mandir, Dergaon, on July 1-2, the occasion of the completion of the 30th year of Natya Charcha Kendra, Dergaon, the play touched the hearts of the audience because of the sincerity of the team.

In India, there is a tradition of using folk elements in drama to attract the masses. Following the ideologies of Habib Tanvir and Ratan Thiyam, in Assam, some dramatists are using folk elements and with it, they are trying to use drama as the

weapon to constructively criticise the problems and ills of the society. Playwright and director Suponyoti Thakur is one of them.

*Haturi Kotha*, farmers are disturbed by wild elephants, swarming caterpillars, etc. Using the elephant as a stirring metaphor, the dramatist succeeds in depicting the grave problems of the Assamese rural society, such as terrorism, separation, corruption and decreasing moral values among the people.

### Dhrithiman Kakati

Credit must go to the actors as almost all of them are newcomers in the field of acting, excluding some experienced actors. Though there can be some improvement in the work of the psychiatrist in the play in context of the sincerity of the team and the collaborative work of all concerned, we can ignore that minor flaw. Credit goes to the director for bringing out the creativity of the newcomers, and keeping up the spirit of the ensemble.

Use of folk music such as *zikris* and *Hati dhora geel* (elephant chasing songs) made the play a real

work of art. The light and sound hugely contributed towards the pace of the play.

The original script from where this stage play has been adapted had been bestowed with a national level award by All India Radio.

The Natya Charcha Kendra, Dergaon, must be lauded for its efforts and encouraged to stage many more such plays in the future.



## Light of other days

**T**he Gauhati Artists' Guild has done a commendable job by holding, in conformity with its 41st anniversary, a unique art exhibition comprising works of 35 artists of Assam who were born before Independence. Organised in association with the Cultural Affairs Directorate at its newly-extended gallery, the ongoing exhibition has taken the viewers to different periods of time – when art in Assam, after having a modest beginning in the 1930s, had a roller-coaster ride in the subsequent stages due to myriad factors ranging from lack of financial support, lack of awareness about latest trends, and, in some cases, lack of motivation to carry on in an environment they found unexciting.

The show, titled *Boronyio* (The Revered), which consisted of paintings, sculptures, drawings and works done in some other media, gives a rare opportunity to viewers of different age groups to take a journey back in time, to see for themselves the creations of the pioneers that the viewers have only read about so far. For instance, the work by Kalaguru Bishnu Rabha gives viewers a unique joy, not only because a dancing marriage party has been delightfully depicted in the *tempera*, but because it was created by the larger-than-life cultural demigod, also revealing a less talked-about side of his creative genius.

The exhibition is a tribute to the efforts and sacrifices of the artists who were born before India attained freedom, as they all had to encounter a difficult environment for pursuing art and for making it a sustainable profession. The show also encapsulates the evolution of Assam art, which struck roots only in the 1930s, thanks to the efforts of the likes of Muktanath Bordoloi, Suren Bordoloi, Jagat Singh Kachari and Pratap Baruah. The modernism they ushered in gained pace in the following two decades, with the emergence of artists blessed with skill, talent, sensitivity, im-

agination and passion to pursue art, the most prominent of them being Hemanta Misra, Tarun Duvarah, Ashu Deb, Jugal Barua and others.

In those days, apart from this select few, many others having an artistic bent of mind did pursue art seriously, but either they were not so prolific or



they were crippled by myriad factors. Some were half-hearted in approach, others could not complete their art education, and those who showed early promise faded away. Many did not possess the qualities for taking their art to a stage where they could be considered as art in the real sense.

The protagonists, however, inspired a whole lot of younger artists, who then went on to become luminaries in their own right.

The period from 1957-58 and continuing through the 70s is regarded as Assam's most vibrant period of the 20th century in this context. It witnessed the arrival of a number of artists with the right ingredients to set sail for a meaningful creative journey. Some of them took art education in institutions like Santiniketan and JJ School of Art, while some others were self-taught. Most of these artists, on one hand, wished to break away from the influence of Renaissance art or British realism, and on the other, enriched by new horizons in art of the time. The artists who emerged dur-

ing this long period included Madhav Baisya, Ramesh Ghosh, Hemangini Bordoloi, Adya Sarma, Prajneet Duarah, Abijo Duarah, Pranab Barua, Moden Lalukar, Sobha Brahma, Benu Misra, Neelipawna Baruah, Kandarpa Barma, Gauri Barman, Pulak Gogoi, Tapan Bordoloi, Sonaram Nath, Atul Chandra Baruah, Sarat Baruah, Hela Das and others.

Beyond their works, what was also significant were their efforts to bring together artists, art lovers, poets and

writers at different stages and places in the State. It's hard to imagine in what state the art of Assam would have been now, if it had not been for groups like the Assam Fine Arts and Crafts Society, Gauhati Artists' Guild, Jorhat Fine Arts Society, Kalol Kala Gosthi and the like. The world of visual art in Assam owes a lot to these societies and those who helped establish them. This exhibition reminds us of their hard work, sacrifice and indomitable will to take Assam's art forward.

The show will come to a close on August 10.

d.bezbarua@yahoo.co.in

### artSCAPE DEBASHIS BEZBARUAH

### ROVING EYE Apurba Kumar Das



### Tribute to Bidisha Bezbarua

Bidisha Bezbarua, who is no more, was a multifaceted talent. She could prove her versatility through her performances as an actress, singer, dancer, anchor as well as in her academic career. The 27-year-old left an indelible mark within in such a short period of time. After passing HSLC in 2007 with distinction from Nichols High School, she passed her higher secondary and her BA with Major in English from Cotton College. She also did her Diploma in Mass Communication from the All India Institute of Mass Communication, Delhi.

A *visharad* in music, she had learnt Bharatnatyam under Indira PP Bora. Hailing from Jagara, Nahar, she used to take part in several local cultural activities. While in Class-X, she had acted as the heroine in a Hindi TV serial *Poyal Ki Jhankar* for Guwahati Doordarshan. A regular artiste and anchor of local TV channels, she sang in DY Medley and acted in the popular TV serial *Bharatgarh* and the award-winning film *Onello*.

### Workshop on bhajans, modern songs at Sivasagar

A five-day workshop on Raga-based *bhajans* and modern songs was held recently at Sivasagar under the auspices of the Parijat Sangit Vidyalaya. Durgamoyee Bora, an accomplished singer of AIR, Guwahati and Dibrugarh, conducted the workshop. More than 100 trainees from in and around Sivasagar took part in the workshop. At the closing function a musical show was presented by the trained students, and by Durgamoyee Bora. It is noteworthy that the Parijat Sangit Vidyalaya, founded in 2013, and headed by singer Pramati Barua, has been contributing towards the preservation and publicity of traditional Assamese music and guiding beginners in the field of music by inviting several national-level singers.

### NEWS workshop

The ninth Annual Summer Music and Dance Workshop – organised by the Niitachal Educational Welfare Society (NEWS) ended with a cultural function on July 19, 2017, at the Rabindra Bhawan Auditorium, Guwahati. The semi-closing ceremony, titled "Lokgeet-Nirvaree Jipit Eti Sandhya", was attended by many famed artistes of Assam.

This year, in the workshop held between July 9 and 18, participants were groomed in traditional *Gonoparia Lokgeet*, *Kempolia Lokgeet* and traditional dances based on the theme. The concluding programme of the workshop, which was held under the auspices of the Department of Cultural Affairs, was designed by the *guru-shishyotsava* of NEWS, along with many eminent artistes of Assam. The ceremonial lamp was lit by Dr Anup Jyoti Choudhury, the noted educationist. The ceremony, hosted by Apurba Dey, commenced with a scintillating song written as a tribute to legendary singer Pratima Baruah Pandey. NEWS felicitated renowned *Lokgeet* artiste of Assam Snehalata Das for her lifelong musical journey. Veteran singer Dr Anima Chudhury, Arundhati Das Baruah and other artistes Niren Kakoti, Shipi Sikha Biswas were also felicitated – for they had trained the students at the workshop.

**Simi Barman's Kohuwa**

A n album of Assamese songs – *Kohuwa*, rendered by Simi Barman – has been recently released. An associate professor of Physics, Simi Barman has earned a name for her poems. The lyrics penned by her like *Kohuwa hanhi hanhi koley*, *Abhisar mot* and *Fehujali*, etc., bear the testimony of her lyrical prowess. All the songs have been composed by Mintu Pathak. The use of Assamese folk, *Bhatalia* and also the western style is noteworthy – as the songs are appropriately presented by the singer.



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

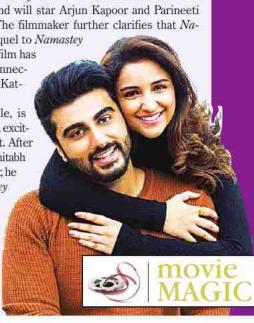
– Features Editor

### Arjun Kapoor and Parineeti Chopra in Namaste Canada

R ecently there were strong whispers about Arjun Kapoor replacing Akshay Kumar in Vipul Shah's *Namaste England*. As per latest developments, this piece of news has turned out to be true! Not just that, the film has got a new name.

Vipul Shah confirms to *Bombay Times* that the film has now been titled *Namaste Canada* and will star Arjun Kapoor and Parineeti Chopra in leading roles. The filmmaker further clarifies that *Namaste Canada* is not a sequel to *Namaste England*. He says that this film has a fresh plot and has no connection to the Akshay Kumar-Katrina Kaif starrer.

Arjun Kapoor, meanwhile, is excited to be in the film. "I'm excited to be a part of this project. After working with giants like Amitabh Bachchan and Akshay Kumar, he has chosen me. *Namaste Canada* has heart and humour, making it a family entertainer," he says. On the other hand, Parineeti Chopra adds, "This is exactly the film I was looking for! It's a *desi* story with a *videshi* heart."



### Varun Dhawan in Shoojit Sircar's October

V arun Dhawan and Shoojit Sircar are set to team up on an "unusual" love story titled *October*. Shoojit says it's "not a love story but his take on love". He says, "It's again an out-of-the-box kind of story. We started working on this film's idea, which came from a small newspaper clipping, right before *Piku* (2015)," says the filmmaker, adding that it's "a very unusual, unconventional kind of a story" in the "slice-of-life and romance space".

The film goes on the floors in October and will be shot in Delhi, which Shoojit calls his "favourite city". "We plan to release it in the early part of next year, around March-April but we haven't zeroed in on the exact release date," says producer Ronnie Lahiri.

For *October*, too, he will collaborate with Juhu Chaturvedi, who wrote *Piku*, *Vicky Donor* (2012) and also co-wrote the dialogue with him for *Madras Cafe* (2013).

# Comic relief

**T**he *Bohuwa* or clown is an unscripted comic character appearing in folklore, customs, plays and artistic musical drama of all civilisations. This character has some universal characteristic features, contrary to local and temporal variations. The character creates laughter and gives some mental satisfaction to the audience by his performance. The character acts and speaks in a way that is entirely improper to his audience and also out of order, whether he is a court "jester" or the harlequin of the popular comedy, the fool of the Elizabethan stage or the *Bohuwa Roja* in *Ram-Bijaya*.

The *Bohuwa* is quite exceptional from the rest of the characters because of his strange and contrary behaviour, attire and speech. The *Bohuwa* reflects the

very original and peculiar types of the society with an aesthetic beauty. Not every character that makes us laugh is a clown; it may be a comic character also. The major difference between a comic character and a clown (*Bohuwa*) is that a comic character doesn't go out of his box to make the play or the character funnier but these restrictions are not implied to the clown - he may get out of the box to make people laugh at his every move. A clown can be mute trying to create humour with his expressions or can be unmute. One more characteristic of the clown is that

it may be an understandable one, or may be just the opposite, depending on his acts. But the prime purpose of the clown is to make people laugh without even saying a word – with his clumsy acts, stumbling all over the scene.

## Cankush Pratim Mahanta

clown cannot be identified by comparing it with any contemporary so-

cial order, yet it is readily recognisable. He is deliberately capri-

cious but unmistakably familiar.

"In an *Ankia Bhaona*, there appears two other additional characters, namely, the *Duda* and the *Bohuwa*. They are, however, outside the category of the dramatic personnel and they are introduced in actual performances of the play to provide comic relief. The *Duda* and *Bohuwa* appear on stage to explain the reasons for eventual interruptions in the progress of the play. They also announce the change of the scene and the entrance of new characters on stage. The *Bohuwa* has other duties too; besides

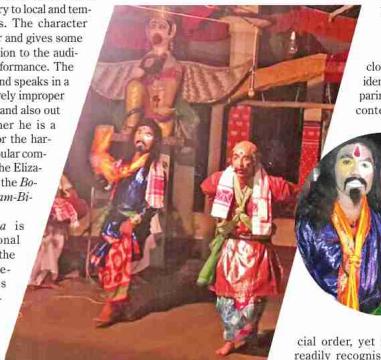
filling up all the gaps in the narration, he is to relieve the monotony and amuse the audience as best as he can by his skits and jokes, which he himself invents, of course, in rigid conformity and traditional practices. He, however, is never allowed to interfere with the organic part of the play," writes DN Sharma in his book *Asomor Lokonat*.

The character of *Bohuwa* not only appears in *Ankia Bhaona*; it also appears in other folk plays like *Bhari-Gaan* or *Oja-Pali*. In *Bhari-Gaan*, it is known as *ketaua* and its dramatic and natural characteristics have been reduced to a great extent; without basic *abhinaya* (dialogue-acting), drama or acting has no genuine attraction.

There is no citation of the character of *ketaua* in the Rajen Rabha edited *Ghatokoch Baddh*. In spite of being mentioned, the character has no significant role of any kind in the script. The character is created only to make the audience laugh, as it creates comic moments in the play. In the creation of comedy also, the character has no major contribution, still the character of *ketaua* has succeeded in creating certain traces of comedy through his dialogue with the other characters.

Again, in *Khulia Bhaona*, an emphasis is given on light-humoured characters to create a sentiment of mirth. In relation to this, a *Bohuwa* is included in these types of drama and acting traditions. However, this character is not too intensely related with the main story. Such a character is introduced from time to time within the story to create comedy. In *Ankia Nat*, and *bhaona*, an effort to create comedy has been made through integral characteristics, for instance, *Narad*.

From the overall view of the above discussion, we can say that the character of *Bohuwa* has immense importance in the folk culture of Assam, especially in *Ankia Bhaonas*.



# A rich presentation

In the 'Vandan' concert held last week at the Rabindra Bhawan, Guwahati, by Sadhana Kathak Kendra, one of the leading Kathak dance training centres of the city, headed by Aligunjan Kalita Mudra, Kathak was richly presented during its two-day event, although a famous Hindustani vocalist from Kolkata too gave a taste of her aesthetically appealing performance. Vandana was, in fact, a tribute to the late guru of the Lucknow Gharana maestros Surendra Saikia, who died prematurely two years back. Saikia came down to his *ganda-vandhi shishya* Aligunjan's institute at least twice a year when he was alive and taught the young learners earnestly.

The students of the Kendra presented *Shiv Vandana*, *Ram Bhajan*, *Tarana* and *Barkha Ritu*, *Ganesh Vandana*, *Nritiyadhar*, *Krishnabhajan* and *tarana* and *chandana*. About 26 young learners performed under the able direction and choreography of Aligunjan and were naturally in different stages of perfection. They could showcase their talents though. The first day's attraction was Aligunjan, an A-grade Kathak exponent who has been imparting training in her Kendras at Nalbari and Guwahati since 1995. In her solo, first, she performed the *Bhagwati Vandana* eulogising Devi Durga with the hymns *Saramangala mangalye Shive Sarbartha Sardhike Sarame Traibhuban Gauri Narayani namastute...* in the vocabulary of Kathak



where she could reflect both *lasya* and *tantrika rasa*. Then she switched over to the *Siddhi Nrittya* set to *tin taud*. It was a dexterous piece full of idioms in the fluid language of the dance genre.

On the second day, Assam's senior most Kathak dancer Bipul Das was awarded Sadhana Kathak Kendra's 'Guru Surendra Saikia Memorial Award' by prominent theatre director Dulal Roy. He is known for his fine intermingling of the Jaipur and Lucknow *Gharana* styles with his initial training at the Kathak Kendra under the guidance of Guru Kundanlal Gangani, and later under Pandit Birju Maharaj.

Eshani Agarwal from Delhi, a student of Guru Saikia himself (under the Guru-

dra and a postgraduate in Kathak, presented a graceful solo recital with *Jagye Gopal dhripad*, then *Suddhi Nrittya* and *abhinaya*. The *abhinaya* set to *drama* was based on the famous composition – *Rangi chari gudabi chhurnia. She had chosen only two *garis* among the ones her guru usually used – *torao* (sword) and *noo* (boat) – these are normally presented by male dancers only. Her recital enriched by a *tuba*, *tehais* and other rhythmic compositions was really striking. In fact, she and all the other dancers had an excellent ensemble of musical hands like Rajeev Salki (on the *tabla*), Saurbihari Mahanta (vocal), Kamla Kanta (violin) and Dwipen Sarma (violin).*

Shishya Parampara at the Lucknow Kathak Kendra, and V Anuradha Singh from Bhopal, too, presented solo performances. Anuradha has received extensive training under the *Guru-Shishya Parampara* at the Chakradhar Nitra Kendra, Bhopal (an institution run by the Madhya Pradesh State Government) under the renowned Kathak Guru of Raigarh Gharana, late Pandit Kartik Ram and Pandit Ramal.

Later, Ruparni Das Bora, also a disciple of Saikia at the Lucknow Kathak Kendra

## Coykanta Sarma

and a postgraduate in Kathak, presented a graceful solo recital with *Jagye Gopal dhripad*, then *Suddhi Nrittya* and *abhinaya*. The *abhinaya* set to *drama* was based on the famous composition – *Rangi chari gudabi chhurnia. She had chosen only two *garis* among the ones her guru usually used – *torao* (sword) and *noo* (boat) – these are normally presented by male dancers only. Her recital enriched by a *tuba*, *tehais* and other rhythmic compositions was really striking. In fact, she and all the other dancers had an excellent ensemble of musical hands like Rajeev Salki (on the *tabla*), Saurbihari Mahanta (vocal), Kamla Kanta (violin) and Dwipen Sarma (violin).*

The two-day festival ended with the soiree vocal music of famous vocalist Anjana Nath from Kolkata. She chose the *Raga Nand* – then *vilambit khayal*, and *drut khayal*. She ended with a *thumri*, along with *Khamash*. Recognised as a complete Indian classical vocalist of the Patiala Gharana, her applications of innovative experimentation with *taal*, complex rhythmic divisions, *sargam* and *taans* with pure *rashdari* prove her *talim* and *sadhana*. The audience could easily feel a blending of knowledge and soul in her presentation. Pandit Parimal Chakravarty's (Kolkata) expert accompaniment on the *tabla* gave the event a 'new dimension'.

All said and done, one feels that festivals of dance and annual school shows have distinct characteristics of their own and, therefore, should not be done on the same days.

of political conflict, the protagonist uses a particular word to describe India's way of treating the people of Kashmir since the beginning of the conflict. What is that word?

8) In 1924, this person went to New Zealand and was involved in surfing, calling it "one of the most perfect physical pleasures I have known". Who is this lady being referred to?

## do-re-me

9) The name of this town is derived from a word of Chinese origin literally meaning 'meeting point'. It is the meeting point of three premier towns of Assam. Name it. (Shajid Khan, Tangla)

10) "Time to gaya hai, pack up," were reported to be the last words of which film star? (Adish Agarwalla, Morahanta)

11) A person from the country of Nauru is called Nauruan. How is this name so unique? (Maharav Gogoi, Lakhimpur)

**ANSWERS** 1) Nazia Hassan 2) Bal Gangadhar Tilak 3) Odissi 4) Snake charmers 5) Lobster, as the French word for lobster is 'homard' 6) Oranges 7) Chutpukh 8) Agatha Christie's 'Makham', derived from 'Makham'. It is a meeting point of Tinsukia, Digboi and Doordooma 10) Rajesh Khanna 11) It is the only part of Assam which is nationally 12) A mosquito 13) Adolf Hitler 14) The ring structure of the benzene molecule 15) Rig Veda.



## The numbers game

Mridumoloy

**M**athematics, the branch of science concerned with numbers, quantity, space, etc, has played, and is still playing a pivotal role in the development of humankind. Without mathematics, perhaps we would not have seen the world as it is today. It is a subject that has always generated curiosity among its practitioners while inviting a feeling of reverential respect, mixed with fear and wonder from its learners. There are books galore on various branches of mathematics in different languages for academic purposes, but one seldom comes across volumes that may arouse interest in the subject among the general public. While the number of such popular works on mathematics is not that encouraging in world languages, it can well be termed a rarity in Assamese language. Yet, there are a handful of writers in Assamese who have been trying their best to come out with such popular works on mathematics as well as other branches of science to acquaint the general readers about the latest developments in various fields, as also drawing them closer to the amazing world of science.

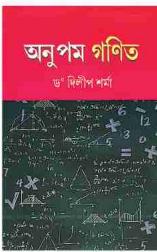
Dr Dilip Sarma, a teacher of mathematics in reputed institutions like Cotton College and the Girjananda Institute of Science and Technology, belongs to this rare breed of Assamese writers who have been trying to enrich the language with such popular works. Being a lover and keen follower of mathematics, it is but obvious that a majority of Sarma's popular literary works are on the subject. His book *Anupam Ganit*, as the name suggests, deals with mathematics, bringing out the beauty of the subject, especially numbers, in his lucid language and attractive style of narration. The book basically focusses on natural numbers, complex numbers, quaternion, etc., besides touching upon the role and presence of Greek letters like *pi*, *phi*, etc., that have particular numerical values, in mathematics. Moreover, the author discusses the concept of infinity as also amicable numbers and perfect numbers to give the readers a brief idea about these important aspects of the subject. Various anecdotes and examples incorporated in the chapters make the book an interesting read.

## Anupam Ganit

Dr Dilip Sarma,

Bandhav, Panbazar,

Price: Rs 50/-



## Incomparable life

Partha Pratim Hazarika

**T**his book titled *Nirmalprabha Bardoli*, penned by Dr Tapati

Baruah Kashyap, is the fifth book of a series in English published by Purbanchal Prakash under a plan that envisages carrying out such works on some of the prominent modern Assamese writers to acquaint the non-Assamese readers around the world with their literary creations. Bardoli was a stalwart of modern Assamese literature, a prolific writer and an erudite scholar.

Somewhat descriptive, at times critical, Tapati Baruah Kashyap's book has ventured out to have a relook at the major contributions of Dr Nirmalprabha Bardoli towards the Assamese literary arena. The author has categorised the works of the renowned litterateur in several segments – as poet, research scholar, lyricist, children's writer, novelist, translator, biographer, playwright and humanist.

Dr Bardoli was a versatile talent which was, as rightfully marked by the author, reflected in every sphere of literary genre, be it poetry or prose. But what has made Dr Nirmalprabha Bardoli immortal in the Assamese literary domain is the lyrics that she penned for singers like Jayanta Hazarika, Dr Bhupen Hazarika, Manu De, Shyamal Mitra, Usha Mangeshkar, Arati Mukherjee, Khaagen Mahanta, Birinda Nath Dutta, Dipali Barthakur, Dwipen Barua, Mihir Bardoli, Pukar Banerjee, among others. The mellifluous tunes composed on her lyrics have found the status of 'evergreen' among the lovers of Assamese music. No other lyricist of Assam has been as widely accepted by a large number of singers as she has been.

But this is not all. Her poetry has also been a cherished lot among the connoisseurs of Assamese poetry over the last many decades. In fact, she has been credited as the pioneer of modernism among the women poets of Assam. On the other hand, critics say that the story books for children are the best illustration of Nirmalprabha's power of story-telling "where fantasy overruns the degree of extravagance, thereby they satiate the children's demand".

The book has covered, briefly though, every aspect of the works and contributions of this master litterateur, who said in her autobiography, titled *Jivan Finan Bar Anupam* (Life, so incomparable), "Behind every creation, there is the mind. Nothing springs from zero."

Tapati Baruah's book is a valuable documentation of the life and deeds of the great litterateur in English, a sincere effort to take an Assamese literary luminary to the world outside the Assamese literary circle.



STUDIES ON MODERN ASSAMESE WRITERS 5  
NIRMALPRABHA BARDOLI

Dr Tapati Baruah Kashyap,

Purbanchal Prakash,

Price: Rs 350/-

12) In Amitav Ghosh's *The Calcutta Chromosome*, what is used to allow the transmigration of the soul from one body to another in the secret research programme? (Amiya Kumar Baruah, Nagaon)

13) Whose face did *Time Magazine* publish on their cover and declare him as "Man of the Year" on January 2, 1939? (Biswajit Sarma, Assam Academy, Nalbari)

14) What was discovered by German chemist August Kekulé after observing monkeys playing a game of *Ring-a-ring-o'-roses*? (Sushmita Pathak, Dibrugarh)

## crescendo

15) Which is the oldest among all the *Vedas* and is a collection of 1,028 Vedic Sanskrit hymns and 10,600 verses in all and is organised into ten books? (Sadiq Hussain Laskar, Guwahati)

## the colosseum

### ■ Neelopal Deka

### side screen

- Picture Cleo: She was a Pakistani pop singer-songwriter, lawyer and social activist. She has been termed as the 'Queen of Pop' in South Asia. In 1981, she won the Filmfare Award for Best Female Playback for the song. She was the youngest to win this award. Just name her! (Hrak Jyoti Lahiri, PTC, Dergon)
- Which dance form is believed to have been inspired from Gotipua Nritya?
- What is the main occupation of the Kalbelia tribes of Rajasthan, known for its Kalbelia dance?
- In Atlantic Canada and sometimes also in Maine, if you eat a McDonald's outlet can you order a McHamoud sandwich. What is its main ingredient?
- From Shajid Khan, Tangla College –
- Which object serves as a premonition for death in *The Godfather* trilogy?
- In the movie *Haidar* (2014) by Vishal Bhardwaj, a modern-day interpretation of *Haidar* set against the backdrop of Kashmir in the midst



# US House approves spending Bill to fund Trump border wall

WASHINGTON, July 28: The US House of Representatives has passed a USD 827-billion package that includes USD 1.6 billion for a controversial border wall with Mexico, which was part of President Donald Trump's central campaign pledge.

During his presidential campaign last year, Trump had vowed to build the wall to prevent illegal immigration and smuggling of drugs to the US. But he said he would make Mexico pay for it.

All of the funds in the Bill would be paid

for US taxpayers.

The Bill was passed yesterday by the Republican-controlled House with a 225-192 vote, mostly along party lines. It now heads to the Senate – where Democrats have a significant strength – before it can be signed into law by the US President.

The Democratic leadership has been opposing the proposed border wall. It is likely that the legislation would be resisted by the opposition party in the Senate.

Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said

the Bill would squander billions of taxpayer dollars on President Trump's immoral, ineffective and expensive border wall.

Pelosi also reminded the House that Trump had during his campaign "promised a wall that Mexico would pay for."

"He said it would

**The Bill would squander billions of taxpayer dollars on President Trump's immoral, ineffective and expensive border wall**

cost USD 4-6 billion. The fact is it could cost as much as USD 30-40 billion. And he wants a down payment for that wall in this Bill. One poison pill," she said.

House Democratic Caucus chairman Joe Crowley called the move to build the border wall as "im-

moral and ineffective".

"A wall along the US-Mexican border will not make the United States safer nor more secure," he said. "It is a massive waste of taxpayer money and will exacerbate problems with our already broken immigration system."

Democratic National Committee Chair Tom too raised his concerns on similar lines in a statement. "Like many of the president's policies, this initiative is rooted in nothing more than prejudice and fear mongering. And as

with so many of his campaign pledges, he has broken his promise to Americans that they wouldn't pay a dime for this wall."

The Trump administration has de-

"The border wall is one more tool in the toolbox that might prevent some of the things from happening." Tom Homan, acting director of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, told reporters at a White House news conference. - PTI

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2017

**The Assam Tribune**

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প্রকৃতি মনোবৰ্ণ  
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সাহিত্য কলেজ, পুরুষ পুরুষ, পুরুষ ১৫ বছোৰ  
মুদ্রণ ১২০০ টা

প্রকৃতি বিদ্যা মাল্টিমিডিয়া নিম্নোক্ত প্রক্রিয়া  
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হয়ে আসে তুলনা চালানোর প্রতিবেদন আৰু বাচবিলেজ... যোৗ বাস্তু  
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The visual effects (VFX) industry in India has a bright future as more and more top filmmakers will soon be looking at high-end fantasies. And, Indian mythology with its plethora of epic stories, has a lot of fantasies to offer, says Kotha Basi Reddy, the pioneer of digital technology in Indian films.

"VFX industry is going to grow after *Baahubali*. The films will involve a lot of computer graphics (CG) because (director Raj Mouli) has shown that visualisation of fantasy is the most important thing in movies," Reddy told IANS in an interview.

"Hollywood movies go all over the world with so much CG and special effects because of

"The whole world is learning from us, taking away things from us, but we have failed in creating a brand."

Reddy believes that if movies based on Indian mythology with VFX and CG are made, the whole world would witness them. He felt that Indians have the ability to make such films as work for many international projects is done here. "Would you believe that the tiger in *Life of Pi* is not a real tiger but a digital one?" he asked and pointed out that most of the work on this movie was done in Hyderabad.

He admitted that Indian audiences don't watch much animation and the movies are largely star driven. "This will change as new kids are coming. Digital will have a big role. You will see young stars making movies which will be internationally acceptable. It will no longer be song and dance movies."

Reddy recalled that he brought costly digital equipment in those early years with a huge investment. "The technology has changed a lot. Through a digital camera which then cost \$99,000. Today the same camera costs not even \$99," said Reddy, who has so far invested Rs 30 crore (almost \$5 million) in his studio.

Though the revenues of Digiquest had reduced by half to Rs 3 crore as all production houses have gone 100 percent digital, Reddy is happy that he contributed to the growth of the sector. "I did not return to India from the US to make money," said Reddy, a founding member and former vice president of software services firm Infotech, now known as Cylent.

He is proud to have been part of the process that democratised the film industry. "Youngsters, through short films, are showcasing their talent. Their films are getting millions of hits from all over the world."

Reddy is now trying to address the issue of manpower and has set up an academy offering courses in movie-making, visual effects, animation and game design.

(Source: IANS)

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Referring to the Hollywood movie *Avatar*, he said it was a blend of Rama and Hanuman.



## Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, July 29, 2017:

This year often provides more excitement than you might be ready for. You frequently will detach in order to see the big picture. The unexpected plays a significant role in the next 12 months. If you are single, you might attract the wrong kind of person or someone who you might get too involved, make sure you really fit this type of love. If you are married, your sweetie might be withdrawn or a bit too quiet. Know that the phase will end quickly. Plan frequent escapes or a mini vacation with just your significant other. LIBRA adds an element of cheer to your day.

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

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

You are more good vibes than flow. Don't be surprised if the unexpected shakes up your universe later in the day. Make an adjustment if necessary. You will gain insight from your own responses. Tonight: With a friend.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20)

You might want to complete a project or go off and run somewhere else. A partner seems to fuss over business/international matters. Go along with him/her if request you to enjoy your day. You could be surprised by someone you consider a friend. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

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

You might not appreciate how a loved one suddenly withdraws. You have had this experience with this person before and were hoping it would not repeat. You know how to bring this person out of his or her shell. Once you do, you both will be happy. Tonight: Dinner out.

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

You are in a good mood to stay home. You will think that you are going to have a quiet day, but to your surprise, someone you care about easily could alter your plans. Tonight: Have a good time wherever you are.

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

You might want to consider various possibilities. Have a conversation with a partner. This person will want to share his or her thoughts, too. If this is a hot topic between you, consider having this talk while participating in a relaxing activity. Tonight: Close to home.

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

You just want to make to purchase right now does not mean that you should. You easily could go overboard, or perhaps you won't be able to find the right item. Make it OK to hold off for now. Take your time, and you'll be happier in the long run. Tonight: All smiles.

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

Others have a lot to share, and they want to share with you. You might need to screen calls if you want to do certain activities alone. You can always catch up with friends later. Someone critical to your life could spontaneously reverse course. Be ready. Tonight: Make it early.

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

You are on the verge of a lot of excitement. Use the daylight hours to complete a project or run errands. You could be surprised by a sudden twist. This perception could be, as you might not be seeing the whole picture. Tonight: Whenever you are, you are on center stage.

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

Take a stand, if you must. At the same time, consider the additional responsibilities you accept if you do. You will be in the middle of a controversy, which could be uncomfortable. Plan on taking a break from the office. You can't get away from the office with a loved one.

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

You might feel as if you need to detach and be a better listener. Nevertheless, you have a lot going on in your mind that you will want to take a long-distance call or acknowledge a response to an inquiry. You need a break. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

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

You could be in a situation where you would like to break out and do something different. Those around you seem to be more conservative right now and not up for any risk-taking. You are likely to be surprised by what you hear later. Tonight: Walk through a new door.

\*\*\* \*

Thought for the day

When I split an infinite, God damn it, I split it so I will stay split.  
- RAYMOND CHANDLER

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(Source: IANS)

## Visual effects

Indian mythology offers best stories for VFX movies, says

Kotha Basi Reddy

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### Kids

CN

12:30 Ben No. 21  
14:00 My Little Raj  
15:00 Ben No. 21  
17:00 Uncle Grandpa  
18:00 Kung Fu Panda  
19:00 Kristin & Bartley I  
19:30 Kristin & Bartley II  
21:00 Krishna, Vash  
22:30 Ben 10  
23:30 Telephones

WB

12:30 Dorothy and the Wizard...  
13:00 Chhota Bheem...  
14:00 Chhota Bheem...  
17:00 Mighty Rajini  
17:30 Chhota Bheem  
18:00 Chhota Bheem...  
19:30 Benji...  
20:30 Benji...  
20:30 Hole In The Wall  
21:00 Hole In The Wall

23:30 Telephones

DC

12:30 Dorothy and the Wizard...  
13:00 Chhota Bheem...  
14:00 Chhota Bheem...  
17:00 Mighty Rajini  
17:30 Chhota Bheem...  
18:00 Benji...  
19:30 Benji...  
20:30 Benji...  
21:00 Hole In The Wall  
22:30 Telephones

23:30 Telephones

TF1

12:30 Tales of Castle  
22:00 Tom and Jerry Tales  
22:30 M.A.D.  
23:30 Telephones



# England, Spain through to quarterfinals

DEVENTER, July 28: Toni Duggan and Nikita Parris gave England a 2-1 win over Portugal, sending the Lionesses to the women's Euro quarterfinals alongside Spain who lost 1-0 to Scotland on Thursday.

Duggan opened the score in Tilburg on seven minutes following a howler by Portuguese keeper Patricia Morais, who sent her clearance to the England striker and then watched as Duggan chipped the ball over her into the net.

Carolina Mendes pulled Portugal level ten minutes later on a cutback from Diana Silva, but Parris then scored the decider just after half-time after a mazy run through the Portuguese defence and a shot under Morais.

In Deventer, Caroline Weir handed Euro newcomers Scotland their first-ever win at the tournament with a lone goal on 41 minutes.

Weir robbed keeper Sandra Panos who had run out to collect a pass, then she

outsprinted her and nutmegged a Spanish defender on the goal line.

However, the win was not enough to give the Scots a quarterfinal spot.

England, who started the game with a reserve team, topped Group D with three wins from as many games while Spain squeezed through to the quarterfinals on goal difference from their games against Portugal and Scotland with all three finishing on three points.

England will play France and Spain will face Austria on Sunday, while hosts the Netherlands will play against Sweden and holders Germany play Denmark a day earlier.

Portugal were pushing for a goal that would have seen them through, but Mendes narrowly missed Silva's cross in front of the goal in the first half, and England then held on to their lead comfortably.

In a rare chance, Laura Luis sent her volley into keeper Siobhan Chamberlain

in stoppage time.

Spain dominated possession against Scotland, and they could have taken the lead, but Scotland keeper Gemma Fay narrowly palmed out Marta Torrejon's free-kick on five minutes.

Half an hour later, Fay dived superbly to save Jennifer Hermoso's header before clearing Irene Paredes's header onto the post in the same minute.

Before half-time, Fay can out and handled the ball outside the box, but Torrejon missed from the ensuing free-kick.

A second goal would have been enough for Scotland, but Leanne Crichton blasted her shot from seven metres over the bar and substitute Lina Clelland also sent a left-footer over.

At the other end, Silvia Meseguer rattled the crossbar with a long-range effort and Scotland's Ifeoma Dieke cleared the ball off the goal line after another superb save by Fay – AFP



Nikita Parris (L) of England vies with Melissa Antunes of Portugal during the Group D match of the UEFA Women's Euro in Tilburg, on Thursday. England won 2-1.

## Prannoy climbs to 17th spot in BWF rankings

NEW DELHI, July 28: Courtesy his US Open Grand Prix Gold title triumph, Indian shuttler HS Prannoy has jumped six places to be at 17th position in the latest BWF world rankings.

Parupalli Kashyap, who reached his first final at US Open in more than two years after recovering from multiple injuries, also gained 12 places to be at the 47th spot.

Sameer Verma, who has qualified as the fourth Indian for the World Championships, jumped four spots to be 28th in the standings.

With Prannoy improving his position, India have four men in the top-20. Kidambi Srikanth, who clinched back-to-back titles at Indonesia and Australia, is the highest ranked player in the world number 8.

Ajay Jayaram is ranked 16th, while B Sai Praneeth is in the 19th spot after losing a place.

In women's category, PV Sindhu remained 5th while Saina Nehwal dropped a spot to world number 16. They are the only Indians in the top-25. – PTI

## Manoj, 2 others enter final

NEW DELHI, July 28: Former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Manoj Kumar (69kg), along with two other Indians, advanced to the finals of the Grand Prix Usti Nad Labem boxing tournament in Czech Republic.

Manoj defeated Kristian Cholomsky to enter the final.

Also advancing to the final were Satish Kumar (+91kg) and Manish Panwar (81kg). While Satish defeated Adam Kolkov of the Czech Republic, Manish, the better of a local favourite in Kamil Hradky.

However, Ashish Kumar bowed out with a quarter-final loss to Germany's Artem Harutyunyan.

Earlier, World Championships bronze-medallist Shiv Thapa (60kg) had also entered the final. – PTI

## Warner hits back in bitter Australia pay row

SYDNEY, July 28: Australia vice-captain David Warner has accused Cricket Australia of wrongly blaming players for not resolving a bitter pay dispute saga which threatens next month's Test tour to Bangladesh.

CA chief executive James Sutherland upped the ante on Thursday when he said unless intensive talks over the next few days produce a compromise, his organisation would seek the intervention of an industrial umpire to end the impasse.

The Australian Cricketers' Association hit back, saying CA was to blame for the crisis dragging on and that it had "lost the players" through its hardball tactics.

Warner, who has been outspoken in the push for players to keep a 20-year revenue-sharing arrangement

in place against CA opposition, also fired back at the governing body.

"This Baggy Green (cap) means the world to me," he wrote on Instagram late on Thursday beneath a picture of himself in his Test kit.

"Myself and all the other players, female and male, want to get out there and play."

"We offered Aus\$30 million (\$24 million) of our money to grassroots as a peace plan. It was ignored. We asked for mediation twice before and it was rejected. Now CA says there is a crisis."

"The players are unemployed and some are hurting financially but continue to train. Administrators still being paid. How is it our fault no deal is done?"

After months of negotiations, the



players and CA have failed to reach agreement, leaving 230 cricketers unemployed since the end of June when their contracts expired.

Sutherland went on the attack after knocking back recent compromise proposals from the ACA, who remain adamant that players must receive a percentage of the game's gross revenues.

"We feel that what has been proposed actually jeopardises not only the Bangladesh tour but in turn the Indian tour that is upcoming and beyond that even – dare I say it – the Ashes tour," Sutherland said on Thursday.

"Cricket Australia has lost the players and most of the game's stakeholders in the process."

The first match on the Test tour of Bangladesh is due to start on August 22, followed by a one-day tour to India in September and October ahead of the showpiece home Ashes series, beginning in November. – AFP

## Prince Charles to open 2018 Commonwealth Games next year

LONDON, July 28:

Britain's Prince Charles will stand in for his mother,

Queen Elizabeth II, at the Commonwealth Games ceremony in Australia next year, Buckingham Palace announced today.

The heir to Britain's

throne will read out a message from the 91-year-old monarch at the Games to be held in the Gold Coast in April 2018.

"Her Majesty the Queen has asked HRH (His Royal Highness) the Prince of Wales to represent her at the opening of the XXI Commonwealth Games in Australia. The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games will take place from April 4 to 15 next year, with 70 nations and territories taking part," the palace statement said.

"As Her Majesty's representative, His Royal Highness will open the Games and read out the Queen's customary message, calling on athletes to come together in the spirit of friendly competition," it added.

Charles had last opened the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi on the Queen's behalf and next year's Games will be the seventh time that he has attended the event.

It was expected that the 68-year-old royal would be stepping in for the Queen next year as the ageing monarch has cut out long-haul overseas flights from her schedule. Her last trip to Australia, in 2011, had been forecast to be her last at the time.

Traditionally, the message read out by the UK's Head of State is contained in the Queen's Baton, which is a 388-day journey across all the nations and territories of the Commonwealth following the launch of the Queen's Baton relay at Buckingham Palace in March this year. – PTI

## Ireland want Bracewell replacement by November



by then to give the new man time to assess his squad.

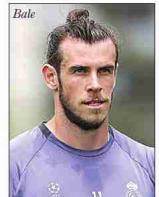
"We will be conducting a global search in an effort to make certain that we get the right candidate for the head coach role," Holdsworth said on Thursday.

"We are looking for the successful applicant in place for the tour to the UAE in November, so they can take over the reins from John at the conclusion of the ICC Inter-Continental Cup game against Scotland.

"We're looking for a coach

with a broad spectrum of skills and ambitious plans as to how they will build further success for Irish cricket." – AFP

## Mourinho ready to pounce for Gareth Bale



bale

feat by Manchester City in Los Angeles in the early hours of Thursday. He replied: "I hope the BBC (Bale, Benzema and

Cristiano) stay for this season. I hope everyone remains. I want everyone who is here to stay, but anything can happen right up until August 31."

Jose Mourinho has made no secret of his desire to sign a new wide player this summer and has targeted Inter Milan's £48m-rated winger Ivan Perisic.

Mourinho fuelled speculation when United played Real in Santa Clara last weekend after he embraced Bale before the game and was overheard saying: "I can't buy you because you don't talk to me!" – Agencies

## Sri Lanka turn down PCB's invitation to play T20 in Pakistan

with rest of matches to be played in the UAE," Khan said.

He said he had been given assurance by the Sri Lankan cricket head that he would speak to his government and get clearance for the match.

"I am a bit surprised at Sri Lanka's refusal because terror attacks are happening everywhere in the world and sports events are still going on. It is unfair to just sing out Pakistan for security reasons."

Khan said the PCB had successfully held the Pakistan Super League final in Lahore in March and provided top security for the event.

"The ICC and other security experts

of cricket boards had come to Lahore to see for themselves the security arrangements and some shortcomings were pointed out which we promised to resolve but overall they were all satisfied with the way security was provided for the final," said.

It was Sri Lanka's turn, which had come back to Pakistan after winning the T20 test series against Sri Lanka from October-November in Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.

The PCB chief also conceded that after the latest terror attack in Lahore there had been no word from Giles Clarke or ICC on the planned tour by the World eleven to Pakistan from Sep-

tember.

Lankan authorities despite serious reservations expressed by the players over the security situation in Pakistan.

He had called for an inquiry to find out who was behind forcing the team to travel to Pakistan in those conditions.

Khan said that Pakistan would now

play two Tests in Dubai and Abu Dhabi and two T20s in Lahore and these T20 matches against Sri Lanka in October-November in Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.

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after the latest terror attack in Lahore there had been no word from Giles Clarke or ICC on the planned tour by the World eleven to Pakistan from Sep-

tember.

Khan, who is due to end his three-year term on July 31, said he was happy to see Pakistan win the Champions Trophy at the end of his tenure. – PTI

## Rooney makes quiet return to Everton in narrow win



tack that had been missing as Rooney floated in more of a free role.

Within four minutes of the change, Everton took the lead when, from a corner, the ball was cleared to Leighton Baines, whose fierce drive took a deflection and beat Ruzomberok keeper Matus Macik.

Koeman indicated that Ramires, with another week of training under his belt, could start in Slovakia next Thursday and that could mean Rooney beginning in the wider role.

On the limited evidence of his first outing that may well be the wisest choice given Rooney's pace is now far from that of the teenager who made his name at Goodison.

Asked for his views on Rooney's first competitive game under his charge, Koeman said: "Good, positive. He worked very hard. A lot of positives after four weeks of pre-season."

While the Premier League team might have expected to have created a bigger advantage for next week's second leg, Koeman said he was content with the result.

"One-nil is not a bad result maybe everybody thought we would get a bigger result at home but everybody needs to realise that we are in just the fourth week of pre-season and not at 100 per cent. In European football a 1-0 with a clean sheet is a good result," he said. – Agencies

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## SU DO KU

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

### Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. It consists of a 9x9 grid divided into nine 3x3 boxes. The rules are simple: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

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

# Kohli, Mukund put game beyond Lanka's reach after rain

GALLE, July 28: India closed in on a big win as their domination went uncontested for the third successive day in the first Test against Sri Lanka here.

Virat Kohli (76 batting) and Abhinav Mukund (81) put on 133 runs for the third wicket as India reached 189 for three in 46.3 overs at stumps on a rain-affected day three.

Overall, the visitors have a lead of 498 runs after they decided against enforcing the follow-on.

In reply to India's mammoth first-innings total of 600, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 291 in 78.3 overs.

After a rain-break that cost 86 minutes, playing time was extended until 6pm local time to make up for the lost overs.

Kohli and Mukund made hay while the sun was out as they barely countered any trouble from the Sri Lankan bowlers.

Mukund scored only his second Test half-century off 78 balls, after his previous effort of 62 runs against the West Indies at Roseau in Dominica back in 2011.

He then proceeded to overtake that mark to record his highest score in Test cricket. Overall, he faced 116 balls, and hit eight fours.

At the other end, Kohli overcame his bad patch in Tests by scoring his 15th fifty-off 68 balls. This was the first time since February that the Indian skipper had crossed the 40-mark, after scoring 204 and 38 against Bangladesh at Hyderabad. His highest against Australia in five innings across three Tests was 15.

Here, he picked easy runs off the Lankan bowling and overcame a mental hurdle after scoring only three runs in the first innings. Overall, Kohli faced 114 balls, and hit five fours. His 50-partnership with Mukund came up in only 51 balls, and the duo crossed the 100-mark in 120 balls.

The day's play ended when Mukund fell lbw to part-time Danushka Gunathilaka (1-15). The batsman opted to review, but that decision too went against him.



Indian opener Abhinav Mukund in action during day three of the 1st Test against Sri Lanka at Galle, on Friday.

Earlier, India had reached 56 for two in 16.5 overs in the second innings when rain intervened in the second session of play. Post lunch, Ravindra Jadeja (3-67) brought the hosts' innings to a quick end as he bowled Lahiru Kumara (2).

Dilruwan Perera was stranded on 92 not out, facing 132 balls, inclusive of 10 fours and four sixes. India took a first innings' lead of 309 runs.

Shikhar Dhawan (14) then fell quickly, caught at backward point off Perera (1-20), chasing a wide delivery. He put on 19 runs for the opening wicket with Mukund. He then added 37 runs with Cheteshwar Pujara (15) for the second wicket.

Some 40 minutes before tea, a thunderstorm lashed the sea-facing ground. But Lahiru Kumara (1-53) had enough time to bowl one more delivery and

Pujara was caught at leg slip. An early tea was taken to avoid getting wet.

In the morning, Perera and Angelo Mathews (83) defied India as Sri Lanka reached 289 for eight at lunch. The two batsmen put on 62 runs for the sixth wicket as the visitors led by 311 runs.

Starting from overnight 154 for five, Perera and Mathews continued from where they had left yes-

terday evening and extended their defiant partnership. Umesh Yadav (1-78) and Jadeja got proceedings underway for India, but neither of them managed to create troubles for the duo as they brought up their 50-partnership of 96 balls.

Sri Lanka's 200 came up in the 57th over, and they nearly batted out the first hour without any loss when Mathews chipped a catch off Jadeja straight to Virat Kohli at short cover in the 59th over. There was slight turn available for the spinners on this day three pitch and this wicket was a result of constant pressure built up by the left-arm spinner.

In all, Mathews faced 130 balls inclusive of 11 fours and 3 sixes.

Two overs later, Perera survived a confident lbw shout off Jadeja via DRS. Originally, he was ruled out lbw but the review came out in his favour, surprisingly. The ball appeared to be sailing well over the stumps, unexpectedly though as seen from Kohli's astonished reaction.

## SCORECARD

**India 1st innings: 600**

**Sri Lanka 1st Innings: (Overnight 154/5 in 44.0 overs):**

Dinesh Karunaratne lbw b Yadav 2, Upul Tharanga run out b Kohli 1, Angelo Mathews c Kohli b Jadeja 1, Kusal Mendis c Dilruwan b Shami 0, Angelo Mathews c Kohli b Jadeja 83, Niroshan Dickwella c Mukund b Ashwin 1, Dilruwan Perera not out 92, Rangana Herath c Rohan b Jadeja 1, N Pradeep b Pandya 10, Lahiru Kumara c Kohli b Jadeja 1, Danushka Gunathilaka 10 not out in 78.3 overs) 291. Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-68, 3-68, 4-125, 5-143, 6-205, 7-241, 8-280, 9-291. **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 12-2-45-2, Umesh Yadav 14-1-78-1, Ravichandran Ashwin 27-5-84-1, Ravindra Jadeja 22-3-37-4, Dinesh Karunaratne 10-2-40-1, Angelo Mathews 10-2-35-1.

**India 2nd Innings:** Shikhar Dhawan c Gunathilaka b D Perera 14, Abhinav Mukund lbw b Gunathilaka 81, Cheteshwar Pujara c Mendis b LKumara 15, Virat Kohli bat avd. 60. **Extras:** (LB 1, WD 2) 3. **Total:** (For 3 Wickets in 93.3 overs) 291. Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-26, 3-31. **Bowling:** Naseem Pragjyoti 10-2-44-0, Dilruwan Perera 12-0-42-1, Lahiru Kumara 11-1-53-1, Rangana Herath 9-0-34-0, Danushka Gunathilaka 4-3-0-15-1. -PTI

## CM inaugurates roll ball meet

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 28: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today inaugurated the 9th Mini National Roll Ball Championship at Bhogeswari Phukanani Indoor Stadium here.

Inaugurating the championship for both boys and girls, Chief Minister Sonowal said that in order to reach the zenith of success in sports one has to work hard. Moreover, one needs to be disciplined and dedicated and

needs to pursue his or her vocation with utmost dedication.

The Chief Minister also thanked Raju Dava for popularising the game in the country. Member Secretary of the State Level Advisory Committee for Sports and Youth Welfare Lakhya Konwar Principal Secretary Home LS Changsan, Commissioner and Secretary Sports and Youth Welfare Ashutosh Agnihotri along with a host of sportspersons were also present on the occasion.

**Today's group league match results:** (Boys) Assam U-16 singles title defeating top seed Kevin M Patel of Gujarat in a gruelling three setter 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 at the All Assam Tennis Association (AATA) complex here today.

Udit also cruised into the U-14 summit clash where he will face Nikhil Nirajan of Karnatak tomorrow.

In the girls U-14 singles final, undefeated Assam girl Ishika Chakma caused a major upset to win the title by defeating Hrudaya Shah of Maharashtra in straight sets 6-0, 6-1.

In a brief prize distribution ceremony, former player Col Mridul Barkatuli distributed the trophies and the certificates in presence of AATA officials Ankush Dutta and Swapnil Borthakur.

**Today's results:** (Boys U-16, S/F) 2nd seed Udit Gogoi (AT) bt 4th seed Nikhil Nirajan (KA) 3-6, 7-5, 6-1. (Girls U-14 final) Ishika Chakma (AT) bt top seed Hrudaya K Shah (MH) 6-0, 6-1 (Upset). (Girls U-16 final) 3rd seed Sanya Singh (MH) bt 4th seed Sanjana Simralla (TS) 6-3, 6-4. (Boys U-16 final) 2nd seed Udit Gogoi (AS) bt Top seed Kevin Mrugesh Patel (GJ) 2-6, 7-5, 6-1 (Upset). (Boys U-16 doubles, Final) Top seed Aarya Zaveri (GJ)/Kevin M Patel (GJ) bt 2nd seed Udit Gogoi (AS)/Vanish Bhagati (GJ) 6-2, 6-3.

## Karate camp

GUWAHATI, July 28: The Lachit Sangha Karate-Do Association has organised a two-day summer camp on July 26 and 27 at its own premises here.

Sensei Donald Tyson from Chennai will impart training to the participants. He has also conducted an examination for upgrading of Black-Belt, stated a release.

**The successful candidates are:** Chandra Bhuyan (North Lakhimpur, 3rd dan), Anjan Baruah (Guwahati, 3rd dan), Nipon Bhuyan (Rangi, 2nd dan), Mridul Hoque (Guwahati, 2nd dan), Sufiqul Jamil (Guwahati, 2nd dan), Pritam Bordoloi (Jorhat, 2nd dan), Gautam Das (Guwahati, 1st dan), Nayon Das (Guwahati, 1st dan).

by the Assam Sports Association and Assam Strength Lifting Association, was inaugurated by Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority chairman Dhiren Baruah, Rangia MLA and organising body chairman Bhabesh Kalita, senior SBI officer Bhabesh Kalita, senior SBI office

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ing Federation of India president Babul Bikash Pattachar, organising body official Bishnumur Nunisa were also present on the occasion.

Altogether 730 lifters from 24 States and one union territory are taking part in the championship.

Players in action on the opening day of the 9th Mini National Roll Ball Championship, organised by the Assam Roll Ball Association, at Bhogeswari Phukanani Indoor Stadium in Guwahati, on Friday. - AT photo

## Naroram football from Aug 1

TIHU, July 28: The 40th Naroram Barman Football Championship, recognised by the All India Football Federation and conducted by Chaitanya Anchalkir Kria Sangha will be held from August 1 at its own stadium in Chaitanya.

Teams like Mohammedan Sporting Club, Kolkata; South East Frontier Railways, Jharkhand; ASEB, Guwahati; Assam Police Blues, Guwahati; Nabijoyoti Club, Guwahati; Kamrup FC, Guwahati; APRU, Guwahati; Eleven Star, Borgaigaon; Oil India Dulaijan; Jaruguri FC, Kokrajhar; IRBN Charaimari; Gorkha Regiment, Baranashahi and Lajong XI, Shillong have confirmed their participation, informed Bikash Bhattacharjya, joint secretary of the organising club.

## Mentok peak scaled

GUWAHATI, July 28: Manash Barooah, Bhaskar Baruah and Naro Ronghang of Assam Mountaineering Association (AMA) have scaled the 6250ft Mentok Kangri Peak.

Manash and Bhaskar reached the peak yesterday while Naro attained the target today. The AMA team left the city on July 19. AMA celebrated its golden jubilee year on Thursday, informed AMA Federation of India, stated a release.

## ACA U-16 camp

GUWAHATI, July 28: The Assam Cricket Association will conduct the U-16 camp at their Barsapara stadium here from July 29 to August 12.

PVSNL Murty, chief general manager (NE Circle) SBI will inaugurate the camp where 41 players will take part, a release said.

## ID judo at Kokrajhar

GUWAHATI, July 28: The Inter District Judo Championship will be organised by the Kokrajhar District Judo Association and All Assam Judo Association at Kokrajhar from August 25 to 27. Competitions will be conducted in sub-junior, junior and senior categories in various weight and age groups as per the rules of the Judo Federation of India, stated a release.



Udaguri Dakshin Majbat High School team pose for photographs after winning the U-17 Girls Inter District School Football Tournament, organised by the Directorate of Sports in Guwahati, on Friday. Udaguri beat Kokrajhar Titagarh High School in the final.



Players in action on the opening day of the 9th Mini National Roll Ball Championship, organised by the Assam Roll Ball Association, at Bhogeswari Phukanani Indoor Stadium in Guwahati, on Friday. - AT photo

## Stokes stars for England after Cook exit

LONDON, July 28: Ben Stokes took the attack to South Africa after Alastair Cook fell in sight of a hundred on the second day of the third Test at The Oval today.

England were 269 for six at lunch, with Stokes 64 not out and Moeen Ali unbeaten on 10.

Stokes shared stands of 63

and 75 with Cook and Jonny Bairstow respectively as England capitalised on Vernon Philander's prolonged absence during another overcast morning that should have suited the key pacemen.

Philander had enjoyed a superb return of two for 17 in 12

overs in between bouts of stomach illness on Thursday's rain-marred first day.

But he bowled just five more overs before leaving the field on Friday and did not return before lunch.

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