



# The Assam Tribune

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## NEWS CAPSULE

### Bail rejected

GUWAHATI, June 17:

The Central Judicial Judge, Assam today rejected the bail petitions of all three ACS officials arrested in the APSCL cash-for-job scam case. It also rejected the bail plea of co-accused Nabakanta Patra. The investigating officer today submitted the case diary to the court. — Staff Reporter

### Silapathar case

GUWAHATI, June 17:

Prosecution sanction vis-à-vis Section 153A of the IPC in connection with the Silapathar case has been provided to Dhemaji police, meaning that trial into the case would begin soon. — Staff Reporter

### Excise FIR

GUWAHATI, June 17:

Excise Minister Parimal Suklabaidya today directed the State Excise Commissioner to file an FIR with the CID regarding the extra neutral alcohol scam. — Staff Reporter

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## State police to recruit 9,000 personnel by year-end

GUWAHATI, June 17: The Assam Police today said that it would recruit nearly 9,000 people by the end of this year against the current vacancy of over 12,000 posts in the force.

"We currently have a total vacancy of 12,000 posts of non-gazetted officers, of which 8,000 are constable ranks. Besides, 79 posts of DSP and 154 posts of inspector are lying vacant," State Level Police Recruitment Board chairman Pradeep Kumar said.

The Assam Police was currently completing the pending recruitment process for 3,980 posts which would be over by the next month, he added.

"The government has also asked us to recruit 5,013 personnel for various posts. During July-August, we will bring out

for sports quota and two per cent for surrendered militants. The government has not finalised these yet," Kumar said.

For sports quota, he said, the Assam Police has suggested direct recruitment to DSP for Olympic gold medalists, district appointment as inspector for winning Olympic silver or bronze, or gold in Asian or Commonwealth Games and a special two per cent quota for national and state players.

"We have also sent a proposal to the Centre to raise three India reserve battalions. If that is sanctioned, we will be adding 3,000 more personnel in the force," Kumar said.

The Assam Police has a sanctioned strength of 74,000 people, of which (See page 13)

## NDRF stations teams in 6 places

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, June 17: With parts of Assam reeling under floods, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has deployed teams in six places to rescue marooned people. The SDRF has also deployed its teams with boats and other rescue equipment in 28 vulnerable places in the State.

Moreover, the early warning systems in Guwahati city will now be manned jointly by the SDRF, district administration and the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) so that immediate precautionary measures can be taken.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, Director General of



the advertisement for these posts and the appointment process will be completed by the end of this year," said Kumar, who is also the Director General of Home Guards.

"We are waiting for the new recruitment policy. We have suggested some new provisions like 10 per cent reservation for backward regions, two per cent



SDRF AP Rout said that its teams have been deployed in 28 locations across the State, so that they can act immediately to rescue people affected by natural calamities, including floods.

Apart from their own vehicles and over a 100 boats provided to these teams, the SDRF personnel have also been directed to use the fire service vehicles whenever necessary. (See page 13)

The SDRF presently has two companies, he said, adding the recruitment process for the third company is being complete. "We intend to create a complete battalion of seven companies so that the SDRF can do a better job during any kind of disasters," he said.

The SDRF DG said that proper monitoring of the early warning system is vital for mitigating disasters. So, from now on, the 18 early warning systems in Guwahati would be maintained jointly by the SDRF, district administration and the ASDMA so that better monitoring can be ensured.

A team of the SDRF has also been deployed near the statue nominated by the Governor. (Details on Page 9)



Apart from their own vehicles and over a 100 boats provided to these teams, the SDRF personnel have also been directed to use the fire service vehicles whenever necessary. (See page 13)

## Concern over arrest of cops in various offences

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 17: In what should invite serious introspection within the Assam Police set-up, more than 320 police personnel have been arrested and booked for various offences, including some serious ones, since 2012 to till date.

And with incidents of law-enforcers turning into law-breakers continuing to recur across the State, it is the issue of trust deficit that the Assam Police has been confronted with, more than anything else.

The recent arrest of senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Dr N Rajamardhanan can come as a revelation for many, but what is more

shocking is the alarming increase of cases where thana-level police personnel are being caught on the wrong foot, thereby bringing disrepute to the force.

Records available with *The Assam Tribune* reveal that as many as 319 policemen were arrested between 2012 and 2016 for their direct and indirect involvement in various forms of crime, including some heinous ones. During the same period, 181 men-in-khakis were also suspended for their alleged professional misconduct.

In the current year (2017) too, a number of such arrests have been made, where cops, including a deputy superintendent of police, an (See page 13)

City CCTV cameras lack key security features

SANJOY RAY

that the cameras were installed by a firm named 'Levee' Communications sans some quintessential technical and security features, which may cost the investigating agency in crisis time or any law and order situation.

The report of the technical committee, which was submitted to the police headquarters a few months back, also suggested that the firm has deliberately tried to compromise with the quality of the surveillance.

"For instance, although the firm was meant to provide a server made by IBM, it did not do so. Same was the case with

(See page 13)

## Sunday

The yoga way  
Jaime Duraway, Emma Beyer and Liza Gomes

■ UP CLOSE:  
Bridge of understanding  
Sanjoy Ray

Something fishy  
Arindam Bordoloi

■ WOMEN PLUS:  
Return of the native  
Indrani Palmeini

■ FIGHTING:  
The tale of Philomena Rodriguez-II  
Dr. Bajajanya Sareria

■ MY SPACE:  
My first year with Deuta  
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## 1,085 schools in 8 districts running with single teacher

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 17: Altogether 1,085 schools in the districts of Barpeta, Chirang, Dibrugarh, Hailakandi, Kamrup (Metro), Lakhimpur, Morigaon and West Karbi Anglong are running with a single teacher.

This was revealed by Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma while sharing the findings of Gunoutsav, an infrastructure and academic evaluation exercise of the State government.

Sarma said that the State government will have to bear an additional burden of around Rs. 1,000 crore for execution of remedial measures if the Gunoutsav recommendations

are implemented.

It has come to the fore that 4,622 teachers' posts need to be filled up in these districts, apart from transferring teachers from schools having excess teachers. "At present, there are 2,653 schools with excess teachers in the districts covered so far," he said.

The report also suggested that 5,568 new classrooms have to be built and 5,610 partitions constructed in 4,003 existing classrooms.

Of the 12,286 schools covered in the first phase of Gunoutsav (evaluation exercise) in the above mentioned districts, a meager 777 (6 per cent) schools were graded as A+. The number of schools graded as A stands at 2,323 (19

per cent), he told reporters today.

The districts which were (See page 13)

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## 1993 Mumbai blasts case Abdul Qayyum released from jail

MUMBAI: June 17: Abdul Qayyum, who was acquitted of all the charges by the special TADA court in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, was

today released from the Arthur Road jail.

"Abdul Qayyum was released at around 5.15 pm today following the court's or-

der," Arthur Road jail superintendent Harshad Ahirrao told PTI.

Qayyum, speaking to reporters here after his release, said that he would continue to stay in the country and start a business of his own to earn a living.

As many as 257 people died, while 713 others were injured after series of bomb blasts rocked Mumbai on March 12, 1993. Underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, along with Tiger Memon, are the prime conspirators in the case.

The special TADA court on Friday found Abu Salem and Mustafa Dossa guilty of criminal conspiracy charges.

Along with the two gangsters, Firoz Khan, Karimul Khan and Taher Merchant were also found guilty of conspiracy charges levied against them. - PTI

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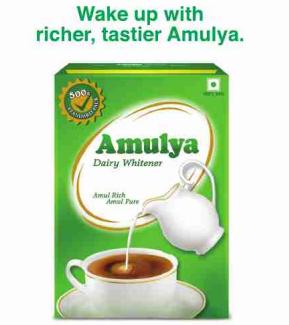
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167. EXPANSION



**LOCAL FORECAST:**  
Mainly cloudy sky. Rain/  
thundershower is most  
likely to occur. Maximum  
temperature is most likely  
to be 29°C on Sunday.  
**TEMPERATURE:**  
Max 29°C  
Min 23.4°C

## Rainfall triggers floods, landslides in city localities

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 17: Incessant overnight rainfall triggered flash floods at places like Anil Nagar, Nabin Nagar, Lachit Nagar, etc, besides landslides of small dimensions as the city continued to experience on the edge with predictions of more rainfall in the next few days.

According to the District Disaster Management Authority of Kamrup Metro, water-logging was also reported at Bahal Path of Gotongar and Arya College Road, but the water receded later.

Landslides were reported at Pobitora, near Gondi Mandap, near ISKCON Temple of Padma Sarana and Hasong Bosti of Dabola, causing damage to private property. Two persons were reportedly injured in the incident at Bondam.

Meanwhile, the administration today declared a probe into the death of Deben Chandra Nath (50), whose body was found at Silsila Bed.

The probe will be conducted by Magistrate Chinmoy Phukan and he has been asked to submit the report within seven days. The inquiry will also seek to find out if there were any lapses on the part of different agencies and whether preventive and precautionary measures had been taken.

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For further details visit: www.nrd.org.in

Sd/-  
DIRECTOR, NRML RC



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## 114th birth anniversary of Rupkonwar

# Jyotiprasad Agarwala was a sagacious sage: Purohit

STAFF REPORTER

the Dr Bhupen Hazarika Foundation in association with the district administration and Directorate of Cultural Affairs, paid rich tributes to Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad Agarwala on the occasion of his 114th birth anniversary and the day has also been observed as Dignity of Labour Day.

President of the Dr Bhupen Hazarika Foundation educationist Prof Amarpuri Choudhury, noted singer Sudakshina Sharma, Rupkonwar's daughter Ganeshi Pathak, District Development Commissioner Barnali Sharma and a host of other dignitaries were present at the function.

The Guwahati Senior Citizens' Association (GSCA) also paid rich tributes to the Rupkonwar on his 114th birth anniversary today at a function presided over by senior journalist DN Chakravorty.

Appointed speaker Ramakanta Deka and Hemchandra Sarma dwelt at length

on the manifold contributions of Jyoti-

prasad as a composer, lyricist, poet,

dramatist, revolutionary, freedom fight-

er, filmmaker and a great artiste.

They mentioned how Jyotiprasad em-

barked on a most ambitious and difficult

task of producing and directing two As-

samese films at a time when the entire

film industry in India was in its infancy.

Jyotiprasad displayed his genius as an

accomplished director with the rare tech-

niques introduced in *Jyomoti* where

royal palaces were built only with skins of

banana trees.

The meeting unanimously adopted a

resolution to declare 200 hectares land

of Bholuguri Tea Estate as a State heri-

site and to set up a Jyoti Tirtha with

full complement of song, drama and all

cultural arrangements for preservation

and enrichment of Assamese songs, dra-

ma and music. The meeting also suggested

erection of statues of Jyotiprasad at ap-

propriate places in the State.

Earlier, Baneswar Khound, member in

charge of administration welcomed the

guests and explained the purpose of the

meeting.

Chinmoy Kataki and Gopal Krishna Hazarika presented two patriotic songs of Jyotiprasad.

Chakravorty, in his presidential ad-

dress, compared Jyotiprasad with the great

Italian painter and artiste Leonardo da Vinci and said that Jyotiprasad

might be described as the pioneer of modern Assamese drama. "It was indeed

inconceivable that a masterpiece like

*Sonit Konwarei* was written originally

by Jyotiprasad when he was only 14 years

old with slight revision made by him

when he was in Class X," he said.

Anjali Agarwala, daughter-in-law of

Jyotiprasad, who attended the meet-

ing as special guest recalled her sweet mem-

ories as a daughter-in-law of the great

Agarwala family in which every person

was patriotic and true disciples of

Srimanta Sankaradeva.

The meeting unanimously adopted a

resolution to declare 200 hectares land

of Bholuguri Tea Estate as a State heri-

site and to set up a Jyoti Tirtha with

full complement of song, drama and all

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propriate places in the State.

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charge of administration welcomed the

guests and explained the purpose of the

meeting.

case at a workshop he is

employed, on the basis of

"mere suspicion".

He was allegedly tortured

physically at the police

station, following which his

health deteriorated and

eventually he had to be

admitted to the Gauhati

Medical College Hospital.

"We were told by doctors

that he has sustained

serious injuries to his He.

He is on ventilation and his

chances of survival are very

thin," advocate Saurabh Nag,

who is pursuing the case

with the human rights

commission and police

accountability commission,

said.

In a written representa-

tion to the Police Commis-

sioner, the victim's brother

Gopal Mandal has sought

stringent action against the

police personnel involved as

well as compensation to the

family for the loss and

mental agony.

thin," advocate Saurabh Nag,

who is pursuing the case

with the human rights

commission and police

accountability commission,

said.

Prof. Sarma practically

played the role of a pioneer in

introducing the study of seis-

micology and environmental

science in the north-eastern

region. He played a major role

in the introduction of environ-

mental science in the State's

colleges in the early 1960s. He also

studied meteorology while in

the USA. He joined Gauhati

University in the later part of

the 1960s. He then joined the

GU Department of Environ-

mental Science as its founder

professor and head in 1980.

Prof. Sarma guided several

researchers in carrying out

their research on topics relat-

ed to seismology and environ-

mental science. He led the

Assam Science Society as its

president between 2003 and

2005. He was also a founder

of the Society for Environ-

mental Protection, Education and

Research (SEPER).

He authored several books

on physics, seismology and

environmental science and many of his research papers

were published in several inter-

national science journals of the

region.

Prof. Sarma's demise is an ir-

reparable loss for the State's

educational and social

spheres. He has expressed

his condolences to the be-

reaved family.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister

Sarbananda Sonowal said that

Prof. Sarma's demise is an ir-

reparable loss for the State's

educational and social

spheres. He has expressed

his condolences to the be-

reaved family.

Gandhi in 1975.

The inaugural session of

the meet will get underway at

10:30 am while the Samorop

Session will begin at 3:30 pm.

State PWD Minister Parimal

Shuklakaranya, MP's Ramen

Deka and Bijoya Chakravorty,

MMLA Ashok Singhal and oth-

ers will attend the convention,

then Prime Minister Indira

Gandhi.

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meet will get underway at

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The inaugural session of the

meet will get underway at

10:30 am while the Samorop

## MESSAGE FORTODAY

Terrorism has no nationality or religion.

— VLADIMIR PUTIN

**The Assam Tribune****Delayed verdict**

It has been a case of action and reaction of the most terrible kind. On December 6, 1992, ten sevaks belonging to the sattron brigade had demolished the Babri Masjid at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, a politically motivated action which set off riots in which over 2000 people were killed. The horrific serial bomb blasts in Mumbai the very next year, in which 257 people died and hundreds injured, were a continuation of the senseless acts of tit for tat violence that invariably lead to the shedding of innocent blood as well as destruction of public property. In 2007, that is 14 long years after the Mumbai bomb blasts, the first leg of trial of the accused was concluded in a TADA court, where no less than a hundred individuals were held guilty and convicted, testifying to the widespread nature of the conspiracy. However, seven principal accused could not be included in that trial because there had been a delay on the part of the forces of law and order in identifying, locating and arresting them. Their trial has lasted even longer, and it is only now, 24 years after the heinous act had been committed, has a verdict of guilty been pronounced against six of these accused, including the dreaded mafia leader Abu Salem, and one being acquitted.

While Salem had been responsible for transporting weapons from Gujarat to Mumbai, and had to be extradited having fled the country, another mastermind, Mustafa Dossa, had been in charge of smuggling in RDX to India and sending some youths to Pakistan to acquire arms training to execute the strikes. All the six convicted stand accused of multiple charges and though the sentencing has been postponed, it is expected to be severe given the heinous nature of the crime. However, what stands out in the trial is the undue delay in arriving at a verdict, a telling testimony to the snail's progress with which even a case of such magnitude progress in our country. The Judiciary itself is not wholly responsible for the delay, for it is suspected that the forces of law and order had willfully procrastinated on framing charges against the accused and had carried out their mandated responsibilities only after pressure from the Judiciary. It is also to secret that politicians played their part in ensuring that the police dithered — Mumbai, in fact, is notorious for this gangster-police-politician nexus. That, despite all the interventions, justice has finally prevailed underlines the resilience of our judicial system. This in no way, of course, justifies the inordinate delay and it is high time that the three branches of our democracy devise measures to speed up the system, particularly in trials of this grave nature.

**Deluge lessons**

Tuesday's deluge in State capital Guwahati not just exposed the drawbacks in our urban planning but it also laid bare how the lack of coordination amongst the various departments and agencies tasked with the city's upkeep caught them unawares every time a flash flood hits the city. This is something the city's civic authorities and the district administration need to ponder over and chart out an effective course of action. It is shocking — something reported in the media — how the NDRF personnel were not pressed into service by the administration even as the citizens, especially children, women and the elderly, were having a harrowing time in negotiating the flooded roads. It begs the question why the NDRF personnel were not engaged by the administration as a roadside helpline to ease the movement of the vulnerable trapped in the waters. It should be noted that many fatal accidents have taken place during waterlogging in the city — in this latest instance as also on earlier occasions — when the commuters were negotiating the floodwaters on the roads. Then, the Power authorities which now work as several companies, ostensibly to enhance their efficiency and professionalism as part of the much-touted power reforms, have made it a habit to expose their shocking callousness in such times of emergency. The tragic death of a schoolboy and an adult after they came into contact with exposed power-lines on Tuesday as also similar deaths stemming from the power authorities' irresponsibility on earlier occasions makes it amply clear that they are unwilling to learn from past mistakes. The Government needs to fix responsibility for such serious lapses and punish the guilty officials. One-time compensation apart, the Government is also duty-bound to bear the maintenance of the families that have lost their breadwinner for the fault of the authorities. It's also time the Government did a rethink on the flood control measures and emergency assistance. The collaborative step taken by the Soil Conservation Department and IIT Guwahati to reduce siltation from the city's hills through vegetative and non-vegetative could be an ideal intervention. Accumulation of silt on the city's drains and the natural channels is having a worsening impact on the flash floods. A revamp of the existing drainage along with thrust on maintaining the natural environment comprising water-bodies, hills and forest is also long overdue.

**The Assam Tribune****From THE PAST****INDIANS IN PEKING PUT UNDER SIEGE****Retaliation For New Delhi Incident**

PEKING, June 17 — China today put the entire staff of the Indian Embassy and their wives and families under siege in the Embassy's walled compound in Peking in apparent retaliation for the demonstration held yesterday outside the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi, reports Reuter. Tonight, Chinese demonstrators, chanting slogans, smashed Embassy windows and broke down the door of the Charge D'Affaires residence. But the crowd of several hundred milling in the narrow street did not immediately enter the Indian premises.

A showcase on the front wall of the Embassy was smashed and burned along with effigies of Indian leaders, — Reuter. An Indian spokesman said on telephone from the besieged Embassy that they had enough food to last a few days.

He said that because they normally used the Chinese Post Office for cabling messages to New Delhi, the siege meant that they were cut off from direct contact with the Government of India.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1967

**RBI and bad loans of banks****Geetima Das Krishna**

**T**he Non-Performing-Assets (NPAs) of the banking sector can no longer be pushed under the carpet. The NPAs have increased substantially from Rs 0.9 trillion in FY11 to whopping Rs 7 tn in FY17. Including the restructured assets, the total stressed asset moves to about Rs 9.6 tn. Many large corporates are not only cash-flow insolvent (not able to service debt) but also balance sheet insolvent, i.e., liabilities are more than assets.

The cabinet had issued an ordinance recently giving Reserve Bank of India (RBI) more power to resolve the enormous problem of bad loans in the banking sector. The section 35 of Banking Regulation Act is amended — 35A empowers RBI to issue directive to banks to initiate insolvency proceedings for a particular account and 35AB allows RBI to set up oversight committees (OC) to monitor the top 35-40 largest NPAs in value (accounting for 60% of total NPAs). The Prevention of Corruption Act is also amended so that commercially viable decisions taken by banks are not scrutinised later by investigative agencies. The government decided to give more teeth to the existing mechanisms.

The NRA problem did not just emerge in last few years. It is a legacy issue that goes back to mid-2000s as explained in the Economic Survey. During the boom period of 2004-2008, India's growth-rate surged to almost double digit helped by higher-than-potential glo-

bal growth. The record corporate profitability prompted firms to launch new projects, particularly in the infrastructure sector. In order to take advantage of future opportunities and meet expected demand, corporates planned capacity expansion, took more risks and borrowed heavily. In the short period of five years from 2003-04 to 2007-08, the investment to GDP ratio jumped from 23 percent to 32 percent. Similarly, the non-food credit growth of PSU banks grew at the av-

erage of 30 percent in the four years (2004-2008) compared to 18 percent in the previous four years.

However, after the great financial crisis of 2007-08, the bloated demand estimates of the firms' never materialised. On top of that, problems in land acquisition, environmental clearances, and cancellation of various licenses, delayed projects made these unviable. Lower revenue, high expenditure and debt-servicing cost squeezed corporate cash flows. By 2015, almost 40 percent of the corporate debt was owned by companies that had an one-time coverage ratio of less than one (i.e., company's earnings were not enough to service the interest expenses). In tandem with deteriorating corporate balance sheet, NPAs in the banking sector increased. In-

nificantly. As a result, the banks, with stressed balance sheet, limited risk by reducing fresh loans. The credit growth reduced to 63-year low and private investment contracted. The central bank acknowledged the problem in the banking sector and took several initiatives to restruc-

ture the bad loans. Over the years, RBI encouraged establishment of private Asset Restructuring Companies (ARCs) in 2014, introduced Strategic Debt Restructuring (SDR) in 2015 and Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A) in 2016. However, none of these schemes helped due to several reasons.

First, the large proportion of stressed debt is concentrated in few large corporate groups which became difficult to resolve. Second, it

is reported that, as on September 2016, about 10 of the top 100 stressed debtors would need debt write-down of 51-75 percent and a whopping 57 would need reduction of around 75 percent to be

comparable. The PSU bankers

usually come under pressure from

both the powerful borrowers and their

political supporters. Bankers are also

penalised for taking large haircuts and

thereby losing public money.

government will be responsible for infusing money into these banks. The promised Rs 70,000 crores of capital infusion announced under 'Indradhanush' scheme is woefully small. Not much progress has been observed by the Bank Board Bureau (BBB) created by the government.

Will the new ordinance help? One major positive is that the onus of decision-making will now shift from banks to RBI. The oversight

committees under RBI will be able to

take decisions on loan write-offs and

thus shield the bankers from being

investigated later. The PSU bankers usually come under pressure from both the powerful borrowers and their political supporters. Bankers are also penalised for taking large haircuts and thereby losing public money.

The exact guidelines of RBI remain to be seen. There will be challenges as it might be difficult to value the assets of projects that were shelved due to delay in approvals. As most of the NPAs are concentrated in PSU banks, large haircuts will have fiscal implication. Moreover, experts fear that in the process of depoliticising the banks, the RBI itself may get politicised. The ordinance pushes the NPA problem onto the lap of RBI. The government will have to be proactive to solve the enormous NPA issues or this ordinance will just remain a piece of new legislation.

(Views are personal. The author is a visiting fellow in Pabla India, research scholar at IIFT)

**PET-CT and Cyclotron****Dr Gautam Goswami**

**P**ositron Emission Tomography— Computed Tomography, in short PET-CT is the fastest growing diagnostic modality in cancer management worldwide. It is a fused anatomical and functional image where the fusion is achieved by software methods.

This is being increasingly used for diagnosis, staging and follow-up of various malignancies. We know that cancer is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the world today. An all out effort has been flagged off long time back to catch cancer cases early. It helps in successful management of cancer cases. Various imaging modalities like Ultra Sonography (US), Computed Tomography (CT), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) etc. continue to be important diagnostic tools which are banking on anatomic information. But they have a notable limitation of not allowing detection of morphologically normal but functionally abnormal tissues. The functional and anatomic information offered by PET-CT is being recognized as crucial in care of cancer patients.

PET-CT has the ability to demonstrate abnormal metabolic activity at molecular level in various organs of body. These organs may not as yet show abnormal appearance based on clearly picked up by other imaging modalities like US, CT and MRI. The PET-CT scanner provides, in a single patient sitting, both the data of CT scanner and PET scanner depicting distribution of position-labelled tracers such as fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG). Routine image fusion takes place in a super-computer where PET data get merged with CT data. As a consequence whole-body PET/CT studies can be obtained in less than 30 minutes.

As on today, India has approximately 160 PET-CT scanners out of which only ten centres like Gauhati Medical College Cancer Hospital, AIIMS, New Delhi, SGPGI, Lucknow, Delhi State Cancer Centre have a combination of 64 slice CT scanner and LSO/LYSO crystal PET detectors in scanner. These detectors are present in PET

scanner and they contain crystals composed of Bismuth Germanium (BGO) or Cerium-Doped Lutetium Orthosilicate (LSO). LYSO/LSO crystals are having best possible PET signal output. It has fine diagnostic capability even at very early curable stage of cancer. PET detectors detect gamma rays across a wide energy spectrum.

When patient is injected FDG, positron emitted from FDG has enough kinetic energy to travel a small distance before annihilating with an electron. The distance is smaller in dense tissues like bone but larger in lungs and air. Positron is a positively charged electron that annihilates with an electron within microseconds of its emission. This process liberates two photons of equal strength (511 KeV) which move in opposite directions. These photons are detected during PET scanning by detectors of much higher stopping power.

Hall marks of cancerous cells are rapid proliferation, increase in size, local invasion and distant metastasis. Rapidly proliferating large tumours outgrow their vascular supply. Tumour diameter of more than 1-2 mm needs neovascularization. FDG is a radio pharmaceutical analog of glucose that is being taken up by metabolically active tumour cells. Rate of uptake of FDG by cancer cells is proportional to their metabolic activity. But unlike normal glucose, FDG doesn't undergo further metabolism inside cancer cells and thus it is trapped in metabolically active cells. As PET has the ability to demonstrate abnormal metabolic activity at molecular level, it helps in differentiation of malignant from benign lesion and in staging of malignant lesions. It is also useful in the follow-up of patients following radiotherapy, chemotherapy or surgical resection of tumours. These patients present mostly a complicating appearance at US, CT or MR imaging due to post operative changes or scar tissue. As things stand today, in cancer management PET-CT has been playing an ever-increasing role in the diagnosis, staging and follow-up of non-small cell lung cancer, lymphoma, colorectal and oesophageal cancer, melanoma, head and

neck cancers and breast cancers besides characterization of Solitary Pulmonary Nodules (SPN).

But the real difficulty in running a PET-CT unit is the availability of FDG. Presently Gauhati Medical College PET-CT centre which has been functioning since August, 2016 is relying on its FDG supply from the nearest FDG production centre (Cyclotron) at Kolkata. On day to day basis, we airift FDG from there as per our daily requirement much to the anxiety of patients and staff working in the centre. Half life of this unstable radioisotope is only 109 minutes. Fluorine -18 (F-18) is produced in a cyclotron by bombarding O-18 enriched water with high energy protons. Negatively charged hydrogen ions are accelerated in a cyclotron till it gains 8 MeV of energy. Inside the cyclotron, negatively charged hydrogen ions pass through carbon foils in a "Carousel" which removes the electrons from hydrogen ion, leaving behind high energy protons. Now these protons are directed towards a "Target Chamber" that contains O-18 enriched water. Here production of Hydrogen Fluoride (F-18) takes place. At the end, we get a mixture of F-18 and O-18 enriched water. This process takes 20 minutes to complete. Synthesis of FDG from this mixture is an "automated Computer-Controlled Radio Chemical Process" that takes approximately 50 minutes.

As many important developments take place at atomic level inside the cyclotron in the process of production of FDG, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) supervises every step of installation of a medical cyclotron in order to ensure safety angle. Binding rules of AERB are stringent. India as of today has only eighteen functioning medical cyclotron and nearly half of them are in Central Government Sector. Assam is a leader from this point of view as Gauhati Medical College Cancer Hospital cyclotron will be the first such cyclotron to be owned by a state Government. This has been possible because some visionary people in Assam dreamt of this project worth around forty crore rupees way back in 2010.

**Voices of the WEEK**

"There will be a lot of talk about the Cardiff pitch after Pakistan dumped England out of the Champions Trophy. But that won't wash with me. It's disrespectful to Pakistan, who played brilliantly and made the best of the conditions."

— NASSER HUSSAIN, Former England captain.

★★★

"For blood donation awareness, the government has issued two advertisements, one by the CM and another by the Health Minister. It seems the govt has lot of money to spend." — TARUN GOGOI, former CM, Assam.

★★★

"I think it's quite possible there will be an election later this year or early next year." — JEREMY CORBYN, leader, British Labour Party.

★★★

"People should not make any comments against the Army Chief. I want to make it clear that Indian Army works for us, it protects India." — RAHUL GANDHI, VP, Congress JAILEY, Finance Minister

★★★

"No timeframe can be specified now as to when the liquor baron would be brought back to India." — VK SINGH, MoS for External Affairs.

★★★

"It is a great moment to be a football fan in India as the best youth national teams and players will be coming here and show a quality of football that has never been seen here." — JAVIER CEPPY, Director U-17 World Cup tournament

★★★

"As the biological granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, my natural reaction is of deep hurt." — TARA GANDHI BHATTACHARJEE, Gandhi's granddaughter reacting to Amit Shah's Chatur Baniya remarks.

★★★

"Modi govt empowered Indians in the country and abroad." — SUSHMA SWARAJ, Union External Affairs Minister.

★★★

**Water research****The last word**

S RAGHUNATH

"One of our main areas of research concern is Hydrodynamics and Mechanics. Through a complex series of synchronised manual operations in rat infested underground valve chambers, our researchers reduce the pressure in the mains so that the water flow becomes a mere trickle particularly in the mornings when the demand is at its peak and fisticuffs break out around taps and simultaneously we hike the rates by 350 per cent and withdraw the free supply through a gazette notification.

This research is yielding valuable insights into the working of complex urban water supply grids and this data is enabling us to set in place effective management procedures and systems."

The GWSB official continued, "We're also involved in research in pressure flow studies. Our research teams are engaged in studying the characteristics of the flow of sewage contaminated drinking water through broken and corroded iron pipes laid over a century ago. This research is generating parameters that will enable the Board to postpone a decision on laying new water mains and feeder lines by another 100 years."

"You will be interested and perhaps surprised to know that we're researching the effect of air pumped under pressure on defective water meters and we've discovered that if air is pumped at 100 atmospheres it will record that a household consisting of a single person who is away 25 days in a month has consumed 50,000 litres of water and enabling us to slap on the poor chap a bill for that quantity with a rider that he pay up within 3 days."

INDIANS IN PEKING PUT UNDER SIEGE

RETRIBUTION FOR NEW DELHI INCIDENT

INDIA'S IN PEKING PUT UNDER SIEGE

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RETRIBUTION FOR NEW DELHI INCIDENT

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A farmer reaping yest to be fully ripe paddy in waist-deep water at Mangaldoi, on Friday.  
— UB Photos.

## OBITUARY

### SK Sarma

  
GUWAHATI, June 17: Dr Surjya Kanta Sarma passed away at 5.30 this morning at his residence at Arya Nagar here. He was 83.

Born in 1934 at Palashbari in Kamrup district, he had his schooling in Cotton Collegiate Higher Secondary School and pre-university education in Cotton College and Presidency College, Kolkata. After completing his M.Sc in Physics in 1956, he joined as a lecturer in JB College. He left JB College in 1957 and joined Assam Agricultural University. Thereafter, he joined Cotton College as a lecturer and in 1960 left for USA for research in Oregon State University. Back home, he joined Gauhati University in 1967.

**Ugra Sonowal**  
CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAMI, June 17: Ugra Sonowal, a noted social worker of West Dhemaji area and an inhabitant of Lowmuri village here, died on June 10 at his residence due to old-age ailments. He was 74.

He was associated with many social organisations in West Dhemaji. He was selected as vice-president of Paschim Dhemaji Samabha Samiti for two times. He was also elected as member of Naruaathan Gaon Panchayat. Further, he worked as a member of the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) thrice. He also took initiative in establishing several schools in the area.

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

## Ajit (Pramod) Handique: a tribute



My younger brother Ajit (Pramod) Handique, left for his heavenly abode at New Delhi-based Gangaram Hospital on June 9. He was 48.

Son of late Manik Handique and Joytara Handique of Gohainpukhuriong in Sivasagar district, Ajit Handique was born on September 1, 1969. After completing his higher secondary from Nazira HS School, he joined the Gorgaon College for graduation. An ardent student leader, Ajit Handique became the general secretary of the Students' Union of Gorgaon College and later got actively associated with Nazira Students' Union and became an office bearer of the Undivided Sivasagar District Students' Union.

After completing his graduation, Ajit

## World Blood Donor Day observed at Naharkatia

ANN Service

NAMRUP, June 17: Along with other parts of the world, the World Blood Donor Day was observed at Naharkatia CHC on June 14 under the auspices of Naharkatia CHC and in collaboration with Naharana PHC.

Synchronising with the current year theme, "What Can You Do", "Give Blood, Give Now, Give Often" a grand awareness process was brought out at Naharkatia which was flagged off by Dr Bishwajit Baruah, SDM and HO, Naharana Block PHC. The procession was followed by an open session under the chairmanship of Chitra Baruah, noted social worker. Jayanta Dutta, Health

Educator, Namrup Mini PHC explained the objectives of the meet. Dr Bishwajit Baruah graced the occasion as chief guest. In his speech, Dr Baruah dwelt at length on the significance and aim of the World Blood Donor Day and stated the benefits and need of blood transfusion that can save many lives and improves the quality of health. The meet also witnessed a power point presentation by Dr Bishwajit Baruah himself highlighting all the vital aspects and some unknown facts and information relating to blood donation. Dr Baruah further added that a blood donation camp will be organised at Naharkatia very soon.

Vikram Chhetri, Circle Officer, Naharkatia urged the Asha workers

present in the session to spread the message of World Blood Donor Day to the rural areas and advised them to work more sincerely to fill the communication gap. Besides MK Chetia and B Brahma, CISF personnel from BVFCCL CISF unit shared their views and experiences on blood donation. Dignitaries including Dr Jyoti Shyam, Deputy Superintendent, Naharkatia CHC, Bimal Dihingia, Principal, Naharkatia Jatiya Vidyalaya, Chandan Dhar Dev, senior citizen and Angshuman Dutta, local journalist graced the occasion with their presence. A minute of silence was also observed for the eternal peace of Rubi Sonowal, an Asha worker, who breathed her last recently.

## Faculty devp prog at Golaghat Commerce College ends

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, June 17: A week-long Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on the topic, 'Application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Teaching' was held at Golaghat Commerce College from June 6-12.

The programme was organised under the aegis of Golaghat Commerce College (GCC) unit of Assam College Teachers' Association (ACTA) and was moderated by the co-ordinator of the programme as well as Assistant Professor of Banking and Insurance, Manash Pratim Sarma.

The inaugural session was chaired by the chief patron of the programme as well as the Principal of the college, Dr Jatin Nath Saikia. The programme was attended by 75 participants from different colleges of Assam, which included several technical sessions chaired by the President of ACTA Unit of GCC, Dr Paramananda Sharma.

Several resource persons well known to the field of ICT from institutions like Tezpur University (TU), Jorhat Engineering College (JEC), Assam Agricultural University (AAU) and National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) took part in the technical sessions.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Durbha Kumar Bhattacharyya, Dean of Academic Affairs, TU. He also conducted one technical session on 'Cyber Security'.

## Concern over hoax calls in emergency response service

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAL, June 17: Officials of the GVK-EMRI, authorised operating agency for free Emergency Response Service (ERS) in the State, i.e. 108-Mritiyunjay, 102-National Ambulance Service and 'Adaran' have expressed concern over the huge number of hoax and nuisance calls which has turned out to be a major barrier in rendering their services.

Kausik S Saikia, Regional Manager of GVK-EMRI, Guwahati region in the presence of a few higher officials, including Bhaskarji Das, Programme Manager Dhurbojyoti Prasad, Marketing and Communication Manager

Swarup Kalita, EME, Darrang addressed a press conference at the auditorium of Youth Club here in this regard on Friday afternoon.

They pointed out that their call centres have the facility of receiving 90 free calls at a time through three separate special lease telephone lines and an average of around 10,000 received calls have been recorded daily in the State. However, 60 per cent of such calls are hoax or nuisance calls.

Significantly, the number of such hoax calls increase during the month of July, when most of the school students of the State enjoy summer vacation.

"Through analysis of the call records, it was found that most of the hoax and nuisance callers during July and August last year were children," said RM, Kausik S Saikia. He appealed to the parents and guardians of the students to control their wards from dialling the free number of the ERS.

"Everyone should abstain ourselves from making any unnecessary calls as such calls may block other important calls and in many such cases due to the failure of emergency service at the right time, any poor patient may suffer or even die," he added.

On the other hand, RM, Saikia highlighted the forceful shifting of the vehicle by locals, lack of necessary awareness among rural masses and dilapidated rural road condition as other factors which have become barriers in the services. Meanwhile, giving a brief account of their services, the officials said that since their inception in 2008, they covered a total of 2,87,000 beneficiaries across the State, out of which 39 per cent cases are related to pregnancy.

In Darrang district, the organisation has presently been rendering their services through 12 Mritiyunjay ambulances, Adaran vans numbering eight and National Ambulance Services vehicles numbering 14.

The district, since inception of the service in February 2009 till the last month has recorded 1,95,406 emergency calls, 10,695 calls related to road traffic accidents, pregnancy-related calls numbering 54,694 and 2,314 calls related to suicide cases, among others. The average time of attending a patient after receipt of the call has been recorded as 29 minutes, the officials of the service being recorded agency further mentioned before the media.

## HM Buzarbaruh

  
My beloved grandfather (kaka), Hemendra Malla Buzarbaruh passed away on June 6. He dedicated his entire life in helping and guiding the common people to lead an honest and fair life. He was an ideal teacher, a voracious reader and a good orator.

Son of late Dandi Malla Buzarbaruh and Shyamkanti Buzarbaruh, kaka hailed from a small village called Chandikuchi in Nalbari district. He made it big in this world through sheer hardwork and dedication. He briefly worked in Gauhati High Court as an advocate and later became a subject teacher in Patarcharkuchi Vidyapith. He was honoured by

the Government of Assam with the Distinguished Teacher Award (1983-84). As a prolific writer, he wrote and translated over 40 books, for which he was awarded the Literacy Pension by the State Government in 2010. Kaka was an epitome of kindness. He would always invite an underprivileged person for a cup of tea. His charismatic personality attracted one and all. Although Kaka is physically not present with us any more, he will always be remembered. His legacy will always guide and motivate us to become good human beings. On the day of his adwashraddha today, I pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of his soul.

— Dr Gobind Handique

— Ananya Malakar

## STATE

# Nine districts selected for organic farming project

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, June 17: The State Government has identified 10 clusters across nine districts of Assam for implementation of the Centrally-sponsored Mission Organic Value Chain Development for the north-eastern region (MOVCD).

Officials told this newspaper that the nine districts where areas having feasibility of organic farming have been selected are Golaghat, Nalbari, Kokrajhar, Kamrup Metro, Sonitpur, Majuli, Dhemaji, Cachar and Chirang.

The target is to cover 5,000 hectares of farmland and 5,000 farmers under the scheme.

Sources said that Butikat in Dhemaji, Pokajor in Majuli and Kaziranga are clusters selected for red rice cultivation under the MOVCD, while an area in Kaziranga

cluster will also be for black rice. Podumpatbari in Golaghat, Sonapur in Kamrup Metro, Titagarh in Kokrajhar and Panbari in Chirang have been selected for ginger and turmeric.

Bahaguri cluster of Sonapur district has been specified for okra and ridge gourd, along with ginger cul-

tivation.

Lakhipur cluster of Cachar district has been selected for pineapples.

"The farmers of the clusters will be organised in self help groups and they will be registered under the Society Registration Act as Farmer Producer Companies.

Registration Act as Farmer Producer Companies.

tential in the north-eastern region.

The main objectives were to develop crop commodity specific organic value chain and address gaps in organic crop production, wild crop harvesting, organic livestock management and processing handling and marketing of organic agricultural products by developing crop specific organic production clusters with necessary infrastructural, technical and financial support by facilitating partnerships between farmers and organic businesses. It is intended to help the farmers by providing enabling environment for project initiatives and development programmes with necessary support for organic value chain development by creating market access, besides by providing brand building and marketing access to products from the this region.

## Meet discusses tourism potential of Jonai area

ANN Service

therefore sought active help from the local NGOs, public leaders and fringe area villagers to stop destructive activities at Poba Reserve Forest and its adjoining areas.

The nature lovers and NGO workers in the meeting opined that cultural tourism and adventure tourism can be developed if the natural resources, including Siang and Lali rivers passing by Poba Reserve Forest, besides the pristine islands are protected and developed in a scientific way. Besides these, rich traditional cultures of the ethnic tribes attract the domestic and foreign tourists alike.

It was focused during the discussion that the remaining forest cover in Poba Reserve Forest located on the outskirts of Jonai town, besides the Siang and Lali rivers and the islands are key resources for development of a tourist spot in Jonai area. The speakers therefore requested the SDO to take adequate steps for strengthening the Forest Department and also issue necessary circulars against felling of trees and illegal collection of forest wealth besides, unauthorised fishing and hunting within the reserve forest area.

The meeting resolved to hold another sit-in for fixing of date of the proposed bicycle rally and to conduct an interactive programme with eminent environmentalists and wildlife experts to gain knowledge about tourism development in the area.

Among others, Jonai Circle Officer Manoranjan Payeng, Assistant Commissioners Sanjeeb Phukan, Sujata Gogoi and Jyoti Das, besides mediapersons attended the meeting.

## Agdala-Alipub Horticulture Samabai – a ray of hope for the jobless



GAUTAM KUMAR DEKA

Though the initial stages of the Samabai were troublesome, but eight years later when the gum began to be collected, a glimmer of hope was seen on the faces of the members of the Samabai since the cultivation had now become income-generating.

By making incisions on the bark of the rubber plants, gum is collected in vessels. This process is called rubber tapping and after mixing it with water, rubber sheets are produced. Then the rubber sheets are exposed to sunlight which are finally dried by smoke. Generally, these sheets are supplied to rubber companies for sale and from the income, a number of families have got their livelihood. Earlier, the rubber sheets commanded a price of Rs 200 per kilogram, but now it has increased to 18 kilograms per kilogram which is a matter of concern. The family members of the Samabai have called upon the Government to allocate special funds and support and heed calls for the Samabai's rejuvenation and also set up new rubber gardens in the State to solve the burden of unemployment in the State.

BAIHATA CHARIALI, June 17: At a time when unemployment has become a cause for concern, the Agdala-Alipub Horticulture Samabai Limited has become a model of self-sustenance for the jobless youth of the area.

The concept of the Samabai came up in a discussion held among a few aged but energetic persons of Agdala and Alipub villages of Baihata Chariali in the last part of 1984 and later they formed a committee for the plantation of rubber plants in the hillock of Moti Pahar, about two kilometres away from Baihata Chariali. Though initially the committee planted rubber plants in 8-12 bighas

of land, but now it has increased to 18 bighas and a total of 22 share-members are working in the Samabai. Deben Sarma, president and Padma Ram Kalita, secretary of the Samabai said that the work of the samabai began with only Rs 22,000 (Rs 1,000 from every member) and 15,000 stems of rubber plant with plastic bags were supplied by the Rubber Board.

**Sec 144 at KNP**

KAZIRANGA, June 17: In view of the monsoons and ensuing floods in the Kaziranga National Park, the Bakokhat subdivisional administration has imposed Section 144 CrPC with immediate effect along with some restrictive measures for the safety of wild animals and human lives. The restrictive measures include: vehicles must not ply above 30 km/hour on NH 37 bordering the Kaziranga National Park; No harm or injury should be caused to wild animals, birds and even reptiles taking shelter on the National Highway 37; nobody should move with any lethal weapons in and around the Kaziranga National Park; Heavy vehicles should not be parked along the NH 37 passing by Kaziranga National Park which may obstruct the safe passage of wild animals and birds. Ambulances with patients and forest and security forces and fire brigade on duty are exempted from the purview of this order. — Correspondent

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No. NHM/MCP/CARD /484/ 2011-12/Part-I/5151  
Date: 17/06/2017  
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This has reference to the e-Tender No. NHM/MCP/CARD/484/Part-I/1026/Dated: 10/04/2017 for "SUPPLY OF MCP CARD" to different Health Institutions in the state. Some amendments have been incorporated in the tender which should be taken note of prior to submission of bids. The details of amendments can be obtained from the NHM official website [www.nhmassam.in](http://www.nhmassam.in) & [www.asamtenders.gov.in](http://www.asamtenders.gov.in).  
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# STATE

## Over 65% turnout in KAAC polls



Voters seen in long queues at the KAAC election at Diphu on Saturday. — Photo: Diphu Correspondent

**CORRESPONDENT**

Bokajan subdivision. Over 65 per cent polling was reported.

The KAAC has 30 members, of which 26 are elected and four are nominated by the Governor. Casting of votes started both in West and East Karbi Anglong autonomous district. Barring a few sporadic incidents of minor skirmishes, polling was by large and peaceful. The percentage of voting turnout was over 75 and 65 per cent in the East and West Karbi Anglong districts

respectively in all the 813 polling stations.

The polling was conducted amidst tight security in all the 26 MAC constituencies of the Karbi Anglong autonomous district. Barring a few sporadic incidents of minor skirmishes, polling was by large and peaceful. The percentage of voting turnout was over 75 and 65 per cent in the East and West Karbi Anglong districts

respectively.

However, the percentage of polling may increase as a few polling teams are yet to arrive at Diphu headquarters. It may be mentioned here that voters in large numbers turned out in all the polling stations despite the incessant rain since yesterday. No repolling has been ordered in the district.

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Subashini Lower H Project  
(Corres. Add: General Manager, NHPC Ltd, Tel # 03752 269296, Email : [nhpcpl.proc@rediffmail.com](mailto:nhpcpl.proc@rediffmail.com))  
Invites E tender from eligible domestic bidders registered in India for "Treatment and construction of structural work in Service Bay & Unit-1 (grid 8) and Unit-2 (grid 16) of Lower H Project, Nameri Service Bay (from grid 8) up to Unit-2 (grid 16) including Roof treatment and construction of structural work in Service Bay & Unit-1 (grid 8) and Unit-2 (grid 16) of Lower H Project. For further corrigendum, extensions etc., please visit websites [www.nhpcindia.com](http://www.nhpcindia.com) and also <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Save Energy for Benefit of Self and Nation

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SILCHAR****SILCHAR - 788 010, ASSAM****Notice Inviting Tender**

The Director, National Institute of Technology, Silchar-10, invites sealed item tender from experienced, financially sound contractor/agency for the following works :

Sl.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Last date of submission of Tender
1.	Construction of conveyor chain connecting Boys Hostel No. 4, 5, 6 & 1 NIT Silchar.	25,52,807/-	03/07/2017

The detailed tender notice may be seen at Institute website <http://www.nits.ac.in> & Institute Notice Board.

Registrar, NIT, Silchar

**FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**

Regional Office: Assam Region: 6, S. Road, Patmanbari, Guwahati - 781088  
No. QC/91(Damage grain) Date: 17/06/2017

CORRENDUM

The unit of quantity of damage food grains was inadvertently reflected in the NIT vide even no. dated 03-06-2017 as Metric Ton instead of Quintals. Therefore, the total quantity offered under tender vide even no. dated 02-06-2017 is to be considered as 2712.99 Quintals.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Sd/- Asstt. General Manager (OC)

**ASSAM GAS COMPANY LTD**

P.O. DULAJAN - 786 802, DIST. DIBRUGARH, ASSAM  
CIN: U11101AS1982SGP001144

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender No: MTU/PUR/400mm MS-Pipe/2015-16/209 Date: 08-06-2017 Assam Gas Company Limited, Dulajan invites e-Tender under single stage Two Bid System for supply of Carbon Steel Seamless Pipe from Indian manufacturer/authorized dealer/channel partner having required specification as per the technical specification document no. MTU/PUR/400mm MS-Pipe/2015-16/209 Date: 05-06-2017

For detail tender document and further updates, if any, please visit the AGCL website [www.assamgas.org](http://www.assamgas.org) and Government of Assam website [www.asamtenders.gov.in](http://www.asamtenders.gov.in) Congendum/Adendum if any will be available in AGCL website and [www.asamtenders.gov.in](http://www.asamtenders.gov.in). Interested vendors are advised to visit the website regularly for all updates.

The tender will be available under Industries & Commerce Department of Govt. of Assam at the e-tendering portal [www.asamtenders.gov.in](http://www.asamtenders.gov.in)

Managing Director

**No. JCSA 20/94/PL/III/187****Short Notice inviting****Re-Tender**

Cancelling the previous

No. JCSA 20/94/PL/III/187

dated 02/06/2017

and the last date of issue of the document is upto 12 noon on

18/06/2017 (Tuesday) and the last date of submitting the Tender is upto 09 pm on 30/06/2017 (Friday).

The tender process is continued as per the terms and conditions mentioned in the Tender document only.

The last date of issue of the document is upto 12 noon on

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## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

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'Sanjog Matrimony' choose your life-partner. Any Caste Assamese/ Bengali/ Nepali/ Muslim/ Bodo/ Marowari/ Bihari Govt/ PSU/ MNC/ Businessman. Contact bride/groom: Assam & outsider of Assam, India, Guwahati, Ulubari, 96381-53087/ 97060-36644. Mat/GP/A1958/1

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## GROOM WANTED

Wanted groom for 35 yrs Ghy based girl, 98543-32806 (Guwahati preferred). Mat/GP/AP606/2

Good looking Assamese girl, 32, MA, MBA from a established family looking for a suitable boy. Contact No.: 9954035281. Mat/GP/1216/1

Groom for fair beautiful Assamese Muslim girl, 31/52\*, MA, Tourism (MPN) working Delhi, 9706180598. Mat/GP/1216/1

Bengalee Kayastha, 32, 6', serving under Railway (Engineering filed), two brothers. Father : 9401048761. Mat/GP/1216/1

Bengalee Kayastha, 35, 54', Ph.D, serving under Central Government, Barrack Valley, only son. Uncle : 9401048761. Mat/GP/1216/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ ST/ 27/ 2/Tech/ MBA/ working as an Engineer in Metro. 94017-22292, Mat/GP/A1979/1

Alliance invited for Kalita Assamee girl 38+, 58", B.Sc., LLB in Metrocity. Accepted suitable match Guwahati, Nahar, Caste no bar. Contact No. 957720863. Mat/GP/1248/1

Wanted suitable groom, working in Guwahati, age above 40 for an educated Assamese Brahmin bride, own house in Guwahati. Interested groom may contact directly. 913268795. Mat/GP/1226/1

Assamese, Hindu, General, 27, 55", BE, while complexion, tall, slim, employed girl in MNC in Guwahati. Suitable parents directly 9864064824. Mat/GP/AP72/1

Assamese Doibanya Brahmin girl BA/ 33/ 52" / Meshi, Nangor, Meen Lagna, Kashyap Gora. Contact : 8256095624. Mat/GP/1168/3

Alliance invited for Kalita girl 26, 54", fair & good looking BE from Assam Engineering College working MNC in Bangalore. Contact : (M) 9854034420. Mat/GP/1220/1

Fair & pretty Kalita girl 29, 54", BDs, Dental Surgeon. Own Clinic at Guwahati, Father Govt. Officer. Contact : (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1220/1

31, Kayastha girl, 54", Graduate, Mesh Rashi, Dehong. Ph. : 8761922534. Mat/GP/1234/1

Assamese Hindu OBC, 29, tall, slim, good looking M.Sc in Biotechnology Guwahati residence. Father Rd. from Govt. Department. Contact : (M) 9401469135. Mat/GP/1220/1

31, Kayastha girl, 54", Graduate, Mesh Rashi, Dehong. Ph. : 8761922534. Mat/GP/1234/1

Assamese Hindu General, 27, 55", BE, A.B.Ed, working reputed English Medium school at Guwahati. Contact : (M) 9854203706. Mat/GP/1220/1

(1) Brahmin 27, B.Tech, MS, Engineer USA (2) Brahmin 28, MA, M.Phil, working Delhi University (3) Brahmin 29, M.Sc, working Capemini Bangalore. \*Matchmaker (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1220/1

Assamese Hindu SJC 29, 53", good looking MA, TET qualified. Only daughter own house at Guwahati. Caste no bar. Contact (M) 9854203706. Mat/GP/1220/1

Slim, fair looking, Kalita girl 27, 55", BE, Engineer, Father Rd. Govt. Officer. Contact : (M) 9410469135. 9854063196. Mat/GP/1220/1

Assamese Hindu General Cast 27, 55", fair & good looking, (HMOB), working MNC seeks suitable working in Indian Metrocity. (M) 9854203706. Mat/GP/1220/1

Good looking/Bengali/ English, Center Govt. employee. Ghy residence. 9011641568/ 9706730669. Mat/GP/A1954/1

Beautiful/ Assamese/ Brahmin 29/ 54" / English, Center Govt. employee. Ghy residence. 9011641568/ 9706730669. Mat/GP/A1954/1

Beautiful/ Assamese/ Brahmin 25/ 54" / BDS, Govt. Medical Surgeon. Only child. 9011641568. Mat/GP/A1954/1

Bengali/ Kayastha girl, 33 yrs, working in Indian Railway, own residence in Guwahati seeks a boy for early marriage. 7670002626. Mat/GP/A2040/1

Alliance invited from Govt. PSU/ Professor/ working group for Bengali/ Brahmin/ 26/ years/ beautiful Guest Lecturer in a Govt. College. Contact Parent : 708524559. Mat/GP/1231/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ Kalita/ 28/ yrs Master degree in Medicine/ working as a Doctor/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 889807445. Mat/GP/1219/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ Kalita/ 29/ yrs/ Masters in Commerce/ working as a Lecturer/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 889807445. Mat/GP/1201/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ Kashyap/ 25/ yrs/ BE/ working as a Civil Engineer/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 889807445. Mat/GP/1201/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ Kalita/ 29/ yrs/ Master degree in Law/ working as a Legal Assistant/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 889807445. Mat/GP/1201/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ Kashyap/ 25/ yrs/ BE/ working as a Civil Engineer/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 889807445. Mat/GP/1201/1

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Assam type part house for rent at Chardhani, no water logging. 9435149258.  
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2 bedrooms with attached bathrooms and balconies, kitchen, dining cum living room parking facilities available at 12,000/- p.m., 2nd floor, Zoo Road, Maitri, Sagan Path, H.No. 8. Ph: 8876016195, 9954071718.  
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D/D, 2 bed rooms, kitchen, 2 toilets, garage Assam type house at Padum Path, Saurav Nagar, Beltoia @90000. p.m. Call: 9435548296.  
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Three room with attached bath & kitchen uninterupted water at floodfree Sibah Tila Zoo-Narengraj Tinali for small family. Contact: 9401498261.  
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2 rooms & 1 kitchen with attached bath & latrine (English) at Homeo College Path, Panjbari, Guwahati, Rent Rs. 4

# Success story of Garbage Bin Meals

STAFF REPORTER

**GUWAHATI**, June 17: Bringing glory to Guwahati city, the documentary film *Garbage Bin Meals* made by city-based surgeon Dr Satyakam Phukan, who is a linguist and filmmaker as well, has been named as the second best documentary by the juries of the Month for May 2017 of the 12 Months Film Festival, Cluj-Napoca, Cluj, Romania.

Earlier, the film was a semi-finalist at the Eurasia Interna-

tional Monthly Film Festival, held in Moscow, Russia in February this year. It was also a semifinalist at the Los Angeles Cine Fest held in Los Angeles, USA in April this year.

The film was selected for screening at the Barcelona Planet Film Festival, Barcelona, Spain in the same month.

In May last, the film was selected for screening at the Big Bang International Short Film Festival, Athens, Greece and it was among the 30 finalists selected and screened at

the Cine Microkosmos Thea-

tre, Athens.

The film is about those peo-

ones and to roam about aimlessly spending their days under the sky on the streets, or

face complexes. They are made to survive on the alms offered by some kind-hearted people, or, by searching out their meals from the municipal dustbins like dogs and the crowds.

The film provides its viewers a critical assessment of the loopholes of modern civilisation, which has engrossed man in the campaign to conquer Space, but has failed to provide a compassionate atmosphere for an innocuous section of society.

Amidst plenty and splendour that make life gleaming for many people in this world, these hapless people are leading their lives without there being some organised efforts to recognise them as human

beings and offer them some humane treatment.

The film, while highlighting the plight of such people, is critical of modern psychiatry too, which has not made any attempt at identifying and explaining the social factors responsible for the emergence of such dejected people and has rather concentrated on categorising mental illness only with the help of numbers.

The location for the film is the city of Guwahati, which has become a cozy place for many such people, who are found mainly coming from far-flung areas of the country and taking shelter in this city for the past several decades.



A scene from the documentary

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M&Hardware/P/1213/1

### TIFFIN

Lunch Box Service near Bannumimadani, Nsoomati, Chondomari, Rajpath, Sipukhuri. Home-made healthy & delicious 9864023161, 8638844738, 9707533710, Tiffin/P/1206/2

### GUEST HOUSE

One guest house on rent is available in Uzbarazar, Guwahati with wooden furnished six bedrooms attached bathrooms, balconies, lobbies etc. preferred reputed company Govt. PSU. Ph. 9954209129, 9864056400, Guest House/P/1164/2

### ACCOMMODATION

WANTED 1 INDEPENDENT HOUSE IN KALAPAHAR AREA HAVING PART OF AREA OF 3000 TO 5000 SQFT, WITH SUFFICIENT PARKING PLACE FOR A KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL BUILDING SHOULD BE PREFERABLY WITHIN 50 MTS FROM THE MAIN ROAD CONTACT: +919016263814, Acco/P/1908/3

### HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Newly set up restaurant for sale with on its assets and licenses at reasonable price. Gaming zone along with Birthday hall space of 1800 sqft, at Uluban Area Interested people contact 7086019219/9435520533, Hotel & Rest/P/1207/2

### GODOWN

2500 to 9800 sqft. Industrial shed/Warehouse godown at Khanapara, Belta, Lokhra, Amingon, Changsari, Mirza, #9435403986, Godown/P/A1051/16

Renting/Leasing of Godowns & Industrial Sheds any where at Guwahati, Amingon, Lokhra, Baragon, Jorabat, Promaster - 7399040555, 9435106266, Godown/P/A1051/16

3000 sq ft Godown available near DGP Office, Uluban, Cal: 9706841802, Godown/P/12279/1

tional Monthly Film Festival, held in Moscow, Russia in February this year. It was also a semifinalist at the Los Angeles Cine Fest held in Los Angeles, USA in April this year.

The film was selected for screening at the Barcelona Planet Film Festival, Barcelona, Spain in the same month.

In May last, the film was selected for screening at the Big Bang International Short Film Festival, Athens, Greece and it was among the 30 finalists selected and screened at

the Cine Microkosmos Thea-

tre, Athens.

The film is about those peo-

ones and to roam about aimlessly spending their days under the sky on the streets, or

face complexes. They are made to survive on the alms offered by some kind-hearted people, or, by searching out their meals from the municipal dustbins like dogs and the crowds.

The film provides its viewers a critical assessment of the loopholes of modern civilisation, which has engrossed man in the campaign to conquer Space, but has failed to provide a compassionate atmosphere for an innocuous section of society.

Amidst plenty and splendour that make life gleaming for many people in this world, these hapless people are leading their lives without there being some organised efforts to recognise them as human

beings and offer them some humane treatment.

The film, while highlighting the plight of such people, is critical of modern psychiatry too, which has not made any attempt at identifying and explaining the social factors responsible for the emergence of such dejected people and has rather concentrated on categorising mental illness only with the help of numbers.

The location for the film is the city of Guwahati, which has become a cozy place for many such people, who are found mainly coming from far-flung areas of the country and taking shelter in this city for the past several decades.

## Jorabat school running without electricity for long

### CORRESPONDENT

**JORABAT**, June 17: In this technology-dominated world, while most private schools have headed towards adopting Smart Classes, a government-run school at Jorabat is still lacking a basic facility like electricity.

The Adarsh Rashtra Bhasha Hindi LP School at 11th Mile, Jorabat, under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Assam, has been functioning without electricity for long, even during extreme weather conditions. Students read textbooks in dimly-lit classrooms as the power supply to this school had been disconnected about eight years ago owing to unpaid bills.

Established in 1973 and privatised in 1982, the 44-year-old government school owes the State power board APDCL an amount of Rs 22,494 (in a bill dated 22/12/2009) which has been pending for the last eight years now, local residents

said. The school committee has failed to clear the outstanding dues and hence the power supply was stopped.

The issue came into the notice of Jorabat AASU executive committee while conducting a meeting recently in the school premises in darkness.

Headmaster of the school Ramesh Pandey said the electricity connection was disconnected as the school committee failed to pay the outstanding dues. The power connection was established in 2004 and monthly bills used to be paid for a while as well, but due to insufficient funds the committee failed to pay it regularly. The outstanding amount grew higher as the committee failed to pay it regularly.

Raju Sharma, general secretary of the 11th Mile committee of AASU, wondered as to how can a school function without electricity as it becomes very difficult for the teachers and the students alike to read and write in dim light, with no heat conditions making the matters worse. He said he would take up the issue to the authority concerned soon.

### City CCTV ...

(Contd from page 1)

The UPS as the first installed another one instead of what it had assumed," sources revealed.

Most importantly, the aspect concerning network redundancy (up-time) and symmetric norm were also compromised with, which may prove costly from the security point of view. Moreover, discrepancies were detected in laying of the cameras as well," sources stated.

Moreover, sources at the Assam Police headquarters confide that it was still not clear why a firm, which was already blacklisted by the Haryana Government way back in 2013 after which a criminal case was also registered against Babu Joseph, the owner of the firm, was awarded the contract.

"The contract (supply order) of the project worth Rs 10,16,75,000 under the Assam Police Intelligent Surveillance System (APISS) for Guwahati was awarded in September, 2011 with an undertaking that it would be completed within six months. However, it took them more than five years to get the work done. The work stands in violation of the agreement thereby compromising the security aspect of Guwahati," sources said.

Questions are also being asked as to why and how the goop-up escaped the eyes of Amtron, which was responsible for the project implementation. It has also cast aspersions on the credentials of those who had approved the project meant for covering the strategic locations with storage facilities for future analysis and viewing of past and vital information.

The report of the technical committee was prepared by then Joint Commissioner of Police (Guwahati) Satyen Gogoi, senior technical director, NIC, Diganta Barman, Superintendent of Police Chittaranjan Ojha, additional Superintendent of Police Biraj Das, then ADCP (admin) Sanjeev Saikia and Ramen Hazarika of Arunachal.

The auctioneer who has already collected auction documents by depositing Rs. 10,000/- (Ten thousand only) in shape of DD may be collected from the office of the tendered after the date of issue of this notification.

Sd/- Director of Physical Plant

Assam Agri. University

Jorhat-13

NOTIFICATION

In continuation of the

notification memo No. AAU/

D-10/16, dated 21/02/2017 (b)

dated 10/10/16 for award by

addendum vice memo No.

AAU/PP/KH/2017-18/1054-61

dated 04/05/2017 published in leading News paper "The

Assam Tribune" and uploaded in AAU website, it is for

information to all concerned

that the bid document for

procurement of

electrical equipment for

construction of

new building at Jorabat

is temporarily suspended

for unavoidable circumstances until further notice.

The auctioneer who has

already collected auction

documents by depositing

Rs. 10,000/- (Ten thousand

only) in shape of DD

may be collected from the

office of the tendered after

the date of issue of this

notification.

No action has been initiated

against the firm or its owner

by the Assam Police till the

time of filing this report.

(Contd from page 1)

of Lachit Barphukan in the Fancy Bazaar area of the city so that they can act immediately in case of any disaster on the Brahmaputra river.

Meanwhile, ASDMA State Coordinator RP Baruah said that six NDRF teams have been deployed in six vulnerable locations of the State. The deployments were made following the approval by the Chief Secretary. Baruah added that over 800 personnel of the NDRF are working in the field. While teams from the 1st Battalion of the NDRF have been deployed in Barpeta, Sonitpur, Sadiya and Jorhat, those from the 12th battalion of the NDRF, based in Itanagar, have been deployed in Lakhimpur and Dhemaji, he added.

Moreover, sources at the Assam Police headquarters confide that it was still not clear why a firm, which was already blacklisted by the Haryana Government way back in 2013 after which a criminal case was also registered against Babu Joseph, the owner of the firm, was awarded the contract.

On police-public ratio, he said Assam has 107 personnel for every one lakh population, while the UN norm is 210 for every one lakh people. - PTI

### State police ...

(Contd from page 1)

12,000 are lying vacant at all levels.

"The representation from different areas are also not symmetrical. The hill districts have only 0.2 per cent representation in the Assam Police, while it is just 1.67 per cent from BTAD (Bodoland Territorial Area Districts) areas. Tinsukia and Sadiya have less than six per cent people in the force," Kumar said, adding these anomalies are likely to be addressed in the new recruitment policy.

On police-public ratio, he said Assam has 107 personnel for every one lakh population, while the UN norm is 210 for every one lakh people. - PTI

### Concern over ...

(Contd from page 1)

inspector and a lady sub-inspector, were arrested for various offences. Among the districts which recorded the most number of such cases is Dibrugarh with 42 arrests, closely followed by Hailakandi (39) and Karimganj (35).

What is significant here is that majority of these arrested police personnel are of the rank of inspector, sub-inspector, assistant sub-inspector, head constable and constable, who usually run the show in a police station.

While the number of police inspectors arrested in the last five years is three, the number of such sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors stood at 35 and 31 respectively. Further, compared to 23 head constables booked for various offences, the number of arrested constables was 239.

Reacting to this, an official of the State home department said that display of impunity in any form by the law-enforcers cannot be condoned and at the same time, it is also a matter of worry, which needs to be addressed.

### 1,085 schools ...

(Contd from page 1)

included in the first phase of evaluation includes Barpeta, Chirang, Dibrugarh, Hailakandi, Kamrup (Metro), Lakhimpur, Morigaon and West Karbi Anglong.

As far as individual students' evaluation in lower primary schools (Class II to V) is concerned only 15 percent of them were bracketed as A+, while those graded as A+ stood at 10 percent. The remaining students were B, C and D graders. Those graded as D comprised 48 percent of the total students evaluated.

As far as upper primary students concerned, only 20 percent of the top students evaluated were graded as A+, while the percentage of those graded A was 13 percent. Thirty seven per cent of them were graded as D.

The minister added that of the total 9,11,588 students targeted, only 7,15,820 could actually be evaluated, which raises apprehension of inflated attendance numbers, which could be linked to mid-day meal or other benefits provided in schools. The second phase of Goutotsav will begin on September 19, he added.

## THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI 13

### Stakeholders meet, job fair at Kalakshetra

**GUWAHATI**, June 17: A Stakeholders Meet is being organised at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra here on June 22 with the objective to bring together the departments, agencies and members of the public relevant to the cause of development of the poor and to envisage a common vision, stated a press release.

A two-day job fair will be held at the same venue on June 21 and 22, which will be inaugurated by Doley at 11 am, the press release further added.

The Meet, scheduled to begin at 3 pm, will be

attended by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal as the chief guest and his Cabinet colleague Naba Kumar Doley as the guest of honour.

A two-day job fair will be

held at the same venue on

June 21 and 22, which will

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11 am, the press release

further added.

The location for the Meet is the city of Guwahati, which has

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and taking shelter in this city for the past several decades.

The film provides its view-

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ple and has rather concentrated



## International commodity prices responsible for high inflation

One of the major objectives of the Indian Government and the Reserve Bank of India is achieving durable inflation. Inflation in India had reached 10-11 per cent in 2008 and remained elevated for several years.

Over the past three years, inflation has come down from 9.4 per cent in 2013 to 5.9 per cent in 2014 to 4.9 per cent in 2015 to a projected value of 4.7 per cent in 2017. There has been a persistent demand for lowering policy rates. The dilemma is low policy rates are not possible with low inflation. The paper seeks to explore the challenges for the RBI to lower policy rates.

The increase in inflation from 2008-13 coincided with rapidly rising food and commodity prices. Food prices rose sharply from 2008 and by the end of 2013 had nearly doubled compared to 2007 prices. Food inflation was the key driver of India's high and persistent inflation. Further, international commodity prices exert an important influence on India's inflation. The fuel component of the wholesale price index moves with the international commodity prices.

There are several consequences of high inflation. The conventional view was that high inflation affects growth, and persistently high inflation above a certain threshold level can be a drag on economic growth. Economic research has shown that there exists a statistically significant negative long-term relationship between inflation and economic growth in India. Significant inflation-growth threshold effects have been observed in cases of inflation rates above 5.5 per cent. The average growth is higher in the States where the inflation was below 5.5 per cent and a statistically significant negative effect of inflation on long-term growth was visible where inflation was higher than 5.5 per cent.

Inflation hurts middle class and poor households quite significantly. Middle class households confronted with high inflation bring forward their purchases of clothing, appliances, houseware or other products in the consumption basket. The consumption basket of the poor is disproportionately focused on food which cannot be brought for-

ward because of its perishability. The IMF said with food inflation remaining persistently high for five years, monetary policy needs to remain tight to control generalised inflation. Given the elevated and persistent inflation, the RBI may need to raise rates to tackle inflation durability, particularly if faced with a persistent and sizable supply-side food price shock putting pressure on broad-based inflation. As inflation is mostly backward looking, monetary policy has to maintain a tight stance for a prolonged period of time.

Since 2014, the Government of India took several steps to rein in food inflation. The minimum support prices for key agricultural commodities were increased. Government released additional food grains from the Central Pool into the market. Government further notified that buffer norms of these food grains to levels significantly below prevailing actual stocks. These measures have helped lower cereal (rice and wheat) inflation.

The IMF has said that India's CPI inflation is expected to remain contained in the near-term, but inflationary pressure is set to rise in the second half of 2017. With temporary demand disruptions and increased monsoon-driven food supplies, the CPI inflation is expected at about 4.4 per cent by early 2017, in line with the RBI inflation target of 5 per cent by March 2017.

To conclude it can be said that inflation and growth are two sides of the same coin. The RBI has sets policy rates as low as it can, consistent with meeting the inflation objectives. The transition to a low inflation economy requires sustained fiscal policy support. India is on the path to building the institutions necessary to secure a low inflation future. The Government has taken a number of steps of amending the RBI Act to provide for a statutory and institutionalised monetary policy committee for maintaining price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth. The MPC has been entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate required to contain inflation within the specified target level.

*The writer is an Advisor to the Executive Director (India) International Monetary Fund, Washington DC.*



V Srinivas

Since 2014, the Government of India took several steps to rein in food inflation. The minimum support prices for key agricultural commodities were increased. Government released additional food grains from the Central Pool into the market.

*The writer is an Advisor to the Executive Director (India) International Monetary Fund, Washington DC.*



Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Shipping P Radhakrishnan inaugurating the 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sammelan', organised by the Chennai Port Trust, Tondiarpet, in Chennai on Saturday.PIB

## RBI initiates action against BoM

NEW DELHI, June 17: The Reserve Bank has initiated Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) against Pune-based Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) in view of the high-level of bad loans and negative return on assets.

BoM has become the sixth state-owned lender to be put under the PCA. This is to inform that the Reserve Bank of India letter dated June 15, 2017 has initiated PCA for the bank in view of high net NPA. BoM said in a regulatory filing on stock exchanges today.

"This action will not have any material impact on performance of the bank and will contribute to improve the internal controls of the bank and improvement of its asset quality, profitability and efficiency," it said.

For the year ended March 2017, the net non-performing assets (NPAs) of the bank rose to 11.76 per cent, while return on assets declined to (-) 1.09 per cent.

At the same time, the bank reported a loss of Rs 455.4 crore for the fourth quarter, while for entire fiscal 2016-17 booked loss of Rs 1.372 crore.

It is to be noted that IDBI Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, UCO



Bank, Dena Bank and Central Bank of India have already come under the PCA initiated by the RBI, which is a noose-tightening on fresh loan disbursal as well as dividend distribution. The PCA is a framework devised by the RBI that monitors key areas like capital, asset quality and profitability of banks.

As part of the PCA framework, there are few threshold levels with regard to a bank's common equity tier-1 (CET 1) capital, and upon breach of a certain level, a bank may become a likely candidate for resolution via different methods like amalgamation, re-construction and winding up.

If there is a default on a part of a bank to meet depositors' obligation, a possible resolution process can even be resorted to without any reference to the PCA module. - LANS

## Door open for US, Japan: AIIB chief

SEOUL, June 17: The President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) said on Saturday that the organisation is keeping the door open for the US and Japan, two of the world's leading economies who are not yet part of the body.

Jin Liqun made the remark when asked about the two countries notable absence at a press conference following the end of the second AIIB annual meeting in South Korea's Jeju island, reports Efe news.

"I am pleased to announce that we have 80 members in the AIIB. This demonstrates confidence in the governance and management of the institution," said Jin, alluding to the decision to include Argentina, Madagascar and Tonga as new member states. "This also indicates the commitment of all members to work together, to improve living conditions of their citizens and to maintain sustainable economic growth while facing environmental challenges," he added.

The new members are awaiting the completion of the entry process which includes the deposit of their first instalment of capital with the bank. The Jeju meeting was attended by 77 current member states of the AIIB and about 2,000 entrepreneurs from around the world. It included a dozen seminars where different areas of investment were discussed.

Other AIIB members include the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Russia, Italy and South Korea, and its second annual meeting was held primarily on the theme of sustainable infrastructure.

The Jeju meeting sought to set the course for AIIB, a body established in 2014 at the behest of Beijing and considered an alternative to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which are dominated by the US and the Asian Development Bank controlled by Japan. - LANS

## Assocham seeks deferment of GST implementation



Indian Oil launches new system of fuel prices  
STAFF REPORTER



GSTN (GST Network) CEO, who has said that the network might not be fully operational by July 1, 2017.

"It has been stated that certain deficiencies in the return formats resulting in glitches in operation of GSTN were detected during a beta test done about a month back. Consequently, the return formats were completely revised, which in turn led to certain major changes in the IT software," the letter read.

"Therefore, it has been clearly stated by CEO that the return module will be ready only by end-July, which will be before August, the month of filing returns."

Apart from the GSTN issues, Assocham in the letter pointed out that many existing assessees have not entirely migrated to GST.

"System glitches during migration process raises questions as to the ability of the system to withstand huge traffic in GST. During the current phase of GST migration for existing assesses, the server was constantly under maintenance," the letter read. - IANS

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**  
**Directorate General of Training (DGT),**  
**Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rati Marg, New Delhi-110001**

Empanelment of Third Party Agencies under the Apprenticeship Act, 1961  
DGT invites application from eligible Third Party Agencies (TPAs) to promote Apprenticeship Training in industries including MSMEs. TPAs will act as a facilitator between apprentices and establishments under the Apprenticeship Act, 1961

### Eligibility for TPAs:

- Statutory/private Universities, Educational/Technical Institutions notified by Central/State Government, Technical Institutes affiliated with AICTE/Board or State Council of Technical Education, Industrial Training Institute affiliated with NCVT, Industry Associations, Training Providers accredited by NSDA/NSDC or NGOs. Apprenticeship Training is imparted both in designated trades and optional trades.
- 5 or more years of existence

The last date for the receipt of completed application is 20 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.  
For more information and to apply, log on to: [www.apprenticeship.gov.in](http://www.apprenticeship.gov.in)  
day 63101/11/0003/1718

### INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR JULY, 2017 CYCLE



Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) announces ADMISSION for its Academic Programmes for the July 2017 Academic Session.

### Admission Process

#### MASTER DEGREE ON OFFER: (Last date: 31.07.2017)

Master of Social Work	Master of Social Work (Counseling)	MA (Distance Education)
MA (Economics)	MA (Education)	MA (English)
MA (Hindi)	MA (History)	MA (Political Science)
MA (Public Administration)	MA (Tourism & Travel Management)	Master of Commerce
Master of Computer Application	Master of Library & Information Science	Master of Commerce (MA&FS)
M.Sc. (Dietics and Food Services Management)	MARD (Runa Development)	MA (Sociology)
MA (Gender and Development Studies)	MA (Translation Studies)	MA (Philosophy)
MA (Gandhi and Peace Studies)	MA (Extension & Development Studies)	Master of Commerce (BP&CG)MA (Anthropology)

#### BACHELORS DEGREE ON OFFER: (Last date: 31.07.2017)

Bachelor of Science	Bachelor of Arts
BA (Tourism Studies)	Bachelor of Commerce
Bachelor of Computer Application	Bachelor of Library & Information Sciences
Bachelor of Social Works	Bachelor of Commerce (A&F)
Bachelor of Commerce (F&T)	Bachelor of Commerce (CA&A)
Bachelor of Commerce (F&CA)	

#### Short term professional need based employment generating diploma and certificate programmes on offer for July 2017 Session

#### Post Graduate/Diploma on offer: (last date: 31.07.2017) Certificate on offer: (last date: 30.06.2017)

Disaster Management (PGDMD)	Nutrition & Health Education (DNHE)
Environment and Sustainable Development (PGDES)	Creative Writing in English (CE)
School Leadership and Management (PGDSLM)	Women's Empowerment and Development (DWED)
Educational Management and Administration (PGDEMA)	Post Graduate Certificate in Extension and Development Studies
Information Security (PGDIS)	Certified Programme in NCO Management (ONM)
Intellectual Property Rights (PGDIPR)	Certified Programme in English as a Second Language (CE)
Urban Planning and Development (PGDUPD)	Certificate in Fundamental English (Basic Level) (CFE)
Folklore and Culture Studies (PGDFCS)	Certificate in Anti Human Trafficking (CAHT)
Higher Education (PGDHE)	Certificate in Information Technology (CIT)
Journalism and Mass Communication (PGJMC)	Certificate in Guidance (CIG)
PG Diploma in Translation (PGDT)	Diploma in Tourism Studies (DTS)
	HIV and Family Education (DAFE)
	PG Certificate in Geo-Informatics (PGCGI)

Including many more on offer for more details you may contact IGNOU Regional Centre Guwahati. Between 9.30 AM to 5.00 PM

#### Bachelor Preparatory Programme (BPP): Last Date upto 31.07.2017

An opportunity to acquire Bachelor Degree from IGNOU in BA/B.Com/BTS and BSW – for all those who have attained the age of 18 years but have not passed 10+2 or its equivalent. The Bachelor Preparatory Programme (BPP) is on offer for the July 2017 Session. The B.A/B.Com Degree acquired under the non-formal stream through BPP i.e. non 10+2, is a valid degree as per UGC Regulations Published in the gazette of India vide Notification No. F.I-117/83 (CPP-II) dated 18th October 1995 for the grant of First Degree through non-formal/distance education.

#### List of Study Centre where the programmes on offer for July 2017 session

Gauhati University, SC Code: 0401.	Birhorha Mahavidyalaya, Bongaigaon, SC Code: 0404.
G C College, Silchar, SC Code: 0405.	Handique Girls College, Guwahati, SC Code: 0408.
Bajali College, Barpeta, SC Code: 0411.	Kokrajhar College, Kokrajhar, SC Code: 0414.
Dr. Shashi Bhushan Institute of Education, Hailakandi, SC Code: 0415D.	Jagirode College, Jagirode, SC Code: 0435.
Diphu Govt. College, Diphu, SC Code: 0448.	Hafong Govt. College, Hafong, SC Code: 0454.
Arya Vidyaashram College, Gopinath Nagar Guwahati, SC Code: 04177.	Gossagpur College, Gossagpur, SC Code: 04185.
Udalguri College, Udalguri, SC Code: 04186.	Cotton College, Guwahati, SC Code: 04187.
Dept of OBS and Gynae Gauhati Medical College: 0406	

davp 21298/11/0001/1718

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

## Trump cancels Obama's Cuba deal

### • Cold War-era rivals on collision course

WASHINGTON/MIAMI, June 17: Chipping away at Barack Obama's legacy, US President Donald Trump cancelled his predecessor's "one-sided" Cuba deal and put the two Cold War-era rivals on collision course again by vowed to allow dollars to prop up Raúl Castro's "military monopoly".

Obama had announced in December 2014 that he and Castro were restoring ties and less than a year later, the US Embassy in Havana was re-opened with the then US president making a historic visit to the Communist country in 2016.

Reversing the policy of pursuing a historic detente, Trump said, "Effective immediately, I am cancelling the last administration's completely one-sided deal with Cuba. I am announcing today a new policy just as I promised during the campaign."

"Our policy will seek a much better deal for the Cuban people and for the United States of America. We do not want US dollars to prop up a

military monopoly that exploits and abuses the citizens of Cuba. Our new policy begins with strictly enforcing US law," he told a cheering crowd in Miami's Little Havana, the spiritual home of the Cuban-American community.

In Havana, Cuba's government criticised the new restrictions on ties with the US that were announced by Trump, but reiterated its willingness to hold a "respectful dialogue" with Washington.

Trump's speech, which came as the president signed a directive outlining his posture toward Cuba, is the latest attempt by the Trump administration to chip away at Obama's legacy, of which the Cuba policy of starting a historic detente was a major part.

This is the third major Obama-era accomplishment that has been reversed by Trump, who first repealed his predecessor's signature healthcare law 'Obamacare' and then went on to announce US withdrawal from the landmark Paris climate deal. — PTI

## New York Times sues FBI to get notes of Comey-Trump talks

NEW YORK, June 17: The *New York Times* sued the FBI, seeking a court's help in getting the agency to turn over documents created by fired FBI Director James Comey after his conversations with President Donald Trump.

The Manhattan federal court lawsuit was filed a day after CNN sued the Justice Department in Washington, seeking the same information.

Both actions seek documents Comey told the Senate he created earlier this year immediately after meetings and conversations with the President.

Comey said he typed notes describing the conversations because he was worried Trump "might lie" later about them. He testified that he leaked information about the notes through a friend to the Times to increase pressure for the appointment of a special prosecutor after he concluded Trump's administration "defamed" him and the FBI after his May 9 firing.

Former FBI head Robert Mueller was appointed as special counsel a day after a report stemming from the notes was published.

Comey said the notes contain his recollections that Trump asked for his loyalty when they met for a January dinner and then urged him during a private meeting in the Oval Office two weeks later to drop an investigation into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. Trump has disputed both claims, saying flatly that he never asked Comey to drop the Flynn probe. — AP



French President Emmanuel Macron (R) and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy attend a joint press conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris, on Friday. — UNI

## Israeli officer killed, 3 Palestinian attackers shot dead

JERUSALEM, June 17: An Israeli policewoman was stabbed and killed in an attack outside Jerusalem's Old City and security forces shot dead three suspected Palestinian assailants, police said.

The ISIS group claimed responsibility for the fatal stabbing. However, Hamas said the three Palestinians shot dead in Jerusalem after the fatal stabbing of an Israeli policewoman belonged to local Islamist and leftist movements, rejecting the claim by the ISIS group.

The attack took place yesterday as Muslims marked the end of the third Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan, during which tens of thousands of Palestinians from east Jeru-

salem and the West Bank attended prayers at the nearby Al-Aqsa mosque compound, Islam's third-holiest site.

"Female border police

woman injured critically in attack at Damascus gate," police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld wrote in a statement.

Police said the three were killed. The policewoman was taken to hospital in critical condition and later died of her wounds. She was identified as Hadass Malka, 23, a staff sergeant major.

According to police, two perpetrators opened fire at a group of police officers who returned fire, and a third stabbed the border policewoman a short distance away before being shot. — AFP

## 7 US warship crew missing in crash off Japan

TOKYO, June 17: Seven crew on a US destroyer were missing and their commander injured today after their Navy destroyer collided with a Philippine-flagged container ship off the coast of Japan, with the badly damaged US vessel partially flooded.

Two others were hurt along with the USS *Fitzgerald*'s commanding officer Bryce Benson, the military said in a statement.

"We are currently searching for the missing individuals," a coastguard spokesman said, adding that they were acting on details supplied by the US military.

Aerial television footage showed an apparent victim on a stretcher and a Japanese rescuer being pulled up to a helicopter hovering over the huge destroyer. The coastguard has



USS Fitzgerald damaged by colliding with a Philippine-flagged merchant vessel is seen next to a tugboat (R) off Shimoda, Japan on Saturday. — UNI

sent five vessels, two planes and a team of specially trained rescue personnel to the area, the spokesman said. The 154-metre *Fitzgerald* is based in Yokosuka on the Izu peninsula and operates in the Pacific and the Sea of Japan (East Sea).

In a statement released on Twitter, US chief of naval op-

erations Admiral John Richardson said: "As more information is learned we will be sure to share it with the *Fitzgerald* families and when appropriate the public."

"All of our thoughts and concerns are with the *Fitzgerald* crew and their families."

Video by Japan's public broadcaster NHK showed heavy damage to the right side of the *Fitzgerald* just ahead of the control tower, and that the ship had taken on water.

An orange hose was visible on the ship's deck, with many crew members seen checking the damage.

NHK said the destroyer, piloted by two tugboats, was sailing back to Yokosuka.

"The USS *Fitzgerald* suffered damage on her starboard side above and below the waterline. The collision resulted in some flooding," the Navy said.

A US defence official told AFP that "sailors are dewatering" flooded areas of the ship. The *Fitzgerald* was still under its own power "although her propulsion was limited", the Navy said.

The footage meanwhile showed relatively light damage on the port bow of the ACX *Crystal*. Twenty crew members were aboard the container and no one was injured, another Japanese coastguard spokesman said, adding that the vessel was separately sailing back to a Tokyo port. — AFP

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**Transition provisions under the GST law address three key issues**

### Transition of Registration:

- Any dealer who is registered under State VAT, Central Excise, Service tax etc having a valid PAN shall be given provisional registration.
- Dealers who have been given provisional registration would be given final registration on submission of prescribed documents.

### Transition of credit of Central taxes paid on goods in stock:

- A manufacturer having an existing registration can carry forward his Cenvat credit as CGST credit. He is also entitled to take balance of Cenvat Credit on capital goods.
- A dealer who was not registered earlier or a first stage or a second stage dealer can take Cenvat credit paid on inputs, if he has invoice or any other document such as Credit Transfer Document evidencing payment of Central Excise duty on the stock.
- Credit Transfer Document can be issued by a manufacturer for goods having value of more than Rs 25000/- per item, bearing the brand name of the manufacturer, if verifiable inventory and supply chain records are maintained.
- A dealer who was not registered earlier, can take input tax credit of 60% of CGST paid where the CGST rate is 9% or more and 40% of CGST paid in other cases for a period of six months, on stocks which were not unconditionally exempted earlier but no Cenvat paying document is available.

### Transition of credit of State taxes paid on goods in stock:

- A dealer can claim balance input credit of VAT reflected in the return subject to submission of prescribed information. He is also entitled to take balance of VAT credit on capital goods.
- A dealer who was not registered earlier can claim credit of VAT paid on stock at hand on the basis of purchase invoice of goods in stock.
- Credit in relation to stock received in inter-State sale is subject to submission of information regarding value and serial number of forms E, H etc.

### Credit on goods in transit:

- Credit of both Central and State taxes paid on goods in transit on the day of the transition i.e. 01-07-2017 is available on the basis of duty paying documents.

### Transition without double taxation:

- No tax is payable on supply of goods and services under GST to the extent the tax was paid on such supply under the earlier law.
- No tax is required to be paid on return of goods within six month where taxes were paid and goods removed prior to 01-07-2017.
- No tax shall be payable on return of goods from job-worker to the principal within six months, where the goods were sent for job work before 01-07-2017.



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# Consistent India take on confident Pakistan

LONDON, June 17: India's remarkable consistency will be up against Pakistan's legendary volatility when the fierce rivals clash in what is expected to be an exciting finale to the ICC Champions Trophy, here tomorrow.

The often tense political relations between the neighbouring nations add colour to the bitter yet intense rivalry, which has nowadays been confined only to global events due to the Indian government's refusal to allow bilateral contests.

Defending champions India had got the better of the rivals in the league stage of the ongoing tournament. And captain Virat Kohli has already decided that nothing extra is needed to get the same result despite the turnaround by Sarfraz Ahmed's men since then.

It is nonetheless a battle of attrition, where one needs to hold the nerve till the very end.

The last ball six hit by Javed Miandad of Chetan Shama vaulted a generation of Indian fans till Sachin Tendulkar returned the favour during that epic knock at the Centurion.

In between, Ajay Jadeja,

Venkatesh Prasad, Hrishikesh Kanikar or Joginder Sharma have all played their bit roles in winning big matches thereby overcoming the Sharjah Syndrome that affected the Indian teams of mid 80's and early 90's.

Whether it's New Delhi or Islamabad, Karachi or Kolkata, this is one match that fans would hate to see their team lose.

For the 22 players in question, it's just a game of cricket. But for millions following them, it's way beyond that and is fuelled more by comments from former stars like Virender Sehwag or Rashid Latif.

There could be unabashed love and unwarranted criticism in equal measures depending on which side one ends up.

Even skipper Virat Kohli would tell one and all that they are "not here to make statements".

On pure cricketing logic, Pakistan are no match for Virat Kohli's men, who have some of the best exponents of limited overs cricket.

But just like in life, at times sporting realities defy logic which is exactly the reason why Sarfraz Ahmed's team can't be ruled out.



Indian captain Virat Kohli (R) and his Pakistani counterpart Sarfraz Ahmed hold the trophy on the eve of the ICC Champions Trophy Final at The Oval in London, on Saturday.

## Golden opportunity for Pakistan: Imran

KARACHI, June 17: Former World Cup winning captain Imran Khan said Pakistan have got a golden opportunity in the Champions Trophy final to avenge its humiliating defeat to India in their first match of the tournament.

"I think we have got a great chance to restore our pride in the final because of the way we lost the first match to India," he said on "Samaa" television channel.

"It was humiliating how badly we lost that match and we can turn things around now," he added.

Imran regarded as Pakistan's best captain after he led them to the 1992 World Cup title said Pakistan needed to learn from the mistakes it made against India in that match.

Imran also advised Pakistan captain, Sarfraz Ahmed to avoid putting India into bat first if he won the toss in the final.

"India have a very good batting line-up and if they put up a big total it will bring pressure on us. The strategy of fielding first against other teams has worked well for Sarfraz against other teams as the spinners throttled the opposition in the middle overs and Hassan Ali bowled really impressively," he said. - PTI

## My name was enough: Sehwag

NEW DELHI, June 17: Rubbishing reports that he sent a two-line resume to apply for the post of India coach, former cricketer Virender Sehwag said that if he had to send such a short application, his name itself would have been "enough."

Sehwag, who is popular on social networking site Twitter for his witty remarks, said he sent a CV which was fully compliant with the BCCI norms.

"I would be happy to get that two line CV from the media soon. If I had to send a two line resume, my name was enough," Sehwag said in an interview with "UCWeb".

The aggressive former batsman revealed that he rates Sourav Ganguly as the best Indian captain. He also spoke on the importance of Sachin Tendulkar's guidance in his progress as a cricketer.

"Sourav taught me how to keep patience and is my all-time favourite Captain. On the other hand, Sachin gave me confidence, broke my superstitions and playing with him was like playing with the wall, you could play without any tension and hit boundaries freely," he remarked. - PTI

## India start favourites in Champions Trophy final

Who would have thought that after the drubbing they received from India in their first match of the group stage, Pakistan would be contesting the finals of the ICC Champions Trophy. That they are due to some brilliant determination from Sarfraz Ahmed and greater

showing Babar Azam has given glimpses of his precocious talent. There is the experienced Shoaib Malik and then there is Sarfraz Ahmed who is the one who holds the batton together. His calm cool approach in that nervous run chase against Lanka was what got Paki-

Ali bowling well too.

India's openers have been in great touch and Rohit Sharma's hundred was terrific. Shikhar Dhawan loves the ICC events and with Kohli getting a nice long outing in the middle of the semis, the rest of the batsmen have hardly had a hit.

It's the fielding again that

has to get sharper and Kohli must look to get his more athletic fielders in the deep where they can save the boundaries. India probably

won't make a change to their

line-up and go with the same eleven but if the

morning is cloudy and overcast they may think of including another seamer.

India start favourites but the big occasion makes some players raise the level of their game while others get cowed down by it. We shall see at The Oval which team lifts not just its game but also the trophy. - PMG

Gambhir banned for 4 first class matches

NEW DELHI, June 17: Veteran Indian opener Gautam Gambhir was today handed a suspended four-match ban from first-class cricket for his ugly confrontation with Delhi Ranji and Bhabak this year.

An enquiry committee

constituted by Delhi and Districts Cricket Association administrator Justice Vikramjit Sen, comprising chairman Madal, Rajendra R Rathore and advocate Soni Singh found Gambhir guilty and termed the batsman's behaviour as "serious" and "inappropriate".

However, Sen decided to "suspend the punishment for a period of two years ending on 30th March 2019" conditional on Gambhir accepting this order and not committing any similar transgressions.

"Having learnt of an incident, which occurred when the team from DDCA was in Orissa, in which an alteration between Gautam Gambhir and Bhabak Pilai had transpired, I am satisfied to a complaint received from Pilai, I met both persons on 10th March 2017. The matter could not be amicably and satisfactorily resolved," Sen said in a statement. - PTI

## Russia, Brazil in talks for pre-World Cup friendly

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 17: Brazil and Russia are close to confirming an international friendly ahead of next year's FIFA World Cup, according to Russia's top football official.

Vitaly Mutko, the president of the Russian Football Union, said talks with the Brazilian Football Confederation were at an advanced stage, according to the *Reforma Sp S Paulo* newspaper, reports Xinhua news agency.

"We really want it to happen and so does Brazil, so it's very possible," Mutko was quoted as saying. "But I can't confirm it yet. We are talking about it."

The game will take place in November or March, the report said. Russia coach Stanislav Cherchesov said he would welcome a duel with the five-time World Cup winners.

"When I'm asked I say that I want to play against Brazil," Cherchesov said. "It would be an honour and the experience would be very useful." - IANS

## Liverpool football clubs to bid for CWG

LONDON, June 17 (IANS) A new waterfront home for English football club Everton FC is the centrepiece of a bid by Liverpool to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games, officials in the city have announced.

City hall bosses on Friday unveiled ambitious plans costing around \$900 million to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games, still seeking a venue after original hosts, Durban, pulled out, reports Xinhua news agency.

Central to Liverpool's bid to stage the multi-sport Games is the riverside regeneration of the Bramley-Moore Dock – just a few kilometres north of the city centre – which would be home to Everton Football Club's new stadium.

The city is also proposing to host swimming at a new 50 metre pool within the city centre dock system, that would remain. There will be facilities for triple jump, long jump and pole vault on the dockside by Mann Island in the city centre. - IANS

Aditi eyes best finish of season

GRAND RAPIDS (Michigan), June 17: Aditi Ashok put herself in a perfect position to make a bid for her first Top-10 finish or even better as she shot a second straight three-under 68 in the Meijer LPGA Classic here.

Aditi is now six-under through

36 holes and tied 14th but six shots

behind a solid Brooke Henderson,

stan in the semis.

He also impressed with his captaincy, making clever bowling changes and the way

Pakistan's spinners have struggled the opposition batsmen in the middle overs has been

terrific. With Mohd Amir expected to be back

for the final the new ball attack is as always a

formidable one with Junaid Khan and Hasan

Waqar Zaman.

It's the fielding again that

has to get sharper and Kohli must

look to get his more athletic

fielders in the deep where they can

save the boundaries. India probably

won't make a change to their

line-up and go with the same eleven but if the

morning is cloudy and overcast they may think of including another seamer.

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Aditi is now six-under through

36 holes and tied 14th but six shots

behind a solid Brooke Henderson,

who rounds off 63 and 67 is 12-

under and in clear lead.

The Indian, who was the Rookie

of the Year on Ladies European Tour

after wins of the Hero Women's

India Open, has been finding her feet

slowly but steadily on the world's

biggest golf tour for women.

Starting on the 10th, she grabbed a

birdie on the par-five 11th and

then played 10 straight pars before

getting her second birdie on the

par-three fourth. - PTI

## Ashwin hurts his knee during practice session

LONDON, June 17: India's premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin today hurt his right knee during the fielding session ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy final against Pakistan.

However it might not be very serious as after a 30-minute break, he was back to bowling in the nets.

Ashwin along with other senior players like skipper Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan were going through their customary fielding drills when the burly wicketkeeper got hurt.

Fielding coach R Sridhar was seen giving catches and Ashwin, while taking one, fell with his whole weight on his right knee.

He was seen in considerable pain and had to cut short his fielding practice. Physio

Patrice Farhart rushed to him as he was seen hobbling. Ice pack was applied on his right knee as it was given a break.

After around half an hour, Farhart made Ashwin do some short strides before he was back to bowling in the nets wearing a knee cap. He had an extended session and didn't look in much discomfort.

It was usual session for the Indian team with chief coach Anil Kumble spending quality time with Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah, who were seen bowling deliveries in the blockhole.

Kumble kept a black marker just outside the crease and the two pacers were told to hit spot.

Whenever Hardik pitched it in the right area, Kumble was seen applauding his effort. - PTI

## India drub Canada 3-0 in HWL Semi-Final

LONDON, June 17: Continuing with their impressive run, India blanked Canada 3-0 to register their second consecutive win at the Hockey World League Semi-Final here today.

India scored three field goals

against Canada in the first goal in the fifth minute when Sunil scored from a narrowest of angles after his initial shot was saved by Carter.

India doubled their lead five minutes later through Akashdeep who neatly deflected in a Ramandeep pass.

India continued in the same vein in the second quarter and increased their lead in the 18th minute through Sardar who pushed home from a Ramandeep pass.

India earned their second penalty corner in the 25th minute but Jagjeet Singh Khular's try went wide of the target as Roelant Oltmans' men went into the breather with a comfortable 3-0 lead. - PTI

## SU DO KU

12	5	7		11	2
9	10		1	6	2
2					10
7	4		11		12 5
			9 6		3 8
4	2		10	9	
11	6	7		4	2
			8		
9	12	4			3
			12	6	5
5		11	8	10	4

### 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 6x6 grid divided into 4x4 boxes. The numbers 1 to 12 must be placed in such a manner that every row, every column and every 4x4 box accommodates the digits 1 to 12 without repeating any.

## Russia set for World Cup stress test in Confed Cup

SAINT PETERSBURG, June 17: Russia faces a stress test of its readiness to host the 2018 World Cup as the Confederations Cup kicks off to day amid concerns over homophobia and security.

World Cup holders Germany and the FIFA confederations champion compete in the eight-team tournament which will put Russia's ability to handle thousands of visiting and home fans under the spotlight.

Security will be a concern over the two weeks in stadiums which have been dogged by construction delays and structural problems.

Next year's World Cup will take place in 12 stadiums spread across 11 cities, including St. Petersburg, Kazan and Sochi, the host cities for the Confederations Cup.

President Vladimir Putin will at-

"The Confederations Cup is the champions' tournament. And it's a great football occasion," added Mutko, who is also president of the Russian Football Union.

FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura said Russia's readiness had "surpassed expectations".

"We have visited Moscow and the St. Petersburg stadium and I can say that every technical detail there has been fine-tuned and we can expect one of the best competitions ever here in Russia," said the Senegalese FA official.

"The Confederations Cup is the main operational milestone on the way to the next year's World Cup. It is the experience and knowledge that will be of enormous value for 2018." The other two Group A teams include European champions Portugal spearheaded by the global superstar

Cristiano Ronaldo and the most decorated CONCACAF team Mexico.

Heavyweights Germany will clash with Asian Cup champions Australia, Africa Cup of Nations winners Chile in Group B. And Samoura said that 480,000 tickets had already been sold – 60 percent of the overall total.

"As much as 44,000 tickets have been sold for the opening match in St. Petersburg with 24 hours remaining before the kick-off," Samoura added.

"And the match between Russia and Portugal has been sold out several weeks ago." The issue of racism against fans and homophobia is also a concern after ugly clashes between Russian and English fans at Euro 2016 in Marseille last summer.

Russian authorities insist there is almost no chance of a repeat as police

have cracked down on suspected troublemakers with a barrage of searches, detentions and criminal probes.

Some 191 fans have been fined on a blacklist barring them from games and legislation introduced to toughen up punishments and deport foreign hooligans.

"The clashes between the fans in Marseille last year were ugly," Alexei Sorokin, the CEO of Russia's organizing committee, told AFP in a recent interview.

"But Russia's authorities have

worked out a comprehensive security concept that will act during the major football tournaments here to avoid any chance of the repetition of such kind of events."

"We're confident that the Confederations and World Cup in Russia will be completely safe." - AFP



## 2 WOMEN PLUS

**Indrani Raimeydi** on a feisty survivor from the *chars*.

# The Assam Tribune Sunday

**T**raditional Indian music fills a two-room yoga studio. Dozens of coloured mats rest on the floor, facing a shrine. On the wall is a framed picture of Tirumalai Krishnamacharya, the father of modern yoga, near a statue of the Hindu God Ganesh.

In USA's Midwestern town of Columbia, Missouri, the teacher at Alley Cat Yoga calls out positions—Tree Pose, Child Pose, Warrior Pose—as students bend their bodies in rhythmic motions to quiet their frazzled minds. Class ends with a final unison, "Namaste!"

More than 8,000 miles away, a handful of men and women roll out mats inside the Mystic Yoga Café in Kolkata, India. Here, the room resembles a dance studio, with simple décor and full-length mirrors covering the front wall. There is no music, no special chanting. Stifling temperatures don't deter participants, who attend mostly for fitness or weight loss.

These disparate scenes may be the opposite of what many expect. While *yoga* in the United States are increasingly reconnecting with *yoga*'s spiritual roots, many in India are influenced by America's commercialised approach to the practice and are becoming more consumer-focussed themselves. *Yoga* reflects a reality of globalisation—the exchange of ideas that shapes cultures across our connected world, now more than ever.

Such exchanges help drive a booming *yoga* industry. More than 36 million US practitioners spent \$2.5 billion on *yoga* classes in 2016, according to the *Yoga in America Study* conducted by the *Yoga Journal* and *Yoga Alliance*. In the St. Louis Metro area alone, there are nearly 50 *yoga* studios offering classes of all kinds.

### East meets West

The historical origins of *yoga* are steeped in ancient Indian philosophy designed to cultivate greater self-awareness, higher levels of consciousness and inner peace.

*Yoga* gained popularity in America in the 1960s, when the Beatles used traditional Indian instruments on their album *Help!*, stoking interest in eastern culture among westerners.

Over the next several decades, *yoga* spread across the United States, gaining an American flavour along the way. By the 1980s and '90s, the practice was more consumer-focussed than traditional Indian *yoga*. Americans increasingly used it as an exercise to stay healthy and active, according to the *Yoga in America* study.

In 2016, the study reported that Americans spent \$16 billion on *yoga* classes, clothing and accessories. Businesses profited from consumers' interest in *yoga*—perhaps none more so than *yoga* retail giant Lululemon, which charges up to \$128 for a pair of *yoga* pants.

Some *yoga* instructors say this consumerism can be a good thing.

"If someone comes to the mat, they're going to evolve and understand the therapeutic benefits of it."

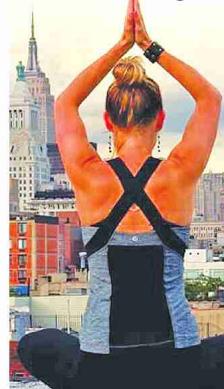
### Yearning for meaning

Yet, many US *yoga* practitioners are looking to the past to recapture that centuries-old spirituality at the core of the practice.



**Yoga reflects a reality of globalisation – the exchange of ideas that shapes cultures across our connected world, writes JAIME DUNAWAY, EMMA BEYER and LIZA GOMES.**

## The yoga way



"One huge aspect of *yoga* is breathing and meditating, and I do that as much as possible throughout my week," said University of Missouri senior Lucille Sherman, who has been practising *yoga* since childhood. "*Yoga* helps me centre myself. I'm a better person when I practise."

amidst deplorable conditions for days and even months, only to meet their basic needs.

But, over the past few decades, with the growing population and the increase in demand for non-vegetarian food, it has been observed that the domestic production of fish has not been able to meet the market demands. Consequently, fish produced in other states have made their way into the markets of Assam. Eventually, the marlins in almost all the places from Sadiya in the East to Dhubri in the West, throughout the span



## Something fishy

**ARINDAM BORDOLOI** investigates why fishing is at a low ebb in Assam.

of Assam have been flooded by the cheap-priced fish from other states. Dipped in ice and transported through several days, these bulk quantity of fish are received in an unhygienic condition, often in a decaying state. Recently, there have been reports of using formaldehyde in ice for preventing decay while transporting. So one can easily evaluate the threat to public health by consumption of these readily available fish.

Now the very first question that comes to mind is that, what went wrong with domestic fish production? Despite having such huge potential for pisciculture with so many great rivers and other

## 3 MY SPACE

**Nabanita B. Saikia** describes a father's loving presence.

## 4 IN BLACK AND WHITE

**Jahnavi Barua** celebrates the circle of life.



### UP CLOSE

**Sanjoy Ray**

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## Bridge of understanding

**Assistant High Commissioner KAZI MUNTASHIR MURSHED discusses the challenges of his new posting.**

**W**ith neighbouring country Bangladesh opening the office of the Assistant High Commission at Guwahati, in March this year, its Assistant High Commissioner Kazi Muntashir Murshed, one of the youngest diplomats to be made in-charge of a Mission, speaks on issues ranging from bilateral ties, trade opportunities, to the ambitious Guwahati-Dhaka bus service and the pressing concern of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Assam.

*It has been more than two months since you set up your office at Guwahati. How has the response been so far?*

We are surely getting a positive vibe, receiving support from the Government of Assam and the people of the North-East, in general. We have already issued more than 300 visas.

*The stint in India (Guwahati) would be different from your earlier assignments. What do you think would be the challenges?*

My previous assignments were in Switzerland and Thailand. But unlike my previous assignments, here I have had to start from scratch and that too in a city where there are no diplomatic missions.

Initially, it was a big challenge to make people understand the work of the Mission. Apart from the logistic issues, substantively, this assignment is challenging as I am heading a Mission for the first time, so responsibility is huge and at the same time carrying the Bangladeshi flag in India is a rewarding experience.

*What are the aspects that top your agenda here at this point of time? How do you think your office would benefit from the bilateral ties?*

Given the trade deficit Bangladesh has with India, enhancing bilateral trade, especially to facilitate export of Bangladeshi products and services to the North-East, would be one of the priorities. Increasing people-to-people contact, working on better connectivity between Bangladesh and North-East India would be my area of priorities.

The existing excellent bilateral relations between our two countries would help us address the critical will of the States under the jurisdiction of the Assistant High Commission.

*The much-talked-about Guwahati-Dhaka-Guwahati bus service is still to become a reality? Where does the problem lie? Have you set any deadline?*

Yes, it is unfortunate that the much-needed Guwahati-Dhaka-Guwahati bus service is still not there, even after it was decided at the highest political level of the two friendly countries. Perhaps, the implementation got hampered due to the absence of a Bangladesh diplomatic Mission in Guwahati. As you would agree, if someone goes to Agartala or Kolkata for their visa, they would not come back to take a bus from Guwahati. Now Bangladesh has a Mission here and I have figured out some other impediments.

The last 10/15 kilometres on the Indian side are narrow for a luxury bus and the bridge near Dawki border is not in a good condition. Also, some 10/15 kilometres on the Bangladeshi side towards Tamabil needs to be repaired. We got to address these issues to make the bus service a reality. I do not want to set any deadline at this stage.

*The issue of illegal infiltration from Bangladesh has been a pressing one for India, especially Assam. How is your government looking at it?*

I have read the issue in the newspapers and since it relates to Bangladesh, we are following the matter. So far, the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Guwahati has not received any sort of communication from the Government of Assam and to my knowledge, our High Commission in New Delhi too has not received any communication. I understand this is a serious issue. But again, I believe this is an internal matter of the Government of India and as a diplomat, I will not comment on the internal matters of the host government.

*Would you take up the issue of deportation of the Bangladeshi nationals languishing in Assam jails?*

I have already initiated the process. I have sought consular access from the Indian Government to visit different jails in Assam. In the meantime, I have collected a partial list of self-claimed Bangladeshi nationals whose jail terms are over and still imprisoned in some jails in Assam. The list has already been sent to the authorities in Bangladesh. Once verified as Bangladeshi nationals, I will take necessary steps to repatriate them to Bangladesh.

*Your consular jurisdiction is spread over six states of NE India. How do you plan to leverage the ties among the six states?*

North-East India is a big region. I am planning to travel to each of the six states under this Mission's consular jurisdiction and will organise Consular Camps in these states and issue visas on the spot. We want the people of the region to visit Bangladesh and know more about our country.

## WOMEN PLUS

**Indrani Raimedhi**  
indrani.raimedhi@gmail.com

## Return of the native

**REHNA SULTANA** is eager to give back to her community.

**R**ehna Sultan is fast asleep in her hostel room at Gauhati University. It is past midnight and she has been studying for long hours, her eyes closed long over an open book. As she floats in the tide of sleep, a dream comes to her, of golden sands and green fields swept over by the river,



cries and confusion, the mud huts abandoned in haste, people, cows and chickens crowding into bobbing boats, along with their pitiful possessions. For weeks after this, life will continue precariously on the boats. Gruel will be cooked over smoky stoves, clothes will wet and dry on the bodies they are worn in. There will be fever, chills, diarrhea. Babies will be born under the open sky, on the boat, the screens of women in labour merging with the cries of the birds flying overhead. Thus, they will hunker down on the edge of existence, the forgotten river people of the *char*.

You can take a girl out of the *char chapori*, the riverine plains flanking the Brahmaputra, but you can't take the *char* out of her. In a feat of unimaginable proportions for a minority community and that too from a large time forgot, Rehna has pushed herself through school, college, degree, and is shortly poised to get her doctorate degree. Her thesis is on the *Folk Speech of Char Chapori's Muslim people*. And that's not all. She has penned her first book on the theme *Char Chapori Loka Jivan Aaru*

My life's work will be to highlight these issues and bring succour to them.

From mid-May to mid-October, boats are our only lifeline."

Rehna refutes that the *char chapori* areas are the hide-outs of

illegal migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh. "There is no family planning of any kind practised by couples here. A woman gives birth to eight or nine children. When these children grow up, they build adjacent houses and that is how a settlement expands."

Haunted by malevolent forces of Nature that displace them in a never-ending cycle, the people too display signs of instability, of enraged outbursts and sudden cruelty. Rehna says sadly – "This is most evident in the way our women are treated. They are considered no better than beasts, slapped, hit and thrashed for the most flimsy of reasons – like adding a bit more salt to the curry. When a woman is thrashed by her husband, nobody comes to help her. It is her fate. And nobody questions it. This always made me furious. And as the years flew by, I was determined not to be married off young like my sisters but to leave the *char chapori*, my village Sontali in Boko Circle, and do something meaningful with life. Now I know what it is. Our *charaparis* are geographically alienated from the mainland and psychologically detached from the mainstream population of Assam. I have gone into interior *char* areas to gather materials on the community and the problems they face. I was met with suspicion and hostility, as I was thought of someone going to investigate citizen issues. There are some officials who blackmail these people regarding this and they fearfully pay up. My findings speak for themselves – there are large families in a society where polygamy is common. Resources are scarce. There is no access to drinking water, electricity, education and healthcare. Quacks rule the roost. Every year countless women die of childbirth complications. My life's work will be to highlight these issues and bring succour to them."

This feisty daughter of the liberal Murjana Haque and Sulia Begum is all set to make a difference. And her time starts now.

## ALPHALIFE

**Rashmi Narzary**  
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## Needle fiddle

**Needles have many uses in our lives and here are some of them.**

Never ever fiddle  
With the unassuming Needle  
If to pricks you be gullible  
And your thumb ain't stable,  
Then leave alone the needle...!

**A**h, Needle! Great leveler! I have seen the puny and the mighty, the bald and the beautify, in wealth or in poverty, all crumpled and wait with nervousness, in anticipation of the jab from the medicine man's Needle. The mighty braved the sword, yet dissolved in front of that Needle thinner than maybe a hair upon his beard. Puny, however, is always in fear of everything. So that explains. Beauty, however, had the needle pricking her ears, her eyebrows, her nose, her naval and her...! She faltered each time and yet she got tempted and pricked, for beauty's sake, again and again. The Seamstress embroidered dainty daisies along the frills of her gown with the most minuscule of needles but she wore that unmistakable thimble upon her thumb. For she's scared too. If her thumb isn't stable, what if it pricks?

Ah, Needle! Great leveler! Go not by its looks. With just an eye and that too on its behind, nothing else under the sun probably is as simple a machine as this. And yet, look at the power it has at the tip of its existence. And then, at its behind.

**The medicine man's Needle:** This perhaps is the most fear-invoking Needle. The prick itself just jabs and gets done within less than a minute but it is the anticipation of the prick that drains all the blood away from the face. And if the eyes happen to follow every move of the nurse when she readies the syringe, the weak heart beware! This is, however, the prick that only pushes medicine into your body. There is the worse kind of prick that draws blood out of your body. My! Have I seen robust people shut their eyes tight, pull up their faces and turn the other way when the Needle is doing its job! And therein lies the nurse's skill, her gentleness with the Needle. Some have nimble fingers but all don't. That's when pricks actually do hurt and invoke further fear into the hearts of those prone to the prick. But if you need to live all hale and hearty, get that prick. Wince, wail, weep, your whatever, yet bear.

**The beautician's Needle:** Be it for a tattoo or a ring, this prick, if you so panic, can be happily avoided. But amazing how this is the kind of prick that draws you to it despite assessing the pain that comes with the prick. Because at the end of it all, you have something to show off. The brave and the daring go for this prick, doesn't matter if the assistant's fingers are nimble or not. The jab and its results matter, the pain doesn't. Naval ring, anyone?

**The seamstress's Needle:** This needle is meticulously sent in and out and out again through predestined routes upon a fabric by the seamstress's fingers. She's skilled and yet she often gets the fabric stitched with the skirt she is wearing. And she pricks herself often too. Just maybe because her thimble thumb isn't stable. Seamstress, mind your jab there!

**The substance abuser's Needle:** God forbid, painful or painless, gentle fingers or not, leave alone that Needle.!

If nothing works and you would still like to run away from the needle, go stack it in a haystack. I once did. Two days later, as the sun shone down on the farm and upon the cow's dung, something shimmered there...

## The fine point

- Make sure that the needle is sterilised.
- Make doubly sure the fingers are clean too, at the tips under the nail and all along.
- However gorgeous the nurse or drool-some the tattoo artist is, flit not while the job is being done. Distractions, you see, can be disastrous.

## RELATIONSHIP

**Rabin Prasad Kalita**

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"Enjoy the little things.  
For one day you may look back  
And realise they were the big things."  
— Robert Brault

**M**ost parents expect a lot from their children – especially when it comes to doing well in exams. This is certainly not a bad anticipation, but many a time, it is seen that children succumb to pressure. May be we are not exhibiting our expectations in the right way. Exam-related stress is common among children. The anxiety of failure may have negative effects on their academic life.

Some parents try to disconnect the internet, so that their children can concentrate on their studies and get better results. Moreover, we have a habit of scheduling study time for our children which suits us, but this is not right. Students should be given the liberty to study at their own convenient time, instead of being forced. Instead of hovering over them like a helicopter, parents should give them enough space and

## Rearing with love



Children need to be raised with sensitivity

emotional support. Some students even end up falling prey to alcoholism, smoking or drug abuse. At this critical time of their study, parents should abstain from leaving their children alone at home and keep motivating them from time to time, which will definitely boost their confidence levels. A student should not be judged based on the marks obtained in any exam. It is not right to value your child on the basis of academic achievement. It is the biggest mistake, making examinations a matter of life and death. There are other ways to find fulfillment in one's life. Parents must make sure not to lower the self-esteem of the child.

It is also possible that children may go wrong that does not suit them, but destroying their choices brutally will make them feel rejected and disappointed. Parents must find out a way so that the children do not get dis-

heartened. One has to respect the feelings and choices of kids which will generate mutual respect between children and parents. Involve them in the decision-making process by inviting their opinions and suggestions about all that is related to them, which will make them feel their importance at home. Ignored, one would betray and become disrespectful towards parents or grow up as social misfits. Parents must know that punishment is the negative and destructive method of conditioning the behaviour of kids. Punishment means blame, shame and humiliation for children.

Children are the essential link of the human race and leaders of tomorrow. Parents must not lose this integral part of time to nurture relationships. Well, the parents, have to find an occasion to involve ourselves in every family activity like listening to each other, eating together, gardening, playing together, walking etc. It would definitely enhance love and affection. Spending quality time in these small activities would bring them closer and feel affectionate to each other.

### Coconut panna cotta

#### Ingredients:

- Thick coconut milk ..... 2 cups
- Thick cream ..... 1 cup
- Caneulated sugar ..... 3/4 cup
- Uddhavoured gelatin ..... 2 tsps
- Coconuts or vanilla essence ..... 1 tsp
- Salt ..... a pinch
- Coconut (grated) ..... to decorate
- Mangoes, to serve ..... 2

**Method:**  
Grease six ramekins or dessert moulds with unflavoured oil.

Pour the coconut milk, cream, sugar and a pinch of salt into a saucepan.

Cook, stirring, over medium heat until the sugar dissolves.

Remove from heat and whisk in the gelatin and stir until completely dissolved.

Add the coconut or vanilla essence and mix well.



Allow the mixture to cool slightly and then pour into the prepared dessert moulds and place in the fridge for at least four hours or until firm.

Dip each mould into boiling water for a moment to loosen the panna cotta, and then turn onto a serving plate.

Arrange the sliced mango beside each panna cotta and scatter with chopped mango and grated coconut.



**Sharmin Pasha** is a food writer currently based in Dubai, UAE, where she teaches privately-organised cooking lessons on different techniques of cooking. She also hosts an informative page featuring Assamese recipes on the world and to preserve ethnic recipes for generations to come.

### Cottage cheese and potato bake

#### Ingredients:

- Potatoes (large) ..... 2
- Cottage cheese (paneer/cubes) ..... 1 cup
- Milk ..... 1/2 cup
- Mayonnaise ..... 1/2 cup
- Cream ..... 1/2 cup
- Cheddar cheese (grated) ..... 1 cup
- Mozzarella or strong cheddar ..... 1/2 cup
- Spring onions (chopped) ..... 3 tsps
- Green chilli (minced) ..... 1/2 tsp
- Butter ..... 2 tsps
- Salt ..... to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper ..... a pinch

#### Method:

Preheat the oven to 180° C. Peel the potatoes and cut them into small cubes.

Place the potatoes and salt in a pot of water and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and cook until the potatoes are tender.

Heat a frying pan over medium heat. Add the spring onions and green chillies and sauté briefly.

In the same pan, add cottage cheese cubes and fry the cottage cheese for a minute on



each side, or until the cubes are coloured.

Remove the cottage cheese and soak in boiling water for 15 minutes.

In a baking dish, add the milk, mayonnaise, cream, salt, pepper and a cup of the cheese and mix until thoroughly combined. Drain the potatoes and cottage cheese and add to the dish.

Mix in the sautéed spring onions and green chillies.

Cover the dish with an aluminum foil and bake for 30 minutes or until the potatoes are cooked through.

Remove the foil, add the remaining cheese and cheddar cheese. Bake further 15 minutes or until cheese is golden.

Serve hot with garlic rolls or bread.

## FICTION

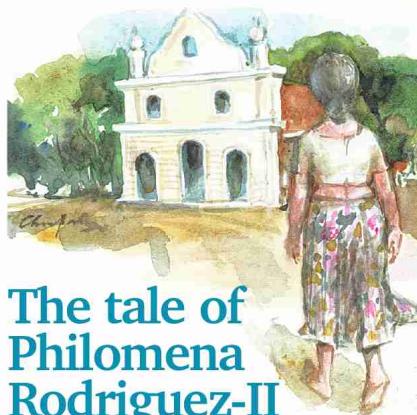
**Dr. Bajayanta Saharia**  
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**I**t was in the December of 1961, two years after the arrival of Philomena and Alfonso that "Operation Vijay" was planned in the war rooms of the Ministry of Defence in New Delhi to be launched in Goa. Prime Minister Salazar of Portugal promised to fight till the last man and his army was to be reinforced by soldiers from Angola and Mozambique. The ground reality was, however, realised by the Governor General Manuel Vassalo da Silva. He ordered the European civilians to be evacuated by a ship from Timor that docked in Mormugao, en route to Lisbon. Despite Alfonso's persuasion, Philomena refused to leave him alone in India. Moreover, the ship was overloaded, with passengers even occupying the toilets. Alfonso asked his commanding officer for permission to take his wife along with him to the Cabo de Rama Fort where he was transferred. The fort was to be defended at any cost. It was towards the end of 1961 that Alfonso entered the fort for the first time to oversee an artillery division. He and Philomena were allotted a small room. She spent her time overseeing the common kitchen and praying in the Santo Antonio church.

Operation Vijay was launched on December 16, 1961. Indian forces attacked the Portuguese garrisons from three fronts. There were disasters in Panjim and Mormugao ports. Indian Air Force raided Dabolim Airport; its runway destroyed by the Caravans and the Hunters. Reinforcement was required for the defence of Mormugao port.

In the early morning of December 17, Philomena waved at her husband Alfonso as he boarded a truck that made its way to Mormugao with other soldiers. The Portuguese army was hopelessly outnumbered by the advancing Indian columns. Twenty-four hours later Governor General Vassalo da Silva signed the instrument of surrender. It was a one-sided battle. Thirty Portuguese and a few Indian soldiers were killed, while scores were injured. Alfonso Luis Rodriguez, putting up a brave fight, was shot in his chest twice and once in his thigh. The profuse bleeding and barely breathing Alfonso was taken to an army hospital.

The news of the surrender reached the inmates of the Cabo de Rama Fort. Philomena knelt at the altar of Jesus Cristo and sat on the pews all day long praying



## The tale of Philomena Rodriguez-II

for the safe return of her husband. In between, she would wait at the gate for a truck carrying Alfonso to arrive. Every minute seemed like an hour and every hour a day. Finally, one day, after many weeks, an Indian army truck arrived carrying the mortal remains of Alfonso. "Sorry, young lady. Your brave husband died of infection that had spread all over his body. We tried our best," said a young Indian army doctor. Philomena wept like never before. Her world was shattered.

Philomena was given shelter in a small dwelling in a village adjoining the Cabo de Rama fort. Every morning, she would go to the Santo Antonio church to clean it and pray. One such day, years later, she developed an uncontrollable bout of cough. Her phlegm contained fresh blood. Gradually she lost weight and seemed to age unnaturally. Every evening she had fever. Cabo de Rama Fort was, in the meantime, taken over by the government of India.

"Do you know a lady by the name of Philomena Rodriguez?" I asked him. "Philomena, who?" he slurred back. I gestured to a water to refill his glass.

He seemed very happy. "I am Roberto Marquez da Silva; I have been stay-

ing in that house for a decade-and-a-half."

He informed, pointing to a small dwelling across the road.

"I am referring to the old lady who tends and stays in the church in the fort," I asked again.

There was a look of surprise on his face. "Sir, did you drink *feni* before going into the fort?"

I shook my head. "Mr. Da Silva, I met an old lady there in the church who claimed that she lived there. A woman with Portuguese looks," I implored.

"Sir, drugs are quite common amongst

tourists visiting Goa. Did you by any chance...?"

I cut him short by shouting "Bloody hell, Mr. Silva, I am a doctor and I don't take drugs. Tell me about that lady if your dimwitted brain knows anything."

I blew my lid.

Silva got scared. To sozzle him further and extract some information I ordered another glass of *feni* for him. After gulping down the glass and belching out some alcoholic air, he said.

"Dear doctor, there is no such lady. The church is closed most of the time. It is maintained by those caretakers who you saw sleeping. A priest comes once every Sunday morning for the prayers and that is it. Period."

"You mean to say I was hallucinating all this time."

"Probably," he said, got up and walked out without paying his bill.

I was pretty perplexed. "I am going out to have a smoke. I may take some time. The driver is here so don't worry. I reassured my wife and went out into the drizzle towards the fort.

At the gate of the fort I met a Goan caretaker.

"Do you know if there is a certain Philomena Rodriguez who stays in the fort? The church to be precise?" I asked him.

"I have been working here for 10 years now and have never heard of her. Sir. No one stays in the fort or the church."

My adrenaline shot up and my heart was thumping. I lit my usual Benson and Hedges cigarette and went into the fort, first to the church. There was not a soul there. Then I walked towards the eastern part of the fort and looked at the markings on the graves. The names were definitely unfamiliar.

The ground was uneven and all of a sudden I twisted an ankle and fell on a grave. There it was!

Through the overgrown creepers I could make out the name etched on the stone.

Alfonso Louis Rodriguez. Born: 1937. Died: 1961.

I stood up breathing heavily. My shirt was soaked in perspiration. I could hear my heart thumping in my chest.

I did not know what possessed me but I started pulling the spiky foliage away from the next grave with my bare hands. Rubbing the gravestone with my handkerchief I came across a name that I knew so well.

Philomena Rodriguez. Born: 1941. Died: 1974.

(Concluded)

## MIND MIRROR

**Dr. Jayanta Das**

The author is a senior consultant psychiatrist. This column is aimed at creating awareness about mental health and well-being. E-mail your queries to sundayreading@assamtribune.com

■ Is depression treatable?

**Ans:** Depression is definitely treatable. One has to be on regular medication – as advised by the psychiatrist and regular follow-up with the doctors. Treatment is divided into two phases. The acute phase – to control the current florid symptoms, sometimes even suicide risk management in severe depression, and the maintenance phase – to prevent further occurrence of the episodes in the future. On certain occasions, only therapy or counselling may be helpful. With regular medication and treatment or therapy, one can live an absolutely normal life, carry on with daily routine activities and work and maintain a healthy family and



## Fighting the blues

It will always be there. Sleep disturbances, stress or substance abuse can lead to relapse of symptoms.

As family members, one has to take care and keep a watch whether medications are being taken or not, take the patient to the doctor on follow-up visits. Family members should also notice certain subtle signs of relapse of symptoms, like – sleep disturbances, irritability, increase in anger, withdrawal behaviour, lack of motivation, etc.

■ My mother, who is 70-years-old, has forgetfulness. Is she suffering from dementia? If so, is it curable?

**J. Deuri**  
**Ans:** Only forgetfulness cannot be labelled as dementia. At this age, there might be underlying de-

pression which can lead to inattention or loss of memory. This can be easily labelled as dementia. There are a plethora of other behavioural, psychological and medical problems that can be associated with dementia. So, a proper assessment and evaluation is needed to rule out dementia. The causes of dementia are many. Certain dementias, due to medical causes, are reversible. So all dementia cases should be thoroughly investigated to find out the cause.

It is a slowly progressive disorder or disease. However, with medication, the disease can be kept in control. One thing is to keep in mind that medication doesn't completely cure dementia or stop the progress of the disorder. Also, the role of caregiver or nursing staff is of immense importance in a case of dementia.

social life. An important thing to remember is that even if florid symptoms are not present, daily medication has to be taken. We cannot rule out the possibility of future episodes of exacerbation of symptoms because the vulnerability

to dementia is still there.

— J. Deuri

**Ans:** Only forgetfulness cannot be labelled as dementia. At this age, there might be underlying de-

## MY SPACE

**Nabanita B. Saikia**

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**I**t's a universal fact that all children begin their lives with a special bond with their mothers and mine is no exception. But what I find fascinating is that right from the time my lungs opened to the stuffy air of the operation theatre and I breathed my first breath, I felt a familiarity in a touch that was as endearing as Ma's. As I was cleaned and wrapped up in new clothes, two protective hands embraced my tiny feet with genuine love. Down came a gentle kiss and I heard a soothing voice say, "Welcome, my angel, and don't be afraid. I am there." I was later introduced to this voice as Deuta. Deuta, my father. Being a doctor, he was right there as I emerged out of the womb and secure connection of Ma into an alien world.

Those initial days in this unfamiliar world weren't very easy. All was new

to me – sounds, sights, smells, people – all except Ma and Deuta. Sleep engulfed my little being for most part of the day. The little time that I kept awake, Ma was the one next to me. She told me stories about *Koka*, *Aatla*, *Mama*, *Mami*, *Borta*, *Bornava* visiting and showering their blessings during my mid-day sleep. Deuta? Ma seemed to understand my curiosity and explained, "Deuta is out, working... working hard to ensure your secure living."

My early exploration of this unknown terrain mostly happened at nightime. But, true to his words, Deuta has always been around to celebrate my small discoveries. Right from changing my diapers, humming a lullaby or preparing my feed at the oddest hour, Deuta has always been right there, invariably... unconditionally. Many a times, as I wake up in

the evening after my day-long slumber, I see Deuta tenderly lying next to me, waiting for us to begin our happy play. Behind those rimmed glasses and that lively chuckle, he breaks into my rousing, I do see a weary pair of eyes. But quite magically, that weariness seems to fade, soon taken over by happy play. "Mur chokolo pokolo, sonaka monka, chonko poko..." – His ever-enchanting words of adoration! Do I need to explicate what they mean? The giggle, the laughter we share says it all.

As a couple of months rolled by, I realised Ma works hard around me the entire day, which is why Deuta always makes an effort to return home as soon as he can wrap up at work. At times, tiredness overcomes Ma so much that she fails to hear me cry in the odd

hours of the night. But should I worry? Deuta is the one who attends to all my needs, letting Ma rest a while longer. Is it that he is less tired? For me, he fights his fatigue happily. As far as I am concerned, it's a luxury to be in the warm cozy bed of Deuta's arms, listening to his sweet hum and getting lulled back to sleep.

The best moments I share with Deuta are the long rides on my pram in the garden downstairs. I wait for the time when he can be free to escort me, and when he does, he introduces me to the fresh green of a newly-sprouted leaf or to the brightness of a recently-born flower. Birds are my favourite and Deuta tries not to miss any as they fly past us in the twilight. Deuta's flair for detail greatly amuses me, and I will surely inherit this trait of his with precision.

Occasionally, Deuta gives me a good massage, sometimes a shower, and he loves to feed me my meal, and in all our good ventures together,

our sweet chit-chats never cease to be. Deuta always wants me to observe, to listen and imagine. He believes a strong imagination is a must for every child. As I grow a little older, Deuta would like me to listen to his fairy-tales and imagine a goblin, an ogre a sweet fairy or a "birthi aastha" (old granny) like he did when he was young. Deuta seems to love talking to me and I love to listen to his sweet voice and respond ardently. Does he actually understand my babble? It looks like he does, because he always reciprocates perfectly! With me, Deuta can never go wrong.

In our endless conversations, I hear Deuta-moni tell me often, "Bhaal maanuh hoba (Be a good human being)." Ma instead tells me, "Deuta's nisira hoba sodai (Be like your dad always)." I will. I am sure with Deuta around, I will become one effortlessly. Amen!

(On behalf of my son Shivanka on the occasion of Fathers' Day.)

## People Speak

Today's topic

“  
How can Indians be more tolerant?  
”

All living beings are inter-connected and inter-dependent. To survive and live well, cooperation is essential – cooperation in Nature, amongst human beings and between Nature and us.

Tolerance of differences and of the "other" is often lauded and promoted as a solution. But, actually we need to go beyond tolerance or tolerating differences. We need to make an effort to know the "other", appreciate and respect the "other".

What we need is pluralism, which is a commitment in and respect for plurality. It is a commitment to protect and promote plurality. Pluralism is the belief that just as the meeting of rivers creates holy *sangams*, the coming together of different people and communities creates beautiful communities..

— Kamla Bhasin,  
Feminist and author.

In general, most Indians have shown more tolerance than any else towards people of other ethnicity and religions. But the incidents caused by a few of them have marred the image of the entire community. To foster tolerance, people must be sensitised and taught to be balanced in their opinions. Education and awareness are great tools to achieve this. People must be made to understand that loving one's own culture, tradition, religion, etc., does not imply hating another's.

But tolerance should not mean indifference to vital problems or injustice. Tolerance is having enough respect for others so as to live peacefully.

— Himanisha Sarma,  
Jaymati Pathar, Tezpur.

India sets an example of tolerance and peaceful co-existence in front of the world community with her secular, multi-religious, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-cultural character. The issue of intolerance is connected with religion to some extent. Sometimes, some religious fundamentalist groups, politicians, and public figures try to destroy the religious and cultural harmony of the people. Indians are known to overcome this situation with the help of media, general conscience and political awareness. Indians can be more tolerant by keeping politics and religion apart. Non-interference in others, way of living, food habits and religious practices can make the situation better. There should always be free space for public voice, debate and dissent, with love and respect for the motherland. The sense of belongingness that "we are all Indians" can make Indians more tolerant of each other.

— Arup Bezbbarah,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

To be more tolerant, one must find in quintessence the meaning of intolerance and discover what is breeding it. More often than not, intolerance is symptomatic of underlying socio-economic and political problems, which, when addressed properly, results in more tolerance within the society. Development of political awareness and logical ability to distinguish news from documented garbage should help any individual from falling prey to mass hysteria, such as intolerance. It might also be helpful to remember that opinions are forged upon the anvil of time, hampered by circumstances and, thus, opinions other than one's own should be equally respected.

— Siddhartha Kataki,  
Guwahati.

We the people of India solemnly resolved to constitute India into a 'sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic', but we have been a failure, because we are reluctant to show respect to these aspects in the truest sense. Despite numerous achievements as a nation, the secularism of the greatest democracy has been at stake since Independence. If our healthy nation is to survive, secularism must be reasserted. India can survive as a country only if we launch a movement to bolster unity and uphold secular values. If secularism is buried, India would cease to exist. Communal organisations that spread sensational and intolerance should be banned.

The launching of a social and cultural movement would effectively counter the growing threat from communal forces. Educational curriculum at different levels must be completely free from religious influences, so as to inculcate among students a scientific outlook and temperament.

— Kulentra Nath Deka,  
Majuli.

## The circle of life

A few days ago, the first shower of the season lashed the city. The blue sky turned leaden while a restless wind slammed shut doors and windows and tore down branches of unspecting trees. In the wake of this display, the heavens erupted with that proverbial clap of thunder and sheets of rain poured down as if never intending to stop. When the rain finally ceased, many hours later, it was as if a spell had been broken. The unrelenting heat of the past few months was washed away without a trace, relegated to the distant recesses of memory. Summer was forgotten instantly, the focus now on the rainy days that stretched ahead.

Shortly after that first rain, another eruption took place. School board examination results were declared. Newspapers carried photographs of toppers, faces wreathed in smiles, and there ensued the usual public celebrations of these victories. An annual ritual this was, the passing of an examination, significant eventually only to the children who had sat for it and their families. Like the memory of summer heat wiped clean by the rain, buffering years leached away the intensity of those once-feared examinations for the rest of us. This year, however, was a little different from the ones before. Children I knew personally had sat for these examinations and long after newspapers were folded away, telephones buzzed with news of results. Signs of relief, enthusiastic cries of congratulations were shared widely. In the midst of all this excitement there stirred within me a memory of what it had felt like, all those years ago, to have been part of this gruelling ritual. The sitting-on-the-edge-of-the-chair anxiety that consumed all before the exams and the relief after results were declared. I must admit I was caught unawares by the vividness of the memory.

Many of us, I suspect, go through this cycle of losing memories only to retrieve them at some distant point in time, triggered by the very same entity that had obliterated them in the first place. Life. The living of life, the

mad charge ahead, the changing of scenes and seasons that work to erase what came before as effectively as a magic wand does. Human memory can be fickle. Experiences of the past languish there forgotten: a favourite song of childhood, a novel that had once moved one's soul, the taste of raw mango sprinkled with salt or the memory of an incandescent sky as the sun sank into the Brahmaputra. People are often lost too. That best friend from school, the other from college and that first crush you had. Aunts who had picked you up when you had fallen and

### IN BLACK AND WHITE

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**While the turning of seasons is an obvious example of things coming full circle, life has infinitely more satisfying experiences up its sleeve. Last summer, for instance, I found myself a child once again.**

held you close; a grandfather who lit an oil lamp in the *puja* room every time you sat for an examination, a grandmother who did not wait for a car to pick her up but braved two changes of bus to come to you when you were ill. Life gets in the way, throws magic dust in our eyes and we sometimes forget these moments.

With passing years, as I grow older, I see a hopeful pattern emerge in this churning. It is concealed cleverly like letters written in secret ink, but what I discern quite distinctly is that given time, life has a way of closing open loops. Like a radio catching a signal sent from

far away, all we need is to have all our senses – our powers of vision, hearing, smell, taste, touch and also feeling – ready to receive the signs life sends. Scattered in the passage of a year are reminders of what came before and what will come again. I, for one, am grateful for these. They tell me that life is moving inexorably ahead, as it should, and at the same time, they lead me back to people, places and moments that have been buried by the demands of daily living. While I enjoy the rain now, I know one day a stray whiff of wood-smoke will make its way to me on a crisp breeze, telling me that winter is around the corner. That same fragrance will also take me back in time to a past *Urvashi* night spent by a bonfire with now scattered family. Once winter has run its course, a *kullu* will call out from the *gulanchi* tree across the road announcing the arrival of Spring. *Bohag* will be in the air with all the memories it trails in its wake, and as I celebrate it, I will be honouring not just the new year but the years that have gone past too.

While the turning of seasons is an obvious example of things coming full circle, life has infinitely more satisfying experiences up its sleeve. Last summer, for instance, I found myself a child once again. After a gap of a couple of decades – life, marriage and children having intervened – I was sitting under a cloudless blue sky with my oldest friend. We had been friends since the age of five and in recent years had not seen much of each other. As we sat talking of old times, our children kicked a football around on the grass. I watched them at play and soon found myself back in those days of childhood the two of us had shared. At the same time, my thoughts flew to the friendship our children would share together. This was one wheel that I hoped would keep on turning through the coming years.

Mysterious indeed are the workings of life and one of the mysteries I am thankful for is this magic circle of life that brings back to the present lost gifts of the past, sweetening it in a way few other things can.

With

### 5 THINGS / Lights, camera, direction

## "Fernando Solanas is one of the greats of world cinema"

Filmmaker MAULEE SENAPATI picks five non-fiction films that movie-buffs shouldn't miss.

### 1 'Twilight of a Life'

The Belgian-Israeli produced *Twilight of a Life* has been celebrated as a cinematic journey of finding joy in the smallest moments of life. The filmmaker, Sylvain Biegeleisen, brings us a highly stylised, contemporary story of love, hope, old age, and beauty of life. With only a camera as a witness between him and his mother, filming with great love around his mother's bed, the director decides to provide a poetic reflection on the universal meaning of life, death and parting with loved ones.



### 2 'The Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom'

The *Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom* by English filmmaker Lucy Walker is a look at the aftermath of the 2011 disaster in Japan, emphasising poetically the way beauty and terror always exist in Nature.

### 3 'Which Way Home'

Each year, thousands of Latin American migrants travel hundreds of miles to the United States, with many making their way on the top of freight trains. As the US continues to debate immigration reform, this documentary by American filmmaker Rebecca Cammisa looks at the issue through the eyes of children who face the harrowing journey with enormous courage.

### 5 'The Hour of the Furnaces'

One of the most powerful voices of liberation in cinema, *Hour Of The Furnace* profoundly established the paradigm of revolutionary activism in cinema, standing out as a sharp testimony against neo-colonialism and its ugly offshoots. Its director, Fernando Solanas is one of the greats of world cinema.

(As told to Bidisha Singh)

## FORECAST

JUNE 19 – 25, 2017

### ARIES



(MAR 21 – APR 19)  
You can meet potential new mates, but make sure that they aren't already committed to someone else. Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people.

### TAURUS



(APR 20 – MAY 20)  
Be sure to take care of the needs of youngsters. You may end up being blamed if anything goes wrong. Do a little shopping. You're likely to find a real bargain.

### GEMINI



(MAY 21 – JUN 21)  
Try to be a bit more understanding or you may end up spending the evening alone. An older member of the family may need assistance. Work quietly behind the scenes.

### CANCER



(JUN 22 – JUL 22)  
Opportunities will come through long-term investments. Don't allow someone to do a job that was designated specifically for you. Don't expect anyone else to pay your bills for you.

### LEO



(JUL 23 – AUG 22)  
You will feel tired and rundown if you have allowed yourself to get into a financial mess. Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation.

### VIRGO



(AUG 23 – SEP 22)  
Be careful while operating a vehicle or any kind of equipment or machinery. Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home. Problems with ear, nose, or the throat are likely.

### LIBRA



(SEP 23 – OCT 22)  
You can bet that you'll draw attention to yourself. Much can be accomplished if you compromise. You may need to lend an ear to an old friend. Romance will unfold through business trips.

### SCORPIO



(OCT 23 – NOV 22)  
You can form new partnerships, but don't move too quickly; things may not be as they appear. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. Learn some new skills that will increase your income.

### SAGITTARIUS



(NOV 22 – DEC 21)  
You may want to look into warm vacation spots. You may find that you're being used. You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things.

### CAPRICORN



(DEC 22 – JAN 20)  
New relationships will surface through work-related events. Secret affairs will only lead to heartache. Take time to find out if anyone has a better suggestion before you make arrangements for the whole family.

### AQUARIUS



(JAN 21 – FEB 18)  
Romantic encounters will develop through group activity. Don't push your luck with authority. Travel will be fun, but expect it to cost you. Don't make promises that you can't possibly keep.

### PISCES



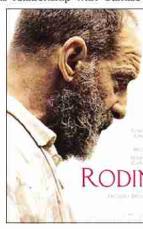
(FEB 19 – MAR 20)  
You must not let others talk you into doing things that will inevitably limit you financially at a later date. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool if someone backs you into a corner.

### MOVIE WATCH

Bidisha Singh

### Rodin

*Cast:* Vincent Lindon, Izia Higelin, Séverine Caneele.  
*Director:* Jacques Doillon.



### Weekly Top Grossers

1. Wonder Woman
2. The Mummy (2017)
3. Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie
4. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales
5. Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2
6. It Comes At Night
7. Baywatch
8. Megan Leavey
9. Alien: Covenant
10. Everything, Everything

### ALL IS WELL

N.J. Howell

If you have decided to seek spiritual guidance from a psychic, one of the most important factors in preparing is to be brutally honest with yourself about what you are willing to learn. Going in to see a psychic in hopes that they will tell you what you want to hear sets you up to draw a reader who will do exactly that. Be willing to know what the Spirit wants you to know.

### How to get a good psychic reading

The single-most important factor in getting a good psychic reading is to ask yourself what you are willing to receive. If you cannot open up to the guidance you may need, you will not be drawn to a psychic who can help bring that guidance forth.

If you choose not to know the truth about a situation, or you decide you already know the truth and are just looking for someone to affirm it, you may choose a psychic who will pick that up from your body movements, breath, non-verbal expressions, etc., and give you what you are willing to receive and/or what you need most to hear.

In the same way, if you come to the reading grasping a fear about something, you may draw a reading that supports that fear.

In addition to the vital spiritual self-preparation that precedes a successful reading, you may also want to educate yourself on the earmarks of a high-level psychic and apply these principals when interviewing a psychic to be a spiritual adviser in your life:

- A psychic speaks more than asking.
- A psychic shares information you don't know.
- A psychic looks inward more than outward.
- Their spiritual surrender is apparent.

### High-level card readers and intuitive do not ask a lot of questions

Whenever I hear a psychic asking a lot of questions like "I am getting the letter P... is there anyone in your family whose name starts

## Trusting a psychic

with the letter P?" or maybe something like "Do you know a Mary or Mandy, maybe a Mindy?" I begin to question their level of intuitive sensing and skill.

However, having said that, it is also true that being in a group situation can mean the psychic is hearing a great deal of information coming from a lot of different people at once so it takes a really skilled psychic to wade through everything to get to the part that matters. It's the quality of the question that matters, more than whether they asked questions before delivering information.

### Do psychic frauds serve a purpose?

Are psychics ever useful to us? Does the Spirit sometimes utilise the energy of a psychic fraud to help us grow spiritually? I believe the answer to those questions is yes. We are always drawn to what we are willing to receive. If deceit is what we need, to perpetuate some belief system or programming we have within us, we will find it. Choosing to get a reading from a psychic fraud may say as much about the person getting the reading as about the psychic giving it.

This does not excuse the behaviour of the psychic fraud but that's their journey, not yours; if you end up selecting a fraud for your reading, I do focus on what I'm learning about myself in that case and leave judgment about what happens to the psychic fraud to a higher court.

Reading about the psychic giving it. This does not excuse the behaviour of the psychic fraud but that's their journey, not yours; if you end up selecting a fraud for your reading, I do focus on what I'm learning about myself in that case and leave judgment about what happens to the psychic fraud to a higher court.

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### The Book of Henry

*Cast:* Naomi Watts, Jaeden Lieberher, Jacob Tremblay.  
*Director:* Colin Trevorrow.

**H**e 11-year-old Henry plans to rescue the girl he likes from the clutches of her abusive stepdad. And when Henry's mother (Susan) comes to know of this, she takes it upon herself to put the plan into motion.

Trevorrow has previously made the smash hit *Jurassic World* in 2015, and is set to direct *Star Wars, Episode IX*. Meanwhile, this film, he claims, is not a sweet little flick that you can blindly take your kids to; it also deals with the fears and dangers of childhood with some finesse.



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