

SITUATION WANTED

MD Pathologist (10 years experience in Histopathology. FNAC want a job in Guwahati. Contact: 09436962033, 0361, 2350028, 07085409338. SWanted/P/KP9/1/1

SITUATION VACANT

Order taker (Captain) required for Hotel Lilawati Grand, Panbari, Guwahati, 70353, 38284 (M). SV/P/KP1002/3

Salesman required for Garments showroom in Belpota. Call: 2370007, SV/P/KP1006/3

TRAINER / M A S T E R TRAINER/TRAINER/COORDINATOR/PROJECT MOBILISER (M/F) WANTED FOR VARIOUS SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. QUALIFICATION: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING COMPUTERIT GRADUATE, MBA, AGRICULTURE GRADUATE. MINIMUM 4 YEARS WORKING EXPERIENCE IN THE RELEVANT FIELD. ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE CAN SEND BIODATA WITH STAMPED SIZE PHOTOGRAPH WITHIN 1 WEEK TO - apabidatta@gmail.com (ONLY SHORT LISTED CANDIDATE WILL BE CALLED FOR INTERVIEW). SV/P/KP10/7/3

APPLY ONLINE at IHR for

1. Pharmacist :
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CD/SV/294/1

Hiring 20 Nos. Delivery Associates with Valid DL + RC and Android Mobile for Courier Service. Contact 8472926400/ 9120752524. SV/P/KP1016/4

URGENTLY REQUIRED MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN WITH MINIMUM FIVE (5) YEARS EXPERIENCE FOR GUWAHATI DIABETES RESEARCH CENTRE, CHRISTIAN BASTI, GUWAHATI CALL : 98641-30727, SV/P/KP95/2

URGENTLY REQUIRED A GRADUATE / POST GRADUATE TEACHER WITH TET FOR A CSE SCHOOL AT PANJABARI, GUWAHATI TO TEACH SOCIAL STUDIES. CONTACT : 7035210733. SV/P/KP95/3

Required Science and Maths Teacher for High School. Contact: No. 9859943647, SV/P/A482/1

Required Graduate/Post-Graduate female candidate for full time Educator at a Guwahati based Child Development Center. Call - 8876464849 (for interview), SV/P/KP1728/1

VACANCIES IN SKILL DEVELOPMENT FIRMS

1. Trainer (4 Nos.) Solar Panel installation, Solar Water Heater, Morahati Eligibility : 5th Class B.E./Polytechnic/Diploma/B.Sc M.S. in (EC/CS/EIE/EEN) with minimum experience.

2. Trainer (1 No.) Computing Peripheral/Hardware Technician (Digital Electronics). Qualification: Diploma in CS min 1 year experience in related field.

3. Trainer (1 No.) Electrical (Mechanical) Engineering Diploma 2 yrs Exp. B.Tech M.Tech 1 yr Experience.

4. Trainer (1 No.) Medical Sales Representative (Morahati D Phm/ Graduate with 5 years Experience).

5. Computer Manager (1 No.) Morahati, Graduate with min 4 years experience in handling Software, Hardware and Networking.

6. Trainer (1 No.) Data Entry Operator (Thelimara, Tezpur) 12+ pass/T(Diploma)/Graduate with min 2 years experience.

7. Counsellor (3 Nos.) (Dibrugarh, Tezpur & Morahati) Graduate with min 4 years experience in Guidance & Counselling.

8. Trainer (1 No.) Tailoring and stitching - (Thelimara) Certificate in Tailoring or dressmaking. 5 months duration along with 8 years of industry experience.

9. Placement Manager (3 Nos.) Diploma in HRM/Graduate with min 3 years relevant experience in placing candidate.

Candidates fulfilling the desired criteria may submit their resume to careers@ecocapita.in, dipita@ecocapita.in, dipita@ecocapita.in

For any clarifications, Pl. contact Mr. Dipita @ 9127086801

CD/SV/294/1

SUBWAY

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Do you have what it Takes to be part of a winning team!!

SITUATION VACANT FOR SUBWAY OUTLET

SHIFT CHARGE: 2 (Male)
QUALIFICATION: Minimum 12 Pass with knowledge of computer (Exp: 2 years in Quick Service Restaurant)

Trainee Sandwich artist (4 Male/Female) (D.O.Years)

Candidates must have pleasant personality good communication skills in English and Local language. Should know etiquettes of Q.S.R. industry. Salaries as per SRGS Standards

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SV/P/KP1006/3

E-mail: sv@outcastfoods.ir

CD/SV/293/91

Akhay Tel Communication is hiring for Vodafone sales process. We are looking for sales, fixed, mobile, sales consultant, etc. in Dibrugarh, Assam. Salary up to Rs. 16000. We are hiring for all designation. Interested person kindly contact: 9954345657, 8638206514, 9854095341. E-mail: partha.bora@arcne.in, ashimkr.das@arcne.in. SV/P/KP1/2

Required beautician (Female). Contact: 9435106722, SV/P/KP137/8

Urgently requires Office Executive and Art teacher for Dispur Public School, Hatiagon, 9055713, SV/P/KP1938/2

URGENTLY REQUIRE TULLY ACCOUNTANT IN GUWAHATI WITH KNOWLEDGE OF PURCHASE, SALES, BRS, PARTY STATEMENT RECONCILIATION, MONTHLY RETURN, P/L ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET. MAIL :

: mail@pmbol.com SV/P/A436/1

Wanted Head Tea House with minimum 10 years of relevant experience for Beli Tea Estate located near Dhekiajuli in Sonapur District. Please contact G.M. 9954389032 for details". SV/2867/3

MEET @ Hotel Atithi

PaltanBazar on 24/09

www.nextgenschool.in

Ph: 958117378

SV/P/KP1/2

REQUERED AN ACCOUNTANT FOR AN ACADEMY ON PART TIME BASIS. FOR INTERVIEW PLEASE CALL 7086046460/ 813459497. SV/P/1728/1

WALK-IN 25th - 27th September 17 Time: 10.00 AM - 2.00 PM

Eligibility - Min HS Passed with experience in automobile sector.

Freshers may also apply

Two Wheeler is compulsory.

MITTEL AUTOZONE

Bharumalukh Contact: Ph: 8611097034

E-mail: pbs.mazengar@gmail.com

CD/SV/294/1

Wanted an experienced Accountant with knowledge of Tally ERP9 along with GST for Private Limited Company.

Mail your resume at pcip@outlook.com. Salary negotiable.

SV/P/A445/1

Required 2 Sales men for an upcoming Cafe in Guwahati. Salary negotiable. Ph: 8473870578. SV/P/KP1/96/1

Required Lecturers in Political Science/English/Economics immediately. Experience needed. Salary 8000-10000 on contractual basis. Apply within 25.9.17. Contact: DD Barua College, VIP Road, Six Miles, Ghy-22. Phone: 9954757340. SV/P/1047/1

NEED FOR EXPERTS

**FACTORY SHED FOR
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An industrial shed covering an area of 20000 Square feet with 3000 square feet RCC with overhead Crane facility & power connections in Changsari industrial area is available in rental basis.

Interest person may contact on Mobile No. + 91 9864043524

Prof UC Goswami Memorial Lecture held

JALUKBARI, Sept 23: The 2nd Prof Umesh Ch Goswami Memorial Lecture was organised at the Phanidhar Datta Seminar Hall of Gauhati University on Wednesday.

Dr Uday Kishore, renowned

immunologist and professor of the Department of Bioscience, Brunel University, London, delivered the memorial lecture on the topic 'The Art of Being a Scientist: Motivation, Inspiration and Aspiration'.

Dr Kishore, while narrating his story of becoming an eminent immunologist of the world, inspired the audience by saying that humble beginnings can lead people to greater heights.

He narrated how stories and folklores related to Sher Shah Suri from his native village in Bihar inspired him such that he went on to become a reputed immunologist at the prestigious Salk Institute for Biological Studies, San Diego.

Dr Kishore urged the students to take a humble perspective towards life. The lecture was inaugurated by GU VC Dr Mridul Hazarika.

The programme was organised by the Professor UC Goswami Memorial Committee and the Dept of Zoology, GU in association with the Zoological Society of Assam. — Correspondent

MBBS - 2017
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*T&C apply. Finance Offers are at the sole discretion of dealers/financiers. Offer applicable on select models from 11th September to 22nd October, 2017. In case of TCS India, the offer is valid from 22nd September to 22nd October, 2017. Offers and Prices are subject to change without prior notice. Under no circumstances shall Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd. including its affiliates, directors, employees or agents be held liable/responsible for any part of these offers. Image and products shown herein are for representational purpose only, actual may vary.

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Chell-762/11

58th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OIL INDIA LIMITED
held on 23rd September, 2017

Speech of
Shri Utpal Bora
Chairman & Managing Director at the



Dear Shareholders,
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I welcome you all to the 58th Annual General Meeting of your Company. During the year 2016-17, significant achievement by Oil India has been made in various fields which reflect the dedication and concerted efforts of all Oil Indians. Salut! amongst these are the Upper Assam basin.

Hydrocarbon acreage was 7,549 MMFT (O+G) of oil and gas.

Annual drilling performance by drilling of 60 wells with a total length of 1,86,721 meters.

The turnover of the Company was ₹9.30,10.39 billion.

Dividend payout is 142.50%.

Our hydrocarbons - Moody's - 'Baa2' (stable) to sovereign rating, Fitch Rating 'BBB-' (Stable) (equivalent to sovereign rating), and Moody's credit ratings are CARE rating ('AA+') and CARE rating ('AA') for long term facilities & CARE rating ('A+') (highly rated) for short term facilities.

PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION

During 2016-17, the Company received a large number of recognitions across various categories in different fields which reflect the dedication and concerted efforts of all Oil Indians. Salut! amongst these are the Upper Assam basin.

A total of ten (10) hydrocarbon discoveries, all of which were in the Upper Assam basin.

Hydrocarbon acreage was 7,549 MMFT (O+G) of oil and gas.

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STRATEGY & GROWTH

• Oil, has strong oil and gas reserves base and as of March 31, 2017, the Company's 2P reserves for domestic assets is approximately 187,710 MMFT (O+G) for oil reserves for global assets, it is approximately 46,9341 MMTOE (O+G+C).

• Oil has started its High Pressure-High Temperature drilling campaign in the block K5-DNG-I. The Company also drilled its first deepwater offshore well in the block K5-DNG-II.

• The average net crude oil price for the year 2016-17 was US\$ 47.36/bbl, as compared to US\$ 45.31/bbl during 2015-16.

The average net crude oil price for the year 2016-17 was ₹ 17,678/bbl as compared to ₹ 2,955/bbl during 2015-16.

Performance highlights of 2016-17 are given as under:

PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE

• Total production: 2,377MMT

• Crude Oil Sales: 2,321MMT

• Natural Gas production: 2,977 MMSCM (highest in the history of Oil India)

• Natural Gas Sales: 2,412 MMSCM (highest in the history of Oil India)

• LPG production: 340MMT

This year the Company achieved higher production and better efficiency in the field. This is due to active initiative to effectively monitor the natural gas reserves. The present gas production potential is about 17.65 MMSCM from Assam and 1.2 MMSCM from Arunachal Pradesh. The Company is in the oil fields. Action is at hand to increase the gas production potential to a level of 10 MMSCM in the North East for uninterrupted supply of gas to all customers.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

• Total revenue: ₹ 11,191.50 crore

• Turnover: ₹ 9,510.39 crore

• Profit Before Tax (PBT): ₹ 1,149.32 crore

• Profit After Tax (PAT): ₹ 1,458.60 crore

• Dividend Payout: ₹ 1,42.50% for the year 2016-17.

The profitability of the Company was affected mainly due to payment of differential royalty of ₹ 1,151.73 as crude oil for the period February, 2014 to March, 2015 and depreciation of ₹ 1,000.00 million for the period January, 2015 to March, 2016.

The Company has recorded a profit of ₹ 4,936.15 crore which is about 10% of total outlay of ₹ 48,917.71 crore.

It is a matter of great pride that Oil's audited annual accounts have "No material adverse change" in the financial statements.

From the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 2016-17.

SHARE-OUT OF SUBSIDY

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'Partition was a crime'

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: The Partition of India was a crime and not accepting the theory of exchange of population was a historical and constitutional error, according to senior journalist DN Chakravarty.

Chakravarty, while releasing a book, *Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Assam's National Identity* by Satya Ranjan Bora at a function at the PWD Training Centre here today, said that while Cavour was described as the prophet of Italian renaissance and Mazzini the philosopher and Garibaldi the architect of modern Italy, similarly Dr Shyame Prasad Mukherjee was the prophet, Upadhyaya the philosopher and Atal Bihari Vajpayee the architect of post-Nehru

modern India. Chakravarty analysed the broad principles of integrated humanism as propounded by Upadhyaya and his adherence to the principles of Indian Sanatan culture and her subcontinental identity.

Mla Siddhartha Bhattacharjee, chief organiser of RSS Assam, Gauri Sankar Chakravarty and Phanindra Nath Sarma dwelt on the relevance of Upadhyaya's ideals and historical importance of his services to the cause of parliamentary democracy. Author Bora stressed the need for larger propagation of Upadhyaya's life and ideals in the context of India's present socio-cultural confusion and the surreptitious invasion of anti-national forces from within the country. — Staff Reporter

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Ph: 2343701/02

Destitute woman gets her Puja dress, thanks to shopper's gesture

SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: With Durga Puja round the corner, shopping spree has taken over malls and marketplaces in Guwahati by storm.

While most of us prefer to be part of the mad rush in the festive season, busy buying gifts and dresses for ourselves and our near and dear ones, there are a few others who refuse to be self-centric and look beyond.

Dipjyoti Dutta, who came to do his Puja shopping with his wife and two children, came across as one such Good Samaritan, who, instead of following the bandwagon, lent a helping hand to a destitute woman without making it a gimmick.

It was around 4.30 pm on Saturday and the intensity of the rush at Big Bazaar located at Bhangangarh was beginning to pick up.

While everyone else chose to ignore a mentally retarded woman with dirt all over her face sitting helplessly on the pavement and muttering to herself near one of the gates of Big Bazaar, with hardly any clothes to cover her body, Dutta decided otherwise.

He gave her a new kurti and a pair of leggings, which he had apparently bought for one of his family members.

"She didn't have enough clothes even to



The mentally retarded woman (C) puts on the new dress given by the Good Samaritan

WEATHER GUWAHATI

LOCAL FORECAST:
Generally cloudy sky. Rain/thundershower is very likely.
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE:
most likely to be 33°C & 25°C respectively on Sunday

TEMPERATURE:
Max 32.8°C, Min 26.0°C

Minister Gohain takes part in cleanliness prog

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: Minister of State for Railways Rojen Gohain took part in the Swachhata Hi Seva event held at the Guwahati railway station today. He inspected the station and also participated in a cleanliness drive. Later, speaking to the media, Gohain said cleanliness in railway stations, trains and other railway properties has improved in recent times. He said mass participation is necessary to sustain the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. He added that services of the proposed New Delhi-Agartala Rajdhani Express are likely to commence in the next one month or so. — Staff Reporter

Hoarding falls down at ABC area

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: A hoarding erected on the occasion of Assam Police Day half-marathon to be held tomorrow fell down on the GS Road near ABC area this morning, disrupting vehicular traffic. No one, however, was injured. — Staff Reporter

NUMALIGARH REFINERY LIMITED

3rd NLR BUSINESS PARTNERS MEET
SAHAYOG-2017

Participate in a Day Long Meet on 10th October, 2017
VENUE: Boras, Sitali Gaon, P.O. Kohora, Kaziranga National Park, Dist. Golaghat, Assam-785 699
Last date of registration is 4th October 2017.
For details & Registration Visit our Website at : www.nrl.co.in
Contact Nos : 03776-265481, Email id: phupen.bora@nrl.co.in
03776-265758, Email id: abbijit.das@nrl.co.in
03776-265491, Email id: santanu.khartscharyya@nrl.co.in

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Erratic water supply in Pandu, Maligaon, Kamakhya areas

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: Ahead of the festive season, the residents of Kamakhya, Pandu and Maligaon are facing erratic water supply due to two dysfunctional water pumps in the area. The pumps, repaired three months back, have gone out of order again, much to the inconvenience of the residents of the localities.

"Water supply has been irregular for the past several weeks and now, the condition has deteriorated further. Immediate steps should be taken to restore normal water supply before Durga Puja starts," Tapas Das, a local of Maligaon said.

Similarly, water supply

at the Nilachal Hills in the vicinity of the Kamakhya temple has also been affected. There was no water supply at all for three consecutive days, confirmed Sanjhi Sarma, a member of the Kamakhya temple management committee. However, now the residents are getting water every alternate day.

At a time when the city is awaiting its ambitious water supply project — that promises 24x7 running water — to take off, the existing machinery getting older is in dire need of replacement, which the authorities are avoiding for fear of incurring extra expenditure as the machinery won't be required after a couple of months.

"The Kamakhya water supply project was set up in 1965 and the water pumps and supply line have become outdated. We have initiated steps for purchasing two new pumps for the area that will cost nearly Rs 14 lakh," GMC sources said, adding that since the Jal Board would take over the water supply work in the entire city after completion of the mega water supply project in Guwahati, a large-scale purchase and replacement of machinery is not being planned by the Corporation.

However, to address the issue, repair work has been taken up in Kamakhya area and normal water supply would be restored within the next two days, the GMC sources assured.

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

How can you have a war on terrorism when war itself is terrorism?

- HOWARD ZINN

The Assam Tribune

Terroristan

The season for world leaders to address the United Nations General Assembly is on, and so is the name calling! Since naming the North Korean leader as "Rocket Man" within the hallowed portals of the UN, American President Donald Trump has typically descended to a basher level outside, referring to his bête noire as "obviously a madman." Kim Jong Un, apparently, is made of the same mettle as Trump and he and his henchmen gave back as good as they got. While Kim's Foreign Minister called Trump's strictures against his country as the barking of a dog, the "Supreme Leader" himself called Trump a "mentally retarded doofus!" If the US and North Korea indulged in verbal spats, could Pakistan and India be far behind? In keeping with its annual tradition of India-baiting in the UN, Pakistan's new Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, addressing the General Assembly, set the ball rolling by accusing India of terrorism in his country and of suppressing the human rights of the people of Kashmir. He also warned India against any attempt at launching a limited war against his nation, stating that the consequences would be severe. In response, an Indian diplomat coined what perhaps was one of the pithiest word uttered in the UN, aptly renaming Pakistan as "Terroristan."

Unfortunately for Pakistan, there were none else except itself to dispute the tag! Today that country has been alienated from much of the world with even some Arab countries looking askance at the developments going on within it. The blunt-speaking Trump has warned Pakistan to start acting against the terrorists which have found harbour within its boundaries while Russia has expressed her anxiety at the phenomenon. More worrying for Pakistan has been the somerset made by China at the recently held BRICS summit when it meekly signed on the dotted line an anti-Pakistan resolution! As for Kashmir, in these days of advanced communication technology, Pakistan has not been able to hide from the international community the fact that had been fomenting violent protests in that State, as well as sending terrorists across the border. However, indulging in verbal jousts in the UN arena should not be construed to be the actual objective as far as India Pakistan relations are concerned. The tough stance taken by the NDA Government has attained some degree of diplomatic success abroad in isolating Pakistan as well as containing protests within Kashmir. Yet, as long as disaffection persists within Kashmir and Pakistan continues to engage in cross-border terrorism, any subsiding of conflict would be merely a tuff before another storm. Reestablishing a channel for dialogues would be a more sensible option, otherwise the conflict potential of the situation would remain perpetual.

Ending child labour

With the passage of time the scourge of child labour is acquiring different contours, a most discernible trend being the trafficking of children into big cities for jobs, which include hiring for domestic help purposes and employment in industries. As child rights crusader Kailash Satyarthi has been stressing, ending the menace will require the governments and other stakeholders – including society as large – to act in tandem. The Nobel Peace laureate who flagged off the Northeast leg of the three-year nationwide campaign against child labour emphasized on creating a space in which children will be free and secure. Disturbingly for a region like the Northeast, it is fast becoming a source State for child trafficking into metros like Mumbai and Delhi. The restive situation in several northeastern States as also the perennial problem of floods in Assam is having a bearing on the rising incidence of child trafficking from the region. The local governments must take note of the situation and act meaningfully.

The question how to end child labour in a developing, populous nation like India is easier asked than answered. A stringent legal mechanism and no-nonsense implementation is a must, even though that alone is not sufficient to root out the scourge. The past few decades have witnessed the passing of several anti-child-labour legislations but slack implementation remains an irritant. Equally imperative is to address the concerns of poverty and limited access to education and healthcare for a large segment of the populace. Then, rehabilitation of children must also be an integral part of any strategy to combat the child labour. Children who are freed from labour should be entitled to rehabilitation programmes by the Government and NGOs. An ideal rehabilitation would be to re-integrate the children with their families, and this should also include some economic incentive to the parents for helping them earn their livelihoods besides providing education to the children. Despite the Right To Education now in place, the high school dropout rate, not to speak of those who never make it to any school, lays bare the inadequacy of the efforts towards securing the avowed goal of universalization of education.

The Assam Tribune

From THE PAST

Russia Sending Large Arms Aid To N. Vietnam

MOSCOW, September 23: The Soviet Union announced today it was sending missiles, artillery and a wide range of other military equipment free of charge to aid North Vietnam's defence against United States attacks.

The announcement came in a communiqué issued after talks here between Soviet leaders and Hanoi's Chief Foreign aid negotiator, Deputy Prime Minister Le Thanh Nghi.

The communiqué said the Soviet Union would deliver during 1968 "aircraft, anti-aircraft guns and ground-to-air missiles, artillery pieces and small arms, ammunition, and also equipment, vehicles, oil products and other goods necessary for the further raising of the (North Vietnamese) Republic's defence capacity and for its economic development."

The communiqué gave no indication of the size of the deliveries, but said that they were free of charge. The agreements were signed here today by Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Novikov, who has special responsibilities for foreign aid programmes, and Mr Nghi.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1967

50 years of media education in NE

■ Dr Ankuran Dutta

With the growing professionalism in the media industry, which evolved as a "mission" in India, the need of media or journalism education was felt only in the early 1920s. In Adyar which is located in South Chennai, Tamil Nadu; a British socialist, theosophist, women's rights activist, writer and orator and supporter of Irish and Indian self-rule, Dr. Annie Besant initiated a pioneering effort to train individuals before joining journalism. As a following initiative, a pioneer of rural economic development theorist Dr J B Kamarappa set up the American College of Journalism in Bombay in 1936. As formal University programme, in 1941 it was Punjab University (in Lahore) that launched a post graduate diploma course in undivided India. After that, journalism or media education became popular in many parts of the country. It is also noteworthy to mention here that UNESCO recognizes the fact that a sound journalist education contributes towards professional and ethical practice of journalism. Such journalism is better suited to foster democracy, dialogue and development.

It was a rare foresight and ability to think ahead of the times to introduce media education at Gauhati University ten years ago in 1967. The leadership of Professor V Venkatrao and Professor Deba Prasad Baruah played an instrumental role in setting up media education under the department of political science.

In the last five decades, the de-

partment produced lots of journalists, media personalities, public relations practitioners, film makers, science communicators, media educators and public opinion leaders. Among the alumni, who served in the media industry were Pratap Bordoloi, Imdadul Bulbul, Tajuddin Ahmed, Tripit Devi, Bhupen Borkataki, Dwijendra Mohan Sarma, Dr. Sarma, Karuna Mohan Sar-

ma, Anupama Das, Manju Laskar, Dipak Sarma, Deben Tamuly, Paresh Baishya, Jahnu Khund, Debajit Kakoti, Jiten Choudhury, Rajesh Mehta, Dipendu Kumar Mazumdar, Jayanta Kr Sarma and so on.

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munication under Choice based Credit System, master of philosophy and doctoral programme. In the last one decade, since masters programme was introduced, the students of the department have been well received by the media industry, government services and media education. A good number of students have also cleared different competitive examinations including NET for lectureship and junior research fellowships. Many other national awards have also been won by the students and research scholars of the department.

The department has collaborated with about 30 organisations including renowned media houses. The department has been striving for the excellence in media education in collaboration with many international and intergovernmental organisations, such as UNICEF, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), International Committee of the Red Cross, Poynter News University of Florida, US Consulate etc. Among the national and regional level, the department has been collaborating with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, National Council for Science and Technology Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Consumer Affairs of Government of India, Assam Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Airport Authority of India etc.

GU Times is a periodical publication of the department, which is edited and published by the students of the department. It is noteworthy

that the first issue of the *GU Times* was edited by Bhubaneswar Kalita. Assam Assembly Speaker Hitendranath Goswami too edited an issue of the journal. Presently, the issues of the 50th volume of the journal have been published by the current students. The first ever student media festival of the north eastern region, Communika has been organised by the students of the department since 2006. The students also produce programmes for the community radio service of the university Radio Luit from its inception in 2011.

A maverick department in the northeast region, the department of communication and journalism at Gauhati University paved the path for development of media studies in northeast India. After almost 30 years from the establishment of this department, it was only in 1996 that Assam University, Silchar set up mass communication department and it was followed by Tezpur University with state of the art facilities in 2001. St Anthony's College, Shillong founded a mass media department in 1995. Media and Communication Study Centre, which is renamed as Dr Bhupen Hazarika Centre for Mass Communication and Journalism was established in 2004 at Cotton College. Presently, almost all the universities of the region have their programmes on media and communication. In addition, a number of standalone institutes have also grown up to produce skilled human resources for the industry. The tree, which was planted by Prof. V Venkatrao, has grown up despite various challenges in these 50 years and as a result its branches have been scattered across the whole of north east today.

The writer is the Head of the Department of Communication and Journalism, Gauhati University.

Time Zone for NE

■ Shilajit Kar Bhowmik

At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, the sun goes to bed in the east only to wake up in the west. Darkness descends on the former. The clock ticks by and ultimately the sun awakes in Dong to shower its rays upon Earth. This is the place of deep east where the sun first rises. Dong is a small valley of Arunachal Pradesh near Wanglong in the state's Lohit district. It blithely welcomes the rays of the sun which expunges darkness for the day. As if the sun is responding to the moving song of insect melody, "Dehko re nayan mele, Jager bahan Diner alay kate andhole," sung by the son of famous folk singer Golap Majumder, the department during different phases of its evolution. Presently, about 40 renowned media personalities are associated with the department as guest faculties.

In the last five decades, the de-

partment has been striving for the excellence in media education in collaboration with many international and intergovernmental organisations, such as UNICEF, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), International Committee of the Red Cross, Poynter News University of Florida, US Consulate etc. Among the national and regional level, the department has been collaborating with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, National Council for Science and Technology Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Consumer Affairs of Government of India, Assam Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Airport Authority of India etc.

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great country but that is largely wasted because work starts later in tandem with the rest of the country." The Union Government's Department of Science and Technology set up a high-level committee for exploring the feasibility of two different time-zones for the country. However, their decision burst the bubbles of Northeast. The committee argued that differentiating time would upset sectors like air-lines, railways and communication services. Thus, the Union Government led by Atal Bihari Vajpeyi began to look elsewhere of Thulasi das's idea and turned it down.

Many years later, then Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi breathed new life into Thulasi das's idea. He proposed for a tea-garden time. As per existing labour laws, work hours start at 8 am IST in 800 tea gardens of Assam. While in Government and other private sectors of the state, work hours start at 10 am and ends at 5 pm. He forwarded the idea to the neighbouring Northeastern states and West Bengal. All these states found the idea of no avail and drowned out Gogoi. He tried his best level to vouch for the idea but failed in the long run.

Now, let us take a cue from economically advanced countries like Singapore, China and USA et al. Both Singapore and China keep their clocks one-hour ahead of the Indian Standard Time. Russia has 11 time-zones, while USA and Canada have six. Work hours, manpower, energy is thus, harvested in right earnest and this factor verifies justifies advancement and development.

But these factors are yet to convince India's government at the Centre, though a change of guard spontaneously takes place from time to time. Nevertheless, would Northeast ever get a time-zone of its own for the sake of economic and social prosperity? The answer lies in limbo.

This gave him the idea of a separate time-zone for the Northeast. The bureaucrat was none other than V Thulasi das. He conveyed his thoughts to it to the Union Government through a note forwarded by then Governor Dinesh Nandan Sahay. Thulasi das noted, "The sun rises early in our part of the

Voices of the WEEK



Courtesy: THE HINDU

"If it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea." - DONALD TRUMP; President, USA

★ ★ ★

"The truly educated are not those who collect degrees, but those who use those degrees to become nation-builders." - RAM NATH KOVIND, President, India

★ ★ ★

"We want to show that the Indian team is as organised as any other in the rest of the world." - LUIS NORTON DE MATOS, coach, U-17 football, India

★ ★ ★

"Rohingya matter is very sensitive.... Govt must maintain a balance between internal security and international obligations." - ABHISHEK SINGHIVI, spokesperson, Congress

★ ★ ★

"There is no decision of the Government of India to grant citizenship. It is the order of SC." - KIREN RIJU, Union Minister on granting citizenship to Chakma-Hajong refugees

★ ★ ★

"PRANAM Act is our gratitude to the elderly." - HIMANTA BISWA SARMA, Finance Minister, Assam

★ ★ ★

"The armed forces, especially the Indian Air Force, have lost a dozen and a leading light.... I deeply mourn Arjan Singh's passing away and offer my deep condolences to the family." - LK ADVANI, veteran BJP leader

★ ★ ★

"I went to congress because I was assured that I will be made Chief Minister in six months." - NARAYAN RANE, former Chief Minister, Maharashtra

★ ★ ★

"No Rohingya has applied for asylum. They are illegal immigrants. When Myanmar is ready to accept them, I don't know what the objection is." - RAJNATH SINGH, Home Minister, India.

TV critic

The last word

S RAGHUNATH

My friend Subha Jois has had musical training of sorts, but unfortunately an outsize adult frog of uncertain zoological classification having decided to take up permanent lodgings in his throat, he has not quite made it to the concert platform. Not the one to throw up the towel without a tenacious fight, Jois has taken with vengeance to music criticism, reasoning rather logically that the pen is mightier than the sword. His trenchant and laconic views appear occasionally under the pseudonym "Spartacus" in a monthly literary and cultural magazine to which subscription is only by invitation. Jois, as he describes himself in his Fa-

cbook status is an "angry" critic and as he surveys the dismal Carnatic musical scene, he has plenty to be angry about.

Jois' "forte" is reviewing musical programmes on the TV particularly the national hook-up of Doordarshan. Let us assume that Chennai brothers are scheduled to perform in a programme of classical Carnatic music and Jois will peer intently at the screen as the brothers begin their recital and he will explode like an RDX charge. "Look at that elder brother's aquiline nose. It looks more like a dolphin's snout and no wonder his

singing isn't in consonance with the violin and other string instruments and why? All because of his stupid proboscis."

Taking your life in your hands, you might enquire meekly, "What you say is perfectly true and you've hit the nail on the head, but what about that artiste's elaborate rendition of Saint Thyagaraja's rare composition set in 'adi' talam?"

Jois will impatiently brush aside your interjection. His mission in life is to comment upon singer's noses and not on their rendition of rare ragas.

Let us say that Timiwevelli sisters are giving a recital on Doordarshan and Jois will be ready with his pen poised to wield it without fear or favour. His mission, as he sees it is to serve at the sacred altar of classical Carnatic music and not pander to the tastes of an upstart artiste. He will shake his head dolefully "No wonder classic Carnatic music is going to the dogs", he will mutter disgustedly, "what with artistes like these performing on TV". Look at that young sister's cheeks. There are pimples and blackheads all over and why? Because she doesn't wash her face every morning in lukewarm water with a pinch of turmeric powder in it."

WEATHER
NORTHEAST

Forecast for North East rain
Thundershower is very likely to occur at many places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya and light to moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

Temperatures :

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	29.4	23.0
Tezpur	33.6	27.2
Silchar	35.6	25.2
Dibrugarh	28.5	25.7
Nagaon	32.1	24.0
N Lakhimpur	26.2	22.0
Shillong	26.2	15.1
Imphal	32.2	22.0
Itanagar	27.1	22.6
Mawna	17.4	12.2
Agartala	36.0	28.8
Kohima	26.5	18.7
Pasighat	28.4	23.0
Cherrapunjee	25.2	17.7

24 dengue cases detected

DIMAPUR, Sept 23: From January 2017 till date, 24 persons out of 79 reported cases have tested positive for dengue while 10 persons tested positive out of 43 reported cases for Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Dimapur District Hospital.

This was revealed by Dr T Temsu, incharge of Sentinel Surveillance site Lab, Dimapur District Hospital at the Intersectoral Convergence Meeting on Dengue at Dimapur DC's conference hall.

The number of dengue cases showed a decline in 2017 as against 141 positive cases in 2016 out of 772 reported cases. However, the number of JE cases showed an increase from nil positive case in 2016 to 10 positive cases in 2017. There was only one reported case of JE in 2016 which was tested negative. - Correspondent

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NORTH EAST

Japan accords special importance to North East'

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Sept 23: Japan has accorded special importance on cooperation with the North Eastern States of India as the region is strategically and economically located between India and Southeast Asia as well as within BIMSTEC countries, said Kenko Sone, Minister, Economics, Embassy of Japan.

To encourage cultural cooperation with the region, he said, Japanese Government has initiated the "IRIS Programme" and will invite 25 young people from Manipur and Nagaland this year to Japan. Some were speaking at the 4th Connect North East Summit that got underway under the theme 'Act East through Nagaland' at BISCU Convention Centre, Kohima yesterday.

Addressing the Summit, Nagaland Chief Minister TR Zeliang stressed on people-to-people connectivity apart from other connectivity. He said the NE, except Assam, is landlocked, therefore, air and road connectivity has become the feasible option.

Sharing his experiences while traveling on six-line roads in Southeast Asia, Zeliang said good roads with beautiful green landscapes on both sides have reached our borders and it should be connected to

mainland India by mending the bottleneck in North East roads like the stretch from Imphal to Kohima.

He mentioned that the dreams of Look East Policy could have been materialised if there were more Summits like the North East Connectivity Summit. He said the NE has huge potential with rich forest and natural resources, high literacy rate with a vast reservoir of educated and dynamic workforce, fluent in English, and IT savvy. He also added that the tourism potential in Nagaland is immense.

Zeling said North East can easily become a major trading and economic hub connecting South East Asia and the ASEAN countries."

He further stated that the most practical road and rail connectivity between India and Southeast Asia should run through Nagaland to Moreh border via Imphal, the route for which the Battle of Kohima was fought during the World War II.

The programme was chaired by Arun Chawla, Deputy Secretary General, FICCI.

Scribe's murder another assault on freedom of expression: Amnesty

NEW DELHI, Sept 23: The killing of journalist Shantanu Bhowmick in Tripura is another sickening assault on freedom of expression," Amnesty International India said.

Killing of journalists cannot become the order of the day and the State Governments must do everything in their capacity to prevent scribes from becoming targets for their viewpoints or affiliations, the

rights body said on Friday.

"Shantanu Bhowmick's gruesome murder again exposes the vulnerability of journalists working in difficult situations. The perpetrators must be brought to justice, if more attacks on journalists are to be prevented," Arif Si, Programme Manager, Amnesty India, said.

The killing of 28-year-old journalist Shantanu Bhowmick in the

course of his work in Mandai, Tripura, is another sickening assault on freedom of expression," Amnesty said.

Earlier this month, journalist Gauri Lankesh was killed outside her home in Bengaluru. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, there have been no convictions in any of the 27 cases of journalists killed for their work in India since 1992, Amnesty said. - PTI

**Children not safe anywhere in the country: Satyarthi**

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi today said children are now "not safe anywhere" in the country, while battling for a rigorous law against human trafficking, including child trafficking.

"One of the main demands of 'Bharat Yatra' campaign is that Parliament must pass a stringent law against human trafficking, including child trafficking," Satyarthi said, flagging off the Meghalaya leg of the campaign.

He asserted that he has started a war against crimes like rape, sexual abuse and child trafficking, and hoped the 'Bharat Yatra' campaign would make India safe again for children.

"I refuse to accept that the innocence, smiles and freedom of our children can keep getting stripped and raped. These are not ordinary

crimes. This is a moral epidemic haunting our nation."

"Our children are not safe either in homes, schools or neighbourhood or anywhere, and the perpetrators (of such crimes) roam freely. We just can not wait and watch," Satyarthi said.

He was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, along with Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Youzafzai.

Hailing Satyarthi's campaign, Meghalaya Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Zenita Bharat Shrivastava said that the State Government will leave no stone unturned to create a child-friendly society. Satyarthi had begun his 33-day-long nation-wide 'Bharat Yatra' march on September 11. The 11,000-km yatra will travel through 22 States, culminating in New Delhi on October 16. - PTI

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Tiwa bodies oppose SCCDA Act
CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, Sept 23: Six Tiwa organisations namely—All Tiwa Students' Union (ATSU), Tiwa Yuba Chara Parishad, All Tiwa Women's Association (ATWA), Tiwa Cultural Society, Autonomy Demand Struggling Forum (ADSF) and Morigaon Zila Tribal Sangha have vehemently opposed the State Capital Complex Development Authority (SCCDA) Act 2017 which was passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly recently and termed it as an anti-tribal legislation.

The six organisations after thorough discussion of the Act recently at Morigaon District Tribal Sangha's conference hall resolved to fight against the arbitrary Act passed by the Government in the Assembly without discussing with the tribal organisations. Addressing a press conference at the Morigaon Press Club, the tribal leaders said that the BJP-led State Government conspired to expand the State Capital areas upto Mayong and Jagirao which will curtail the land rights of the tribal people residing in several tribal belts and blocks. The tribal organisations said that at a time when their lands were illegally handed over to capitalists of non-tribal groups at Dimoria and Gobha tribal block, the BJP Government has remained a mute spectator to this phenomenon. The State Capital expansion upto Tiwa Autonomous Council areas will forcibly take away the land rights of the indigenous people of Central Assam. So the organisations demanded to cut 297 tribal revenue villages from SCCDA. The organisations warned that if the Government expands the capital to tribal areas of Tiwa Autonomous Council, the organisation will go on an agitational path. The ATSU leader further alleged in the press conference the BJP Government has a hidden agenda to transfer the land of poor tribal people to the capitalists coming from outside the State.

OBITUARY

Kusum Saikia
CORRESPONDENT

DHEMIAJ, Sept 23: Kusum Saikia, an assistant engineer of State Public Health Engineering (PHE) department, who was serving at Gogamukh subdivisional office under Ghatlara division of PHE department and an inhabitant of Bordhani Tinali of Dhemaji, died Thursday morning at his residence following a critical illness. He was 56.

An ardent follower of Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha, late Saikia was associated with several social and cultural organisations at Bordhani.

His premature death was deeply condole in the locality. Several individuals and organisations including Dhal Das, president-in-charge of Dhemaji Zila Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha, Dimbawas Goswami, principal, Bordhani Junior College and organisations like Bordhani Jagaran Club, Bordhani anchalik units of AASU, AYCP and ATASU deeply mourned his untimely death.

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

Dr Narendra Nath

Eminent Sanskrit scholar Dr Narendra Nath Sarma passed away on September 14 last. He was born at Gomari village of present Nalbari district in 1932. Though he was born in a poor family, he still fulfilled his purpose in life leading a disciplined life. He was of a simple nature, patient and amiable behaviour. He led a life of "simple living, high thinking".

Dr Sarma passed his matriculation in 1950 in first division, IA from Nalbari Col-

STATE

Swachh Bharat Mission yet to make any impact in Tezpur

SHAMBHU BORO

TEZPUR, Sept 23: Though according to the World Health Organization, Tezpur is one of the cleanest cities in India, presently the common people find no civic hero as most of the areas/wards of the historically significant town are becoming filthy. The historic town branded as the 'City of Beauty' is losing its past glory and is turning into a city of garbage dumping due to many reasons including lack of timely clearing of garbage by the authorities concerned and the many anti-social activities perpetrated by a section of the town.

More importantly at a time when Swachh Bharat Mission has been able to gain momentum among the people with good feedback coming from various corners, the mission is yet to make any impact on Tezpur town.

It is to be mentioned here that the denizens of the New Amulla Patti area (popular

as Dalim Bora Path) under Ward No-3 have expressed their total dissatisfaction over the filthy condition in their ward that has almost thrown public life out of gear. From the educational standpoint, the area has a number of schools including the historic Silver Jubilee School, Tezpur Govt Girl's Higher Secondary School, Harjan Hindu LP School, Vivekananda School and the government computer institute, where



number of children are forced to study amidst an unpleasant condition.

Unhygienic atmosphere created by stray pigs and cows, open selling of pork, throw-

ing of waste materials on the street, gambling by delinquent youths of the area, stone pelting on the temples in the area during offering of pujas by devotees, thefts etc.,

have totally destroyed the civic atmosphere in the area. However, though seeking solution to the long-pending problems of the area representations were submitted for many a time to agencies concerned including the Municipality Board, Town Development Authority and the Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur till that no any result is achieved.

Lamenting the condition, a resident of the ward stated that one has to pass by the area covering their mouths with handkerchiefs to avoid unpleasant odour. "Since we have failed in getting a positive result from the local authorities regarding the problem, we are preparing a documentary having foot-

age alongwith a representation to forward to the Prime Minister who has been vocal on creating a clean nation through Swachh Bharat Mission. "We are hopeful that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will surely take up the issue reviewing how a city with such dirty conditions can get recognition of the cleanest city in the country," He added that not only this, in many areas in the town including Civil Charash area (Near Himsingha), near Darrang College area and on the Ananta Hall Road, garbage dumping is a regular scene.

"Other than there are some other problems in the town among which is the most deplorable rural condition. Despite having sufficient funds for the development of the town, the administration as well as the local MLA have been seen to be reluctant to the developmental works of the town. If that continues, in the days to come Tezpur will totally fail to attract people coming from outside," he maintained.

Cachar dist admin focuses on 'green puja'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Sept 23: This year, the Cachar district administration has urged upon the committees to avoid using plastic materials in order to ensure that the Durga Puja festival thrives on the theme 'Green Puja' across the district.

Deputy Commissioner Dr S Laxman told *The Assam Tribune* on Friday that the puja committees have been briefed on the need to keep the surroundings clean and obey the law-and-order guidelines during the festival and also on Vijaya Dashami day. "We aspire to avoid the use of plastic materials so that we can

have a clean and green Durga Puja in the district," Dr Laxman maintained.

He added that elaborate security arrangement, effective traffic management have been planned both by the district administration and also by Cachar police to make sure that the devotees and devotees enjoy the festive days safely.

Meanwhile, with only a few days left for the celebrations to begin, the preparations are racing the crescendo across Silchar and its outskirts. While the idol makers, braving the brief spells of rain are seen busy giving final shades to the life-like idols, most of the puja committees are ready with their pandal and lighting deco-

ration.

One of the major crowd-pulling puja pandals in the city, the All Medical Sales Peoples Durga Puja Committee will showcase Durga idol made of wood. "Since our first puja in 2009, we have emphasised upon recycling of materials and this year we are using wood and wood particles to give shape to the idols. Local artists are toiling hard to complete the 14-foot-tall idol and the pandal," said Mitrun Roy secretary of the committee. He also informed that the committee would distribute clothes to the people and umbrellas to the inmates of children home in Silchar on the evening of *Mahashashi*.

Meanwhile, similar functions will be held at Tezpur and Dhekaijuli Ramakrishna Mission with traditional gaiety; the release added.

Durga Puja at Ramkrishna Mission Ashrama

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: Along with other parts of the State, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Guwahati will celebrate Durga Puja, the biggest festival of the year with pomp and gaiety, started a press release.

On September 25, Panchar

mi will be celebrated at 6 pm followed by Amantran and Adhivasi (Sasthi) on September 26 from 6 pm.

CME on arthritic knee management

GUWAHATI, Sept 23:

GNRC Hospitals conducted a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on Management of Arthritic Knee at GNRC Medical, North Guwahati on September 20, a press release stated. The CME highlighted the details regarding total knee replacement surgery.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Santanu Sharma, HoD, Orthopaedics, Department of GNRC Medical said: "Total knee replacement (TKR) is a widely-used operation that has radically improved the quality of life of millions of people during the last few decades."

Dr Nominal Chandra Barua, CMD, said: "The objective of the CME was to make everyone aware about the problems faced in Total Knee Replacement Surgery and update ourselves with the latest developments in the treatment in India."

They also spoke about the use of lime, cowdung and manure like superphosphate and urea in the fishery for production of fishes. On the other hand, bank officer Bharat Kalita spoke about the schemes of bank loan for pisciculture. In the meeting, Rinku Saharia block co-ordinator, Bezerza development block and more than 12 self-help group members were present. Earlier, Rajat Kakati explained the purpose of the meeting.

Dr Sarma was bestowed the "Aravinda, a Sanskrit novel" as a prologue of quality education. I was greatly impressed by his name. After my mother and Dr Mukunda Mathur Sarma, he was my teacher of *Gedda* and *Chandi*. He left behind three sons and a daughter.

Dr Sarma did not receive the kind of recognition he should have got despite of giving so much to society. He was fully dedicated to the development of Sanskrit language. On his *adishwaradha* today I pray for eternal peace of his great soul.

— Dr S Chakraborty

Bhattacharya

Childline steps in to check 'Blue Whale' menace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBURGARH, Sept 23:

Childline, a telephone helpline for children in distress of the Childline India Foundation, has stepped in to create awareness among parents and school teachers on the impending danger of online 'Blue Whale' game.

The volunteers of Childline in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh operated by North East Society for the Promotion of Youth & Masses (NEPYM) have so far visited 30 high schools each in their respective districts to educate the parents and teachers on the threat of the online 'Blue Whale' challenge.

Through discourse and distribution of leaflets in English and vernacular languages, Childline has urged upon the parents and teachers to ensure that children have access to age appropriate online sites which do not promote unethical behaviours or violence. Parents have been asked to ensure that children have access to internet from a computer placed in a common space and not from a private room or from hand held devices. "In our visits to the schools, we have particularly highlighted the precautionary measures and asked parents and teachers to be vigilant and report immediately in case of any symptoms of unusual behaviours in children," said Monalisa Borah, Coordinator, NEPYM, Childline.

Birubala Rabha all praise for Aei Maatite

STAFF REPORTER

NORTH-EASTERN STATES,

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: Birubala Rabha against witch-hunting menace Birubala Rabha has lauded the upcoming Assamese feature film, *Aei Maatite*, saying it depicts the true picture of the unfortunate incidents that are taking place in Assam.

After a special screening organised exclusively for her and Mission Birubala, she praised the makers of the first Assamese full-length feature film on the hunting of witches and opined that the film should be widely viewed.

Aei Maatite is releasing on October 6, in all major theatres across Assam and some important places in other

north-eastern States. "Dr Sitamath Lahkar has aptly highlighted the battle that many like me are fighting in their lives against superstition. We need more such films, dramas and street plays," Rabha said after watching the film.

Aei Maatite, made under the banner of Angeker Film, is directed by independent filmmaker and eminent theatre personality Dr Sitamath Lahkar and it is an adaptation of his famous stage play, *Tamusa* on the burning problem of witch-hunting. The story, screenplay, dialogues and lyrics have also been penned by Dr Lahkar, a retired principal of Cotton College.

"The film has exactly shown the incidents that are taking place in our society in the name of witch-hunting. I really liked the scene where a couple was fed with human and vulture excreta. This is what is happening in reality. We must show the film in those areas where incidents of witch-hunting are happening. We should take government help in that direction," Rabha said.

The 'action-drama' film has some very critical scenes, shooting of which was done with utmost care and precision. Such types of rustic action scenes are hardly seen in Assamese films. The film cinematically showcases some of the inhuman killings in the name of witch-hunting.



An artist busy in giving finishing touches to various idols ahead of Durga Puja at Tezpur on Friday — UB Photos

Study suggests regulatory system for early childhood education

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: UNICEF in

partnership with the Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED), Ambedkar University, Delhi and ASER Centre, recently launched a report on the Indian Early Childhood Education Impact, a five-year longitudinal research study that followed a cohort of 14,000 children from age 4 to age 8 in rural areas of three States of Assam, Rajasthan and Telangana.

Findings from the report reveal that a majority of four-year-olds are attending preschool, either through government-run anganwadi centres or private preschools. However, they do not necessarily participate in preschool and primary school at the ages and in the order that they are prescribed, and therefore, there are children below the age of six in primary school and children above age six in preschool in some States.

The report which was released on Tuesday — including a regional release at Guwahati — highlights that even one year of participation in a quality early childhood development programme leads to higher school readiness levels, which, in turn, lead to better learning outcomes in the early primary grades.

"However, a key concern emerging is that most children in the study entered primary school at age five with school readiness levels which were far below expectations. They were thus

unprepared to meet the demands of the curriculum and had low learning levels.

The study concludes that these low school readiness levels in children are clearly related to the quality of preschool education. The large-scale service providers do not use age and developmentally appropriate curriculum, methods and materials to engage children. It identifies formal teaching of the 3 R's — reading, writing, and arithmetic, as detrimental to children's development," the report noted.

Given the impact of preschool education on children's outcomes in primary education, the study recommends the inclusion of pre-primary education as an integral part of the Right to Education Act. Since age is a significant factor influencing children's school readiness and learning levels, the study further recommends ensuring that children begin primary education only when they are developmentally ready, adhering to the norms of school entry as per the RTE Act, which requires that children begin grade 1 at age six. It emphasises the importance of a flexible, play-based foundational curriculum for 3 to 8 year olds along a continuum, for a seamless transition from pre-primary to primary education.

To ensure quality, the study recommends that activities conducted in preschool programmes be age and developmentally appropriate, with well-trained frontline workers and

teachers practising child-centered pedagogy. There must also be adequate and appropriate learning materials available, and outreach to parents and families to support their children's learning.

The study further recommends that a regulatory system be instituted for early childhood education, to ensure quality standards are adhered to across all providers, including in the private sector.

A regional workshop was also organised in Guwahati to spread awareness on the critical findings and recommendations from the study. The study report supports efforts to realise young children's developmental potential and set the right pathways for lifelong learning.

This eastern region workshop in the city was attended by participants from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and West Bengal. The workshop was organised by CECED, Ambedkar University Delhi in collaboration with ASER and UNICEF India.

Some of the participants present in the workshop were Alak Saharia, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, Govt of Assam; Lata Menon, Consultant, UNICEF Delhi; Mita Gupta, Education Specialist, UNICEF Delhi; Aparajita Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor, Ambedkar University Delhi; Dr Bandana Bhuyan, Former Regional Director, NIPCCD, Guwahati; and Dr Tushar Rane, Chief Field Office UNICEF, Assam.

Normal train services likely from Oct 15

STAFF REPORTER

Ram said.

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: Train services between the north-eastern region and the rest of the country are likely to be normalised by October 15.

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) General Manager Chahayet Ram told reporters here today that services of all long-distance passenger trains from this region would resume by mid-October.

"The services of all long-distance trains operating to and from this region will be resumed by October 15," Ram added that goods trains are running normally and foodgrain and other items are coming in regular consignments.

Two minor girls raped

JORABAT, Sept 23: In an unfortunate incident, two minor girls were raped by a group of auto-rickshaw drivers who kidnapped the duo from the 12th Mile and 13th Mile areas near here on Thursday morning. Sources said the kidnappers whisked away the two girls (one is 11 years old and the other is 15) on Thursday morning and took them to an unknown location before raping them.

The two girls were later found in a disoriented condition by the police on the national highway near Byrnihat. The unfortunate girls were handed over to their parents on Friday morning. Meanwhile, the local residents nabbed one of the rapists, identified as Rahul Ali, from the 14th Mile area and handed him over to Sonapur Police. The other four persons are absconding and a search is on to nab them. — ANN Service

OIL strikes more ...

(Contd from page 1) was Rs 2,925.18 crore. He also mentioned that it is a matter of great pride that OIL's audited annual accounts have 'NI' comments from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the 15th year in succession.

Bora announced that OIL's sound financial performance has enabled the company to retain international credit ratings for the fourth consecutive year — Moody's 'BAA2' (stable; higher than sovereign rating) and Fitch Rating 'BBB+' (stable; equivalent to sovereign rating). Also, the company retained highest domestic ratings from CARE Ratings — 'AAA' (for long term facilities) 'A1+' (for short term facilities).

Giving an overview of the company's scenario, the CMD mentioned that as on 31.03.2017, OIL is holding participatory interest (PI) in nine NELP blocks out of which OIL has the right of operatorship/joint operatorship in six blocks and as non-operator in three blocks. The company is also holding 40 per cent PI in JV block Kharasang PSC and 44.086 per cent PI in pre-NELP (JV) block AA-ON-94/L.

Bora informed that during the year, OIL made a total of ten hydrocarbon discoveries, all of which were in the Upper Assam basin. Further, hydrocarbon reserve accretion during the year was 7,5489 MMT of oil and gas.

Speaking about OIL's natural gas production, the CMD apprised that the company could achieve the all-time highest natural gas production due to ac-

tions initiated to effectively monetise the natural gas reserves.

The present gas production potential is about 7.85 MMSCMD from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh fields and about 0.95 MMSCMD from the Rajasthan fields. He also informed that action is at hand to increase the gas production potential to a level of 10 MMSCMD in the Northeast for uninterrupted supply of gas to all customers.

Bora also gave an overview of OIL's focus on renewable energy as part of which the company undertook its fourth Wind Energy Power Project of capacity 52.5 MW, split between Gujarat (27.3 MW at Kotiya) and Madhya Pradesh (25.2 MW at Unchawas). Commissioning of the project has started and as of March 31, 2017, 8.4 MW sub-part was commissioned at Kotiya and a 6.3 MW sub-part was commissioned at Unchawas. With commissioning of these sub-parts, the total installed capacity in commercial renewable energy projects of OIL stands at 150.3 MW, comprising 136.3 MW of wind energy projects and 14 MW of solar energy projects.

The Wind Resource Assessment (WRA) exercise in Assam, an initiative being sponsored by OIL, is in progress. Under this, wind monitoring stations have been installed and commissioned at nine identified sites spread across eight districts where wind and other associated data are being recorded to assess the wind energy availability in the State. The process is scheduled to continue for two complete wind cycles.

Call for all rights ...

(Contd from page 1)

rights as citizens, included indigenous ST status," he added.

Attributing the present problem to misidentification of Tibetan refugees, who had not yet accepted Indian citizenship as they wish to return once Tibet was freed, he said the Chakma and Hajong refugees had come with the intent of making India their permanent home as they were anyway people of Indian origin.

Chakma said that blanket labelling of refugees under one bracket and the failure to recognize the distinction led to the present crisis. "The Chakma refugees, who came in 1986 and were camped in Indo-Bangladesh borders of Tripura and repatriated in 1997, are different and not to be confused with the Chakma and Hajong refugees who were permanently rehabilitated in NEFA," he added.

The Right Cause urged immediate restoration of all rights, like public employment banned in 1980, issue of ration cards and reinstatement of Gauḍīya Panchayati Raj Institutions which were cancelled in 1994. Chakma rued that the patriotism of the Chakmas and their loyalty to India had been exploited by the government when it settled them in NEFA to safeguard the China border, "but 50 years after rehabilitation we continue to face this ordeal, suspended between the mirage of citizenship and threat of deportation".

50 per cent tribal ...

(Contd from page 1)

these land is occupied by illegal migrants and other unauthorized persons, forcing the tribal people to shift to forest areas," he said.

Stating that at least 70 per cent of the tribal people of Assam do not have land *patta*, he demanded that the government should immediately evict the unauthorized people from the tribal belts and blocks, and settle only the authorized people in such places. He also said that the Forest Dwellers' Act was also not implemented properly in Assam, forcing the tribal people to shift from one place to another. The HS Brahma committee had expressed concern over large scale transfer of land of indigenous people to outsiders and the ABSU president said this happened because the local people are not conscious, while the government officials totally failed to carry out their responsibilities.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th August, 2017

S.O. 2017 (E)- In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 24 of the National Highway Act, 1956 (46 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the Public purpose, the land in brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (extending/bounding etc), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. NH-37, on the stretch of land from Km-402 to Km-430 (Nurumguri to Kalukong bridge excluding Dagona Town section) in the District of Golaghat in the State of Assam, hereby declare its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purposes under sub-section (1) of Section 24 of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rev.) Cum-Competent Authority Land Acquisition Golaghat (CALA) in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard either in person or by a legal practitioner, may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry as may be necessary, by order, either allow or dismiss the objections.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Dag & Patta Nos. (Villages) for Acquisition of Land for 4-Laning of NH-37 to be published in the Govt. Gazette Notification from Km. Ch. 402.500 to Km. Ch. 430.000 for Golaghat District (Excluding Dagona Town).

Sl. No. Name of the District Name of the Taluk/Mouza Name of the Village Survey No. Type of Land Nature of Land Area in Hectares

Dag No. Patta No.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1 (1) Golaghat (1) Numulgarh Twin (2) Mohura 1. Parbat 12 Private Business 0.025
6/P PP-109 Private Firing 0.040
8/P PP-98 Private Firing 0.020
17/P PP-117 Private Bari 0.025
26/P PP-35 Private BarJa 0.021
26/P PP-35 Private BarJa 0.074
27/P PP-35 Private TaBa 0.033
42/P PP-22 Private BarJa 0.013
63/P PP-47 Private BarJa 0.016
64/P PP-49 Private BarJa 0.006
64/P PP-49 Private BarJa 0.046
65/P PP-91 Private BarJa 0.006
424/P PP-149 Private BarJa 0.060
9/P Govt. Govt. BarJa 0.006
440/P PP-155 Private Bari 0.040
441/P PP-156 Private Bari 0.024
45 32 Private Agriculture 0.005
25 36 Private Basti 0.134
22 28 Private Basti 0.133
17 117 Private Basti 0.011

(4) Rongamati 1. Bon Gaon 803 PP-30 Private Agriculture 0.025
874 39 Private Basti 0.000

2. Bon Bagessa 2 ITP Private Basti 0.091
412 PP-99 Private Agriculture 0.067
24 PP-20 Private Agriculture 0.107
24 PP-20 Private Agriculture 0.054
13 A. P-12 Private Agriculture 0.067
12 Ailot Private Agriculture 0.301
12 Ailot Private Agriculture 0.268

3. Burailikson 48 Allotment Private Residential 0.166
816 No.6305 PP-143 Private Agriculture 0.107
85 P. P-12 Private Agriculture 0.074

4. Leblebi 492 54 Private Agriculture 0.067
414 Ailot Private Agriculture 0.020
415 Ailot Private Agriculture 0.487
414 Ailot Private Agriculture 0.047
415 Ailot Private Agriculture 0.47
427 Ailot Private Agriculture 0.508

5. Badulipar Bagissa 5216 18 Private Basti 0.04
229 24 Private Basti 0.145
7222 21 Private Basti 0.04
7 11 Private Basti 0.013
12/192 2 Private Basti 0.067

6. Badulipar Grant 695 PP-47 Private Residential 0.003
649 PP-16 Private Residential 0.004
670 PP-65 Private Residential 0.001
669 PP-68 Private Residential 0.001
704 PP-68 Private Residential 0.001
668 PP-73 Private Residential 0.001
201 Ailot Private Residential 0.268
202 Ailot Private Agriculture 0.054
169 A.P.52 Public Residential 0.04
170 A.P.52 Public Residential 0.054
196 Ailot Private Basti 0.032
622 67 Private Basti 0.012
673 46 Private Basti 0.054
657 19 Private Agriculture 0.042
102/654 24 Private Business 0.013

7. Rangamati Grant 75 Ailot Private Residential 0.127
76 76 Ailot Private Residential 0.177
77 Ailot Private Residential 0.334
59/836 43 Private Basti 0.04
17 FSI Private Basti 0.006
64 FSI Private Basti 0.027
58 FSI Private Basti 0.000
600 30 Private Basti 0.05
632 39 Private Basti 0.01

8. Koborta Gaon 722 PP-234 Private Residential 0.003
723 PP-176 Private Residential 0.052
735 PP-235 Private Residential 0.031
824 PP-201 Private Residential 0.054
128 PP-308 Private Residential 0.016
250 Ailot Private Residential 0.006
624 2 Private Business 0.007

(5) Mishmaro 1. Rangoliing Grant 340 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.008
341 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.054
342 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.001
345 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.002
346 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.145
347 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.054
348 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.04
349 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.126
355 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.115
356 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.067
357 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.016
360 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.176
361 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.001
362 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.058
363 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.151
371 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.151
374 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.309
375 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.043
376 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.076
385 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.106
386 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.067
389 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.972
390 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.020
372 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.005
380 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.01
470 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.007
371 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.056
482 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.127
485 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.013
491 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.223
497 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.001
498 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.013
499 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.002
500 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.004
501 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.004
502 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.004
503 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.039
504 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.04
513 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.114
514 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.04
512 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.016
511 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.002
516 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.067
515 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.004
520 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.033
496 F.S. Grant No.1 Tea Garden Tea 0.114
328 FCI Private Basti 0.014
345 FCI Private Basti 0.012

(Contd. on Page 11)



Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurating a Skill Development Institute, in Ahmedabad on Saturday. – UNI

Pradhan for petrol, diesel pricing under GST regime

GANDHINAGAR, Sept 23: Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday bat- tered for including petroleum products under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime "in people's interest", even as he insisted pet-rol and diesel prices had started plummeting over few days.

Pradhan told reporters on the sidelines of an official function here that the Central Government had

asked the GST Council to consider implementing the new taxation regime in the petroleum sector.

"We have appealed to the GST Council to implement GST on petroleum products, which would ensure interests of the people. This way, the interests of the state and central government will also be secured," he said.

Pradhan also stressed on the need for the State to have a bal-

anced model, so that taxes can be procured without the people being attributed by it.

Attributing the recent hikes in fuel prices to the market fluctuations caused by the hurricanes *Iрма* and *Harvey* in the US that caused market fluctuations, he said: "The prices have begun to fall, in fact they had gone down even during the last two days." — IANS

NEW DELHI, Sept 23: Arvind Subramanian, whose term as Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) has been extended by a year, on Saturday said the economy was going through some "transitional issues" and the government was working towards reviving growth.

"We do have some transitional issues that we are working through, we will have to see how the economy can overcome these challenges," Subramanian said.

"We have to revive growth, investment, exports. As Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said, in days ahead, you will know what the government is planning to do," he said.

Subramanian, whose term was

due to end on October 16, has been given an extension of one year; the government said on Saturday.

said after the extension was announced. The Finance Minister had on Friday said that the go-

bers in the first quarter dipped to a low of 5.7 per cent.

"We have taken note of all the economic indicators that are available. This has been a proactive government on the reforms agenda. Over the last two days, I have had a series of discussions with ministerial colleagues and various secretaries. The government will take additional measures in the coming days after consulting the Prime Minister," he had said.

On September 19, Jaitley had chaired a high-level meeting to review the economic situation and discuss measures, including a pos- sible stimulus package for the econ- omy. — IANS

“Delighted to take on the challenges. The government is working on multiple fronts



"Delighted to take on the challenges. The government is working on multiple fronts," the CEA

overnment was fully prepared for a "responsive action" to give a boost to the economy as the GDP num-

Scope for further rate cut by RBI: Finance Ministry



NEW DELHI, Sept 23: As the government scrambles for measures to boost the slowing economy, a top Finance Ministry official today said there is scope for an RBI rate cut at the next policy review as retail inflation continues to be low.

The statement comes ahead of the Reserve Bank's bi-monthly

monetary policy decision to be announced on October 4.

"There is scope for monetary easing because of inflation projections," the official said, adding that all the government analysis is made on the basis of inflation remaining under 4 per cent in the medium-term.

In its last policy review in Au- gust, the RBI reduced the repo rate by 0.25 per cent to 6 per cent in August, citing reduction in inflation risks. The rate cut was the first in 10 months and brought policy rates to a near 7-year low.

However, retail inflation rose

to a five-month high of 3.36 per cent in August due to costlier veg- etables and fruits. The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation was 2.36 per cent in July.

Asserting that the slowdown in the manufacturing sector is due to various reasons, the official said the response has to be from the board, including interest rate, exchange rate for boost- ing the manufacturing sector.

"Once the effect of demonetisa- tion and GST substantially reverses, we should expect those sectors picking up. But those sectors have been affected by appreciation of cur-

rency. So it's combination of these one of the factors plus appreciation of currency," the official said.

The RBI has been intervening

heavily to prevent appreciation of the rupee for the last three months

and the real competitiveness of the domestic currency has improved

a little bit but still not enough to offset the loss in the previous six months, the official added.

"One other good news is that volume of world exports has increased significantly. So manufac- turing will pick up after impact of demonetisation and GST wearing off," he said. — PTI

CAPSULE

Zydus Cadila

NEW DELHI, Sept 23 :

Cadila Health-

care today said its

group

firm Zydus Cadila has received the final approval from the US health regulator to market blood pressure medicine, Amlodipine and Olmesartan Medoxomil tablets. — PTI

REC's bonds

NEW DELHI, Sept 23:

State-run Rural Electrification Corp has received share

holders' approval

to raise

up to Rs

65,000 crore via bonds over

the next one year. — PTI

New CMD

NEW DELHI, Sept 23:

State-owned NHPC said

Balraj Joshi has taken over

as its Chairman and Manag-

ing Director (CMD). Prior to

his appointment as Chairman

and Managing Director (CMD), Joshi was Director

(Technical) of the state-

owned firm. — PTI

Tata Global

NEW DELHI, Sept 23:

Tata Global Breweries said its

overseas arm has formed a

step down subsidiary in

Russia, Coffee Trade LLC,

which will take over part of

the existing business as part

of its restructuring exercise in

the country. — PTI

HFDC Bank

GUWAHATI, Sept 23:

HFDC Bank today an-

nounced the launch of an

easy EMI system for its



customers, a press release

stated. Eligible customers will

be informed by the bank

through e-mail and SMS, the

release added.

Prabhu meets Korean biz leaders

NEW DELHI, Sept 23: Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu held discussions with top repre- sentatives of Korean industries in Seoul, and discussed ways to increase business cooperation, an official statement said today.

The Commerce Minister exchanged views on prospects for more business cooperation with executives of ten South Korean companies, including Samsung, Kia motors, Hyundai Electric and Posco.

The minister was in Korea for Asia-Europe (ASEM) Economic Ministers meeting. He also participated in the third Joint Ministerial Review of the India-Korea Comprehensive Econo-

mic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The three-day visit of Prabhu ended yesterday.

"In a detailed exchange of views



Calling India a shining star in the global economy, Choo noted that the elephant was out performing the dragon

with the Chairman of Korea's ruling Democratic Party Choo Mi-ae.

"Calling India a shining star in the global economy, Ms Choo noted that

the 'elephant was out performing the dragon,'" the statement said.

Besides, he held bilateral meetings with Minister of State for Economy and Finance of France Benjamin Griveaux; State Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries of Norway Dilek Ayhan; State Secre-

tary for Trade and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark Susanne Hyldelund.

At the ASEW meeting, Prabhu reiterated India's commitment for pro- moting free and fair world trade. He also emphasised on the challenges in ensuring free and fair trade. — PTI

Yamaha to invest over Rs 200 crore

CHENNAI, Sept 23: Japanese group Yamaha plans to invest more than Rs 200 crore in its two-wheeler plant near here, a statement from India Yamaha Motor Pvt Ltd said.

"Yamaha has so far invested Rs 1,300 crore in the Chennai factory and plans to invest over Rs 200 crore more by 2018. The Chennai factory is the first in the

Yamaha Motor group with a vendor park in its vicinity," the statement said.

The vendor park has 9 vendors, who have invested Rs 760 crore to date, employing more than 1,900 people, India Yamaha Motor said.

On Friday, the company reached a major milestone of producing its one-millionth unit at the Chennai plant.

Yamaha began its operation in Chennai in March 2015 with an initial capacity of 4.5 lakh units per annum. In two years, the company increased its capacity to six lakh units per annum and by 2019, it will reach 9 lakh units per annum. — IANS

Subdued economic sentiment hits equity market

MUMBAI, Sept 23: Subdued macro-economic sentiment, coupled with rising geo-political tensions in the Korean Peninsula and continuous outflows of foreign funds dragged the key Indian equity markets in the red last week.

Consequently, the two key indices – the BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty – receded below their psychologically important levels of 32,000-points and 10,000-points as investors were spooked over a possibility of government exceeding its fiscal deficit target to stimulate the economy.

On a weekly basis, the 30-scrip Sensitive Index (Sensex) of the BSE declined by 350.17 points or 1.09 per cent to 31,922.44 points.

Similarly, the Nifty 50 of the

National Stock Exchange (NSE) ended lower to 9,964.40 points,

down 150.6 points or 1.19 per cent.

According to Dhruv Desai, Director and Chief Operating Officer of Tradebulls, rising geo-political tension eroded investors' risk-taking appetite and subdued global and domestic markets.

"Geo-political tensions, continue to take centre stage, as things have gone from bad to worse," Desai said.

Besides geo-political tensions, FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) minutes dampened investors' sentiments. The US Fed has indicated that there will be one rate hike in December 2017 and three in 2018.

"Domestic markets became nervous after the US Federal Reserve outlined plans to unwind

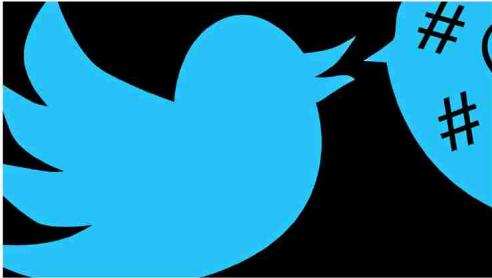
its \$4.2 trillion balance sheet starting next month," DK Aggarwal, Chairman and Managing Director, SMC Investments and Advisors, told IANS.

"The domestic currency hit 65 levels against the US dollar for the first time in more than five months on the back of speculation about the government going in for a fiscal deficit relaxation, with talk of a Rs 40,000-Rs 50,000 crore stimulus."

On the currency front, the Indian rupee weakened by 72 paise to close the week at 64.80 to a US dollar from its previous week's close at 64.08.

Market observers added that liquidity was redirected from equities to insurance IPOs of ICICI Lombard and SBI Life. — IANS





Twitter bots can promote good behaviour, not just fake news

Twitter bots earned a bad reputation for their alleged role in the 2016 US presidential election, but researchers have found that automated tweets can also help promote good behaviour such as getting the flu shot among the social network's users.

In a large-scale experiment designed to analyse the spread of information on social networks, the researchers deployed a network of algorithm-driven Twitter accounts, or social bots, programmed to spread positive messaging on Twitter.

"We found that bots can be used to run interventions on social media that trigger or foster good behaviour," said Emilio Ferrara, Research Assistant Professor at University of

Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering in the US.

The study, published in the journal PLOS ONE, also revealed another intriguing pattern — information is much more likely to become viral when people are exposed to the same piece of information multiple times through multiple sources.

"This milestone shatters a long-held belief that ideas spread like an infectious disease, or contagion, with each exposure resulting in the same probability of infection," Ferrara said.

"Now we have seen empirically that when you are exposed to a given piece of information multiple times, your chances of adopting this information increase every time," Ferrara added.

To reach these conclusions, the researchers first developed a dozen positive hashtags, ranging from health tips to fun activities, such as encouraging users to get the flu shot and high-five a stranger.

Then, they designed a network of 39 bots to deploy these hashtags in a synchronised manner to 25,000 real followers during a four-month period.

Each bot automatically recorded when a target user retweeted intervention-related content and also each exposure that had taken place prior to retweeting. Several hashtags received more than one hundred retweets and likes, Ferrara said.

"We also saw that every exposure increased the probability of adoption - there is a cumulative reinforcement effect," Ferrara said.

"It seems there are some cognitive mechanisms that reinforce your likelihood to believe in or adopt a piece of information when it is validated by multiple sources in your social network," he said.

The researchers believe that this discovery could also improve how positive intervention strategies are deployed on social networks in many scenarios, including public health announcements for disease control or emergency management in the wake of a crisis.

(Source: JANS)

Twitter bots can promote good behaviour, not just fake news

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017:

This year you will experience a lot of excitement as well as some confusion. Learn to ask questions before jumping into a chaotic situation. If you are single, many advances would love to be your sweetie. The problem for you is settling down when you actually enjoy the date scene. If you are after the right person, then you need to learn something new. Refuse to make any quick judgments about your sweetie as you have in the past. SCORPIO likes that you demand details.

The Star Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You're a bit nervous with your mind on overload. As a result, you'll choose to share more of what you are thinking with a loved one. You appreciate this person's feedback. You know how to shake up the status quo, and probably will unintentionally. Tonight Opt for an early night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You will be drawn to certain people again. You could feel as if someone close to you is telling tall tales. As a result, you'll want to distance yourself from this person. A loved one is likely to pick up on your change of attitude. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep, it's possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Why not give it a shot and see what happens? A friend could be difficult or unpredictable. When the inevitable occurs, think carefully about your decisions. Tonight: Meet up with friends at a favorite restaurant.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Your creativity takes the lead, regardless of whether you already have plans. You take wonder how much more you want a certain bond to develop. A child or loved one could play a significant role in your plans. You will find the creation delightful. Tonight: Wear good music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You want to change direction and revise your plans. What is stopping you? Why do I feel as if this possibility can't happen now, decide to plan for it in the near future. Do more sharing with a loved one, if possible. You both will be happier as a result. Tonight: Maximize the moment.

LIBRA (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your intentions are positive. You are more aware of someone in your life, and you might want to get to know her or better. Laughter surrounds a close friendship, despite an argument or misunderstanding. Tonight: Go out to meet a friend or two at a favorite spot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

To some people, you might seem quiet and restrained, but your imagination seems to wander everywhere. Focus on a special person in your life. You could realize that you are not seeing this person completely. Don't let this thought distract you. Tonight: Think now. Forget tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You might be holding back your thoughts and ideas. Those around you might not be sharing as much as usual, either. Root out the source of the problem. You could be emotional about a personal matter involving your distant family. Others seem busy and not ready for a discussion quite yet. You may sometimes feel left out. Tonight: Play it low-key.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You have a lot on your mind, and might feel as if you cannot share your thoughts in the present atmosphere. Wait until you are in the right mood to speak. Others seem busy and not ready for a discussion quite yet. You may sometimes feel left out. Tonight: Where your friends are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

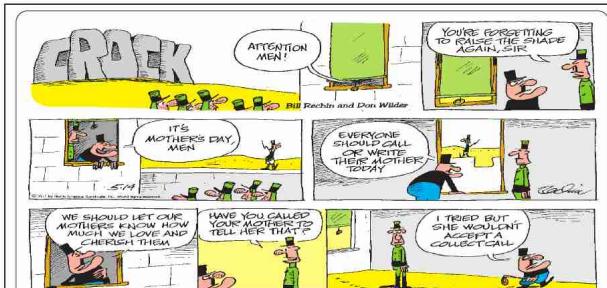
You might not be in the right mood to visit with an older relative. You could look for a valid excuse, but the best you will be able to do is to politely decline project. Remember, you could be preventing your own success by proceeding this way. Tonight: Very busy!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

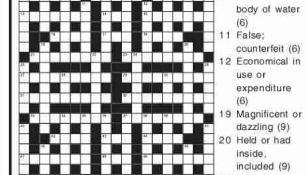
You'll opt to relax to a favorite piece of music. You might not want to be involved in entertaining others. If nothing else, head out the door and go to the movies. As a result, you will feel refreshed and ready for the weekend. Tonight: Surrounded by several friends.

Thought for the day
Music is like life in that –
it is a field of battle,
and not a bed of roses.

— ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



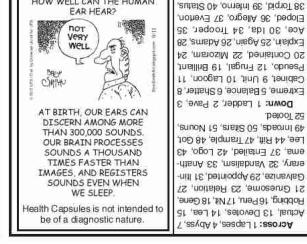
Tribune SUNDAY CROSSWORD — 997



Across

- 1 Four out (6)
- 2 Battress (6)
- 3 Existing in fact (6)
- 4 Dedicates or consecrates (7)
- 5 Meadow or grassland (3)
- 6 Stealing from (7)
- 7 Lima is its capital city (4)
- 8 Egg of an insect (3)
- 9 Hereditary unit (4)
- 10 Macabre (8)
- 11 A kinsman or a narration? (8)
- 12 Coat iron with zinc? (9)
- 13 Prescribed or assigned (8)
- 14 Travel plan (9)
- 15 Wanton destruction (9)
- 16 Detested thing (8)
- 17 Necessitated, involved unavoidably (8)
- 18 Trademark symbol (4)
- 19 Sheltered side (3)
- 20 Clef or fissure (4)
- 21 Crush under foot (7)
- 22 Meadow (6)
- 23 Escaped? (3)
- 24 Intrusion? (7)
- 25 Ravi Shankar's instruments (6)
- 26 Naming words (5)
- 27 Blew a horn (6)
- 28 Climbing device (6)
- 29 Blacktop a road (4)
- 30 Comical; ridiculous (7)
- 31 Prescribed or assigned (8)
- 32 Break into pieces (7)
- 33 Item of furniture (7)
- 34 Single entity (4)
- 35 Run away to get married? (6)
- 36 Lively and fast (7)
- 37 A Liverpool football club (7)
- 38 Inactive or sluggish (6)
- 39 Torpid fire (7)
- 40 Social position (6)
- 41 Made active or excited (6)
- 42 Topographic (4)
- 43 Sail support (4)
- 44 Quick (4)

SOLUTION TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD — 997



Iran tests new ballistic missile defying US threats

TEHRAN, Sept 23: Iran said on Saturday that it had successfully tested a new medium-range missile in defiance of warnings from the US that it was ready to ditch a landmark nuclear deal over the issue.

State-run Press TV broadcast a footage of the launch of the Khoramshahr missile, which was first displayed at a high-profile military parade on Friday with President Hassan Rouhani and senior military officials in attendance.

The ballistic missile is capable of carrying multiple warheads, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, a senior commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC)



Aerospace Division, told the media on Friday. "The missile has become smaller in size (compared to other Iranian ballistic missiles) and more tactical, and it will be operational in the near future," Hajizadeh said without further elaboration.

Iran also displayed other home-made advanced missiles, including ballistic missiles, which are ballistic to have fought against terrorism. - IANS

On Friday, the Iranian armed

forces commemorated the 1980-1988 war with Iraq by holding a parade in which Iran's most advanced military power and abilities were showcased.

The ballistic missile, which is Iran's third type of missile with a range of 2,000 kilometers along with the Qadr-F and Sejjil ballistic missiles, is capable of carrying multiple warheads. Iran has repeatedly insisted that its military capabilities are solely aimed for defense purposes and they pose no threat to other countries. Tehran has also been accused of its allies, including Iraq and Syria, in their ongoing fight against terrorism. - IANS

B'desh frees Myanmar lensmen

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 23: (Bangladesh) authorities on Friday released two Myanmar photographers covering the Rohingya crisis for a German magazine after they were granted bail by a court, police and a lawyer said.

Minzayar Oo and Hkun Lat were detained early this month in the border district of Cox's Bazar, where more than 42,000 Rohingya Muslims have sought refuge from violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state since August 25.

Police have said that they were arrested on suspicion of espionage - a charge rejected by the pair's lawyers. "They were freed on bail," a police inspector told AFP, adding on condition of anonymity as he is not authorised to speak to the media.

One of the pair's lawyers, Jyotirmoy Barua, confirmed that the two were granted bail by a court of a judicial magistrate in Cox's Bazar.

It was not clear whether the two would be allowed to travel back to Myanmar.

The lawyer said the two were charged with "false impersonation" and providing "false information" after police accused them of using tourist visas to enter the country, instead of journeys visas. - AFP

Lavrov says US has no proof of Russian vote meddling

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 23: Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters at the United Nations yesterday. Lavrov said that he had asked US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to provide proof that Russia had covertly intervened to support Donald Trump's campaign.

Tillerson replied that a bilateral meeting between Tillerson and Lavrov had focused on improving coordination between Washington and Moscow. - AFP

United investigation, Lavrov claimed, scorning the idea and suggesting any real proofs would have been leaked.



"And now the immense potential of our bilateral relationship stands there in vain, and our relations are contracting due to Russophobie hysteria," Lavrov complained.

US officials think Russian agents hacked email accounts associated with Clinton's campaign and leaked damaging information, amplified by anti-Russia "trolls."

Russia has fiercely denied this. But Mueller's inquiry has destabilized US politics, angering Trump and contributing to a deep chill in ties between Washington and Moscow. - AFP

the US and Russian militaries in Syria to avoid inadvertent clashes. A US special prosecutor, Robert Mueller, has launched a wide-ranging inquiry into allegations that Russian President Vladimir Putin intervened to back Trump.

The Kremlin allegedly favored the business mogul over his opponent Hillary Clinton, who had backed sanctions against Russia for rights abuses and interference in Ukraine.

US officials think Russian agents hacked email accounts associated with Clinton's campaign and leaked damaging information, amplified by anti-Russia "trolls."

Russia has fiercely denied this. But Mueller's inquiry has destabilized US politics, angering Trump and contributing to a deep chill in ties between Washington and Moscow. - AFP

Myanmar army blames Rohingya for mosque blast

SITTWE (Myanmar), Sept 23: Myanmar's army chief leader Aung San Suu Kyi declared troops had ceased "clearance operations" in the border area that have forced more than 430,000 Rohingya refugees to flee for Bangladesh in a month.

The army claims it is targeting Rohingya militants who attacked police posts on August 25. But its operation has so sweeping and brutal that it makes little sense for a group whose power depends on the networks it has built across Rohingya communities.

"As our villagers did not want to leave their homes, the terrorists blew up the bomb during the prayer time as a way of terrorizing the villagers," the army chief's statement said. - AFP

The unrest comes days after Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi declared troops had ceased "clearance operations" in the border area that have forced more than 430,000 Rohingya refugees to flee for Bangladesh in a month.

The army claims it is targeting Rohingya militants who attacked police posts on August 25. But its operation has so sweeping and brutal that it makes little sense for a group whose power depends on the networks it has built across Rohingya communities.

"As our villagers did not want to leave their homes, the terrorists blew up the bomb during the prayer time as a way of terrorizing the villagers," the army chief's statement said. - AFP

Cosmic rays striking Earth come from outside Milky Way: study



WASHINGTON, Sept 23: Ultra-high-energy cosmic rays that occasionally hit the Earth may be coming from a distant source outside the Milky Way galaxy, a study suggests.

Fifty years ago, scientists discovered that the Earth is occasionally hit by cosmic rays of enormous energies.

Since then, they have argued about the source of those ultra-high-energy cosmic rays - whether they came from our galaxy or outside the Milky Way.

The answer lies in a galaxy or galaxies far, far away, according to a study published in the journal *Science*. Pierre Auger Collaboration - an internationally run observatory in Argentina - has been collect-

ing data on such cosmic rays for a more than a decade.

Researchers found that the rate of such cosmic particles, whose energies are a million times greater than that of the protons accelerated in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), is about six per cent greater from one side of the sky than the other, in a direction where the distribution of galaxies is relatively high.

"We are now considerably closer to solving the mystery of where and how these extraordinary particles are created - a question of great interest to astrophysicists," said Karl-Heinz Kampert, professor at University of Wuppertal in Germany. - PTI



German Chancellor Angela Merkel distributes coffee as she attends a breakfast with supporters at the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party election campaign meeting centre in Berlin, Germany on Saturday. - UNI

US Federal Govt notifies 21 states of election hacking

WASHINGTON, Sept 23: Texas and Washington.

The US federal government has notified election officials in 21 states that hackers targeted their systems before last year's presidential election. The notification came shortly after US Department of Homeland Security officials first said states were targeted by hacking efforts possibly connected to Russia.

The states that had been targeted included some key political battlegrounds, such as Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

The AP contacted every state election office to determine which ones had been informed that their election systems had been targeted. The others confirming were Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon,



Russian scanning of our systems, despite our repeated requests for information," California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, a Democrat, said in a statement.

Even so, the widespread nature of the attempts and the yearlong lag time in notification from Homeland Security raised concerns among some election officials and lawmakers.

For many states, the Friday calls were the first official confirmation of whether their states were on the list, even though state election officials across the country have been calling for months for the federal government to share information about any hacks, as have members of Congress.

"It is completely unacceptable that it has taken DHS of a year to inform our office of targeted states.

He said states need such information in real time so they can strengthen their cyber defenses. "We have to do better in the future," he said.

Homeland Security said it recognises that state and local officials should be kept informed about cybersecurity risks to election infrastructure.

"We are working with them to refine our processes for sharing this information while protecting the integrity of investigations and the confidentiality of system owners," it said in a statement. - AP



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সভা সমাজখন কল্যাণ কৰাৰিব।
- পথৰ দাঙিত খোলাক মল-মুৰা আগ কৰাৰ
অভাস এক।
- বৰনাম-বাষিজৰ নামত বাস্ত পথ অথবা এলেকসমূহ
লেভেৰোৰ কৰাৰ অধিকাৰ আমাৰ নাই।
- ডাটাবেস সলনি ভাট্টেবন্দ আশে-গাপে জাৰ-জোখ
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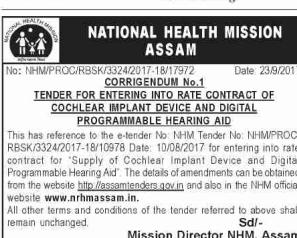
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1.	Tender Publishing	25/09/2017	03:00 PM		
2.	Tender Download	25/09/2017	04:00 PM	21/10/2017	1:00 PM
3.	Pre Bid Meeting	06/10/2017	03:30 PM		
4.	Bid Submission	16/10/2017	11:00 AM	21/10/2017	2:00 PM
5.	Bid opening	21/10/2017	03:30 PM		

Sd/-
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In-form India look to seal ODI series



Indian captain Virat Kohli plays football during a practice session in Indore on Saturday.

INDORE, Sept 23: Packed with an incisive bowling attack, a confident India would look to pile on the misery for a struggling Australia and seal the five-match series when they clash in the third ODI here tomorrow.

It was no small task for Virat Kohli and his men to defend a modest 252 on the Eden Garden wicket, which despite being a two-paced track favoured the batsmen.

The hosts have their bowling combination working superbly for them. The swingeing master Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah have made the Australian top-order look ordinary while the wrist spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal has made the Kangaroos dance to their tunes.

Australia's plight could easily be gauged from the fact that eight of their batsmen could not touch double-digit scores in Chennai, while only four of them could score more than 10 runs in Kolkata.

India have surely taken a giant step for yet another series win, but the team has allowed the Australian to create a few openings that could have proved detrimental if there were not some rescue acts.

If the top order floundered in the se-

ries-opener, the middle order squirmed in Kolkata, where the bowlers won the match for the hosts.

Kedar Jadhav and Manish Pandey have not made any contribution in the team's cause so far and to keep their places they have to do something worthwhile.

The selectors have named the squad for the first three ODIs so it's time that Pandey, who had a decent run during India A's tour of South Africa, and Jadhav come up with something special.

Considering that the team management is looking to identify the number four and five positions for the 2019 World Cup in England, Pandey at number four so far has failed to impress.

Jadhav has proved that he is a utility batsman, he needs to be consistent and lift the side when it's faced with crunch situations. Just the way Hardik Pandya, who is fast establishing himself as fast-bowling all-rounder, did it in Chennai. In the first match he came good with bat and in Kolkata, he did the job with the ball.

The 70-yard short boundary on all sides would give the batsmen of both the teams chance to get a lot of runs. It has been a happy hunting ground for the Indians with

both India captain Virat Kohli (211) and Ajinkya Rahane (188) getting big hundreds here last year against New Zealand in the third Test.

The major reason why the Indian batsmen have not been able to dominate the world champions is the incredibly consistent performance of their pacers, especially Nathan Coulter-Nile.

Coulter-Nile has unswervingly put the ball outside off stump on good length, reminding of the Australian great Glenn McGrath, who was always a thorn in India's flesh with his teasing perfect line and length.

Pat Cummins has also done reasonably well, bowling in tandem with Coulter-Nile. Their approach straight-jacketed the Indian batsmen in both the matches even as the same batsmen themselves from playing atrocious shots in Kolkata. The strategy has worked well for the Australians in keeping the Indians quiet in the first Powerplay overs.

The major concern for the visitors is their spinners. Adam Zampa was a thorn in the cleaners by Pandya in Chennai and was immediately dropped.

Match starts at 13:30 IST. - PTI

Don't want to think much about my future: Rahane

INDORE, Sept 23: Ajinkya Rahane has adjusted to his role as a stop-gap opener in ODIs and he does not want to dwell too much on his future in the format once first-choice opener Shikhar Dhawan is back from his shoulder injury.

After getting 'Man of the Series' award in the West Indies, Rahane only got to play one game against Sri Lanka after Shikhar Dhawan left to attend his ailing mother.

Rahane also said that adjusting to a new position in batting order is completely a "mental" aspect and it's not an issue with the Indian team.

He was asked about the challenges an opener faces when he is asked to bat in the middle-order. Rahane had problems trying to find the pace in the middle overs when asked to bat in the middle order.

Rahane himself shuffles in the batting order in different formats. He plays in the middle order in the Test and opens in ODIs. Out of 81 ODIs so far, he has played 51 as opener. - PTI

Mary Kom to be AIBA representative

NEW DELHI, Sept 23: Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze-medallist M C Mary Kom has become the first Indian to be picked as the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) representative for the IOC Athletes' Forum scheduled in November.

The 33-year-old, who is also an active parliamentarian, has been invited to attend the 8th International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Forum in Lausanne from November 11 to 13. "This bi-annual forum brings together athlete repre-

sentatives from across the Olympic Movement and provides an in-person communication where athletes can exchange and discuss their viewpoint," the AIBA wrote in its invitation letter to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) President Ajay Singh.

"In this respect we would like to designate Ms Mary Kom to attend the forum as AIBA representative," the letter stated.

The event, however, overlaps with the Asian Championship in Vietnam, which is scheduled from November 2 to 12. - PTI

U-17 WC can be crucial for youngsters: Ronaldinho

NEW DELHI, Sept 23: India is hosting the 17th edition of the FIFA U-17 World Cup and the legendary Brazilian footballer Ronaldinho says that the tournament can be crucial for many young players as it has given him "a wonderful start" to his glittering career when he won it for the first in 1997.

Ronaldinho won Brazil's first FIFA U-17 World Cup 20 years ago in Egypt. He is the only player to have won both FIFA U-17 World Cup (1997) and FIFA U-20 World Cup (2002) titles.

A total of 12 players who have represented India in FIFA U-17 World Cup have also represented their countries in a FIFA World Cup Finals.

"The U-17 World Cup is a very special tournament for me. It opened the door for my professional career. I was lucky enough

not only to take part in the competition but to win it too. I can honestly say that it opened the door for my professional career," said Ronaldinho, who was named FIFA World Player of the Year in 2004 and 2005.

"The U-17 World Cup can be crucial as for many players it marks the start of their careers. Young players dream of making it big, and this competition gives them a fantastic opportunity to make that dream come true. It got my career off to a wonderful start and will always be close to my heart," he was quoted as saying by www.Fifa.com.

In a career spanning almost 20 years, the Brazilian won almost every title in football, including the 2002 FIFA World Cup, the FIFIA Confederations Cup 2005 and the UEFA Champions League in 2006. - PTI

South Asian boxing c'ship in city

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 23: The Assam Amateur Boxing Association (AABA) will organise the South Asian Senior Men's and Women's Boxing Championship during the second week of December here.

Meanwhile, an emergent general meeting of the AABA general body was

held at the Assam Olympic Association Conference Hall in which the State boxing body suspended some districts presidents and secretaries for life time informed AABA president Kali Kanta Baru and secretary Hemanta Kumar Kalita in press conference today.

The suspended members are Sanjib Handique, secretary, Golaghat District ABA; Durga Prasad Jaiswal, president,

Golaghat District ABA; Om Prakash Borah, secretary, Jorhat ABA; Tutu Phukan, secretary, Sivasagar District ABA; Rasadul Haque, president, Moran District ABA and vice president AABA; Bimal Haarika, president, Titabor District ABA; Debasish Baruah, secretary, Titabor ABA; Digena Nath, secretary, Dergaon ABA and Tilkot Deuri, secretary, Charaideo District ABA.

Salbagan FC lift Open Brahma gold cup

UDALGURI, Sept 23: Salbagan Football Club of Gosiagonam emerged champions in the Bodoland Pendra Nath Brahma Gold Cup.

In the final at the Udalguri Stadium here today, the Gosiagonam full members trounced Nonong Hills Sports Club of Shillong 3-2.

Salbagan striker November Basumatary opened the account in the 8th minute with a firm drive from top of the box. Mitthangs Narzary doubled the margin in the 20th minute.

Lwthw Basumatary was the star striker of the team today scoring two goals in the 48th and 59th minutes respectively. Shillong outfit reduced the margin through Dennis Mawphain in the 58 minute. But it was Nigerian striker Joseph who made it 5-1 in the 86th minute. Finally Jeffrey Surong managed to narrow the gap just before the final hooper.

Minister Rihon Daimari gave away the Champions' trophy to the Salbagan FC team while Mazbat MLA Charan Boro handed over the runners-up trophy to the Nonong Hills SC team. Lwthw Basumatary of Salbagan FC was adjudged the best player of the tournament.



ACA secretary Pradip Buragohain (C), flanked by vice-president Devojit Saikia (2nd R) addressing the media in Gauhati on Saturday - UB Photos

Bhuvi's seam position is a captain's delight

Amidst the exploits from the batsmen and the guile of the two wrist spinners, one remarkable feature of this Indian team has gone largely unnoticed. The skill and temperament displayed by Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar has played a pivotal role in taking the team to No.1 in the world.

Over generations, new ball bowlers have always hunted in pairs. Usually the two bowlers are different in style and approach, and that has made it even more difficult for batsmen. Bhuvi with his orthodox action and excellent seam position is a captain's delight. Be it at the start of the innings or the death overs, his calm demeanour and strong basics sets him apart.

On the other hand Bumrah, with his unconventional action is difficult to pick and he complements Kumar extremely

well. An economy rate of 4.72 (Bumrah) and 4.86 (Bhuvi) especially when they are bowling both while the fielding restrictions are on and at the end when the batsmen are looking at hitting every ball.

Bhuvi moves the ball both ways, believe me this is easier said than done at

takars as well. What they are doing is setting things nicely for the wrist spinners who follow.

In limited overs cricket, spinners generally struggle when they are up against batsmen high on momentum, early wickets ensure, spinners can bowl an attacking line and also have an extra catcher in. The performance of Kumar and Bumrah augurs well for Indian cricket and if they can keep up their good work, there is no reason why this Indian team can't dominate even some of the better sides in the world.

And congratulations to Kuldeep Yadav on his hat-trick. The standout factor in this young wrist spinner is how well he has embraced the demands of international cricket so quickly. A hat-trick in only his ninth ODI, sums it up well. - TCM

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WOMEN PLUS

Bidisha Singha traces a rising star.

3

MY SPACE

Lohit Dutta Baruah faces the world for the first time.

4

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan goes high altitude.

The Assam Tribune Sunday

READING

In search of the demon king

At a time when the people of West Bengal, Assam and some parts of Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand are inspired by the spirit of Durga Puja, it looks like they are the people of a different world who literally do not sleep or feel tired for five days. Conversely, there exist some other people in the far-flung areas of the country, who mourn the death anniversary of their beloved king or ancestor or *Kulgu* – Mahishasura.

Durga Puja, commonly referred to as *Durgotsav* or *Shradhdotsav*, marks the victory of Goddess Durga over the demon king Mahishasura. According to mythology, Mahishasura's father Rambha, who was the king of the Asuras, the traditional enemies of the

Devas (Hindu Gods), once fell in love with a water buffalo, which in reality was a cursed princess named Shyama. The son born out of thisorthodox union was known as Mahishasura, since he could take the form of a man or a buffalo at will.

The demon Mahishasura, who had the blessings of Lord Brahma that no man or God could defeat him in battle, intended to defeat all the Devas. He invaded heaven, defeated Indra and drove away all the Devas out of heaven. As Mahishasura was invincible, Durga was created by the joint forces of divinity, including the holy trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh to slay Mahishasura and his evil minions, who had started a reign of terror on both heaven and earth.

The *Devi Mahatmya* depicts that Devi Durga mounted a lion and fought a fierce battle with Mahishasura, who ridiculed Her for being a mere woman. On the tenth day, while fighting with Goddess Durga, Mahishasura is said to have appeared in the form of a buffalo. He was slain by the Goddess on this day and peace was restored in the world.

But apart from this mythological story of Durga slaying Mahishasura, symbolising the victory of good over evil, there exist varied folklores that eulogise Mahishasura as a powerful and brave king. In Hindu scriptures, the word *Asura* denotes 'demon'. A number of anthropologists believe that *Asuras* were among the proto-Australoid groups, scattered mainly in West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha. A number of tribal communities revere Mahishasura for his strength and bravery. A small tribe known as 'Asur', with a population of just about 12,000, believes that

they are the descendants of Mahishasura and consider him their *Kulgu*. The tribe is found in Gumla, Latehar, Lohardaga and Palamu districts of Jharkhand and in North Bengal's Alipurduar district.

The demon king Mahishasura is honoured in the tribal rituals of the *Asurs* and the *Santhals*. They believe themselves to be the offsprings of *Hudur Durga* – the Santhal name for Mahishasura. The folk songs of the Santhal tribe of Jharkhand frequently mention the greatness of Mahishasura. They even sing and dance in mournful tunes in



DR. MANASH P. GOSWAMI
reveals the ambivalent aspect of
Mahishasura.

that talk of the death of Mahishasura. Likewise, the Korku tribe of Madhya Pradesh has the tradition of worshipping Mahishasura.

A number of activists from the Asur tribe have made several attempts to tell people of mainstream India about their history, the bravery of Mahishasura and how history has been unkind to them. They fervently believe that Mahishasura was an aboriginal king and a great ruler, who had been duped and murdered in ancient times by the Aryan invaders. Even a big fair is organised in West Bengal's Purulia district to worship Mahishasura every year.

A parallel movement, starting in the districts of Malda and Purulia of West Bengal, has been spreading now across several other districts of Bengal. They organise memorial meetings on Mahishasura, also known as *Hudur Durga*, and spread Santhal folklore that talks of the great king Hudur Durga, who they believed was murdered by a beautiful woman at the behest of the Aryan God, Indra.

According to D.D. Kaushambi, a noted Indian mathematician, statistician, historian and polymath, the kingdom of Mahishasura existed in the Mahoba District of Uttar Pradesh, situated very close to the historical site of Khajuraho. Therefore, the memories of Mahishasura are very much alive in the folk traditions of Mahoba. He is known as Maikasur, Karas Dev, Gwal Baba, etc., in the Bundelkhand region. Although there is no idol of Mahishasura, only raised platforms made of clay in the villages of Mahoba, every villager in Mahoba has high respect for him. According to the devotees of Mahishasura, unlike in Hindu tradition, Mahishasura does not live in temples, rather he lives on clay platforms under the open sky.

In the *sthan* of Mahishasura at Mohari village in the Kulpahad area, nearly 30 km from Mahoba, the devotees have built a cemented platform, but without installing any idol of Mahishasura. Instead, they have installed statues of Mahishasura's buffalo avatar and a peacock, the companion of his other avatar called 'Karas Dev'.

A section of historians believe that Mahishasura was the mythological hero of the Bahujan communities of India. The Bahujan Samaj of Maikasur's *sthan* at Gokhaor Pahar near Mahoba has immense admiration for Mahishasura. The tradition of worshipping Mahishasura on the *Shashthi of Bhada Paksha* is growing rapidly in some parts of the regions. He is offered sweets made of milk, coconut, etc., along with performance of traditional rituals.

Perhaps, it is because of the diversity of the country that the mythological and folk stories associate us to the spirit of festivals, or the sadness of the loss of any mythological or folk character. Just like some sections of people, mainly from the tribal origin, oppose the burning of the effigy of Ravana, the worshippers of Mahishasura have their own reasons and explanations for opposing the portrayal of their icon as an anti-hero.

(mpgoswami@gmail.com)

The pure self

SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR
describes the festive season's
spiritual dimension.

The festival of *Navratri* is celebrated with prayers and gaiety in the beginning of *Ashwin* (autumn) and the beginning of *Chaitra* (Spring). This period is a time for introduction and getting back to the source. During this time of transformation, Nature sheds the old and gets rejuvenated; animals hibernate and life emerges afresh in the Spring. *Ratri* means night and night brings rebirth. According to Vedic Science, matter reverts back to its original form to recreate itself again and again. The creation is cyclical, not linear; everything is recycled by Nature – a continuous process of rejuvenation.

Navratri is a festival for one to take the mind back to its source. The seeker gets back to the true source through fasting, prayer, silence and meditation. It gives relief at three levels of our existence – physical, subtle and causal. While fasting detoxifies the body, silence purifies the speech and brings rest to the chattering mind, and meditation takes one deep into one's own being.

The inward journey nullifies our negative *kar-*

mas. *Navratri* is a celebration of the spirit or *prana*, which alone can destroy the demons – *mahishasura* (inertia), *shumba-nishumba* (pride and shame) and *madhu-katibh* (extreme forms of craving and aversion).

They are completely opposites, yet complementary. Inertia, deeply ingrained negativities and obsessions (*raktabeejasura*, unreasonable logic (*chanda-mundu*) and blurred vision (*doormarali*)) can be overcome only by raising the level of *prana-shakti* – the life-force energy.

The nine days of *Navratri* are also an opportunity to rejoice in the three primordial qualities that make up the universe. Though our life is governed by the three *gunas*, we seldom recognise and reflect on them. The first three days of

Navratri are attributed to *Tamas guna* (it leads to depression, fear and emotional instability); the second three to *Rajas guna* (this leads to anxiety and feverishness) and the last three days to *Sattva guna* (when *Sattva* dominates then we are clear focussed, peaceful and dynamic). Our consciousness salls through the *Tamas* and *Rajas gunas* and blossoms in the *Sattva guna* of the last three days.

The three primordial *gunas* are considered as the feminine force of our mag-



nificent universe. By worshipping Mother Divine during *Navratri*, we harmonise the three *gunas* and elevate *Sattva* in the atmosphere. Whenever *Sattva* dominates in life, victory follows. The essence of this knowledge is honoured by celebrating the tenth day as *Uttarakasham*.

Though *Navratri* is celebrated as the victory of good over evil, the actual fight is not between good and evil.

From the Vedantic point of view, the victory is of the absolute reality over the apparent duality. In the words of the great sage Ashtavakra, it is the poor wave which tries to keep its identity separate from the ocean, but not so.

The Mother Divine is recognised not just as the brilliance of intellect (*buddhi*), but also the cognition (*bhramati*), she is not just abundance (*Lakshmi*), she is also hunger (*shudha*) and thirst (*trishna*). Realising this aspect of the Mother Divine in the entire creation leads one to a deep state of *Samadhi*. This gives an answer to the age-old theological struggle of the Occident. Through wisdom, devotion and *Nishkama Karma*, one can attain *Adwaita Siddhi* or perfection in the non-dual consciousness. Kali is the most horrific manifestation of Nature. Nature symbolises beauty, yet it has a horrific form. Acknowledging the duality brings a total acceptance in the mind and puts the mind at ease.

Though the microcosm is very well within the macrocosm, its perceived separateness is the cause of conflict. For a *guru* (wise), the entire creation becomes alive and he recognises life in everything in the same way children see life in everything. The Mother Divine or the pure consciousness itself pervades all the forms and has all the names. Recognising the one divinity in every form and every name is the celebration of *Navratri*. Hence, special *poojas* honouring all aspects of life and Nature are performed during the last three days of *Navratri*.

considered as the feminine force of our mag-

ni-

WOMEN PLUS

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Beyond singles!

Singer ABHISHRUTI BEZBARUAH's new album could be a shot in the arm for the Assamese music industry.

A recent article on Assamese 'cringe-pop' that came out in *Scroll*, a web magazine, made so much sense. After all, the music industry here seems to be reeling under the burden of uninspirational songwriting and misogynistic undertones. And while it's easy for musicians to blame the listeners for enjoying this kind of music, their work doesn't really end there. Well, if music is your true calling, then you better buckle up and do what's deemed fit of you: make better music! Talented singer and sound designer Abhishruti Bezbarua is doing just that.

The young musician recently launched her debut album *Abhishruti*, and the six songs in the album are a reflection of how Assamese musicology is so much more than just Bihu or its typical offshoots. It's a folk fusion compilation that includes a devotional song (*Tuhi Deeno*), penned between 1905-1906 by veteran philosopher late Radhanath Phukan; an autumn song (*Esaati botaati*); a romantic number *Jonakore borosate*; and her two hit singles that came out last year - *Roi roi roti* and *Tok dekhi mor gaa*. "I got the chance to work with the best music in Assam – Ibsen Lal Baruah, Poran (Joro), Anupam Konwar, Rakesh Baro, and Bulbul Das. And for the devotional song, I collaborated with senior Oja artiste Jagannath Bora from Darrang and his *Pali* artistes," Abhishruti informs.

Padma Shri awardee Muzaffar Ali, who called me to render vocals in his TV series *Zabaan-E-*



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RELATIONSHIP
Dr. Rick Nicastro

Unresolved, repetitive conflict is a top reason many couples seek relationship advice and marriage counselling. However, arguments are a natural, 'normal' part of intimate relationships. Whenever two people live in close quarters and allow themselves to become vulnerable with each other, sooner or later, misunderstandings and conflict are likely to result.

When handled with tact and sensitivity, conflict can have an important function in your relationship or marriage. A conflict can help clear the air of pent-up resentments; it can act as a powerful form of communication that lets your partner know what is important to you. Conflict can even pave the way for smoother times, giving your partner a blueprint to better understand your needs.

When conflicts become too intense, a cycle of attack and counter-attack prevents any real communication from occurring. Arguments that are repetitive and spiral out of control offer no

Defusing arguments

Resolving conflict can clear the air.



benefit to the couple. The goal should, therefore, be to keep the level of intense emotions that accompany conflict manageable. In its simplicity, this may seem like an easy task. However, keeping your cool in a heated moment requires a great deal of resolve. You will need to listen to your partner's message and show that you understand his/her position. (This of course doesn't mean that you give up your position in the argument.)

Three steps to defusing an argument

- Place your opinion temporarily on hold (easier said than done, especially if you feel that you are being treated unfairly) and take a few deep breaths to relax your body (physical tension is common during arguments and will only fuel your frustration – you can even call a momentary time-out if you're feeling overwhelmed).
- Tell your partner or spouse that you want to understand his/her position.

perspective. To really listen, you must step outside your ego and put a stop to any thoughts that criticize your partner for her/his position. Try to become authentically curious about why s/he is having that particular reaction.

● Look for the kernel of truth in your partner's position – the truth that exists in your spouse or partner's perspective. Maybe s/he feels that you have been inconsiderate in some way or that you haven't been keeping up with your share of the household responsibilities. Whatever the case, your partner's viewpoint feels totally valid to him/her and trying to dispute this will only increase the divide between you. So listen carefully and work toward understanding, rather than formulating a counter-attack.

We all want to feel understood, especially by our loved ones. When statements of understanding begin to enter into the conflict, you'll be surprised at how quickly the intensity of the argument decreases. And with a decrease in emotional intensity, the stage will be set for healthier and more effective communication.

Shrimp and chicken dumplings

Ingredients:

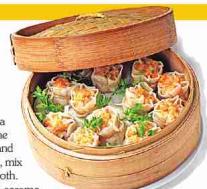
● Flour	2 cups
● Water	½ cup
● Shelled shrimp, deveined	250 gms
● Chicken (minced)	150 gms
● Egg, beaten	1
● Sesame oil (toasted)	1 tbsps
● Soya sauce	2 tbsps
● Corn flour	2 tbsps
● Fresh coriander (chopped)	2 tbsps
● Green chilli (minced)	1
● Green onions (chopped)	2
● Garlic (minced)	2 cloves
● Salt	to taste
● Sugar	to taste

Method:

Mix the flour with adequate water and knead it to a soft dough.

Cover the dough with a wet towel and set aside for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, make the filling. In a food processor bowl, place the shrimps and grind to a paste.



Transfer this to a large bowl. Add the minced chicken and using your hands, mix the two until smooth. Stir in the egg, sesame oil, soya sauce, corn flour, chopped coriander, green onions, chillies, garlic, sugar and salt, and mix thoroughly. Refrigerate for 30 minutes. Pinch bits of dough and shape them into marble-sized balls. Roll into thin discs. Place a tablespoon of the filling in the centre. Gather all the corners and pinch the edges all around, to form an open cup.

Repeat with the remaining dough and filling. Fill a steamer with water and bring to a boil. Line a bamboo basket with either cabbage or lettuce leaves. Arrange the dumplings on the leaves, filling side up. Steam for 15 minutes or until cooked through. Serve immediately with soya sauce and chilli sauce.



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 Facebook, which was created to showcase the culinary treasures of Assam to the world and to preserve ethnic recipes for generations to come.

Easy Hakka noodles

Ingredients:

● Egg noodles	2 pcls
● Oil	2
● Vegetable oil	4 tbsps
● Onions (sliced)	2
● Garlic (chopped)	1 tbsp
● Green chilli (chopped)	1
● Carrot, julienned	1
● Cabbage (sliced)	1 cup
● Capsicum, julienned	1
● Soya sauce	2 tbsps
● Vinegar	1 tsp
● Chilli sauce	1 tsp
● Sesame seed oil	1 tbsps
● Ajinomoto (optional)	a pinch
● Salt	to taste
● Pepper	a pinch
● Spring onions (chopped)	1
● Coriander (chopped)	2 tbsps

Method:

Cook noodles in a large pot of boiling, salted water until tender but still firm.

Drain, then drizzle with a tablespoon of oil



and toss through to prevent the noodles from sticking to each other. Set the noodles on a large perforated bowl, to cool completely.

Beat the eggs with salt and pepper. Heat a wok until it is very hot. Add one tablespoon of oil and also the beaten egg.

Stir-fry the mixture until cooked. Then transfer to a plate, remove the wok, and add the remaining oil. Add the garlic and sauté until golden.

Stir in the onions, green chillies and sauté until the onions are transparent. Add the carrot, capsicum, cabbage, ajinomoto, salt and pepper powder in the pan and cook, stirring, until the vegetables are crisp.

Add the vinegar, evaporate, and then add the chilli sauce, soya sauce, and sesame oil. Turn the heat up to high and toss through the cooked noodles.

Mix in the egg, spring onions and chopped coriander and remove from heat. Turn onto serving platter and serve immediately.

FASHION

Mayankini Bose

In your jeans

The blue denim remains as popular during this festive season as ever.



Do you ever wonder why a pair of the true-blue denim never loses its appeal? Dress it up or dress it down, a pair of jeans can never go wrong. As a fabric, denim has a versatile appeal and the jeans is still a universal style statement for the youth. The comfortable, yet sturdy fit and look is its biggest appeal.

When Levi crafted the first pair of jeans way back in 1873 its comfortable wear for the work-field, he perhaps could not foresee how fashion a material and apparel it would become one day. Nonetheless, its popularity gave birth to the Levi Strauss & Co. and the rest, to repeat a cliché, is history.

In today's scenario, it's always a sound business idea to come out with singles, for album sales are at an all-time low. But Abhishruti wishes to change that thought.

"As artists, we need to revive this. An album is a compilation of your music and gives one a holistic picture of what you wish to express, while singles come and go. Of late, artists are releasing albums or EPs, which is a great sign as senior and popular musicians need to take the lead to bring the album scene back," she says.

As for the cringe-worthy songs that we are subjected to these days, this young singer puts the onus on artistes. She believes music-making is a responsibility that musicians must take seriously. "As popular artistes, one becomes an icon for the younger generation and owing to that stature an artiste must be very conscious and hold responsibility for the work he or she does. There are many avid listeners and lovers of music. It is upon us to bring about a so-called revival," Abhishruti states.

explores its boundaries with Body Optix Denim with 360 degree body shaping technology this season. Combining the power of visual science and design, its precise laser anatomy warping grants you a more feminine figure that is ideally proportional and attractive. Denim on denim is trendy this season and Lee's brand new range of monochromatic Indigo denim tops ensure you carry that look with finesse.

A fresh approach with embroidery

In denim top wear the US brand Aeropostale has created collections that are fresh and unique. Embroidery details on denim are in vogue amongst the young and old alike. A denim chambray shirt with full back embroidery and see-through lace detailing paired with an H&M woven skirt, with the shirt loosely tucked in is a bold fashion statement.

Something fresh, something new

H&M, the Swedish fast fashion retailer has fresh Fashion Finds for every week. Keeping up with the trends, they have a wide array in denim wear, starting from jeans to jeggings, dress to dungaree shirts to skirts, each having its own flavour of denim.

Denim shirts with patterned detail or an ice-washed A-line denim dress with buttoned front are looks for the season. Indigo blue denim dungarees paired up with a white top are also in vogue.

— Trans World Features (TWF)



Shrimp and chicken dumplings

Ingredients:

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● Water	½ cup
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FICTION

Raktima Bhuyan
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Close attachments are dangerous, the Casanova syndrome.

For Canary, misadventures were welcome. Her life had been a nasty non-adventure, all of 27, no scandals, no heartbreaks (the passionate ones), no bad habits; no bright summer, no romantic Spring, no full autumn, no dead winter. Seasons, like her days, were just the same – a quiet deviation of the life she was obsessed with – the arbitrary, unanswerable life in literature. If there was any instance of a disparity with what one waited for and what really happened, Canary's life was one. Since a few days now, before the Casanova syndrome infested, she had begun to question the truth, logic and expectations of the world she idolised – fiction!

Canary met Casanova in the most unromantic of settings, an academic workshop. Young and flamboyant, he had 'cavaliere' written all over him; tall so shallow that it would require a good bit of depth to contain the child in him, smile so infectious and forced that a troubled past could be deciphered, his shirt a warm yellow, matching Canary's amber imagination. It would be wrong to say that magnets worked at the first meeting. It took time to discover each other.

The Darcy – Knightley syndrome had until now not entertained any thought of a Casanova who could also be a *ghazal* fan and complete songs she remembered halfway. Yes, both of them were music lovers. Even before she realised, he had become a bait, a constant thought. "Close attachments are dangerous... I do not

The Casanova syndrome



know where we are heading. We will end up hurting each other," he said. But Canary was never happier. His scandalous past was a response to his troubled relationships, his ill-reputation was to Canary the stigma under which certain people are placed. A month back, Canary was

the most sorted person, now she was a mess, a wonderful little mess, a tiny life she was beginning to live. Love would be a very strong word, this was an experience, this was her fiction. She never knew Casanova's feelings at the other end, nor did she want to. She might be one out

of ten he was close to. Somewhere, she could not rule out a genuine liking he had for her. He had full chances to hold on to her without commitment, without any thoughts of the future, but he didn't. He let her go.

Before she was 30, she wanted to taste life's unnecessary diversions: he was her first and only smoking and drinking partner. She learnt to be happy in small things, she learnt that now and then it's okay to forget who one is, now and then it's okay to be commonplace, devoid of aesthetics. Now and then it's okay to be regular, now and then it's okay to not hide the fact that you love *paan* and the rustic element it infuses on your face through its colour. Now and then, relishing a Bhojpuri song on a woman's lipstick would make you a no less fan of Jaggit Singh. Now and then, it's okay to deal in contraries, opposites and oxymorons. It's okay to be fallible!

Unlike the happy endings her favourite author portrayed, Canary received not a fulfilling friendship that would culminate in love. However, Canary received the wine, music and warmth that her name stood for. The Casanova continues with his playful ways somewhere, never perhaps realising that love manifests itself in numerous ways, one of them being memory. That is the only thing Canary carries with her now – no regrets and no expectations, just a vivid memory of life's

pretty little surprises, an unexpected entry with an unexpected exit, a story that was special in its incompleteness. In the apparent dangerous nature of close attachments, attachments are uncalculated and natural. Canary replaced dangerous with 'adventurous'!

LEGAL EASE

Ankit Todi

E-mail your questions to:
legalaid@assamtribune.com

If a tenant/owner of an apartment does not pay the society fees, in spite of repeated follow-ups, is there any legal way of making him pay his dues?

Sashi

The Co-operative Societies Act and the Apartment Ownerships Act enacted in different states provide for payment and recovery of society fees, which is a cumulative amount due on an apartment owner, for meeting the expenses of administration, maintenance, repairs or replacement of common areas and facilities of the apartments, incurred by the Apartments' Society/Association. If the Apartments' Society/Association is registered under either of the Acts and has its framed Bye-laws, the president or secretary of the Society/Association can take up legal action for recovery of the unpaid society dues from the defaulting apartment owner/tenant. In this



Rogue tenant

regard, a notice can be issued to the defaulting apartment owner/tenant to clear the dues towards society fees, along with interest for late payment of charges, if the Bye-laws of the Society/Association so provides. If the sum due is not paid on demand, the Society/Association may apply to the Area Collector for its recovery as an arrear of land revenue from the apartment owner/tenant. Alterna-

tively, a money recovery suit may also be filed by the Society/Association for the recovery of society dues. In some states, the Acts also empower the president or secretary of the Society/Association for just and sufficient cause and after due notice to the apartment owner, to cut off, withhold or curtail or reduce any of the essential supplies or services enjoyed by an apartment

owner which include supply of water, electricity, rights in passage and on staircase and conservancy of sanitary service. If the Act applicable or the Bye-laws of the Society/Association provides for such disconnections, the same can also be legally resorted to until the dues towards the society fees are cleared by the defaulting apartment owner/tenant.

MY SPACE

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Prior to 1965, I had not been outside of Assam. To be honest, I had not seen much of Assam either, except for our hometown Guwahati, the town of Dhubri, where one of our cousins was an established advocate, and our village home in Chamatia near Nalbari. I was pretty much clinging on to *Aai*. Guwahati was the centre of education and business in Assam then as it is now. It had the distinction of being the biggest town in Assam, but it was pretty rural.

In 1965, a steel monster brought me to the Old Delhi station for the first time after changing a train at Barauni. I was heading for B.I.T.S., Pilani – alone. In my heart I was a

A portrait of India – from five decades ago

I saw the land that was full of contrast, land that had so many colours – beautiful and ugly.

whose clothes had not seen a wash in a while. There were buses, cars, trucks, rickshaws, carts on wheels pushed by people, stray dogs, and cows sleeping in the middle of the busy street, snake charmers, street dancers, peanut vendors, and so on. It was vastly different from my peaceful place on the river bank, the beautiful sunset on the river in front of our home and the gorgeous hills surrounding my hometown. Suddenly, I shuddered at the thought that I could get lost in this place, never find my way back home and never see *Aai*.

No, I did not get lost. I learnt how to get around in the midst of that humanity. From 1965 through 1970, I had crisscrossed the land

from East to West – Siliguri, Kishanganj, Barauni, Allahabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Nagpur, Delhi, Loharu, Howrah, Bhopal, Bomay, and many other train stations. The terrain along the way had become familiar to me. I saw the land that was full of contrast, land that had so many colours – beautiful and ugly. I rode through the Chambal Valley that had so much notoriety and myth about famous robbers (known as *Dakki*). I had also read an Assamese translation of a Bengali book titled *Abhisapta Chambal (Cursed Chambal)* by Tarun Bhaduri. I understood why the westerners would consider India a mystical country. I saw rich India and I saw poor India, I saw frustrated and exploited angry India willing to take revenge or law in their own hands, I saw India that was educated and uneducated, rural and urban, cow dung patty and nuclear fuel, obese India and skinny India, fashionable sari-clad ladies with high-heels and sunglasses, puffing cigarettes, and frail women building houses for the rich, carrying buckets of cement mix on their heads and leaving their babies on dirty rags on the ground under the sun. Money, education, and power or lack of it put people in different classes, not to speak of caste, colour, ethnicity, and religion. There seems to be not one India, but many Indias.

People Speak

Today's topic

"How are empowered women an asset to the society?"

Empowered women are an asset to the society – of course, they are – but only when the ethical and moral standards of behaviour are maintained. We often come across rampant misuse of power – we often forget that with power comes responsibility. The minute these two are divorced from each other, all the connotations of empowerment cease to make sense. We have examples of hyper-feminists like Kangana Ranaut, who otherwise make pertinent points, but often invite severe backlash because of opportunistic behaviour. In a society where women have always been marginalised, legal and social empowerment is absolutely essential. But these are merely tools – tools that need to be used with empathy, ethics and kindness. Otherwise, women will turn into the very same thing that they wish to change, and real social change will not happen. For this to happen, education and a fair level playing field is something that must be made available to all.

– Asha Kuthari Chaudhuri,
Academician.

Empowered women are definitely an asset to the society. They possess the ability to contribute enormously towards the betterment of the society. Earlier, women were the dormant segment of the population, but now through their perseverance and intense desire to express their talent, they are not only becoming a significant unit, but also influencing the course of social change in the society. Today many women have come forward and are taking active participation in different fields like education, health, sports, art, defence, business, administration, politics, social issues, etc., and have accomplished great feats.

Also, empowered women are a blessing to the society as they are a source of inspiration for thousands of other women who are still fighting discrimination and abuse.

– Hira Barna Kakati,
Guwahati.

Empowerment is a process that challenges our pre-suppositions about the way things are and can be. A woman's sense of self-worth and the right to exercise her choices has the capability of undermining the stereotypical views about herself and streamlining the societal directives. Having access to opportunities enables her to handle her family in any adverse situation at par with her male counterparts. Financial independence boosts her confidence and enhances her ability to engineer a social and economic order. Lastly, women empowerment obliterates male dominance, thus, maintaining a balance in the society.

– Nandana Sarma,
Chowkidangree, Dibrugarh.

If women are empowered, they could challenge any atrocity, injustice, discrimination or exploitation. If they are empowered, they can voice against domestic violence or any crime or sin related to them. Such women can stand up on their feet and help their family. They can help their life partners and contribute to the family income. Empowered women can share their skills in the execution of government policies. They can serve the nation with their strengthened and consolidated efforts. They can accept challenges, sans doubt or fear. The society, thus, develops with empowered women.

– Jayanta Topadar,
Dhemaji.

Women are the basic caregivers of children, who are the future of the country and the world, at large. Women, empowered with knowledge and independence, contribute significantly to the next generation in the best possible manner.

Financially self-sufficient women are an asset to the society, as women make up a substantial part of the population and such women contribute to economic growth.

Politically too, empowered women can make a difference in the decision-making process of the government and they can fight discrimination. Socially empowered women can stand against evils like dowry, female foeticide, domestic violence, child marriage, etc.

Empowered women are also a potent force to combat religious dogma and superstition. In this way, they help to make heaven on earth.

– Syeda Arifa Sultana,
Guwahati.

Highs and lows

The road, winding down the Nubra Valley from Diskit in Ladakh, was an insignificant ribbon between the huge mountains that towered above it on both sides. Alongside was the Shyok River. Its name means The River of Death. But it was happy, frothy and blue as it rippled down the pebbly bed in an unending series of deceptively clear, swift currents. At frequent intervals, this little river was joined by the many mountain tributaries that tumbled down from the skies in a welter of foam and water. The point at which these streams met the main river... rivulet, actually... was clearly marked by the different colours of their waters. Ice green on one side, and cold blue on the other. And yet it took only a little while for the two to merge, with the littler stream integrating its identity with that of the larger one. Was it happy to do so? Who knows? Those who person or a rivulet, are rarely given a voice to say how they feel about it.

But it was neither the road, nor the peaceful and ever-widening river, that was the main feature of this road that led up to Turtuk and beyond, right up to the Pakistan border. It was the looming rock mountains of the Karakoram Range that stretched on all sides. Fold after craggy fold, their highest peaks were hardly visible unless one craned one's neck at impossible angles. The skies were clear, because this was desert terrain. A high altitude land, magnificent in its forbidding beauty. The mountains, bare of even a speck of vegetation, showed their rocky flanks in all their multicoloured glory. With no plants to protect the rocks, they had over the millennia weathered to shapes that showed their many hues and colours to glorious advantage in that clear, bright sunshine.

It could not fail to touch some primal chord in any visitor. Even those who professed no allegiance to any kind of organised religion bent their heads and folded their hands in a prayer that came unconsciously from the heart. Not to a Named God, but to the Creator of the Universe whose presence was palpable in these parts. It helped that there were no houses of worship on any of the peaks. There was only the Creator and Her Creation.

FORECAST

SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 1, 2017



(MAR 21- APR 19)

Normally you don't really care what other people think of you. But suddenly, you're nervous about the impression you're making, and you want reassurance that people like and admire you.



(APR 20- MAY 20)

A romantic mood turns life into sweeteness and roses. Suddenly, you're in love with love. While this is certainly a pleasant state of mind, it has its problems, too.



(MAY 21- JUN 20)

You're equal to any situation or problem that arises, because you're even more adaptable than usual. Plus, it helps that you're so charming.



(JUN 21- JUL 20)

It's easy to romanticise your relationships and overlook certain, very real problems within those relationships. It's natural to want to avoid conflict, but sometimes, that's not possible.



(JUL 21- AUG 20)

You look good this week, and you know it – you feel it inside and out. You're filled with a special sense of contentment and well-being, and other people are gravitating towards you.



(AUG 21- SEP 20)

It's a good week to iron out any wrinkles in your close relationships. You're in a gracious mood, because you genuinely want to get along.



(SEP 21- OCT 20)

You may be called on to mediate a disagreement between friends or colleagues. You're perfectly equipped to handle this kind of responsibility now, because your sense of justice is firmly in place.



(OCT 21- NOV 20)

If you push for anything this week, push for harmony. Of course, you may not need that advice. You're already in a pleasant mood, and the idea of conflict doesn't sit well.



(NOV 21- DEC 20)

Your agreeable nature opens lots of doors for you. Everyone wants to be near someone as fun, interesting and easy-going as you. Enjoy the attention.



(DEC 21- JAN 19)

If there's an imbalance of power in one of your close relationships, it's a good week to address the issue. But try to be forgiving, instead of combative or rigid.



(FEB 19- MAR 20)

Use your diplomacy when you're involved with a group of people. There's a feeling in the air that everyone wants to get along.



(MAR 21- APR 19)

You need approval this week, and you'll do what it takes to get it. But your tendency is to say yes in order to get that approval, even when you should say no.

But this was border territory. The Army was everywhere, though their presence was very unobtrusive in this land that had changed ownership over the decades, with India finally winning it back from Pakistan in 1971.

There were also several checkpoints, manned by the State police. All vehicles and passengers had to have permits issued back in Leh for this route, permits that were checked every now

overdrive. Waving his arms around, stamping his feet, he shouted in broken English that the checkpoint behind them had taken the last of his copies of the permit, and he could now not produce any. Rummaging in his jacket pocket, he instead produced a cigarette, which he proceeded to light and puff on, getting angrier and angrier by the minute. "I Israeli tourist!" he screamed, for no apparent reason. "I have permit, but copies finished!"

In the meantime, cars had gathered on the road. The Indian tourists, especially, were highly entertained by this spectacle of the racing Israeli, whose screams were ricocheting off the mountains and threatening to set off a rockslide any moment.

"Kuchh khaya ha (he's imbibed something)," said a driver wisely.

"No, it's the cigarette, it's spiked," said one of the passengers, a Flower Child of the Seventies herself.

The chicken plucker, too, had now joined the little tableau. He stood a little apart, holding the dead bird in his hand. Its gentle sways contrasted with the increasing ferocity of the Israeli's tantrums. But the Chief policeman remained calm and stoic. With his protruding stomach, he was, after all representative of the Majesty of the Law.

"Produce your permit, I shall let you go, for sake, he said calmly."

"How can I, last one given!" said the man, jerking around madly, puffing all the while. To this dance was added the sway of the dead chicken which hung from the other man's hand.

"Connat," said the policeman, impassively. The dead chicken swayed in agreement.

This continued for a good 15 minutes more. More cars piled up on the road.

Finally, the Israeli conceded defeat. His tantrums were, in the end, no match for the calmly stoic policeman. With one last stamp of his feet, he got up on his bike, and roared off in the direction he had come from.

"India wins!" said the Flower Girl jubilantly. "All Things Considered, though, they should have given him a little bite of that chicken after it's cooked, to compensate!"

Mitra Phukan is a novelist, short story writer, translator and trained Shastra Sangeet vocalist.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan



Usually, everything goes smoothly. At this particular checkpoint, though, clearly something was wrong. It was a tiny, wooden structure, situated near the river bed, below yet another darkly looming mountain.

and again at different points along the way. The drivers of the hired taxis always keep a bunch of photocopies to hand over, one at a time, to the authorities or Fax machines just do not work.

Usually, everything goes smoothly. At this particular checkpoint, though, clearly something was wrong. It was a tiny, wooden structure, situated near the river bed, below yet another darkly looming mountain.

Maned only by a few personnel, things seemed routine that morning.

In that cold sunshine, one of the men had just killed and plucked a chicken, presumably to be cooked for lunch later. A few cars passed by, routinely stopping to have their papers examined and stamped by the officer on duty, who otherwise stood in the sunshine, watching the chicken being plucked.

Into this sleepy scene roared a biker, with a fit looking European in full biking gear atop it. He was waved to a halt by the portly policeman, who shifted his gaze from the chicken to the rider, and asked to produce his papers.

Immediately, the biker went into

his truck, which was the top of his game now.

Rohingya



Nirmala Sitharaman

An ethnic Muslim minority in a largely Buddhist State, the Rohingyas have been fleeing Myanmar for many years now. As violence and persecution reached savage levels recently, the Rohingya crisis has yet again shaken the world out of its reverie.

Unwanted and uncared for, this unfortunate lot deserve a lot more than mere sympathy from world leaders.

Gauri Lankesh

Prime Minister Modi has been known to endorse the idea of female ministers in his cabinet. It is another one of his populist masterstrokes. And when Nirmala Sitharaman was sworn in as the Defence Minister, the move, as expected, was met with unanimous approval. Large crowds gathered outside the Parliament building to witness the swearing-in ceremony. The entire government has been boosted by the entire 'women empowerment' dialogue. But does it make any difference to the country's defence fortunes? Well, that's another topic altogether.

Kangana Ranaut

She was everything a journalist hopes to be – fearless, outspoken, critical and a staunch believer of freedom of speech. And when she was murdered in cold blood, the entire journalistic fraternity across India was left numb with outrage. Lankesh was always critical of all that was wrong with the society and her anti-right wing stance was known to all. Yet, a murmur, so blatant and bold! This is not something a civilised society needs on its conscience.

The BETTER HALF

5 THINGS/ Reading matters

"Publishing has always been high-risk and low-return."

A freelance journalist and book editor, GAUTAM KUMAR BORDOLOI points out a few challenges publishers face in Assam.

1 At best, a cottage industry

Even after 70 years of India's Independence, publishing in Assam, by and large, remains a cottage industry. And barring a few big publishing houses, this holds true for all independent publishing houses throughout India. In Assam, it has always been a high-risk and low-return venture for most of the publishers, more so in case of 'general' or 'non-academic' books. Of late, some printers are trying to double up as publishers, focusing more on social respectability than on profit.

2 Some neglected aspects

In a proper publishing house, normally there should be four distinct departments – acquisition and editing, production, promotion and sales, and accounts. In Assam, copy-editing is largely equated with proof-reading and, therefore, every year, hundreds of books that appear with slippshod writing and, plenty of weds, coinciding with the season of book fairs, fail to get encouraging response from the readers.

3 Low sales that discourage

Another very vital sector that needs overhauling in Assam is the distribution and sales of books. The traditional system followed here is discouraging, in the sense that the return on investment is pretty slow and erratic. It also affects the process of royalty to the writers.

4 Ropes in the banks

Since books are the storehouses of knowledge and information, banks and other financial institu-



tions should encourage the publishers with special aids through easy means. It is often reported that the issues of collateral, time-period fixed for repayment, etc., become a heavy burden on the shoulders of small but serious independent publishers. The government should also frame publisher-friendly policies and curb the prevalent malpractices, particularly in textbook production and distribution, and supply of books to the libraries.

5 Books influence society

Last, but not the least, it is the duty of not only the publishers and booksellers, but of any conscientious person to inculcate the habit of reading good books in our children. In this context, the literary movement may be revamped with modern amenities throughout our region to ensure a sans and civilised society, which is definitely at the crossroads today.

(As told to Indran Raivedhi)

facts, the business, clients, etc. – and its requirement.

Although I myself didn't join any institute, I assisted for four years before working independently. In the '90s, there was hardly any institute in India, and only a handful of people wanted to be photographers.

Photography has now evolved as a profession and people have started respecting it, accepting it as a source of livelihood.

■ **With social media, everything becomes 'viral' instantly. Is it a threat?**

Not really! The world is progressing and so are we. You will have to be a part of change. No point cribbing, and social media cannot kill an art. It's giving more scope, views, followers to us. Earlier, a published image in a magazine was restricted only to its buyers, but with social media, its going viral. A photograph can instantly reach lakhs. Social media is a positive change for photography.

■ **The scenario is changing in North-East India, too. Photography is accepted as a career choice. Your advice for the youngsters?**

Photography is a great profession to be in. As long as you have the fire in you to produce better work, you can do wonders.

You must be creatively inclined to try out new things.

Photography is a continuous process, you cannot get away with one great shoot. It's important to keep on evolving to sustain; keep on reinventing oneself!

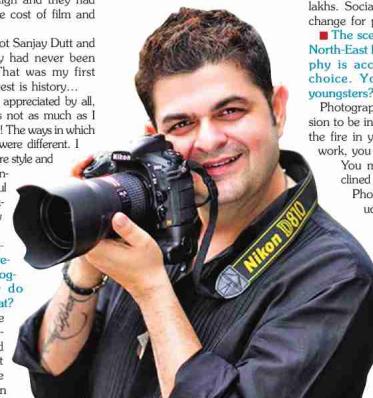
Similarly, be updated; you must know what is trending globally and locally.

(jutika1@gmail.com)

SCREENSHOTS

Jutika Mahanta

The right click



A ce photographer Dabboo Ratnani reveals his passion for the art of creating pictures. Ratnani is at the top of his game now.

You are an icon, an inspiration, but you too had your share of struggle. Your turning point?

I was an assistant to Sumeet Chopra when *Attish* happened. My friend Sanjay Gupta was doing the film and the entire cast was travelling to Mauritius for 40 days. I told Sanjay that I would join for free. Those days extra expenses were a matter of concern. Sanjay convinced producers that Dabboo would be an asset for the film campaign and they had to bear only the cost of film and processing.

I went and shot Sanjay Dutt and others like they had never seen before. That was my first break and the rest is history...

My work was appreciated by all, the struggle was not as much as I was prepared for! The ways in which I shot the stars were different. I created a signature style and one job led to another. I'm grateful to God for making my journey beautiful.

■ **With smartphones, now everyone is a photographer. How do you perceive that?**

It's a positive sign. Photography is an art and it is good that more people are taking interest in it. So there is

nothing wrong. Photography is and will always remain a profession and professional photographers will get their share of work. It's true that everyone has turned into a regular photographer with the smartphone, but the difference between a regular photographer and a professional one will always prevail. Mobile photography can never replace professional photography.

Do you think method study is required to be a photographer?

It's good to get started in an institute where one can learn all the basics, especially the technical know-how. After that it's good to assist someone to learn the real

ways of the trade.

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