

NEWS CAPSULE

Flood situation

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: The floods claimed one more life as the deluge inundated two new districts – Udalguri and Jorhat districts, taking the total number of affected districts to seven. ASDMA said the total number of flood-affected people has come down to 49,335 from Sunday's 71,819. – PTI

Padma awards

NW DELHI, Sep 11: More than 15,700 people have applied for the prestigious Padma awards for the year 2018, with the government laying stress on honouring the unsung heroes. The process of nominations is on and the last date for receipt of the nominations is September 15. – PTI

Ayodhya case

NW DELHI, Sep 11: The Supreme Court today directed the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court to nominate two additional district judges within 10 days as observers in deal with the maintenance of the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya. – PTI

AMCH principal

DIBRUGARH, Sep 11: Prof Hiranta Goswami has been appointed as the acting principal of the Assam Medical College and Hospital. His appointment as full-time principal will be finalized after an official order shortly, sources said. – Staff Correspondent

CJI letter

NW DELHI, Sept 11: Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra has written to the chief justices of all high courts asking them to set up special benches on Saturdays for hearing criminal appeals in which legal aid had been provided. – PTI



Folk artistes performing Tiwa dance on the concluding day of the 10-day Tiwa dance and song workshop organised by Lathuri Kanthisuri Mahan Syamat at Dharanit in Jagrati on Monday. – UB Photos

Special CAG audit in BTC

Rs 180 cr spent flouting norms

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

funds under the head.

A special audit carried out by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in complete violation of the rules, opened a new head of account called "the Chief's discretionary expenditure" and spent an amount of Rs 180.33 crore during the period from 2010-11 to 2013-14 and there have been instances where the amount spent under the head was more than the revenue collected. Moreover, there have been discrepancies in the utilization of the

spite the fact that the matter was pointed out to the BTC authorities, the irregularity continued.

Moreover, there have been irregularities in utilization of funds earmarked under the "Chief's discretionary expenditure" in its report, pointed out that no such head as "the Chief's discretionary expenditure" exists in the list of major and minor heads of accounts of the Union or the State and no such power was delegated to the BTC and thus, such spending was totally unauthorized. De-

there was nothing on record to show transparency in the selection of beneficiaries. Test check of the records showed that 17,950 school bags were procured at the rate of Rs 556.15 per bag under the "Chief's discretionary expenditure," but more than 1,760 bags were not distributed and dumped, resulted in wasteful expenditure of Rs 9.80 lakh. There is no record to show why the bags were not distributed. At the same time, at least two block elementary education officers

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(See page 7)

Small tea growers to get land pattas

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sep 11: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today told a delegation of small tea growers that a total of 78,286 small tea growers of the State would be provided land pattas for their lands in the first phase.

The Chief Minister urged the small tea growers to keep a check on the quality of the tea they produced, as Indian tea had been going through a tough phase in the international market due to falling quality. Sonowal, who held a meeting with the repre-

sentatives of the All Assam Small Tea Growers' Association here, assured the delegation of looking into the problems afflicting the small tea growers in the State.

Stating that the small tea industry has been giving employment to a large number of people and uplifting the rural economy, particularly in the Upper Assam districts, Sonowal urged the small tea growers to ensure quality control in view of the falling quality of Indian tea affecting import. He also called upon the association to form a quality control cell.

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Govt to ask IITG to study sudden flooding

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sep 11: Admitting that tributaries of the Brahmaputra, particularly those on the north bank, have been showing a peculiar phenomenon of sudden flooding. Water Resources Minister Keshab Mahanta today said the State government would ask IIT Guwahati to conduct a

study on it.

During a zero hour discussion in the State Assembly, the

minister said Arunachal Pradesh had witnessed 24 mm rainfall on Saturday which was not enough to trigger floods in the Jorhat river which submerged dozens of villages in the Baripara-Charduar area yesterday.

"The Jorhat, during the lean season, is completely dry. There is no river at all," he said. Work being carried out by R薇 in the area where the agency has constructed some very

narrow bridges and culverts which were blocking the natural flow of water in the river. Some works carried out under the MGNREGA were also impeding the flow of the river.

He said over 20 schools, 43 Anganwadi centres, 24 roads, two wooden bridges, one RCC bridge, three hospitals and a water supply scheme have been affected in yesterday's floods in the Rangapani-Charduar area. A power substation

(See page 7)

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Surplus TE land for former workers

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sep 11: Minister of State for Revenue Pallov Lochan Das today said committee have been formed in the districts to allot the ceiling surplus land of the tea estates to former garden workers.

"We have formed four-member committees in each district for allotting the surplus TE lands to poor inhabitants in the vicinity and former tea garden workers will be given priority." Das said in response to a question by MLA Kamal Basumatary in the Assembly today.

The minister also said that district administrations have

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State contemplating steps on road safety

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sep 11: With a view to preventing accidents on the State's roads, the government is contemplating a series of measures to increase safety as well for more strict enforcement of traffic laws.

This was stated by Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary in the Legislative Assembly today.

Replying to a call attention motion by Congress MLA Jamali Hussain Sikdar, the minister said that prevention of road mishaps is among the top most priorities of not only the State

government but also the Centre. He cited government data to state that every year there are 1.5 lakh deaths on Indian roads.

Patowary said that during the January-July period last year, there were 4,417 road accidents in Assam, while there have been 4,122 such cases during the corresponding period this year.

Road mishaps had claimed 1,506 lives in Assam in January-July last year. The number of fatalities during the same period this year is 1,495. Similarly, a total of 3,645 people

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Deportation move

SC to hear plea of Rohingyas on Sept 18

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: The Supreme Court today fixed September 18 for hearing a plea challenging the government's decision to deport illegal Rohingya Muslim immigrants back to Myanmar.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud considered the submission Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, to defer the hearing. "As pending before the court is a petition filed by Tushar Mehta, Additional Solicitor General, let the matter be listed on September 18," the bench said.

The apex court had earlier asked the ASG to take instruction from the Centre about its response to the petition challenging the decision on various grounds, including that it violated international human right conventions.

The plea, filed by two Rohingya immigrants, Mohammad Salimullah and Mohammad

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NRC update
AASU urges state govt to accord top priority
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) today urged the State Government to accord top priority to the NRC updating process.

In a statement, the AASU also welcomed the Supreme Court's monitoring of the updating process, saying that the apex court's overseeing of the process was necessary till the preparation of an authentic NRC benefit of the names of illegal migrants.

"The apex court has set December 31 for the publication of the draft NRC. There have been attempts by illegal Bangladeshi migrants to get themselves registered in the NRC as Indian citizens. The authorities concerned must be extremely vigilant to ensure that no foreigner gets to enroll his or her name in the NRC. The future of the State's indigenous populace rests on the authenticity of the NRC," the AASU said.

The AASU demanded that the Government formed a group of responsible officers headed by the Deputy Commissioner in every district for the sole purpose of engagement with the NRC updating process.

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Students participating at a rally on World Suicide Prevention Day in Kolkata on Sunday. — UNI

Green shoots of peace in Kashmir: Rajnath

SRINAGAR, Sept 11: The situation in Kashmir Valley has improved significantly over the past year and some green shoots of peace are visible, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said today as he expressed willingness to meet every stakeholder to resolve long-standing issues.

Singh, who is on a four-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, told reporters that the tree of peace in Kashmir has not dried up and that a permanent solution to Kashmir's issue is based on five 'C's — compassion, communication, coexistence, confidence building and consistency.

"After meeting the delegations here and holding meetings here, I understand that the situation in Kashmir has greatly improved. I don't want to claim that everything is completely fine but things are improving, this I can say with firm belief," Singh said.

He said during his visit he has interacted with police and

CRPF personnel and he will also meet the army personnel.

"I am willing to meet anyone who wants to help us in resolving problems of Kashmir. There is no question of a formal or informal invitation. Those who want to talk should come forward. I always come here with an open mind," Singh said when asked if the government was ready to hold talks with separatists.

He said the government does not want to leave out any of the stakeholders with whom dialogue should be held.

The Home Minister asked Pakistan to stop infiltrating militants in the state so that peace with dignity can be restored.

"While paying tributes to ASI Abdul Rasheed, I again saw the picture of his daughter Zahra. I cannot forget her face. We want smile and happiness on the face of every户 of Kashmir and we will continue our efforts in this regard," he said.

Rasheed was shot at and injured by militants in Anantnag district. He later died at a hospital.

The government, he said, had made sincere efforts for improving relations with all neighbouring countries including Pakistan right from the day it took office in May 2014.

"The Prime Minister invited premiers of all neighbouring countries to the oath ceremony. The intent was clear that we invited them not for shaking hands but for heart to heart relations. The Prime Minister broke all protocol and went there to attend a function. We made all efforts."

"AB Vajayee said we can change friends but not neighbours. But what is the neighbouring country (Pakistan) doing? They are infiltrating terrorists here. I will ask Pakistan that it should stop. We have never said that we do not want good relations with neighbours, we want it. — PTI

SIT probing Gauri murder strengthened

BENGALURU, Sept 11: The SIT probing the murder of Gauri Lankesh has been strengthened with 40 additional support staff as investigators continue to grope for clues, six days after the senior journalist was shot dead, sparking a national outrage.

The additional staff includes four inspectors and seven sub-inspectors, police sources said.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by Inspector General of Police (Intelligence) BK Singh, comprises 21 officers. — PTI

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Two Ryan school officials arrested over 7-year-old's murder

GURUGRAM, Sept 11: Two senior officials of the Ryan International School here have been arrested in connection with the murder of a seven-year-old boy in the school premises last week that sparked massive public outrage.

As police constituted at least a dozen teams to probe the brutal murder of Pradhuman, the Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre and Haryana government on a plea by the slain boy's father seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the September 8 killing of his son who was found with his throat slit in a school washroom.

Polic said they also questioned the school staff even as a separate probe team left for Mumbai to interrogate school CEO Ryan Pinto and director Augustine Pinto.

A senior Gurugram police officer said that the school's northern India head Francis Thomas and HR head Jesus Thomas were arrested on Sunday night after their questioning.

"Francis Thomas and Jesus Thomas were arrested under the Juvenile Justice Act," the police officer said.

Both were produced before the court of Judicial Magistrate, first class, Mohammed Zakkaria, who sent them to two days police custody. Police also accused both of tampering with evidence. — PTI

ACHIEVEMENT

Disha Sharma, was awarded the gold medal, for graduating as a university topper with a first class first in Psychology from USTM (University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya). The gold medal and degree were conferred to her, by Dr. M. Jagadesh Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor JNU, New Delhi, in the august presence of other academic luminaries at the Convocation Day ceremony of the university on 9/9/17, at its Techno City campus. She is the daughter of AREIDA President, P.K.Sharma.



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2nd all-party meet on Darjeeling issue today

KOLKATA/DARJEELING, Sept 11: Amid infighting within the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) over temporary withdrawal of indefinite shutdown, the second round of all-party meeting on the Darjeeling issue will be held on Tuesday.

West Bengal Tourism Minister Goutam Deb on Monday said: "We are hopeful of resolving the deadlock. People of Darjeeling do not want strike."

The meeting will be held in the north Bengal branch of state Secretariat, Uttarakanya.

"Life is slowly getting back to normal and after the meeting I expect things to fall in place," said Deb, a Tummoor Congress leader from north Bengal.

The north Bengal hills have been on the boil for about three months after the GJM revived its demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland.

Normal life has been paralysed since June 12 due to the indefinite shutdown, called by the GJM, severely impacting the region's economy based on tea, tourism and timber.

However, the situation is limping back to normalcy in some areas of the hills—mainly in Kurseong and Kalimpong—as schools and many branches of public sector banks opened.

Local transport services have

also started. — IANS

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Rahul Gandhi begins US visit

WASHINGTON, Sept 11: Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi today began his two-week visit to the US during which he will interact with global thinkers and political leaders, and address overseas Indians as part of an outreach initiative by his party.

In his first engagement, Gandhi would address students of the prestigious University of California, Berkeley on India at 70: Reflections on the Path Forward, in which he will offer his reflections on contemporary India and the path forward for the world's largest democracy.

A day before the event, the University announced that the event venue has reached its maximum capacity and registration has been closed.

Gandhi, 47, was received at the San Francisco airport by senior Congress leader Sam Pitroda and Shashi Singh, the president of Indian National Overseas Congress (INOC), US.

"He is here at the University of California Berkley, where Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressed in 1949 as the Prime Minister. Today, we are at the cross roads where core values of Indian democracy secularism and pluralistic society is in danger," Congress spokesman Manish Goud Yashki said.

"He (Rahul Gandhi) strongly believes in these values for India to be a strong nation, and what the way forward for India and his views and his thoughts about India's future," the spokesman told PTI giving a preview of Gandhi's speech.

During his trip to the US, he said, Gandhi will also engage with the Indian diaspora with the purpose of making them a part in India's development.

From San Francisco, Gandhi is scheduled to travel to Los Angeles. He is likely to visit Aspen Institute to interact with the think-tank community - PTI

Suicide bomber attacks foreign military convoy in Afghanistan

KABUL, Sept 11: A suicide bomber drove a car packed with explosives into a foreign military convoy in Afghanistan today, wounding two US soldiers and three civilians, officials said.

The Taliban claimed the attack near Bagram airfield, America's largest base in the country. It comes a few days after another insurgent blew himself up outside the military compound over a US propaganda leaflet deemed highly offensive to Muslims.

The attack follows the Taliban's vow to turn Afghanistan into a "graveyard" for foreign forces after US President Donald Trump pledged to keep American troops in the country indefinitely.

"We had two US soldiers wounded and their injuries are not life-threatening," Navy Captain William Salvin, a spokesman for US forces in Afghanistan, told AFP.



Parwan provincial police chief Mohammad Zaman Mamozai told AFP that three civilians were also wounded in the attack.

The Taliban, which ruled the war-

torn country from 1996-2001, claimed responsibility for the latest assault in a WhatsApp message sent to journalists, saying 24 "invaders" had been killed and injured, and three military vehicles destroyed.

The militants routinely exaggerate battlefield claims.

It is not clear if the attack is also linked to the leaflet drop in the northern province of Parwan, where Bagrām is located.

The leaflet depicted a lion chasing a white dog – the same colour as the Taliban's flag – with the Islamic statement of faith – "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is the messenger of Allah" – superimposed on its body.

Dogs are seen as unclean creatures by some Muslims and the association of Islam with a canine in deeply religious Afghanistan angered many people.

Major General James Linder, who heads the US and NATO special operations forces in Afghanistan, apologetically for the leaflet design, which he said was an "error". - AFP

UN warns of possible 'crimes against humanity' in Venezuela

GENEVA, Sept 11: The UN human rights chief voiced alarm today at widespread rights abuses in Venezuela, warning of possible "crimes against humanity" in the crisis-wracked country.

"My investigation suggests the possibility that crimes against humanity may have been committed," Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said at the opening of the 36th session of the Human Rights Council, calling for an international probe.

Venezuela's crisis has caused food and medicine shortages, deadly unrest and calls for President Nicolas Maduro to quit.

Clashes with security forces at anti-government protests left 125 people dead from April to July.

"There is a very real danger that tensions will further escalate, with the government crushing democratic institutions and critical voices,"

Zeid warned. He said an investigation by his office had noted the widespread use of "criminal proceedings against opposition leaders, recourse to arbitrary detentions, excessive use of force and ill-treatment of detainees, which in some cases amounts to torture."

Later last month, Zeid echoed international concerns that Venezuela was slipping into dictatorship, cautioning that democracy in the country was "barely alive, if still alive."

His office has previously criticised Venezuela's all-powerful constituent assembly and its "truth commission", which has been tasked with investigating several opposition leaders for treason.

On Monday, Zeid said he supported the concept of a truth commission, but stressed that "the current mechanism is inadequate." - AFP

Nepal PM expands Cabinet to make it larger; criticised by EC

KATHMANDU, Sept 11: Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba today expanded his Cabinet for the fifth time since June, inducing four more ministers to its strength to a record 54, and evoking criticism from the poll panel.

Deuba inducted three ministers and a minister of state from the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (Democratic). With the new inductees, his Cabinet became the largest in Nepal's history.

The new ministers inducted were Science and Technology Minister Dipak Bohara, Forest Minister Bikram Pandey, Industry Minister Sunil Thapa, and Minister of State for Industry Resham Lama.

The 71-year-old leader in June became the prime minister for the fourth time, succeeding Maoist leader Prachanda, who resigned from the position as part of a powersharing deal.

Nepalese Prime Ministers have had a history of having a jumbo-size Cabinet.

In 1996, Deuba formed a 48-member Cabinet and a few years later, then Premier Baburam Bhattarai had a 49-member Cabinet.

The Election Commission today expressed dissatisfaction over the Cabinet expansion. The EC said in its statement the expansion was against the code of conduct of Provincial Assembly and House of Representatives.

The chairman of the main opposition party, the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-MLP), KP Oli also took a swipe at the expansion, saying the price of vegetables have increased, but the value of ministers have decreased. - PTI

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6	31349 Kanchan Kanya Express	Sealdah	20-09-2017
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8	22501 New Tinsukia Express	KSR Bengaluru City Junction	19-09-2017
9	12501 Poorvottar Sampark Kranti Express	Guwahati	23-09-2017
10	12502 Poorvottar Sampark Kranti Express	New Delhi	20-09-2017
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12	15602 Poorvottar Sampark Kranti Express	New Delhi	28-09-2017
13	12504 Humsafar Express	Kamakhya	26-09-2017
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Prominent scribe flees Russia after arson attack on car

MOSCOW, Sept 11: A prominent journalist says she has fled Russia following a suspected arson attack on her car.

Yulia Latynina, a radio host and a columnist with the *Newaya Gazeta* newspaper, said that she fled Russia and is "unlikely to return any time soon." She didn't say where she went.

One of the most scathing critics of the Kremlin, Latynina told Echo Moskva radio station Sunday she had been followed before and briefly given police protection. Latynina said she is "pretty scared" after her car was set on fire when she was out of town and her elderly parents had to put it out.

Last year, an unidentified assailant threw a bucket of feces at her, *Newaya Gazeta* reported. Latynina issued a statement, saying she had received death threats. - AP

Addressing an audience at the Pentagon, one of three sites attacked on September 11, 2001, Trump issued stern warning to terrorists and said, "America cannot be intimidated

and those who try will soon join the list of vanquished enemies who dared to test our mettle."

"We're ensuring that they never again have a safe haven to launch attacks against our

country. We are making plain to these savage killers that there is no dark corner beyond our reach, no sanctuary beyond our grasp, and nowhere to hide anywhere on this very

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China plans to ban petrol, diesel cars

BEIJING, Sept 11: China, the world's top automobile market, is planning to ban petrol and diesel cars and boost electric vehicles in a bid to contain air pollution and restrict traffic congestion.

Attending an automobile forum over the weekend, Xin Guobin, China's vice minister of industry and information technology said that Beijing has started research on a timetable to phase out production and sales of fossil fuel cars.

Though Xin gave no details on the timeframe, he said, "The measures would surely bring profound changes to the sector's development."

The plan would follow decisions by France and Britain which have announced plans to ban the manufacturing and sales of cars running on traditional fuels.

Several Chinese cities, including Beijing and Shanghai, have already imposed severe restrictions on sale of new cars to contain air pollution and restrict traffic congestion.

China has been implementing a slew of measures, including tax exemptions, discounts for car purchases and an order for government organisations to buy more new energy vehicles (NEVs). - PTI

Online Registration by the candidates

11 September, 2017 (18.00 HRS)

13 September, 2017 (18.00 HRS)

Processing and allocation of seats

13-September, 2017 (14.00 HRS)

to

14 September, 2017 (18.00 HRS)

Issue of allocation letter to the candidates and the allotted Veterinary Colleges

14th September, 2017 (19.00 HRS)

Reporting to the allotted Colleges by the candidates

Immediate.

Important:

(i) Detailed information on counseling for admission is available on the Council's website: www.vcl.vci.in and www.apvt.vcl.vci.in

(ii) Students desirous of taking admission into B.V.Sc. & A.H. course under 15% All India Quota are advised to keep visiting the Council's website regularly for latest updates.

(iii) The entire process of counseling is online; the students need not send any documents to VCI.

Secretary, VCI (Addl. Charge)

Phone: 0120/11/0008/1718

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

— CHARLES DICKENS

The Assam Tribune

Disturbing concern

For a State that used to take pride in its relatively crime-free atmosphere till a couple of decades back, the ugly metamorphosis into a region reeling under a high incidence of crimes is disturbing to say the least. Data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in recent years would testify to the growing 'criminalisation' of this once-peaceful State. Much was expected after the new BJP Government assumed power in the State, as the party talked a lot about modernizing and reforming the police force. While the police cannot directly prevent a crime from taking place, efficient policing does have a bearing on assessing the incidence of crimes. When crimes are investigated promptly and the guilty booked and punished, it invariably acts as a deterrent to potential criminals. But we have a situation in which scores of criminals are allowed to go scot-free for want of competence in matters of investigation and presentation of a strong case against the accused. This is emboldening the criminals to perpetuate their criminal acts, as they know that they have little to fear about the law taking its due course. The period of little over a year from June 2016 has shown that the trend of serious crimes such as murder, rape, abduction, robbery, etc., continues unabated as in the preceding years. In fact, in some cases, the incidence seems to have aggravated further. This is a disquieting development and speaks volumes about the poor functioning of the law-enforcing machinery. Crime against women, too, has shown an extremely disturbing trend, with rapes and molestations occurring as a matter of routine. Equally disturbing is the growing number of dowry-related deaths in a State where this phenomenon was unheard of till a few decades back.

It certainly brooks no delay that some semblance of normalcy be restored amid the chaos. But that is unlikely to happen unless the Government accords top priority to policing. For this, it is imperative that the police force is equipped in a matching manner to take on criminals. An understaffed, untrained and infrastructure-starved police force will hardly have the motivation to discharge its professional obligations. A thorough revamp is the need of the hour. Unfortunately, strengthening the police from the lower level has never been a priority for the Government, as the foot soldiers continue to bear the brunt of government apathy, seriously hampering the cause of policing. Policing aspects apart, plummeting moral values, alcoholism, the cult of materialism, and the lure of easy money are having a disturbing impact on the crime scenario as a whole. Society has to play a key role in checking this perverse trend. The influence of the home as the primary unit of society, and that of educational institutions, can never be overemphasized in this regard. The media, on its part, should stop sensationalizing and over-reporting crime and violence, as it can have lasting and undesirable impacts on young minds.

Promoting a brand

There had been a time when Indian tea promoted itself. Ever since the East India Company in the 19th century, when confronted with the Chinese threat to stop trading with them, and fearful of losing the lucrative tea market in England, opened up an alternative source of the brew in Assam, Indian tea had received international acclaim. However, circumstances have served to bring about not only a decline in tea drinking at a global level, but also a decline in prices fetched. Foremost amongst these is the large-scale cultivation of *Camellia sinensis*, or the tea plant, in non-traditional regions. Thus Indian tea has had to compete with prolific producers like Sri Lanka as well as comparatively new kids on the block from Africa. African tea, for instance, while being cheaper, is qualitatively as good, if not better, than Indian tea. At the same time China, which had in the colonial days lost out to India in a market in which she had once held a monopoly, has come back with a vengeance, producing green tea which appears to be more to the preference of western palate. Thus fierce competition at a global level has entailed that today Indian tea has had to promote itself in order to retain its slice of the market in well remunerative prices, something it has failed to do well, if current trends are any indication.

Other factors have also played their part. The small tea-grower phenomenon has commenced in a big way in the country, something to be welcomed because it has made the beverage play a significant role at the micro-economy level. Unfortunately, however, due to the negligence of segments of this sector, quality has not always been retained, thereby damaging to some extent the brand image of Indian tea. At the same time, the younger generation all over the world has not displayed a predilection for the cup that cheers but not inebriates, preferring soft drinks or coffee. In India itself, internal consumption has not kept pace with the growth in population, as indicated by the low individual consumption figures and the marked preference millennial India shows for other beverages. Increasingly, in India, lesser prices, rising cost of tea cultivation and manufacture input requirements have ensured that the industry is becoming unremunerative. It is in such a context the news that the Tea Board of India, which has not shown much alacrity in the past to help out the industry, is about to embark on a promotional campaign, in particular of specialty tea, both internationally and domestically, is so heartening. The younger generation being health-conscious, such a campaign needs to highlight the therapeutic effects of tea drinking. On the success of the envisaged campaign will depend the fate of an industry which currently is facing problems due to imbalance in production and consumption.

**Letters
to the
EDITOR**

Sir, — The news under the caption 'ULFA (I) rejects Ravi Shankar's offer' (AT, Sept 9) has deep-rooted connotations in regard of religious business understood well by some so-called spiritual gurus, at least to a section of people who can think independently and recognize the fact among the concocted ones. The political atmosphere, in present times, is an enticing one for some gurus, epicurean in habit, spiritual in speech. It is a matter of misfortune that the Indian soil perpetually remains fertile for the manifold fanaticism promoted even by the gurus. The people who are not suffering from sociological myopia can see the facets of the most lucrative idea — the perfect confluence of religion-politics and business which nurtures the millions for their own targeted gains owing to the new situation emerged due to the political change. The spiritual gurus like Ravi Shankar already has been adept in dealing with the people's sentiment or psyche as

they have interacted with them for decades. So they know how and when to harvest. But in Assam, the hard stance of ULFA (I) against the offer of peace talk by Ravi Shankar has foiled the effort of harvesting fostered by a plethora of similar harvesters belonging to various domains. Our State does not lack intellectuals, indigenous organizations, etc., who can do the role of interlocutor between the Government and the ULFA. Though we express our scepticism about the ULFA (I)'s long-cherished idea of sovereignty and a free Assam, however, its stance against the peace talk is solicited. Because, the cadres of different hierarchy in the ULFA understand the problems of our soil much better than Ravi Shankar. His idea of peace obviously does not encompass the plight of thousands of victims in the hands of the military forces during the counterinsurgency operations against the ULFA and other ultras. He cannot understand the common people's woes yielded due to the generous support to the ULFA's movement. The rigidity of the ULFA (I) in regard

to rejecting the offer of peace talk made by the guru ought to be considered as an epitome of Assamese vanity by all sons of the soil towards the prevention of pseudo-nationalist onslaught which has greatly affected the pristine glory of Assam already. Yours etc., RAJESH KAKATI, Chamata, Nalbari.

Rail-road connectivity

Sir, — Most of the rail-road connectivity between mainland India and the NE States remain snared since August 13 last after devastating floods damaged the tracks/roads at Bihar and West Bengal. After two weeks, the first goods train chugged through the repaired flood-damaged portion. How long will we have to face such transportation bottlenecks in an age of technological growth? There is huge loss of several crores of rupees after the suspension of all trains due to floods. Trucks carrying essential commodities got stranded on the NHs. The passengers have had grueling time at different rail stations. Unlike air, train travellers have no alternatives in case of cancellation of journey. Getting a

seat in a train is like winning a lottery ticket in our region. The mass transit system like suburban rail is a distant dream since the basic rail infrastructure is still not in place. Metro rail will not happen soon as the now availability of traffic movement study.

Existing tracks are yet to be doubled and electrified. Should we not find alternatives in case of such natural disasters? The ease of connectivity carries a strategic interest for any frontier land. Yours etc., KAMAL BARUAH, Rukminguda, Guwahati.

BEd degree

Sir, — It is seen that many students have applied for the ensuing Secondary TET in Assam without the BEd qualification and their applications are also being accepted online. But RMSA, Assam has not yet published any notification related to the relaxation of BEd degree for the purpose. So, through your esteemed daily, I want to know from the authorities concerned the exact qualification to apply in the Secondary TET. Is BEd a compulsory qualification for the Secondary TET or not? Yours etc., ARUN DAS, Amrikhowa.

ing licences instead of having to go through a proper driving test?

All that the neophyte is interested in is high speed most often without any control. There are three major components to most of the highway accidents that take so many lives in our State every year. The first is the large number of drivers without real driving licences who are on our roads. The second is the power of present-day automobile engines and the third is the total ignorance of most young drivers about the ways of reducing speed in a hurry in an emergency. Most of them who drive such faster than is good for them are unaware that the best way of reducing speed is through gears rather than with the use of brakes alone. Most inexperienced drivers probably do not know that they have only to shift from the fifth gear to the second (in about a second) when their vehicle speed can come down from 100 mph to 30 mph in about three seconds. This is much better than what the brakes alone can do.

The situation is probably much worse in the major cities of the world. But people are much more sensitive and aware in most of these cities. In many parts of Europe, young directors of big companies are beginning to refrain from using cars in the big cities. All over Europe, company directors are using their bicycles to get to office. This is one way of keeping too many private cars off the road. In major metropolises, people have given up using their cars within the city. They use subway public transport or walk long distances as in New York city. In New York city, people take out their cars only to travel long distances outside the city. There is much that needs to be learnt to use our highways more safely so as to cut down on road accidents and save precious human lives.

Using highways responsibly

The Beaten TRACK

DN Bezboruah

There are quite few things that are terribly wrong about our State. It is beginning to lead the country in wrong ways. Guwahati leads the country in the crime rate. Assam has the highest number of road accidents in the country and Guwahati has also become the most important centre for trade in narcotic drugs. Whatever the State or its capital want in terms of motorway? It is indeed saddening that the State is in the news for such reprehensible reasons. Equally saddening is the fact that all this reflects rather unfortunately on the younger citizens of the State. I would like to confine my attention on our highways due to very irresponsible use of our roads by a lot of young people who ought to know better. This calls for a higher priority because the way a lot of young people are using our highways does not bring death and crippling injuries to them alone, but also to other law-abiding souls using our highways.

Before we get down to the task of stating why the proper use of our highways become so important, it might be useful to dwell on the reasons why most advanced countries of the world have actually had to encourage higher speeds on their highways. There was a time when 40 mph. was considered a fair speed for our trucks. Those were days when we did not have the kind of road traffic that we have now. Cars on our roads were so few that there was no earthly reason for anyone to worry about the speeds that motorists maintained on them. The scenario is very different today all over the world, and there is good reason why

governments have had to actually encourage higher speeds within safe limits. There are millions of cars in every country. All advanced countries have devised ways of determining how any two points in the country should be linked. Quite naturally, not all points on their maps are connected with six-lane or four-lane expressways. Detailed studies of traffic demand between any two points are carried out, and this data serves to determine whether the need is just for a two-lane road or a wider highway. In Europe, Germany seems to have provided the lead in the matter of highway development. Long after

Adolph Hitler's diabolical stronghold on Germany, people there have had good reason to thank him for at least one initiative. Hitler gave Germany its autobahns which later became a model for the high ways and expressways of Europe.

Today's highways are built for high-powered cars and even higher-powered trucks and buses that have increased in astronomical proportions to what was on the roads and highways about 50 years ago. Now, in countries like France there are sections of expressways that have even 16 lanes at major intersections. People are not just looking for smooth highways. They are also looking for highways that are motorist-friendly in terms of clear directions to different destinations. The need for governments to tacitly encourage vehicles speeds within safe limits arose from the need for efficient use of space on highways at any given point of time, especially during peak hours. Quite obviously, more vehicles

certain hours of the day, but the problem is not comparable to what happens on the outskirts of Paris, London, Berlin or New York. People there are addressing the problem in a different way. I shall refer to this by and by. In Assam, our major cause of concern ought to be the very large number of road accidents and the number of lives lost in such accidents. According to a report published in *The Assam Tribune* last Thursday, Assam recorded the highest number of 7,435 road accidents in the North-

east in 2016. This was revealed in the report 'Road Accidents in India 2016' released by Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways last Wednesday. Considering that there were 480,632 road accidents all over the country in 2016, the tally of 7,435 accidents for one State is a worrisome bit of statistics. What is worse is that 2,572 persons lost their lives in road accidents of just one State in just one year. It is as though all respect and concern for life has disappeared in the State. Much of what is happening in Assam is not due to understand highway rules or lack of directions on our highways.

Much of it is due to the fact that our system permits almost anyone without proper driving skills to drive on our highways. This, in turn, happens because those who are issued driving licences are people who have not really passed a driving test. They are generally people who have actually bought their driving licences under the table. I got my driving licence when I was 18 in 1951 after a rigorous driving test (that included instructions to commit all kinds of traffic rule violations that the applicant for a licence was expected to steer clear of). The test also included the ability to reverse into a narrow culvert with a large car. I know that nothing of the sort happens today when someone applies for a driving licence. One just hands over the expected bribe, and the driving licence is handed over the next day. Is it at all surprising then that there should be so many highway accidents arising from totally untrained motorists or motorcyclists who have been able to buy their driv-

and the expansion of Hinduism was actually carried out first by the Kirats (Bodo-Kacharis) and Mongoloids. The last example is the king Garib Nawaz of Manipur who became a Hindu in the early part of the 18th century. Following his subjects also embraced the religion. We should remember that non-Aryans are the harbinger of Hinduism to Assam and the North-East. But they are still considered outcast or placed at the lowest rung of hierarchy of the typical Hindu society.

Forgiving the chance and luck offered by historical moments, the present day majority Hindus believe that they are the sole creator and custodian of Assamese nationality and has an everlasting right over it. But they do not realize that time has changed. Now is the time to include others and the people from mainland India who have accepted Assamese as first or second language to the Assamese nationality fold. Driven by religious considerations as it was in earlier days, if we still think that Syed Abdul Malik was a Muslim but not an Assamese, surely we are on the wrong foot again.

If we look at the genesis and expansion of Hinduism in this part of the country, we find that originally very few Hindus were settled here

Understanding the young Assamese minds

■ Dr Naleen Borthakur

Understanding the mind of the younger generation has remained a problem for a long time. To lead a life of their own children rebelled, left home and created a niche for themselves. The rebellion in arts, science and politics initially creates turmoil but finally it pushes the society forward. Following the global trend, present-day young generation hardly want to communicate with their elders for which we have to know their minds often through social, printed or electronic media. What we now finally find is that they want a good life. This good life means for them a bit of comfort and luxury and an environment where mind is without fear and head can be held high and cool. They have several questions to be answered that trouble the young minds.

One of the points they ponder about is the contour of Assamese nationality. We may be surprised to face such a question at this point of time, when had already accepted that this nationally is already formed during the course of time and destined to be controlled by majority

Assamese Hindus. Naturally, Assamese Hindus do not want to forgo the leadership position. From a controlling position, the leaders hardly ponder about the role of individuals or a single incident in determining the course of history of a nation. As for example, if President FW de Klerk of South Africa did not decide to free Nelson Mandela from prison, the course of history would have been different. He had the power to deny the release of Mandela, but it was his magnanimity not to take such a step and helped dismantling apartheid in South Africa. If the British Prime minister Clement Attlee did not agree to give freedom at that point of time to India but after few years, probably by that time gravely ill MA Jinnah would not have been there anymore and the partition of India could have been averted. Similarly, if the former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao did not take our country on the road to free-market economy, the possibility of India becoming a major economy in future would have been remote.

To the

If we look at the question of Assamese nationality, we have to consider at least one historical moment that shaped it into the present form. It is true that only a prepared mind can grasp the opportunity offered by such a moment and help progress of history. For Assam one such moment was the invasion of the Ahom kingdom by the Burmese army in the early 19th century. At that time the Ahom kingdom was a moth-eaten entity because of political turmoil, outdated economic model, archaic military skill and the just-concluded rebellion of the Moamoriahs. The subjects were totally disarrayed and disheartened and were ready to accept a change. To defeat the Burmese army finally the East India Company came, drove away the invaders and annexed the kingdom. Within a few decades, the picture of the land started changing. The common people had a chance to have education through the newly introduced public education system and also a chance to learn English. Through the exploration and commercial utilization of natural resources such as tea, coal, crude oil and timber, the economic activity expanded. Interestingly, earlier the

Political mileage

Sir, — I don't have an iota of sympathy for the ULFA or SULFA. But that does not mean that I would distort facts to condemn them. This has in reference to the statement given by Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary on the floor of the Assam Assembly on September 8 last pertaining to the Nagon incident that happened on August 22 last. We know that CCTV footage does not lie. Either Patowary did not see the footage or deliberately made the distorted statement just to satisfy a section of people to derive political mileage. This is extremely despicable. This is the unique character of our Assamese 'leaders'. Surprisingly nobody seemed to have opposed his statement. Alas, no Opposition leaders also requested the Speaker to expunge the Minister's statement, which is not true, from the record. Yours etc., PRAFULLA DOWARAH, Guwahati.

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



Students taking part in the election to the Post Graduate Students' Union (PGSU) at the Gauhati University on Monday. Results of the election are scheduled to be declared on Tuesday. — Photo: Jatubbari Correspondent

Assembly lifts restrictions on Devajit Lon Saikia

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: State Additional Advocate General Devajit Lon Saikia, who was barred from entering the State Assembly for taking selfies in the Speaker's gallery of the House, had submitted contradictory statements during inquiry into the case.

"He perused the form filled up by Devajit Lon Saikia for obtaining gallery pass. Saikia has filled up the form as Additional Advocate General, which is contrary to the reply filed by him saying that he had applied for pass as a common person," Speaker Hiten Nath Goswami said in the House today.

The Speaker had barred Saikia from entering the House for two weeks on February 13 this year for

clicking and uploading selfies on Facebook, during the Budget Session, after receiving a complaint from AIUDF MLAs.

Goswami had then forwarded the matter to the Privilege Committee, which sought a reply from Saikia during the course of examination of the issue.

Reading out his ruling in the House today, Goswami said that Saikia has, however, not violated the restrictions of the House intentionally or knowingly.

"I have perused the form filled up by Devajit Lon Saikia for obtaining gallery pass. Saikia has filled up the form as Additional Advocate General, which is contrary to the reply filed by him saying that he had applied for pass as a common person," Speaker Hiten Nath Goswami said in the House today.

The Speaker had barred Saikia from entering the House for two weeks on February 13 this year for

the restrictions in question as there was a lacuna in the system, which has been rectified as per my direction dated February 24, 2017," he said.

The Speaker added, "Saikia has

not intentionally or knowingly violated the privilege of the House. The complainants' prayer for treating Saikia's conduct at par with Anmol Islam, who was suspended for three days from attending the House for uploading his speech in

the 'Facebook Live', cannot be equated with the conduct of Saikia as Islam is an MLA and there is a specific bar for MLAs not to use electronic gadgets, which were not applicable to non-MLAs until my decision dated February 24, 2017. The restrictions imposed on Saikia for not attending House by my order dated February 13, 2017, stands withdrawn."

He added that the matter is now closed.

Saikia, in his written submission to the Privilege Committee, submitted that he was not aware of the restrictions prohibiting carrying of electronic gadgets, including mobile phones in the gallery, as the restrictions mentioned in the passes do not include restrictions on electronic gadget.

"He also submitted that it has

visited the Assam Legislative Assembly for the first time and to keep the memories alive the pictures were clicked without there being an iota of malice, ill motive or disregard to the majesty of the House," said the Speaker.

According to Goswami, Saikia had also submitted that he did not do it out of malice and intentionality; as such, if the act of taking the picture of the House and uploading it in Facebook hurt the sentiments of the members of the House, then he was sorry about that and prayed for dropping of the proceedings against him. "He further mentioned that he has requested for the Chair of the House and as such the direction of the Chair not to attend the Assembly has been strictly complied with," the Speaker said.

"He also submitted that it has

tried to support from the Union Ministry of Surface Communication.

Moreover, the Central government has sanctioned Rs 100 crore to conduct a study on the rivers of the NE region with an aim at finding a lasting solution to the problem of flood in this part of the country. The open discussion was organised in keeping with all these developments.

The resource persons and guests expressed serious doubts over the feasibility of the dredging project and its benefits for the people of Assam.

After a detailed discussion on various aspects related with the matter, the participants came to the conclusion that dredging the Brahmaputra bed is fraught with dangerous consequences as far as the ecosystem of the river and Assam as a whole is concerned, since the present level of knowledge and understanding of the Brahmaputra is strikingly poor.

Refresher course in communication for development

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, Sept 11: The Department of Communication and Journalism, Gauhati University and the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC), Gauhati University will organise a UNICEF-supported refresher course on communication for development (interdisciplinary) from October 23 to November 12 at the UGC-HRDC, Gauhati University.

The refresher course programme will be held to mark

Inter-college Zonal Youth Festival ends

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: City-based BaroBazaar College was adjudged the best overall college in the three-day inter-college Zonal Youth Festival, 2017 that concluded at the Karmashree Hiteswar Sakhi College here on Saturday.

Gauhati Commerce College was adjudged the second best college, while Handique Girls' College and DK College, Mirza were placed joint third.

Altogether 525 students from 35 colleges of Kamrup (M), Kamrup and Morigaon districts participated in different categories of cultural and literary competitions.

Earlier initiating the discussion, AGP Mla Phani Bhushan Choudhury said that more than 39 per cent of Assam's total land area is flood-prone.

"Nationally, 12 per cent of India's total landmass is flood-prone," he said.

Speaking at the valedictory function on Saturday, Dr HP Sarma, Recto, GU, expressed hope that the festival would expedite the host college's journey in the path of development.

Govt to ask...

(Contd from page 1)
no record to show the need for power reapers nor is such demand of proposal was received from the field level.

Moreover, copies of delivery challans showing chassis and engine numbers, approved list of beneficiaries and basis of their selection could not be made available during the audit.

The report said that during 2013-14, the Chief of the BTC issued directions for inviting quotations for procuring computers under the Chief's Discretionary Fund for distribution among the officers of the village council development committee.

Accordingly a proposal was prepared for procurement of 412 sets of computers, laser printers, computer tables, chairs, etc. Three bidders quoted their rates for the supply

orders and the lowest one was appraised at Rs 33,490 per computer, Rs 8,290 per printer, Rs 2,500 per 700 VA UPS, Rs 4,000 for each computer and Rs 3,000 for each chair.

Scrutiny of the records showed that against the proposal for procurement of 412 sets, the supply orders for 82 sets were issued.

As the specified printer was not available, the purchase committee decided to approve a different set of printers, which were said to have same specification at the rate of Rs 11,950 per printer. However, during the audit, it was found that the actual maximum retail price of the printers supplied was Rs 6,559 only and the BTC made an excess payment of Rs 44,09 lakh from the 'Chief's Discretionary Fund'.

CM allays...

(Contd from page 1)
too used to dredge the river which was once one of the important waterways of the world," Sonowal said, responding to a discussion in the Assembly on the havoc triggered by floods and erosion in the State every year.

He said the government would soon deploy six dredgers for the exercise.

Amitabha Patowary said that it was high time to find a permanent solution to the twin problems of flood and erosion, the Chief Minister said this would not be possible without the help of the other neighbouring states.

Meanwhile, the Assembly witnessed noisy scenes during the Question Hour over the plight of the Assam Tea Corporation workers, with both the ruling and opposition benches blaming it on the other.

Decision on GP papers after SC order

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: The Assam government has urged the people of the State to wait for the Supreme Court's final decision regarding the issue of gaon panchayat (GP) documents for the update of NRC as well as the issue of original inhabitant (OI).

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said in the Assembly today that the issue of providing GP certificates for NRC update is likely to be cleared during the apex court's scheduled hearing on the matter on October 12. He, however, added that the scrutiny of such documents is unlikely to be completed before that date.

Patowary said the issue of OI has also been mandated by law and the Supreme

Court has also advocated on the same line. He said what was expressed by NRC Project Coordinator Prateek Hajela before the SC so far was done on behalf of the Registrar General of India (RGI) and its representative.

Patowary said RGI is undertaking the main task with regard to the NRC update and the

State government is extending its facilities, including staff, for that matter, while the apex court is monitoring the entire process.

Earlier, drawing attention to the matter, Congress MLA Kamalchandra Dey Purkayasha called media reports to express apprehension that 48 lakh GP certificate holders, others who have submitted documents and issued by *lat mandals* and *gaon buras* may not be able to include their names in the updated NRC.

AGP's Prodip Hazarika said instances of fake birth certificates being issued by unscrupulous elements have come to light at Sarupathar. ATUDP's Mamun Imdad Haque Chowdhury has called for clarification regarding the exact definition of OIs.

GAUHATI UNIVERSITY GUWAHATI-14 Advt. No. T/2017/5

Application are invited from the Indian citizens for teaching posts of Assistant Professor (Permanent) and Co-ordinator (Contractual) under various departments of Gauhati University details of the advertisement, other terms and conditions and the application forms are available in the University website - www.gauhati.ac.in. Last date of receipt of filled in applications is 19.09.2017.

Registrar
Gauhati University

ASSAM HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION COUNCIL BAMUNIMAIADM, GUWAHATI-21 Website: www.ahsec.nic.in email: ahsec@yahoo.com Fax : 0361-2550844

TENDER NOTICE – EXTENSION OF LAST DATE

This is for information of all the intending bidders that the last date for submission of tenders for the award of the work, Scripts and additional sheets, (RIP No. 84 dated 25.8.2017) has been extended up to 2.00 PM of 18.09.2017. Further, the following terms and conditions have also been changed as follows -

EMD AMOUNT : RS. 1,00,000/-

BID PROCESSING FEE : RS. 10,000/-

Other terms and conditions are remained same.

Secretary
Assam Higher Secondary Education Council
Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21.

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Brookland Compound - Lower New Colony, Shilong - 793 003, Meghalaya website: www.neepco.co.in Phone: 0374 2825214

NOTICE INVITING BID

Sealed tenders in prescribed format with 180 (One Hundred and Eighty) days validity are hereby invited from Registered / Proprietor of business for Procuring of Work and Carpentry of road along 11 Km Irrigation line / Raw water pipeline across Garibarijan village up to Bridge site from chm. 0.00 M to 500.00 M. AGBP, NEEPCO Ltd., Bokulon, DIST: Dibrugarh, ASSAM. Tender value ₹12,86,946.00. Details of qualifying requirement for issue of tender documents etc. are elaborated in the detailed NIB No. AGBP/CWC/18 Dated: 04-09-17, which is available at our website www.neepco.co.in & [https://neepco.abprocure.com](http://neepco.abprocure.com)

Sdr-Sr. M (C) CWC

"Give a missed call on toll free number 18002003004 to get our App"

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LTD. ASSAM & ASSAM ARAKAN BASIN, JORHAT, ASSAM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

ONGC, Jonai Asst, Cinnamom, Jonai Assam invites e-bids as per details given below:

Tender No.: L26BC17022. Brief description of service: Hiring of services for one high pressure mobile steam generating unit with operating crew for winter session of 2017-18 for surface maintenance of Cinnamom pipeline 06.00 Km. Cinnamom pipeline 06.00 Km. ONGC-Arakon: Start date of participation (registration) in ONGC's e-procurement portal: 12-09-17 from 11.00 Hrs. Last date and time for submission of techno-commercial bids (both online bids and physical documents): 06-10-17 at 14.00 Hrs. Date and time for submission of technical bid closing (online bids and physical documents): 06-10-17 at 15.00 Hrs.

For other details of this tender including corrigendum if any, please logon to ONGC website "tender.ongc.co.in" and "etender.ongc.co.in" (for e-bid). In case of exigencies ONGC at its option may decide to extend the techno-commercial bid closing opening date for future which will be communicated through website for information. Bidders should regularly visit ONGC tender website for the latest information in this regard.

New vendors should ensure to approach ONGC for issue of vendor code number along with the entire required documents minimum 5 working days prior to bid closing date.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA Regional Office Assam Region, Paltanbazar, Dhemaji - 783 001 Notice Inviting E-TENDER

For and on behalf of FCI, the General Manager (Region) FCI, RO, Assam Region, Gauhati invites Tenders on AD-HOC BASIS for a period of 6 (Six) months with FCI's right of extension for another 3 (three) months or till alternative arrangement whichever is earlier. However the Contract may be closed at any stage by FCI without assigning any reason thereof.

The details of the Centres/Routes is as under

E-Tender No. Name of the work
Handling & Transport Contract Ex/RV
& C/1900/Assam/ Ad-Hoc/2017 Date: 11.09.2017
No.SAC/1900/Assam/Ad-Hoc/2017

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of FCI, the General Manager (Region) FCI, RO, Assam Region, Gauhati invites Tenders on AD-HOC BASIS for a period of 6 (Six) months with FCI's right of extension for another 3 (three) months or till alternative arrangement whichever is earlier. However the Contract may be closed at any stage by FCI without assigning any reason thereof.

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E-Tender No. Name of the work
Handling & Transport Contract Ex/RV
& C/1900/Assam/ Ad-Hoc/2017 Date: 11.09.2017
No.SAC/1900/Assam/Ad-Hoc/2017

Start/Opening Date of online submission of Tender is 12.09.2017 from 9.00 A.M. Last Date of online submission of Tender alongwith EMD and Tender fees is 19.09.2017 upto 2.00 PM and Opening Date of Tender is 20.09.2017 at 2.00 P.M.

The detailed Tender Notice, bid documents, terms & conditions etc. of the tender enquiry are available at websites www.ONGC.in and ([https://e-procure.gov.in/eprocure/](http://e-procure.gov.in/eprocure/))

All contingent, addenda, amendments, time extension, clarification etc. to the tender will be hosted on the website and e-procure portal only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Prospective bidders are requested to regularly visit the website and e-portrait to keep themselves updated.

Sd/-, Asstt. General Manager (Contract)

Oil India Limited

Regional Office Assam Region, Paltanbazar, Dhemaji - 783 001
Notice Inviting E-TENDER

Oil India Limited intends to hire Field Chemists on contract basis for its operations in Rajashan purely for temporary requirement.

The contract would be for a minimum period of six months, extendable by another six months upto a maximum period of one year depending upon requirement and the performance of the individual. The details are given below:

Code Post Projected Requirements Educational Qualification Post Qualification Work Experience as on 27.09.2017 Consolidated Experience as on 27.09.2017 Contract Honorarium

CONTICHEM-1 Field Chemists on contract 02 Post Graduation in Chemistry or BE/B Tech in Chemical Engineering from a recognized University Minimum 2 years of working experience in Drilling/ Worker fluids

Candidates meeting the above criteria may appear with the duly filled up 'Bio-Data' form (uploaded on our website - www.oil-india.com) alongwith (i) original mark-sheets, photocopies of original mark sheets, pass certificates, caste certificate (if applicable) & experience certificates, (ii) 2 passport size recent photographs as per the following schedule:

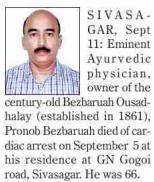
Date Reporting time Venue

27.09.2017 9.00 am to 10.30 am Oil India Limited, Rajasthan Project 2A, Saraswati Nagar, District Shopping Centre, Basni, Jodhpur- 342005

For further details regarding job profile, other conditions, etc. visit our website- www.oil-india.com

OBITUARY

**Pronob
Bezbarua**
ANN Service



SIVASAGAR, Sept 11: Eminent Ayurvedic physician, owner of the century-old Bezbarua Ousadhalay (established in 1861), Pronob Bezbarua died of cardiac arrest on September 5 at his residence at GN Gogoi road, Sivasagar. He was 66.

Senior citizens of Sivasagar, Sivasagar District Journalists' Association, Rongpur Sahitya Sabha, Dolmukh Chariali Bhasseye Santha and many other organisations have condoled the death of the popular Ayurvedic practitioner.

He leaves behind his wife and a daughter.

Bily Devi

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: Bily Devi, retired teacher of TC Girls' Higher Secondary School, Guwahati passed away at Hyderabad on September 5 last. She was 66.

Wife of writer, litterateur and novelist, Late Dinesh Sarma of Kherghati, Guwahati, she leaves behind two daughters, sons-in-law, a grand daughter and a host of relatives.

Jalal Kazi

ANN Service

BALIATHA CHARIALI, Sept 11: Syed Jalal Kazi, of Gog village under Juhulchari LAC died in a city-based hospital where he was admitted after an accident on NH 31 on September 7. He was 51.

An employee of Rangia PWD office, he was closely associated with Bhonabhati Das, Ulum Madrasa, Kazi was also a member of Gog village mosque and sports association.

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

P Barthakur

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, Sept 11: Prakash Barthakur, a retired employee of Nehringer Tea Estate, a music artiste and a resident of Sagger Dergaon died at a hospital in Guwahati on September 8 due to prolonged illness. He was 62.

Being a music lover, he was associated with the field of music at Dergaon along with several socio-cultural organisations in the area. His death was widely mourned in the locality.

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

**Rajendra Nath
Khound**

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, Sept 11: Rajendra Nath Khound, a retired employee of Assam Cooperative Sugar Mill Ltd, Barabhumgan, and a resident of Khamipar, Dergaon died at his residence due to old-age ailments on September 8. He was 90.

He was closely associated with several leading organisations of Dergaon like Kaliatra LP School, Dergaon Anchalik Naam-Kirtan Aru Sankari Kalai Kristi Vikash Samiti, Dergaon Town Club etc. His demise was widely mourned in the locality.

He leaves behind his wife, three sons, two daughters, two sons-in-law along with a host of relatives.

Murder of Gauri Lankesh condemned

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Sept 11: The media fraternity of Silchar has condemned the murder of senior Kannada journalist and a well-known critic of the Sangh Parivar, Gauri Lankesh, who was shot dead outside her house in Bengaluru on September 5.

In a street meeting organised recently by Forum for Social Harmony, a local organisation for democratic rights, reporters and journalists of the

Need for literary, cultural exchanges stressed

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, Sept 11: In order to create a bond of amity between the people of Barak and Brahmaputra valleys on the occasion of the completion of hundred years of the Asam Sahitya Sabha, a day-long programme was organised here by the Hailakandi district administration in collaboration with Dreams, a socio-cultural organisation at Naazrul Sadan on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, the secretary of the Asam Sahitya Sabha, Dr Paramananda Rajbongshi stressed the need of literary

and cultural exchanges between Barak and Brahmaputra valleys for strengthening the bond of amity. He said that a group of people is active to break the age-old good relations between different communities of the State. The Asam Sahitya Sabha believes in peaceful coexistence of different communities, he said adding that the Sabha met the Chief Minister and demanded the repairing of roads of Barak Valley seven years back when they first visited different parts of the valley to spread the goodwill message. He in-

formed that they paid tributes to the language martyrs of Barak Valley. According to him, those who don't love their mother can't love the mothers of others.

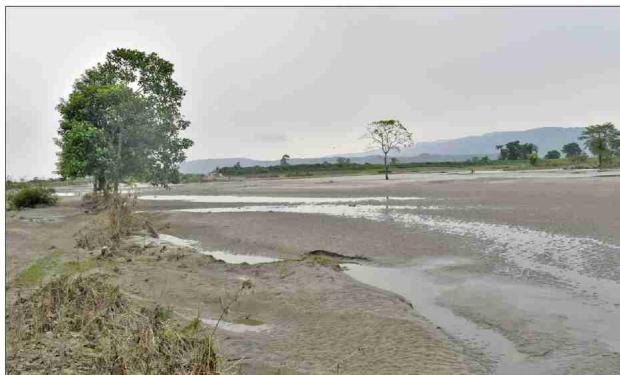
He said that the Sabha was established in 1917 with a view to serve the people of Assam and not exclusively for the Assamese. He said that demand for the establishment of a university in Guwahati was first raised by Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay of Bengal, because he wanted to spread education in Assam and was concerned for

the development of the people of Assam. He assured that similar exchange programmes will also be organised in other districts of Assam. He narrated the contribution of the Sabha during the last 100 years for the development of the State.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner of Hailakandi, Krishna Gobind Bhuyan said that Asam Sahitya Sabha doesn't mean the Assamese Sahitya Sabha – it is a platform of all the people of Assam and that's why the name has been given as Assam

Sahitya Sabha. He also stressed the need of cultural and literary exchanges among the different sections of the State. He said that this sort of tour of the office-bearers of Sabha will definitely strengthen relations between the Barak and Brahmaputra valleys.

Earlier, Dr Rajbongshi was felicitated by the president of Dreams, Gautam Gupta and other members of the Sabha were also felicitated. A cultural programme was held on the occasion in the evening where both Bengali and Assamese songs were performed by the artistes of both the valleys including Dreams.



A paddy field at Keirbakori village covered with silt after the Hatimura embankment was breached, in Kaliabor as seen on Monday. – UB Photos

More traffic police points at Gauripur demanded

CORRESPONDENT

GOURIPUR, Sept 11: Shortage of traffic police points in the municipal area of Gauripur town is causing great concern to the commuters.

It may be mentioned that NH 31 runs through the heart of the town and hundreds of goods-carrying trucks, passenger buses besides other four, three and two wheelers always ply through this route. There are only two traffic police points—one at Beppartapuri and the other in the Chauranginagar area of the town. The shade of the traffic police point at Chauranginagar was demolished at the time of widening of the NH 31 and as a result, the traffic police personnel have to perform their

duties standing in the open space bearing the soaring heat of the sun. There are two more traffic police points—one at the NH 31 in front of the Radha-Syam Sundar temple and the other at the transit point of the Gauripur Bus Stand without any shade.

There is urgent need of opening at least four more traffic police points. One such NH 31 in front of the Kalmiandar in ward No 1 as the same is accident-prone, another in front of the Gauripur Girls' High School, one at Narasimati area and the fourth in front of the public library with proper shades because the traffic police personnel from duty have to run away from the place of duty to the nearly shops dur-

ing the time of incessant rains.

In last two years (the main roads of the town were considerably improved but in many areas footpaths were not constructed and as a result people have had to walk along the roads causing danger to themselves.

Considering the ground situation and increase of the number of vehicles of all kinds people of the town demanded immediate arrangements for opening traffic police points with proper shades in the areas mentioned above to prevent accidents and for safety of the hundreds of students, pedestrians, businessmen who regularly come to the town. Senior citizens of the locality have urged the Government to solve the problem immediately as the festive season is fast picking up.

Award for Dr Malini Goswami

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: The Pandit Tirtha Nath Sarma Sahitya Debi Memorial Award, 2017 will be conferred on renowned scholar Prof Dr Malini Goswami, for her immense contributions to Assamese literature, a press release stated. The award will be given away at a function to be held on October 23 next at the District Library auditorium, Guwahati. The award consists of a citation, a memento and a cheque of Rs 50,000.

One killed

JAGIROAD, Sept 11: One Padam Bahadur Thappa (45) of Roumari village under Jagiroad PS was killed on the spot on Sunday evening in a road accident on the NH 37 at Amilghat near here when a Nagpan-bound car (AS 12 L 2952) knocked him down. – Correspondent

Demand to clear salary arrears of BTC employees

A CORRESPONDENT

GOSAIGAON, Sept 11: As per the 7th Pay Commission recommendations, the employees of the State Government barring those of the BTC Autonomous Council have already drawn their six-months of arrears due.

The State Government has declared to clear up another six months of arrears dues to the State Government employees before Durga Puja. It is unfortunate that the State Government employees under BTC have not yet drawn their due arrears, said the Gosaigaon district committee of the Sadijan Asam Karmachari Parishad in a press statement. So the employees working under BTC have urged the council administration to re-

lease both the arrear dues along with the other employees of the State Government.

Sankaradeva birth anniversary: The 569th birth anniversary of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva is going to be celebrated at Gosaigaon Kirtan Ghar premises from September 29 to October 1.

On September 29, Simanta Sankari Kalai Kristi would perform their cultural programme. On September 30, the religious flag will be hoisted by president Manik Ch Deka. Namprangsanga and *thiya naam* would be staged. Recitation of poems, extempore speech competition among students will also be held on October 1.

A religious procession with the holy 'Bhagawat'

would move throughout Gosaigaon town. In the Bhagavat Jatra, all sections of people irrespective of caste, creed and religion will be taking part.

From 5 pm, an open religious meeting under the presidentship of Meghali Chandra Bose, retired principal, Gosaigaon College, will be held where Gopal Bhakat of Jagnata Satra, Profulla Bharali, *prabhutaracharya*, Sankaradeva Vidyala Niketan, Dr Kaneswar Brahma, retired principal, Gosaigaon College and Rashiklaito would deliver their speeches highlighting Sankaradeva, oneness of God and brotherhood feelings. In the programme, a *naam* party from Sorbhog and a *rava-dal* from Massalijhora would display their skills on Sankari culture.

SILVER JUBILEE FESTIVAL - 2017 TEZPUR BEENAPANI MUSIC COLLEGE TEZPUR, SONITPUR, ASSAM, INDIA CULTURAL PROGRAMEME SEPTEMBER 10, 2017



Artists performing a Satriya dance during the silver jubilee celebrations of Tezpur Beenapani Music College at the District Library auditorium, in Tezpur on Sunday. – UB Photos

Tinsukia dist senior citizens' meet held at Sadiya**Call to imprint Sudhakantha's name on the nameplates of Dhala-Sadiya bridge**

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, Sept 11: The mid-term general body meeting of Tinsukia District Senior Citizens' Association (TDSCA) was held at Sadiya Government Higher Secondary School on Sunday last. The meeting began with the hoisting of flag by TDSCA president Thaneswar Das and lighting of lamp by TDSCA vice president Radhakanta Gogoi.

The meeting was presided over by TDSCA president Thaneswar Das. TDSCA secretary Ramesh Goswami

presented the secretarial report for the period of 2016-2017, which was approved by the meeting. TDSCA decided to celebrate the World Senior Citizens' Day on October 1.

The working president of Assam Senior Citizens Sammilan, Mohan Chandra Buragohain, health secretary Dr Hari Narayan Borkotoky, executive member Atul Sharma, Tinsukia District Sahitya Sabha President Probin Borah and over 100 delegates from 21 branches under TDSCA participated in the meeting. Dr Hari Narayan Borkotoky delivered a lecture on

the health-care of senior citizens.

The meeting expressed strong resentment over not imprinting the name of Dr Bhupen Hazarika on the nameplate of Dhala-Sadiya bridge. While inaugurating the bridge on May 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared that the bridge was named after the bard of Brahmaputra. But, even after three months from his declaration, the nameplates have not been changed. TDSCA has urged the State government to take urgent initiative in this regard and to imprint the name of Sudhakantha on the

nameplates of the bridge.

The senior citizens' body also expressed deep concern over the growing trend of blockades of NH and other roads and bandh calls by various organisations. The meeting discussed this matter and opined that the road blockades and bandh calls caused harassment to the common people which is not democratic. Hence, TDSCA has urged the organisations to take recourse to other forms of democratic protests to fulfil their demands. It also urged the administration to take up some effective steps against such type of agitations.

Call for alumni registration

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: The Department of Communication and Journalism, Gauhati University is celebrating its golden jubilee year and has urged its alumni to register with the department and be a part of the celebration.

"The department is the first of its kind in the Northeast and the fourth university media department in the country," said Dr Ankur Dutta, Head of the Department of Communication and Journalism, Gauhati University.

Stating that the department had collaborated with various organisations to conduct a number of events during the year, he appealed to all the alumni of the department to register themselves with a mail sent to communication@gauhati.ac.in or make an effort to contact the department through other means. This was stated in a press release.

"Our alumni are our strength. We do not have proper records of our alumni since the last few decades; hence, we would want our alumni to come forward and be a part of this historic event contemplating on the department's all-round growth and planning a way ahead," added Dr Dutta.

It may be mentioned that Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, former Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta and Bhupaneshwar Kalita are among the noted alumni of the Department.

State tea producers turning to green, white tea varieties

Mismatch in demand and supply of black teas

AJIT PATEWARY

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: A mismatch in demand and supply of black teas, particularly the crush-twist-curl (CTC) varieties of black teas, has made some tea producers in the State turn to other varieties of tea like green tea, white tea and oolong tea, besides the relatively older orthodox variety, with a futuristic approach.

Some small tea growers of the State have already started producing organic hand-crafted speciality tea.

A few among the State's tea producers have set up exclusive factories to produce these newer varieties of tea. They are converting a

certain per cent of their teas into these newer varieties to face the challenges thrown up by the changes in the taste and demand of the consumers.

Mahalaxmi Tea Estate in the Golaghat district of the State recently set up an exclusive factory for manufacturing green tea and it has been able to sell its very first consignment of 21 kgs of green tea to the Ambootia Tea Exports Private Ltd, at the rate of Rs 5,001.00 per kg. Ambootia Tea Exports Pvt Ltd is the largest exporter of tea from India to Germany and Japan.

The Mahalaxmi Tea Estate has named its green tea 'Anjali'.

The consignment of the tea thus sold

by the Mahalaxmi Tea Estate to Ambootia Tea Exports Pvt Ltd, was tested, evaluated and negotiated by Parcon (India) Ltd, one of India's largest tea broking companies.

Sanjay Bansal, Chairman, Ambootia Tea Group, said, "We have bought twenty-one kilos of specialty tea for exports and we have made an agreement to buy at least 20 per cent of Mahalaxmi Tea Estate's produces for exports. We will also provide them guidance from time to time to adopt good agricultural practices and good manufacturing practices."

The factory is well equipped and the cultivars are suitable for manufacturing high quality teas. There

is a niche market even in India for specially-crafted teas," said Rajiv K Puri, Chairman, Parcon (India) Private Ltd.

Bidyayananda Barkakoty, owner of Mahalaxmi Tea Estate, said, "We adopt different manufacturing processes to make a wide range of specialty teas to suit the requirement of customers."

He further said that since the prices of black teas are stagnant due to the demand and supply mismatch, India needs a product mix. It needs to convert certain per cent of its black tea into green, white, oolong, orthodox and other specialty teas.

"Specially-crafted teas have a

growing demand in the international as well as domestic markets," said Barkakoty.

It needs mention here that China is the pioneer in producing green tea. About 70 per cent of its total tea produces is green tea and the around 23,000 million kgs of tea is produced annually, around 10 per cent is exported.

While China is primarily a green tea producing country, India is primarily a black tea producing country. India produces around 1,260 million kgs of tea annually and 90 per cent of it is black tea. Around 85 of its teas are consumed in the domestic market.

Amazon jobs

MUMBAI, Sept 11: Amazon today announced that it has created more than 22,000 seasonal employment positions across its India network this festive season. Amazon said the jobs have been created at its fulfillment centres, delivery stations and customer service sites... PTI

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Sd/- Mission Director,
Swachh Bharat Mission (U),
Assam
Janasanyog/CF/1461/17

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No. E/W/J/11/14/CID/
Sealed tenders affixing court fee stamp worth Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight and paisa twenty five) only are invited for supply of various equipments for Narcotic Cell of CID organisation, Assam, Guwahati.

Tender document is available on web site www.asampolice.gov.in and www.tenders.gov.in and in the office of the A.D.G.P. CID, Assam, Guwahati up to 25.09.2017. Tender document fee of Rs 500/- (Rupees five hundred only) in the shape of uncrossed IPO/ BANK DRAFT in favour of the undersigned must be submitted. If the document is not downloaded from the web site, the uncrossed postal order must be attached with the bid. Closing date of the tender is Up to 2 PM on 04.10.2017 and will be opened on the same day at 3.30 pm.

Sd/-
Superintendent of Police, CID,
Assam, Ulubari, Guwahati.
Janasanyog/C/3443/17

CAPSULE

Xcent Prime CNG

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: Hyundai Motor India today launched a CNG-powered variant of Xcent Prime, which caters to the commercial segment, with price tag of Rs 5.93 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). The two CNG-powered trims of the compact sedan are priced at Rs 5.93 lakh and Rs 6.12 lakh, respectively. "With the addition of factory-fitted CNG, we are confident of meeting the request of the fleet aggregators for a vehicle in this segment," said... Hyundai Motor India, Director, Sales & Marketing, Rakesh Srivastava said in a statement. PTI

Adidas revenue up

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: Sportswear major Adidas has clocked a growth of 22 per cent in its revenue at Rs 1,100 crore for 2016-17. The company had reported a revenue earning of Rs 898.69 crore in 2015-16. Adidas India said in a statement. It posted a profit after tax of Rs 95 crore for the year under review - PTI

Godrej Agrovet IPO

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: Godrej Industries arm Godrej Agrovet has received capital markets regulator SEBI's go-ahead to raise estimated Rs 1,000.12 crore through an initial public offering. Godrej Agrovet's public issue comprises fresh issue of shares worth Rs 300 crore, besides an offer for sale of scrips of up to Rs 300 crore by Godrej Industries and up to 1.23 crore shares by V. Sciences. PTI

Coffey coffee

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: India, Asia's third largest producer and exporter of coffee, has started producing the world's most expensive coffee made from the poop of civet cat, on a small scale in Coorg district of Karnataka. The Civet coffee, also called as Luwak coffee, is expensive because of uncommon method of producing such coffee. It is produced from the coffee beans digested by civet cat. The faeces of this cat are then collected, processed and sold. PTI

Andhra Bank

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: Private lender Andhra Bank today announced interest rate on its savings bank account to 3.5 per cent in line with market competition. Deposits up to Rs 50 lakh will now attract 3.5 per cent interest rate which was earlier 4 per cent. Andhra Bank said in a statement. PTI

Renault Kwid 2nd anniversary edition unveiled

BUSINESS REPORTER



Maniraj Baruah (R), Director, Renault, Guwahati, poses after unveiling the 2nd anniversary edition of Renault Kwid small hatchback, at the Renault, Guwahati showroom at Six Mile on Monday.

SC rejects Sahara plea for lifting attachment, stopping Aamby Valley auction

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: The Supreme Court today rejected a plea by the Sahara Group urging it to lift attachment of its Aamby Valley project and permit it to enter into an agreement with Royal Partners Investment Fund for selling off 26 per cent stake in it for \$1.6 billion.

Seeking the lifting of attachment and halt to the court-ordered auction of Aamby Valley, Sahara told the bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice AK Sikri that it has already sold its two hotels in New York.

Senior counsel Kapil Sibal, appearing for Sahara, said that in lieu of \$1.6 billion, the Roy-

al Partners Investment Fund would get 26 per cent stake in Aamby Valley.

Declining to entertain the plea by the Sahara Group's two companies – Sahara India Real Estate Corporation Ltd and Sahara Housing Finance Corporation Ltd – the court in its order said: "However, if the applicant enters into any negotiations and Royal Partners Investment Fund deposits the amount before this court, appropriate order shall be passed on the next date of hearing."

The court also directed Subrata Roy to present in the court on the next date of hearing. – IANS

Jet is much leaner, agile to grow faster now: Goyal

MUMBAI, Sept 11: Describing fiscal 2017 as a year when Jet Airways was "ran as a tight ship," Chairman Naresh Goyal said today beter days are ahead for the airline with a leaner balance sheet, having lowered its debt pile by around Rs 2,000 crore and a year-end profit of Rs 438 crore.

He said fiscal prudence and laser-sharp focus on cost and a cautious expansion has ensured that the airline ended every quarter in FY17 in profit, with the March quarter net income being the eighth straight quarter of profitability.

The airline closed the fiscal year 2017 with a consolidated profit of Rs 438 crore on a revenue of Rs 23,407 crore that grew only 2.2 per cent.

Goyal also credited the JV with Ethad as one of the major reasons for the improved all-round performance which has primarily helped the airline gain on network growth, revenue increase, operational efficiencies and cost improvement.

"As a part of deleveraging, the airline has reduced its debt by Rs 1,902 crore during the year to March 2017 and overall, during the past two years, debt has been reduced by one-third," Goyal told the shareholder's at the AGM here.

On the equity partnership with Ethad, he said the alliance continues to be the largest carrier of international passengers to and from the country last year. – PTI

SIAM seeks cess exemption on 10-13 seater vehicles

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: Auto industry body SIAM today sought exemption from 10-13 seater vehicles under the recently introduced goods and services tax (GST) framework.

It, however, hoped the new rates announced last week would not remain static and not be increased frequently.

"SIAM feels that the long-standing anomaly in the taxation of 10-13 seater vehicles could have been fully corrected and these should have been fixed at a GST rate of 28 per cent without any cess as these are public transport vehicles

and not for personal use," it said in a statement.

SIAM hoped this anomaly would be addressed in future, it added.

In the pre-GST era, such vehicles enjoyed concession in excise duty rate.

After the GST implementation, the government exempted compensation cess only on ambulances that can carry up to nine persons.

These 10-13 seater vehicles, including ambulances, now attract top tax rate of 28 per cent with 15 per cent cess.

The industry body also hoped that now the States

would not unilaterally increase the road taxes as they would be receiving increased compensation through the revised cess.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) though felt relieved in excise duty rate.

After the GST implementation, the government exempted compensation cess only on ambulances that can carry up to nine persons.

With the new GST, the taxation on mid-sized passenger cars have been almost restored to the pre-GST levels, while taxes on luxury cars and SUVs have been slightly moderated as compared to the pre-GST rates, it said. – PTI

Car sales up 11.8%, passenger vehicles 13.76% in Aug

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: Domestic passenger vehicle sales grew 13.76 per cent in August as consumers tried to make the most out of price cuts after GST implementation ahead of an imminent hike in cess rates.

According to the data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), passenger vehicle sales were at 2,94,335 units in August as compared to 2,58,737 units in the same month last year.

Car sales were up 11.8 per cent to 1,98,811 units as against 1,77,829 units in August last year, the SIAM said.

Last month, the utility vehicles segment clocked the second highest monthly sales for the ongoing fiscal at 78,664 units as against 65,760 units in the year-ago month, up by 19.62 per

cent. In July this year, the segment saw the biggest sales for 2017-18 at 86,874 units with 35.5 per cent growth.

"Overall the market is coming back, whether it is sustainable or not, we will have to wait and see," SIAM Director General Vishnu Mathur told reporters here.

In August, market leader Maruti Suzuki India's passenger vehicle sales grew by 26.16 per cent at 1,51,270 units. Its car sales were at 1,15,897 units during the month, a growth of 28.39 per cent, while that of utility vehicles (UVs) grew by 27.59 per cent at 21,442 units in August.

Rival Hyundai Motor India's passenger vehicles sales rose by 9.03 per cent at 47,103 units. The company's car sales were at 36,639 units, up 5.5 per

Bajaj Auto's motorcycle sales were down 1.75 per cent at 28,664 units as against 17,471 units in the corresponding month last year.

The SIAM said total two-wheeler sales in August grew 14.69 per cent to 18,91,062 units compared to 16,48,871 units in the year-ago month.

Market leader Hero MotoCorp posted 12.23 per cent increase in its motorcycle sales at 5,83,852 units as against 5,20,226 units in August last year, a growth of 18.61 per cent.

Segment leader HMSI's scooter sales rose by 17.22 per cent during August at 3,94,288 units as against 3,36,363 units in the year-ago month. Chennai-based TVS Motor Co sold 1,09,465 units of scooters last month as compared to 73,761 units in August last year, a growth of 48.4 per cent. Hero MotoCorp followed with 77,638 units as compared to 81,015 units in the corresponding month a year ago, down 4.17 per cent. – PTI

In addition to the above terms and conditions following additional conditions will have to be fulfilled by a Press for printing of Ballot Paper.

1) Papers for Ballot will be supplied by this office. The width of ballot papers should be 4 (four) inch (single column), where the number of candidates is 8 (eight) or less the ballot paper is to be printed in double column and breadth shall be twice i.e. 8 (eight) inch.

2) Every ballot paper should be numbered sequentially from 1 to it. At the top, Serial number should be printed/marked on every ballot paper as well as its counterfoil.

3) The ballot paper have to be stitched into bundles with consecutive serial ballot papers. Numbers of ballot in each bundle to be 50/fifty.

4) The rate should be quoted inclusive of charges for stitching, serial numbering etc. Rates MUST be quoted in both words and figures.

5) The rate should be in following proforma:

A. For printing of Electoral Rolls (including supply of paper):

SL. No.	Item	Rate (including DTP and binding) in Rs. (both in figure and words)		
	30 copies	40 Copies	75 copies	100 copies

B. Ballot Paper printing (Paper will be supplied by the Authority) :

SL. No.	Item	Rate quoted for printing of
	First 100 copies	Subsequent 100s

Printing Presses fulfilling the terms and conditions will submit their quotations in sealed cover to the respective SDO(C), Kalabur at 3:00 PM of 17/09/2017.

Sd/- Addl. Deputy Commissioner
I/c, SDO(C) Kalabur.

Janasanyog/C/3459/17

Bangladesh offers land to shelter Rohingya fleeing Myanmar

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 11: Bangladesh has agreed to free land for a new camp to shelter some of the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who have fled recent violence in Myanmar, an official said today.

The new camp will help relieve some pressure on existing settlements in the Bangladeshi border district of Cox's Bazar, where nearly 300,000 Rohingya have arrived since Aug. 25.

"The two refugee camps we are in are beyond crowded," said UN refugee agency spokeswoman Vivian Tan. Other new arrivals were being sheltered in schools, or were huddling in makeshift settlements with no toilets along roadsides and in open fields. Basic resources were scarce, including food, clean water and medical aid.

Still, more refugees were arriving. An Associated Press reporter witnessed hundreds streaming through the border at Shah Puri Dwip on Monday.

"Tomorrow we are expecting an airlift of relief supplies for 20,000 people," Tan said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had offered 2 acres near the existing camp of Kutupalong "to build temporary shelters for the Rohingya newcomers," according to a Facebook post Monday by Mohammed Shahriar Alam, a junior minister for foreign affairs.

He also said the government would begin fingerprinting and registering the new arrivals on Monday. Hasing is scheduled to visit Rohingya refugees on Tuesday.

Aid agencies have been overwhelmed by the influx of Rohingya, many of whom are arriving hungry and traumatised after walking days through jungles or packed into rickety wooden boats in search of safety in Bangladesh. — AP

Myanmar situation a textbook example of ethnic cleansing: UN

COX'S BAZAR (Bangladesh), Sept 11: The situation in Myanmar is a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing," the United Nations said today, as the number of Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar for Bangladesh topped 300,000.

The Rohingya, a stateless Muslim minority, have faced decades of persecution in Myanmar where they are regarded as illegal immigrants.

But since the latest upsurge in violence on August 25, hundreds of thousands have flooded across the bor-

der into Bangladesh bringing stories of entire villages burned to the ground by Buddhist mobs and Myanmar troops.

Today the UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein accused Myanmar of waging a "systematic attack" on the Rohingya and warned that "ethnic cleansing" seemed to be under way.

"Because Myanmar has refused access to human rights investigators the current situation cannot yet be fully assessed, but the situation seems a textbook example of ethnic cleansing," he

told the UN Human Rights Council. Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace laureate, has come in for strong international criticism over the military crackdown on the Rohingya, which began when militants ambushed security forces on August 25.

The UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar has said that latest violence may have left more than 1,000 dead, most of them Rohingya.

A further 27,000 ethnic Rakhine Buddhists as well as Hindus have also fled violence that has gripped northern Rakhine, where international aid

programmes in Rakhine have been severely curtailed.

Follow Nobel peace laureates Malala Yousafzai and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have urged Suu Kyi to intervene before the UN refugee agency says at least 313,000 Rohingya have now arrived in Bangladesh from Myanmar's Rakhine state since August 25, around a third of the total population of 1.1 million.

The true figure could be even higher – the UN said many new arrivals are still on the move and are therefore left out of the calculations. — AFP

B'desh minister speaks of 'genocide' in Rakhine

DHAKA, Sept 11: Bangladesh's foreign minister said today that genocide was being waged in Myanmar's violence-racked Rakhine state, triggering an exodus of nearly 300,000 Muslim Rohingya to his country.

"The international community is saying it is a genocide. We also say it is a genocide," AH Mahmud Ali told reporters after briefing diplomats in Dhaka.

Ali met Western and Arab diplomats and the heads of UN agencies based in Bangladesh to seek support for a political solution and humanitarian aid for the Rohingya.

He told the diplomats that some 3.00,000 Rohingya had fled to Bangladesh in the past two weeks, taking the total number of such refugees in the country to over 7,00,000.

"It is now a national problem," Ali said.

At least two diplomats who attended the briefings said the minister told them as many as 3,000 people may have been killed in the latest round of violence.

The United Nations says 2,94,000 bedraggled and exhausted Rohingya refugees have arrived in Bangladesh since attacks by Rohingya militants on Myanmar security forces in Rakhine on August 25 sparked a major military backlash.

Tens of thousands more are believed to be on the move inside Rakhine.

Mainly Buddhist Myanmar does not recognise its stateless Muslim Rohingya community, labelling them "Bengalis" – illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. — AFP

Hospital struggles to cope with wounded Rohingyas

COX'S BAZAR (Bangladesh), Sept 11: The 7-year-old Rohingya boy lies on a tattered mattress on the floor of a crowded government hospital in Bangladesh, bandages covering the spot where a bullet fired by Myanmar troops tore through his chest a week earlier.

He is one of 80 Rohingya patients,

most males with gunshot wounds, being treated at this overwhelmed medical facility in a coastal city now deluged with nearly 300,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled a two-week surge in violence and a lifetime of persecution in neighboring Myanmar's Rakhine state.

He is the youngest of six patients

with gunshot wounds interviewed by The Associated Press on two recent visits. "The soldiers just started firing. I saw my son on the ground," the boy's father Abu Tahir said.

In the chaos that followed they lost track of the rest of their family before Tahir carried his son across the bor-

der to safety. Now he watches as his child's ribs rise and fall in the hospital, praying that he recovers.

Sadar Hospital is the main medical facility for the Cox's Bazar area. At the best of times it's stretched to the limit, with 20 doctors responsible for the treatment of hundreds of patients. — AP

North Korea warns of harsh response if new sanctions imposed

TOKYO, Sept 11: North Korea says it will make the United States pay a heavy price if a proposal Washington is backing to impose the toughest sanctions ever on Pyongyang is approved by the UN Security Council this week.

The North's Foreign Ministry issued a statement early today saying it is watching the United States' moves closely and threatened it is "ready and willing" to respond with measures of its own.

The United States has called for a vote today, New York time, on new UN sanctions against North Korea.

Last Tuesday, the US circulated a draft resolution proposing the toughest-ever UN sanctions on North Korea, including a ban on all oil and natural gas exports to the country and a freeze on all foreign financial assets of the government and its leader, Kim Jong Un.

Security Council diplomats,

who weren't authorized to speak publicly because talks have been private, said the US and China were still negotiating the text late Sunday.

Previous UN sanctions resolutions have been negotiated between the United States and China, and have taken weeks or months. But the Trump administration is demanding a vote in six days.

"The US is trying to use the DPRK's legitimate self-defensive measures as an excuse to strangle and completely suffocate it," the statement said, using the acronym for North Korea's formal name.

Since the US is revealing its nature as a blood-thirsty beast obsessed with the wild dream of reversing the DPRK's development of the state nuclear force which has already reached the completion phase, there is no way that the DPRK is going to wait and let the US. Feast on it." — AP

New generator to draw power from flowing blood

BEIJING, Sept 11: Chinese scientists have developed a lightweight power generator a piece of fibre is quite simple. An ordered array of carbon nanotubes was continuously wrapped around a polymeric core.

For thousands of years, people have used the energy of flowing or falling water for different purposes, first to power mechanical engines such as watermills, then to generate electricity by exploiting height differences in the landscape or sea tides.

Now, researchers from Fudan University in China have developed a fiber with a thickness of less than a millimetre that generates electrical power when surrounded by flowing saline solution - in a thin tube or even

in a blood vessel.

The construction principle of the fibre is quite simple. An ordered array of carbon nanotubes was continuously wrapped around a polymeric core.

Carbon nanotubes are well known to be electroactive and mechanically stable; they can be spun and aligned in sheets.

In the electroactive threads, the carbon nanotube sheets coated the fibre core with a thickness of less than half a micron.

For power generation, the thread or "fibre-shaped fluidic nanogenerator" (FFNG) was connected to electrodes and immersed into flowing water or simply repeatedly dipped into a saline solution. — PTI



A Rohingya refugee man cries as he walks to the shore after crossing the Bangladesh-Myanmar border by boat through the Bay of Bengal in Shak Porir Dwip, Bangladesh, on Sunday. — UNHCR



Skill India
कौशल भारत—कुशल भारत



Government of Assam



ASDM
Assam Skill Development Mission

Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM)

ASDM with New Plan

Startup TP (Training Provider) for beginner in Skill Training

► No past experience is required ► Relaxation on Annual Turnover

ASDM will not compromise on

- Infrastructure
- Lab
- ToT
- Black listed Organisation
- SSC Assessment & Certification
- NSQF compliance
- Equipments





Advertisement for Startup TP will be published by 1st Week of October 2017.

Last Date of submission of Trainers Bio Data for ToT Training is extended from 12th September to 15th September 2017

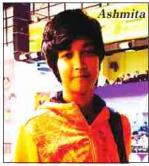
Please logon to our website- www.asdm.assam.gov.in

Lascelles hands Newcastle narrow win over Swansea



Jamaal Lascelles of Newcastle United celebrates after finding the back of the net during the Premier League match against Swansea City at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea.

Assam girl, coach in Indian badminton team



GUWAHATI, Sept 11: Bahman Borah and Ashmita Chaliha of Assam have been included in the Indian badminton team which will participate in the World Junior Badminton Championships to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from October 9 to 22.

While Ashmita is included as a player member of the team, Bahman, former junior national champion and now an employee of the Food Corporation of India (NE Zonal Office), will be a member of the coaching staff of the team.



FLI fitness test today

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: Fitness trainer Tarun Gill and bollywood actor, presenter Rannvijay Singh Singha announced India's fitness reality show – Fitness League of India (FLI), hand-picking people across India to participate in one of its kind engaging fitness competition with a prize money of over RS 3 crore and a Harley Davidson bike.

Auditions to shortlist participants will be conducted across 20 cities of the country not restricting to just players or athletes but anyone who is a fitness enthusiast. FLI is an initiative started by Tarun Gill, Ranveer Singh Singha and Mohit Joon.

The audition in the city will be held tomorrow at the Chisel Gym, Dighalipukhuri, here. The criteria for FLI are also very simple.

Shooting camp organised for underprivileged youths



Students of Narengi ME School trying their hands during the Lakshyabeda organised shooting camp in Guwahati, on Sunday.

GUWAHATI, Sept 11: The 3-day free sports shooting camp organised among the underprivileged students of the Narengi ME School concluded yesterday at the Nehru Stadium in RG Barrah Sports Complex here. The camp was organised by Lakshyabeda.

Altogether 29 students of Class 7 and 8 participated in the camp which was conducted

It is not restricted to any specific height, weight or age. The applicant need to be eighteen years and above. From working professionals to housewives, anyone can participate.

ASEB cruise into final

TIHU, Sept 11: ASEB Sports Club of Guwahati entered the final of the Chakravarthi Dekra Memorial Prize-money Football Championship against Assam Rifles 1-0 in the 1st semifinal played at the Mukulmaus Mini Stadium today.

The championship has been organised by the Mukulmaus Anchalik Krira Samiti.

Oil India Limited, Dulaijan will take on Sunrise Club, Guwahati tomorrow in the second semifinal.

CHENNAI, Sept 11: At least switch to the One-day format. The reigning 2014-15 World Champions have struggled to counter spin and captain Steve Smith has admitted it will be a big challenge for them to adapt to spin-friendly conditions.

The line-up that they face has only one capped player in captain Gurkeerat Singh Mann. He

played three ODIs against Australia last year and since remained on the fringes after that. With most of the Indian players involved in Duleep Trophy,

the selectors had to name an XI comprising of relatively unknown players but it is a chance that they would relish because it is not often that they get to face international opposition.

More than Australia, it's the Board President XI players, who will be richer in gaining experience.

The Australians, led by Steve Smith, arrived here from Bangladesh after drawing a two-Test series and the match tomorrow would give them opportunity to

experience Aaron Finch, Glenn Maxwell and others also step up.

Teams: Australia: Steve Smith (Capt), Warner, Ashton Agar, Nathan Camilleri, Navdeep Singh, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, James Faulkner, Finch, Travis Head, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade (WK), Adam Zampa and Pat Cummins.

Board President XI: Gurkeerat Singh Mann (C), Rahul Tripathi, Mayank Agarwal, Shuvam Chaudhary, Prithvi Shaw, Umang Gohila, Naman Randhawa, Krunal Pandya, Saurabh Tiwary, Rohit Sharma, Akshay Karmarker, Kulwant Khatri, Kusheng Patil, Avesh Khan and Sandeep Sharma. — PTI

MATCH STARTS AT 10:00 AM

Australia face rookies in tour opener

TIHU, Sept 11:

Atmosphere at the One-day

format. The reigning 2014-15 World Champions have struggled to counter spin and captain Steve Smith has admitted it will be a big challenge for them to adapt to spin-friendly conditions.

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MATCH STARTS AT 10:00 AM

SHRADHANJALI



Prof. Sunil Chandra Deb

We pay our respectful homage to

Prof. Sunil Chandra Deb

Former Chairman

Shrimanta Shankar Academy, Guwahati

— Shrimanta Shankar Academy

World Eleven arrives in Lahore amid unprecedented security

KARACHI, Sept 11: In what could be the beginning of international cricket resuming in strife-torn Pakistan, a World Eleven side landed in Lahore for the wee hours today for a Twenty20 series against the hosts.

An unprecedented security greeting the side, to be led by South African captain Faf du Plessis, at the Allama Iqbal International airport.

Soon after landing in Lahore, the World Eleven players and officials were taken to a five-star hotel on the main Mall road which was closed for traffic from all sides.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and International Cricket Council (ICC) had announced earlier there would be no media interaction at the airport.

The high security cover which included paramilitary rangers and police commandos is understandable given this was the first official visit by a team after a terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team in March, 2009.

Since that attack no top Test team has come to Pakistan due to security concerns and the ICC also refused to send any match referee and umpires for the limited

test overs series played by Zimbabwe in May 2015 in Lahore.

But the World Eleven tour which is being seen by the PCB as a game changer to bring back international cricket to the country is not only supported by the ICC but the world governing body has also funded the visit of security experts to Lahore for the security arrangements.

The short tour includes three

T20 internationals scheduled for September 12, 13 and 15 at the Gaddafi stadium.

The ICC has also sent its match referee, Richie Richardson to supervise the series and

an influential member of the world body Giles Clarke also landed with the World Eleven on Sunday night.

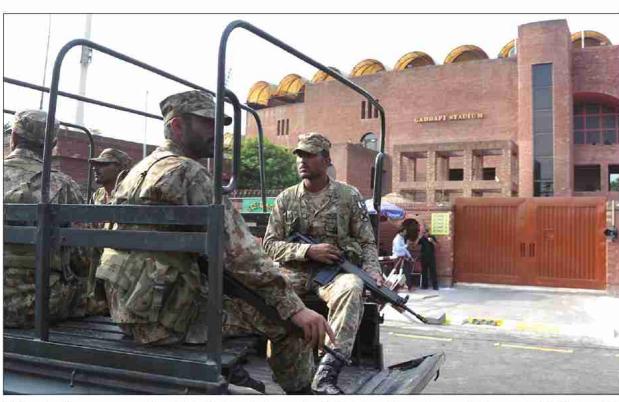
Clarke who heads the ICC's special task force on Pakistan cricket has played an instrumental role in bringing the World Eleven to the country although the tour is going to cost the PCB a whooping USD 3 million in costs including payment of around USD 100,000 to each of the 14 players from South Africa, Australia, England, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the West Indies.

Sethi, however, admitted that the Sri Lanka and West Indies had made it clear that their tours were subject to the World Eleven tour passing off smoothly.

Sethi was instrumental in having the final of the second edition of the Pakistan Super League in Lahore in March.

ICC security experts have visited Lahore twice in recent times to clear the tour. Samuel Badree did not arrive with the World Eleven squad from Dubai and is due to reach Lahore on Monday evening.

World Eleven side: Faf du Plessis (Captain), Hashim Amla, Colin Munro, Imran Tahir, Morne Morkel (SA), George Bailey, Tim Paine (Eng), Ben Cutting (Aus), Tamim Iqbal (Bangladesh), Thessira Perrara (SL Lanka), Grant Elliott (NZ), Paul Collingwood (Eng), Darren Sammy and Samuel Badree (West Indies). — PTI



Pakistan's military troops guard the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore ahead of the Twenty20 series between Pakistan and a World Eleven side.

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