



## NEWS CAPSULE

### School detention

KOLKATA, July 22: Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar today said the Centre will soon introduce detention of students in classes V and VII with support from states. The proposed Bill envisages that the states will take examinations for students at fifth and eighth standards in March, failing which they will be given one last chance to appear in an examination in May. – PTI

### Notice to EC

CUTTACK, July 22: The Orissa High Court has issued notice to the Election Commission on a writ petition that has sought direction to the poll panel to fully complete its inquiry against Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for allegedly giving "false" statements about his poll expenses during the 2014 Assembly elections. – PTI

### Singapore Dy PM

NAGAON, JULY 22: Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam today discussed the potential for cooperation in areas like banking, digital finance, tourism and innovation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi here. – PTI

### Poacher nabbed

KAZIRANGA, July 22: Police and Special Task Force arrested one Md Nur Hussain from Jorhati under Rupahilat PS of Nagaon district this morning for killing a rhino in the Orang National Park on June 22. – Correspondent

### Ultra arrested

KOKRAJHAR, July 22: A joint team of police and Army last night nabbed Supol Hembram, a self-styled platoon commander of Adviser Dragon Force from Malibhog forest village under Kachugaon PS. Police also recovered 29 handmade grenades from him. – Correspondent

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

## 19 breaches in dykes this flood season

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, July 22: Altogether 19 breaches, including two 'public cuts', occurred in the embankments of the rivers in eight districts of the State during the current flood season. Erosion has been found to be a major cause for the breaches suffered by the embankments that time, said highly placed sources in the State's Water Resources Department (WRD) here.

Two of these breaches were found to have occurred in the Brahmaputra embankments in Mikirgaon area of Morigaon district and in Jaydapur area of Barpeta district, sources said.

Erosion led to eight breaches in the embankments. While the embankment on the Brahmaputra suffered a breach in Lakhimpur, mainly caused by erosion. Erosion was also responsible for the breach that occurred in the embankment on the Goland in Baksa district.

The highest number of



Erosion main factor behind these breaches across 8 districts

breaches in the embankments occurred in Majuli district, although eight of them that occurred on the Malapindia Mahanadi embankments on the Subansiri, are smaller ones.

One 'public cut' has been reported near the Kekoria Gate in the island district, and another in the embankment on the Burhadiya in Nadia area in Nalbari district, sources said. The term 'public cut' is used by WRD engineers

to describe a cut in an embankment made by nearby people in order to release accumulated rainwater. Sources maintained that except the Brahmaputra embankment at Mikirgaon, which was triggered by erosion, none of the embankments, which were strengthened this year, suffered any damage under the impact of the floodwaters. The Brahmaputra eroded an around 500-metre (See page 10)

## AASU wants Centre's white paper on flood

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

GUWAHATI, July 22: The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) today demanded a white paper from the Government of India on the roadmap prepared by it for permanent solution of the problems of flood and erosion in Assam. The student body is of the view that the white paper should also include the steps taken by the government so far for dealing with the problems and the funds released over the years for construction of flood and erosion control structures and to provide relief for the flood-affected people.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, AASU chief adviser Samu-

jai Bhattacharya said that over the years, the Government of India has been assuring the people of Assam that flood and erosion would be considered as national problems but nothing has been seen on the ground so far. He said that of late, several Central ministers issued contradictory statements on the funds released by the Centre and under the circumstances, only a white paper can reveal the truth.

Bhattacharya pointed out

that the Government of India has been spending thousands of crores of rupees on cleaning and maintaining the flow of the river Ganga and its tributaries. He said that if the government considers the North

East region as an integral part of India, similar action should be taken on the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries without further delay.

"We are not opposed to the Centre's move to spend huge amounts on the river Ganga and its tributaries. Our main concern is that why a similar action cannot be taken on the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries," he added. He also alleged that over the years, the Centre has been showing interest only on the resources of the North East but not on the problems faced by the region.

On the present flood situation, Bhattacharya alleged that there have been irregularities in issuing land *patras* to indigenous population of the State. The committee was constituted in February this year for suggesting measures including modification in the Assam Land (See page 10)

(See page 10)

## Petroleum workers threaten strike

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 22: Petroleum workers in the Northeast have threatened to go on indefinite strike from July 27 protesting non-implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1936.

The workers, under the banner of the Assam Petroleum Mazdoor Union, had resorted to a strike four months back but that was withdrawn following assurances from the government that action will be taken to ensure that the employers of the workers implement the minimum wages laws.

Leaders of the union said

that during a bipartite meeting on November 4 last, the managements had agreed to implement the demands of the workers related to payment of minimum wages, PF and ESI benefits.

"Currently some workers are paid as low as Rs 1,500.

According to the Act, the high skilled workers (drivers)

should get around Rs 14,500,

while those like handymen, etc., should get over Rs 8,000.

The petrol pump workers are semi-skilled," the union said.

There are over one lakh

petroleum workers in the re-

gion, most of them employed in petrol depots.

As on date, the number of arsenic-affected habitations stands at 3,726 and fluo-

ride-affected is 155. Jorhat (with 959 affected habitations)

and Baska (with 821 affected habitations) have

been the worst hit in terms

of high arsenic level in ground water. Ninety three habitations

in Dhubri are affected by fluoride. Sources, however, said the actual number could be more with fresh tests confirming arsenic and fluoride in other areas as well.

A senior PHE official said 122 DPRs (detailed project

(See page 10)

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(See page 10)

### Shortage of ammunition

## Army can't fight full-scale war, says CAG report

NEW DELHI, July 22: The Indian Army is battling critical shortage of ammunition, especially for its tanks and artillery, and 121 out of the total 152 types of munition do not meet the minimum levels needed to fight a full-scale war, the government auditor has found.

In its latest report on the Army and ordnance factories tabled in Parliament, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has said that in the last few years, no significant improvement was made in the availability of War Waste Reserve (WWR), which is ammunition needed to meet the requirements of 40 days of intense war or a full-scale war.

"Out of 152 types of ammunition, only 31 (21 per cent) met the authorisation of 40 (days). Balance 121 types of ammunition

were still below the authorisation level," the CAG said in its findings.

According to Defence Ministry approved standards, the Indian Army is supposed to store ammunition expenditure for at least 40 days of an intense war. The Army has also set ammunition level required for what is called the Minimum Acceptable Risk Level (MARL) – that is the amount of ammunition required for 20 days of war.

But the CAG found that even this level was not maintained in most of the types of ammunition. The CAG criticized the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for the highlighted inadequate quantity of ammunition supplied to the Army since March 2013.

"Scrutiny of category-wise details of ammunition revealed that the WWR level had (See page 10)

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**Sri Arun Kumar Chakravarty**, retired Director (Pension Dept), Govt. of Assam and Ex-FAO, CPP-IPR (Sonapur) passed away on 14th July, 2017. His Adya Shradhha will be held on 23rd July, 2017 at Sukreswar Temple, Guwahati.

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A summer camp for children and teenagers under way at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati on Saturday. - AT photo

## RSS imparting arms training to youth in Assam, alleges Cong

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 22: The Congress today accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of imparting arms training to youth in Assam and said the activities of the Sangh Parivar would turn the State into a "war zone."

Throwing his weight behind Congress legislator Rupjyoti Kurni who vehemently protested against the decision of the Mariani College authorities to allow the RSS to organise a camp in the educational institution on Friday, senior Congress leader Pradyut Bordoloi said the BJP and the RSS were in aggressive pursuit of their "Hindutva agenda," which is ominous for the State.

"The Sangh Parivar is desperate. They are trying to bring people from

outside and settle them here and give them citizenship. One of their leaders had recently said that the floods are not as important as Hindutva. Their activities have posed a threat to the identity and culture of the Assamese community," Bordoloi said addressing a press conference here.

He said those who are opposing cow vigilantes are being branded as traitors. Bordoloi also questioned the role of the BJP and the RSS during the freedom movement and alleged that the RSS in fact helped the British rulers.

"When he was in jail, RSS ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar had written to the British five times, seeking forgiveness for going against the colonial rulers. He had given in writing that he was in no way involved in the freedom

movement. Now the RSS has even started celebrating the birthday of Nathuram Godse. They have also launched a campaign in the social media to malign Mahatma Gandhi's image... and now Modi claims himself to be the greatest patriot," Bordoloi said.

The former minister also alleged that the RSS was imparting arms training to youth in various places, including Hojai, and during a recent camp organised at Pub Nalbari College.

Bordoloi said the front-line organisation of the RSS, Friends of Tribal Society, was setting up schools in tea gardens and luring youths towards the RSS. "In fact, some tea garden youths have been even taken to Nagpur for training. They are trying to divide the Christian and Hindu workers in the garden areas," he alleged.

## Food items distributed among flood victims

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 22: City Police today conducted an intensive drive against two-wheelers producing high-decibel sound and riders resorting to zigzag driving.

A total of 483 violations were detected and fines worth Rs 87,200 were realised. Besides, 111 FIRs were submitted. Further, 46 modified bikes were detained, while four cases of rash driving were also reported.

Along with traffic police personnel, the drive was directly supervised by Commissioner of Guwahati Police Hiren Nath.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Additional DCPS and ACPS, too, were seen monitoring the drives conducted across the city.

### Ganja seized

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 22: Police today recovered ganja weighing 30 kg from the house of one Mala Baruah of Kalikbar Railway Colony in Bamunimaidam area. Two persons – Babu Baruah and Naren Das – were detained and a case under the NDPS Act was registered. Police also destroyed illicit country-made liquor weighing 50 litres.

### Man missing

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, July 22: Police are searching for one Pankaj Deka (38) who has been missing since July 13 after leaving for his residence at Mukulnagar from his rented house at Adduri around 5.30 pm on that day.

Deka's family members have lodged an FIR at the Jalukbari Police Station in this respect. Investigation is on to trace Deka, said police sources.

### Orthopaedic camp

GUWAHATI, July 22: A free orthopaedic and physiotherapy camp is going to be organised by Sri Satyasaik Alumni of Assam at Sai Baba Mandir ("Sainadharan") at Rupnagar road here from 9.30 am tomorrow. Apart from free check-up, free medicines will also be distributed in the camp, stated a press release.

Recent animal deaths irk Forest Minister

## State Zoo vet transferred

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 22: The Government today transferred the veterinary doctor posted at the Assam State Zoo here. Dr BK Kakoti will go back to the Veterinary department and Dr Bijoy Gogoi will replace him. Dr Gogoi had earlier served as a pathologist at the zoo.

Dr Kakoti was brought on deputation to the zoo three years back. Sources in the Forest department said Dr Kakoti was unable to "handle things competently."

"There had been instances in the past where he could not make diagnosis properly," a senior official in the Forest de-

partment said.

It is learnt that the State Zoo authorities had also written to the Forest department seeking a replacement. A source in the State Zoo said Forest Minister Pramila Rani Brahma had taken serious note of the recent death of zoo animals and was upset with the performance of the doctor.

When contacted by *The Assam Tribune*, Dr Kakoti pointed out that the zoo lacks basic facilities and manpower, and that blaming him for the current state of affairs would amount to "injustice."

"What can a single person do? I have to visit many places to rescue animals. The other day I had to go to the Barak

Valley," he said.

The zoo does not have any quarantine facility to keep injured animals which are brought there very often. Dr Kakoti added, "The hospital at the zoo resembles a general dispensary with just a few basic facilities. There are no modern equipment. We have written to the Government on several occasions regarding the problems, but things have not changed much," he said.

Dr Kakoti said he had served the zoo for three years and "in any case, a new posting was due."

The Zoo Protection Forum, a newly formed organisation, has been making allegations about lack of facilities at the zoo.



## Sky observation programme

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 22: The Guwahati Planetarium will organise an eight-day sky observation programme here from July 23 to 30. In the programme, participants can view the spectacular rings of the Saturn through a telescope. Interested people can take part in the programme from 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm, said the Planetarium in a press release issued here today.

At present, the Saturn is in a suitable position so that people can see it clearly through a telescope, added the release.

If the sky remains clear during the observation period, sky watchers can also catch a glimpse of the gas giant Jupiter, with its Galilean moons, the release added.

The Guwahati Planetarium has made an appeal to interested students and other members of the public to attend the sky observation programme.

## Driver, conductor held for alleged rape

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, July 22: The police last night arrested the driver and the conductor of a local share taxi for alleged abduction and rape of a 17-year-old girl who had gone missing on July 20.

According to police sources, the victim – a resident of Lakshmi Mandir, Gorchuk – had gone out with her mother and got lost. As

she was waiting near the highway, the two accused – driver Mainul Haque (29) and conductor Sonabor Ali (22) – allegedly raped her after offering to help her.

The victim was kept confined in the taxi the whole day on June 20. Last night, as the two accused were buying clothes for her near Jalukbari, they were apprehended by a constable and brought to the Jalukbari

Police Outpost.

After making enquiries, Jalukbari Police handed over the arrested duo to the Gorchuk Police Station. Police sources said the girl was not able to articulate properly about the incident.

A case (278/17) has been registered at the Gorchuk Police Station under Section 366(A) of the IPC. The arrested driver and conductor were sent to jail today.

## Consultation on climate action plan

STAFF REPORTER

JALUKBARI, July 22: A workshop on climate is being conducted by PK Entertainment and Shankardev School of Drama from July 18 to 27 at SB Deora College, Bora Service here. Students from various parts of Assam are participating in the workshop.

The organisers said that a few participants of the workshop would be selected for an upcoming Assamese film.

Prominent actors Nipon Goswami, Reba Phukan, Kopil Bora, Paran Kamal, Rajesh Bhuyan and others are teaching the participants in the workshop, a press release stated.

levels of research by individuals and organisations.

The Assam Government has drafted and adopted a State Action Plan on Climate Change which includes a lot of information from various departments.

As many people are not aware of it, this consultation will have a discussion on the climate action plan too,

organised to share different

## Workshop on cinema

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## OPD clinic held at Guwahati Press Club

GUWAHATI, July 22: Dr Patta Radhakrishnan, gastroenterology surgeon from the Chennai-based SIMS Hospital, conducted an OPD clinic at the Guwahati Press Club here today. Over 30 media persons, along with their dependants, participated in the camp, which was supervised by Binay Haikakotari from the SIMS Hospital.

The next weekly clinic at the press club will be conducted by Dispur Hospitals on July 29. Participants will be offered free consultation in the camp, organised under the series of 'Evening with a Doctor.' However, they will also get the opportunity to check their blood sugar, blood pressure, weight, etc., in the camp, a press release stated.

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Walk in interview on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 (Monday & Tuesday) from 10.30 am onwards.

ERD Foundation, ERD Bhawan, Sijibari Road, Hatigaon Dispur, Guwahati-38, Ph : 0361-2235768 / 098540-90854

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DATE: 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2017  
TIME: 11:30AM



**MESSAGE FORTODAY**

*Communication is the language of leadership.*  
— JAMES HUMES

**The Assam Tribune****An exigent issue**

The irony that the elbow-prod to the Centre drawing attention to the pathetic condition of roads in Assam had to come from the BJP itself will not be lost on the people of this State. Reportedly, a BJP Member of Parliament had to petition the Union Minister for Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to intervene and instruct the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) to repair national highways 15 and 37 which have currently become almost un-traversable! If this is the condition of arterial roads that of lesser highways can well be imagined! Even the Chief Minister of Assam has time and again requested the Centre not only to repair the national roadways, but also to expedite their conversion to four-lane highways. However, if the lack of response so far is any indication, his pleas had fallen on deaf ears. It had been so many years since the four-lane conversion was conceived and execution begun that people have actually forgotten when! Given the snail's pace at which the conversion is progressing, not even a soothsayer can predict when it will be completed! Even today issues such as whether to continue the conversion through the Kaziranga National Park or make a detour to bypass it, have not been resolved, while problems acquiring land are yet to be tackled.

One noticeable trait with the NDA Government at the Centre is the wide gulf between promises and actual performance. The Look East Policy, which it rechristened as Act East Policy, envisages the North-East as a corridor for trade with nations of South East Asia, in which case improving road communication should have been a top priority. The lackadaisical attitude of the NHIDCL in empowering the region with state-of-the-art roadways simultaneously mocks at the Centre's sincerity in making the North-East hub of its Act East Policy. Apart from difficulties caused to the denizens of the region, there is a more insidious aspect to the pathetic condition of road communication, because this hampers the speedy movement of troops and supplies to the contentious border with China. The current stand-off between the two nations reinforces the vital necessity of maintaining good, motorable roads in this region. One of the prime handicaps suffered by the NHIDCL has been the unfamiliarity of its engineers with the climatic and soil conditions of the North-East, which conspire against roadways constructed through conventional technology. Due to the annual flooding as well as the season of heavy rain, road construction here requires more advanced technology. One can only hope, that having been apprised of the problem, the Centre in turn prods the NHIDCL to shake a leg and make its impact felt on such an exigent issue.

**Cow vigilantes**

The country is now facing a new kind of law and order problem. The problem if not tackled head on threatens to irreparably damage the secular fabric of the country. Almost out of the blue, groups have emerged taking law in their hand in the name of protecting the cow. The self-proclaimed 'cow protectors' have unleashed violence in several parts of the country. The cow vigilante first made headlines following the Dadri incident in September 2015. In Dadri, a person was lynched by a mob following a rumour that the family was in possession of cow meat. The Dadri incident drew widespread condemnation. It was hoped that the negative publicity generated by the Dadri lynching case will drive home the message to the cow vigilantes that what they are doing is not right. But unfortunately that did not happen. Instead the menace of cow vigilantes is spreading fast to different parts of the country. Cow vigilantes have committed unpardonable crimes in states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

The violence unleashed by the cow vigilantes can no way be justified. The way the cow vigilantes are carrying on with their barbaric act of lynching persons for carrying on cow trade or on the mere suspicion of possessing beef is indeed very despicable. They simply have no place in the modern society and are criminals who should be behind the bars. The way the cow vigilantes are carrying on with their activities raises doubts that they must be receiving tacit support from some powerful quarters. In this context the Supreme Court's directive to the Centre and the states will hopefully help in getting rid from the scourge of cow vigilantes. The Supreme Court on Friday has asked the Centre and the states not to protect any kind of vigilantism and sought their response on the violent incidents in the garb of cow protection. The Centre on its part has made its stand clear that it does not support any kind of vigilantism by private persons and it was for the state governments to crack down on such self-styled groups. Now the onus is on the respective state governments to ensure a crackdown on the cow vigilantes. Strong steps should be initiated to ensure that the cow vigilantes dare not take law in their hands in the name of cow protection.

**The Assam Tribune****From THE PAST****350 Die, Over 16,000 Hurt In Factional Fighting In China**

TOKYO, July 22: Three hundred and fifty persons were killed and more than 16,000 others were wounded in a serious fighting which began on July 19 and was still continuing between pro-Mao Tse Tung and anti-Mao forces in the Wuhan area in central China, according to the Peking correspondent of the Japanese newspaper, *Asahi Shimbun* today.

Reports from Japanese correspondents said anti-Mao Red Army troops in Wuhan city took into custody China's Deputy Premier and National Security Minister, Gen. Hsich Fu Chih and Communist Party propaganda chief, Hang Li, both Maoist leaders, when they were leading a pro-Mao procession in the city on July 16.

The two pro-Mao leaders had gone to Wuhan to put down anti-Mao rebellion in Wuhan.

So far 50,000 workers and peasants were involved in factional fighting in the Wuhan area, the reports said quoting wall papers in Peking. The reports also said about 2,400 industrial plants in the area were idle as a result of the fighting.

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 1967

**Illegal immigration : a perspective****■ SP Bhattacharyya**

To begin with, migration and politics of dominance have been the twin attributes of all civilizations and the principle of 'Might is Right' masked in different moulds and shades has determined everything the right to life and liberty, the identity, friends and even enemies. It is generally believed that India was an independent country before 1757 when Robert Clive of the British East India Company, by an act of treachery, defeated the Muslim ruler of the then Bengal (comprising Bengal-Bihar-Orrissa). In course of the next 100 years the British Government through the agency of East India Company extended their control to every nook and corner of this vast country (except the North-East) and finally took over the political and administrative control of the country directly in their hands after the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. After that, designated as 'natives' (there was no modern concept of citizenship at that time) all Indians; Hindus or Muslims, Bengalis or Biharis became 'subjects' of the King or Queen of England.

Even before British take over, India was not really an independent country in the true sense of the term. The 700 years of Mughal rule according to many (including the advocates of Two-Nation theory) was an alien rule judging by the language, religion and culture of the rulers and the victory and expansion of the Mughals were as much due to their

superiority in the art and science of warfare and administration as due to the emasculation of the Hindu society whose top echelon was living in a grandeur of delusion unaware of the fact that the ground was fast slipping out from under their feet. At the same time, Bengal with its rich natural resources presented the weakest part, the underbelly of the decadent Hindu society because of which the religious diplomacy of open arm were come coupled with the new-found sense of inclusiveness by belonging to the religion of the king (An-ul-Mulk) transformed Bengal into a Muslim majority province.

Under British domination, a cultural renaissance based on the Western concept of science and humanity with the support and encouragement of the British rulers, began to take shape in which the educated upper class Bengalis took leading roles. Though this somewhat succeeded in revitalizing the moribund Hindu society, the leaders of the Muslim society which was equally regressive and superstitious, refused to join hands, as a result of which the divide in the Hindu-Muslim psyche began to grow wider though the two communities particularly in Bengal continued to live together in an uneasy equilibrium with most of the urban centres under *de facto* Hin-

du dominance surrounded by vast rural areas under *de facto* Muslim dominance. The religious divide gradually led to a political divide which was allowed and encouraged by the foreign rulers to reach the breaking point before our forefathers from across the seven seas decided to give the parting kick through an ill-conceived partition (as a solution of the communal dis-harmony) which in one fell stroke of pen made crores of people for-

ward over thousands of years gave the people of that region the courage and skill to face the situation with confidence. But their counterparts in Bengal, particularly the Hindus, who were the vanguards of the freedom movement and many of whom had laid down their lives crying 'Vande Mataram' as they fell under bullets clashing the national flag in their hands, were shell-shocked and did not know what to do. May be, the generally peaceful and tranquil Bengal where they lived for thousands of year did not give them the necessary toughness and resoluteness required of them at this juncture. Guided more by emotion rather than reason, millions of Hindus from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) began to march towards the Indian borders, not all at once but in batches and phases and became

refugees in the very land of their forefathers. Obviously, it was beyond the capacity of the neighbouring states to give shelter and livelihood to all these hapless people as there was no reverse migration of the Muslim population (like in Punjab) from this side of the border. The problem became multi-dimensional when not only Hindus but hordes of poor and destitute Muslim families also started migrating to India in search of better life and livelihood and the local people initially welcomed this immigration because of the cheap labour they

provided. The difference between migration and immigration began to get blurred and democracy being a game of numbers political manipulations on the basis of religion and language began to show its ugly face leading to loss of lives and property of many innocent victims. The anxiety of the Assamese becoming minority in their own land due to illegal migration by both Bengali Hindus and Muslims set in motion a prolonged and bitter movement spearheaded by the students to which politicians of all hues came running from far and near, each with his axe to grind and a compromise of sort was arrived at with the signing of the 'Assam Accord' in 1985. However, even after 30/40 years of signing of the Assam Accord there is no noticeable change at the ground level except the rise of some student leaders many of whom have succeeded in making a career for themselves in politics as Ministers, MLAs and even Chief Ministers at the national and state level while many of the poor and illiterate of all denominations have been spending their days inside jails and lock-ups in the very ancestral land of their own.

To conclude, it has to be realized that the problem in question is a legacy of the ill-conceived partition and like all socio-political problems has its context spread over thousands of years in the past. Making off the cuff remark with political motives or presenting half-baked idea as solution may make the remedy worse than the disease and create more problems then it solves.

**Digital payment systems****■ Amulya Sharma**

To the traditional cash management system has been deeply rooted for money transaction and commerce in our country from long time back. Despite the best efforts by Govt. of India today the penetration of online system has remained localized in the entire length and breadth of our country.

Today the financial institutions even banks in the country are poised to take the leverage of the benefits of technology and other electronic devices which make their presence felt in under-banked sectors in India. Owing to the emergence of affordable smartphones, a shift has been noticed with the masses becoming lessaverse and more receptive of technology. Ever since the mobile phone has become a ubiquitous accessory even in rural India it has brought a vast segment of population into contact with the digitized financial sectors. It has made a visible difference in the functioning of financial institutions including the banks and the conduct of financial operation, as is seen by a noticeable focus towards expanding digital capabilities to improve services for their existing customers and increase access to customers in less banking areas. Unfortunately this zeal has not been matched by the growth of digital infrastructure to support the technology offered by the financial sectors which undeniably is spearheading financial inclusion.

India has traditionally been a cash intensive economy which has been heavily reliant on traditional banking structure and lending systems. As a country so deeply attached to traditional cash management systems for money transfers and commerce, penetration of digital banking and online payment systems despite the best efforts by the RBI has remained localized to selected urban areas. Some may say this is on account of urban population being more adaptable and tech savvy; however, that is more of an argument of convenience. The telecom connectivity in rural areas in entire country has remained highly fragmented which has prevented the on-boarding of vast rural population

into the digital payment system.

The intent of the 'Vision statement for payment systems in India' which was published by the RBI in 2012 was quite clear of encouraging electronic payment systems to reduce cash dependency in the economy and ensure payment and settlement systems in the country are accessible, interoperable and inclusive.

In remote regions today in India which don't have basic amenities such as electrification, the banking system has failed to establish last mile connectivity. From a practical stand point to service those areas is not only impractical but is also economically unfeasible. As a result, the total financial inclusion remains a distant dream. Access to the financial sector can only be achieved if wired line connectivity and moreover wireless telecom integrates those regions into the digital payment ecosystems. Integration of digital payment ecosystem in India would therefore be the first step towards financial inclusion. The RBI also seems to be cognizant of this as expressed in its vision statement.

As of today we have a multitude of alternative digital payment systems on offer. These includes the likes of account to account transfer, which are making online payments much easier without requiring digital wallet or credit or debit card.

To be succinct the need for nationwide internet connectivity any further, it would be pertinent to point out another issue plaguing the digital payments sector, which is that of most of the current systems have an on-boarding process which requires some level of physical customer verification. The RBI has a strong case for not diluting the requirement for in-person verification and extant 'know your customer' (KYC) measures, since it is easy to argue that to prevent financing of terrorism and money laundering, these checks are critical. Given that rural areas are beyond the reach of most financial institutions, this is a massive impediment for the segment of society which have been at the fringes of the financial system and are located in rural areas.

It is learnt that recently some financial institutions have launched a service where the in-person verification is conducted via video-conferencing; however the KYC form needs to be printed, signed, scanned and uploaded. Although this is a laudable step in the right direction as it allows for an online KYC verification for account opening, it presupposes that the customer would be able to print and scan the form. A purely online system for on-boarding which does not require any printing or scanning is yet to materialize.

With the advancement of technology insistence on a physically signed copy of a document or physical copies for that matter has become redundant. The benefits of digital payment, banking and finance are largely negated if there is a physical interface required with a customer. Paperless banking is a concept which is yet to materialize in practice due to regulatory ambiguity over the acceptance of substitutes for physical signature, dismal enforcement of contractual obligations and untested regulations surrounding the formation of contracts by electronic means.

The RBI has also been promoting online payments and digital banking on offer. This includes the likes of account to account transfer, which are making online payments much easier without requiring digital wallet or credit or debit card.

As an alternative to the laborious process of obtaining a digital signature certificate, which is the only substitute to a physical signature recognized under law, the government has introduced the e-sign facility which is an attempt to facilitate the digital signing of a document by an Aadhaar holder using an online service.

e-sign is designed for applying digital signature on documents as a substitute to physical 'Wet ink signature' using authentication to customers through the Aadhaar e-KYC service. The e-sign is an integrated service that facilitates issuing a digital signature certificate which can be affixed to a single document by authenticating the identity of an Aadhaar card holder. It appears that though it is useful, this entire depend on the user already having an Aadhaar identity which is mandatory for availing e-sign service.

**Voices of the WEEK**

Courtesy: THE HINDU

"It's just belief, that I can achieve such heights. I wasn't sure I would ever be here in another final but I always believed I may come back and do it again." — ROGER FEDERER, Tennis player

★ ★ ★

"PoK is an integral part of India. Pakistan has illegally occupied it. We are giving him visa. No letter required." — SUSHMA SWARAJ, Foreign Minister

★ ★ ★

"GST will end 'inspector raj' and bring down price of goods." — ARUN JAITLEY, Finance Minister

★ ★ ★

"The biggest reason for the deteriorating situation in Jammu and Kashmir is the failure of the Chief Minister." — OMAR ABDULLAH, National Conference chief

★ ★ ★

"Government needs to incentivise buying electric vehicles to push their sales in the country." — ANAND MAHINDRA, chairman, Mahindra group

★ ★ ★

"When I know I'm going to get a better reception, I'll come and not before." — DONALD TRUMP, President, USA

★ ★ ★

"My election to the post of President reflects the greatness of Indian democracy." — RAM NATH KOVIND, President-elect, India

★ ★ ★

"Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Shri Ram Nath Kovind on being elected as the 14th President of India." — PRANAB MUKHERJEE, President, India

★ ★ ★

"Jio phone will make the 2G feature phone obsolete." — MUKESH AMBANI, MD, Reliance Industries

★ ★ ★

"I believe that we will strengthen the Congress with those who are in the party with commitment." — PL PUNIA, general secretary, Congress

★ ★ ★

"There was a shortfall in release of Central assistance to Assam on flood management by 60 per cent." — CAG Report

★ ★ ★

"The entire Assam is under flood water." — RAM PRASAD SHARMA, BJP MP in Parliament

**Entrepreneurship****The last word**  
**S RAGHUNATH**

raw materials? Please remember that I'm here to serve you 24x7."

"For every quarter, I need a tonne of anhydrous ammonia."

"Anhydrous ammonia! So you're going to set up a NextGen chemical industry? What an exciting news. I'll straightaway inform the Chief Minister about this exciting development. Anything else you need, sir?"

"Yes, every week I need a tractor load of stinking, revolting pigs' intestines."

"No problem, sir. I'll liaise with concerned authorities and I'll see to it that

your requirements of pigs' intestines are delivered to your factory premises."

"I also need on a monthly basis 10 kilolitres of French polish and wood alcohol."

"Yes, of course. How can you operate a chemical industry without French polish and wood alcohol. I've made a note of your indent in my files and any hitch in the supply line, please feel free to call me. Anything else you need, sir?"

"Yes, how about chicken droppings? My requirement is a truck load every day."

"Again, no problem sir. There has been a large scale expansion of the poultry industry in the state and meeting your requirements of chicken feed should not pose any difficulties. I'll attach your factory to a poultry farm and you can lift your requirements directly under intimation to me."

"Now let me see if I've got your indent right – anhydrous ammonia, pigs' entrails, French polish and wood alcohol, chicken droppings and mouldy footwear, but one last question, sir. Just what's it that you're planning to manufacture?"

"Hooch."



WEATHER  
NORTHEAST

**Forecast for North Eastern States:** Moderate rainfall throughout the region is likely to occur at many places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, and Tripura.

**Warning:** Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, and Tripura on July 23 and 24.

	Temperature:	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	35.4	26.0	
Tezpur	35.2	28.0	
Silchar	37.5	26.0	
Dhubri	31.7	27.4	
Jorhat	36.4	27.4	
NLakhimpur	37.5	23.5	
Shillong	25.5	16.0	
Imphal	29.4	23.1	
Itanagar	37.0	24.5	
Aizawl	30.8	26.0	
Agartala	33.0	26.0	
Kohima	25.6	18.9	
Pasighat	36.7	26.0	
Cherrapunji	26.4	18.2	

# Zeliang inducts 10 Ministers; crisis in NPF continues

BHADRA GOGOI

DIMAPUR, July 22: Ten Ministers have been inducted into TR Zeliang Cabinet in Nagaland today. However, their portfolios were not allocated till the time of filing this report.

Governor PB Acharya administered the oath office and secrecy to the newly-inducted Ministers at Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, in Kohima, today evening. Most of the new Ministers are old faces from the previous Ministry and include G Kaito Aye, Imkona L Imchen, Tokheho, Y Patton, C Kipili Sangtam, Di Nicky Kire, Kejong Chang, Neiba Kronu, Imtibilema Sangtam and Mimbhonloung Kikon.

The Cabinet strength of Zeliang Ministry now stands at 11, including the CM himself.

However, the crisis in NPF one faction led by former Chief Minister Dr Shurhozelie Liezietsu and the other by the incumbent Chief Minister, is deepening further and does not seem to end in the near future.

The NPF headed by Liezietsu yesterday expelled 19 legislators from the party indefinitely and suspended another 10 with immediate effect. With this, only five NPF legislators (excluding the Speaker) in support of the constitution by defying the whip on the floor of the House on July 21.

Both the factions of NPF issued contrasting whips to the party MLAs in the Assembly on the eve of the confidence motion held on Friday.

NPF working presidents – Huskha Yephomti and Apong Pongener – in the order stated that based on the recom-

mendation of the Disciplinary Action Committee (DAC), 19 legislators were removed from the party indefinitely.

The order stated that the DAC, its meeting on July 21, re-examined the activities of the 19 members and found that they had directly violated the constitution of the NPF by demanding the resignation of the NPF president Dr Shurhozelie Liezietsu without any basis.

They also violated the party constitution by defying the whip on the floor of the House on July 21.

The listed members have been expelled since the party has come to the conclusion that the members were involved in anti-party activities and singularly aimed at dividing the party, the order stated. Altogether the party has now expelled 20 legislators including Zeliang.

In another order, Liezietsu-led NPF informed that based on the DAC's recommendation, the NPF president has suspended the primary and active membership of 10 legislators.

In the order, the NPF stated that the 10 members, who were party to the resolution of the Legislative party of NPF and the CEC to support the by-election of the party president, had indulged in activities against the by-election by demanding the resignation of Liezietsu as the Chief Minister.

It said they had also directly challenged the NPF constitution by demanding the resignation of the party president which is "clear case of anti-party activities." The NPF further said the members had also violated the party's constitution by going against the party whip on the floor of the House on July 21.

## Objection against Sharmila's marriage filed

DINDIGUL (TN), July 22: A local social activist has filed an objection to the proposed marriage of human rights campaigner from Sharmila with her long-time partner at the office of the Sub-Registrar in Kodikkanal.

The activist, V Mahendran, from Pethupparai near Kodikkanal filed a petition in the office against Sharmila's proposed marriage with Desmond Coutinho, a British national.

He contended that if the couple was granted permission, they would settle in Kodikkanal permanently and this was not good for the interests of local residents and safety of the place. In his plea before the Sub-Registrar at Kodikkanal, he said Coutinho was in charge of a website, engaged in activities around the world, and their stay here would affect peace in the hill station.

The Sub-Registrar had called for objections under the Special Marriage Act between Sharmila and the British national as they belonged to different nations and different religions.

Sharmila had moved to this hill town with Coutinho following her defeat in the Mamallapuram Assembly elections in March last and her party 'People's Resistance and Justice Alliance' had suffered a rout.

The 44-year-old shot to fame after she launched her fast-unto-death November 4, 2000, demanding withdrawal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 from Manipur. – PTI

The bill also seeks amendment to the Act to reflect the change in the Department of Development of North-Eastern Region, which was formed with the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2001, and has been upgraded to full-fledged Ministry in 2004.

The Act redefines the functions of NEC as a regional planning body for the NE region, include Sikkim as a member State of NEC and provide for three members and the Chairman of the Council to be nominated by the President. – PTI

The Act sets up the North Eastern Council (NEC) to ensure balanced and coordinated development among the Northeastern States.

The NEC comprises Governors and Chief Ministers of the constituent States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.

The NEC will have a secretariat in New Delhi.

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Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju being felicitated at the inauguration of Riwatch (Ethnographic) Museum at Rheatch Khinjili, in Lower Dibang Valley district of Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday. – UB Photos

## Workers abducted, released in Garo Hills

TURA, July 22: Two persons, including a deputy manager of a construction company and a cook, were kidnapped on Thursday from near Aikhangkone locality by a group of armed miscreants who came in an auto.

However, facing pressure from police, which launched a search operation to rescue the two victims, the kidnappers released the two this morning.

According to sources, the duo, identified as Mahesh Sharma (35) and Vijay Singh (55), were forced into an auto at about 8 pm on Thursday by the group of four armed men. The victims were working on an upcoming parking lot near the main bazaar of the town, about a km from Tura Police Station.

The West Garo Hills police launched multiple operations to rescue the victims and soon received information of the kidnappers seeking refuge in Rongkuge village, near Tura peak.

The kidnappers ran for cover as police teams began to converge on the location. The two victims on their own came down and reached Baromol on Tura-Dalu Road at about 7.30 this morning. – Correspondent

The Act sets up the North Eastern Council (NEC) to ensure balanced and coordinated development among the Northeastern States.

The NEC comprises Governors and Chief Ministers of the constituent States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.

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People crossing a makeshift bamboo bridge on Gorijan river at No. 2 Mudoibei, in Lakhimpur district on Friday. — UB Photos

## Existence of Dhopatari-Changsari bi-weekly market threatened

ANN Service

BAIHATA CHARIALI, July 22: Due to lack of coordination among different government departments and improper planning regarding shifting of the Dhopatari-Changsari bi-weekly market by the authorities concerned, the market has been facing a lot of problems for many days now and no questions are being raised about its existence.

The public of the area and businessmen including the *mohaddar* (contractor) of the market alleged that though the Government has taken a decision for construction of a road to the proposed All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Changsari through

the Dhopatari-Changsari bi-weekly market, but the authorities concerned had not taken suitable steps to re-establish the market before the construction including the widening of the road due to which the normal functioning of the market has been hampered.

The *mohaddar* of the market said that though he had already given applications to the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup (R), the Chief Executive Officer of the Kamrup Zila Parishad, the Circle Officer of North Guwahati and the Block Development Officer of Bezares to re-establish the market before the widening of the road but on July 17, the PWD and the contractor of the road tried to carry out an eviction drive

on the road where the market is situated. They also tried to damage the market sheds without prior information to the *mohaddar*.

The contractor of the road had also heaped stones on the entrance of the market which has also created problems for the business and a number of the businessmen had to return. As a result, the *mohaddar* lost revenue due to him from the businessmen. So the *mohaddar*, the businessmen of the market and public of the area have urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter seriously for better functioning of the market in the future and to stop the eviction till the famous market of the area is properly shifted and re-established.

## Harshajyoti Das: a tribute



A pall of gloom descended over the cultural arena of the State in general and Rangia in particular when senior mobile artiste Harshajyoti Das of Rangia's Muvara area breathed his last on July 11 at the GMCH. His sudden demise at the age of 48 has shocked his admirers. It was a bolt from the blue for all those who were associated with him particularly from the mobile theatre industry in Assam.

An ever-enthusiastic actor, Harsh, during his career served for 17 years in different mobile theatre groups of the State like Bhagyadevi, Awahan, Raajitak, Brindaban, Ithash, Bordoilakha and laterly with Sudarshan. He contributed to the growth of the cultural world with his natural acting. Prior to joining the mobile theatres, he had also act-

ed in various Assamese amateur plays like *Holi, Ekhani Natak Aru....., Jironat Aani, Kriya Pratikriya, Maharastra, Rabiraja Bodhmati* under the banner of local cultural bodies like Swargam, Swargosti etc. He was also a popular youth and cultural organiser. He was loved by all section of the society for his amiable and helping nature. He was closely associated with Rangiya Kendriya Rongali Bihu Sammelan, Madhya Rangiya Cricket Club, besides other socio-cultural and sports organisations of the locality. He leaves behind his wife and popular Assamese artiste Kalpana Sarma, mother, two brothers, sisters and a host of well-wishers and relatives.

Today on the day of his *adavashraddha*, we pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to his departed soul.

**- Kalpana Sarma,  
Nayan Jyoti Das,  
Anjan Jyoti Patowary**

## Flood-relief distributed

CORRESPONDENT

MORGAON, July 22: The office staff of the Inspector of Schools, Morigaon district circle conducted a relief operation among the flood-affected people in Kathoni area on Thursday.

The team led by Dr Tilak Sainika, Inspector of Schools, Morigaon collected money from the employees of his office and distributed relief materials among the flood-affected people. The team distributed food items and clothes among the victims who are living on the roads and embankments. Moreover, the team also distributed text books and other educational equipment among the affected students of the areas.

Meanwhile, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), Morigaon unit had alleged that flood-relief measures were not adequate in Morigaon LAC where as many as 17 villages were affected by the current wave of floods. The AGP, Morigaon demanded that the Government distribute relief properly among the affected people. They also demanded a special relief package for the affected marginal farmers from the Agriculture Department.

## Bidyadhar Dutta



My beloved husband, Bidyadhar Dutta was born to Late Khetekhawar Dutta and Late Deheswari Dutta of Golaghat on March 1, 1952.

He joined as Junior Inspector in the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam in 1974 and retired as Assistant Registrar from Hojai in February 2012. He passed his Higher Secondary from Golaghat Bezbarua Higher Secondary School and graduated from Debraj Roy College, Golaghat. He was the younger brother of child specialist

Dr Manik Dutta. After being diagnosed with the deadly terminal disease, we gathered all courage to fly him to Mumbai for treatment as per the advice of the doctors here. But as fate would it, we could provide him only the last of the necessary treatment.

We returned back to Guwahati on May 28, and after a few days of palliative treatment at a city hospital, he finally breathed his last on July 13, 2017 leaving all his loved ones in an acute state of neglect.

Today on his *adavashraddha*, I pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to his noble soul.

**- Gayatri Dutta (Dipi)**

## Subarna Khound

Subarna Khound, the last surviving *matri* of our family passed away on July 13 last at the ripe old age of 94.

*Mahi* led a very joyous and happy life till *mohor* passed away two decades ago but continued to guide the family very astutely. She suffered another terrible calamity when she lost her elder daughter. The death of her beloved son-in-law Deb Charan Barua at a very young age told heavily upon her

mental equilibrium.

In the death of *matri*, a pious soul has left its mortal frame. Her death has marked the end an unspectacular life of an unknown lady, but what is more it has also marked the passing away of some values and manners that had nurtured and enriched our social life and national outlook for all these years. May her soul rest in peace.

**- DN Chakravarty**

## Effigy burnt

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, July 22: Activists of the Nalbari anarchist committee of the AASU burnt the effigy of State Power Minister Pallob Lochan Das yesterday due to his failure in ensuring regular power supply in the district.

Erratic power supply has severely disrupted normal life in the face of the ongoing heat wave. The AASU activists raised slogans against the minister and the Power Department for their failure to ensure 24-hour power supply. They also demanded his resignation. In the protest, the general secretary of the Nalbari district unit of AASU Akashay Deka and the president and secretary of the Nalbari anarchist unit of the AASU Rubul Barman and Neekamal Barman respectively also took part.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

## NSUI locks gates of Mariani College

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the Jorhat district administration later.

A senior teacher of Mariani College said that the permission to organise the training camp was given by the Titabar administration after the application to organise the camp at the college since the day before.

The training camp was scheduled from July 20 to July 28. Later, the police and subdivisional administration broke the locks and opened the gate and defused the situation.

The NSUI, while opposing the holding of the training camp by RSS terming it as a "communal organisation", submitted a memorandum to

of political parties, NGOs and other organisations was also held.

The next day's programme started with the Swabhar Abhiyan wherein in the Governor took part along with the officials and citizens of Hafong. This was followed by the inauguration of a tourist lodge at Samra Raji and also the SR Thosen Media Centre at Dihara in presence of Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Executive Member, NCAC along with Executive Members. A warm welcome was accorded to the Governor by the villagers of Dihara.

## Governor visits Dima Hasao dist

CORRESPONDENT

HAFLONG, July 22: Governor Banwarilal Purohit while interacting with the media recently appreciated the beauty and also the rich culture of the people of Dimna Hasao.

On his two-day maiden visit to Dimna Hasao, he was welcomed with a guard of honour presented by the Dimna Hasao district administration and the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, Haflong. As a part of the day's programme, a meeting was held at Haflong Circuit

House with the Deputy Commissioner, SP and the departmental heads of Government departments of Dimna Hasao and the general manager of NEEPCO Ltd, Umrangso.

During the meeting, a slide show was displayed on various facts about the history, topography, communication system, tourism, disaster management etc. The Governor also took stock of plans and programmes of developmental works about the various departments. Later in the evening a formal meeting with the delegations

of political parties, NGOs and other organisations was also held.

The next day's programme started with the Swabhar Abhiyan wherein in the Governor took part along with the officials and citizens of Hafong. This was followed by the inauguration of a tourist lodge at Samra Raji and also the SR Thosen Media Centre at Dihara in presence of Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Executive Member, NCAC along with Executive Members. A warm welcome was accorded to the Governor by the villagers of Dihara.

## Adult leopard found in garage, tranquilised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, July 22: An adult leopard that had strayed into the garage inside the compound of a villager on the Pulphur outskirts here late on Thursday night was rescued after being tranquillised on Friday by the Forest Department staff with assistance from a team from the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation, Borguri near the Kaziranga National Park.

A forest official told this correspondent that the big cat was sleeping inside the garage belonging to Atul Bora of Gondhilia village on the western outskirts of Borguri on Friday morning when he had gone to take out his car.

The official said that using his presence of mind Bora put up a bamboo fence barrier on the entrance of the garage and tied it up to prevent the wild animal from

coming out and informed the Forest department.

He said the forest staff and police reached the site and kept the crowd gathered there at a distance and CWRC authorities were informed and their assistance sought.

The official said later in the day a CWRC team came and tranquillised the leopard and caged the animal and took it to the rehabilitation centre. The official said that the big cat will be released inside a forest that will be found to be suitable for the animal after conducting a routine health check-up on it.

The official said the people of the village near the CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology have confirmed the spotting of several leopards in recent times.

**Minister visits Majuli:** State Forest Minister visits Majuli: State Forest Minister Pramila Brahma on Fri-



Students taking part in a cultural programme organised by Sankardev Sishu Vidy Niketan, in Biswanath Chariali on Friday. — UB Photos

## Archaeological site of Math-Mandir Complex in dire state of neglect

AMBUNATH SHARMA

GAURIPUR, July 22: The 400-year-old Math-Mandir Complex of Moterjhar situated 20 km away from Gauripur in the Dhubri district along the Dhubri-Kachugaon Road and having antiquarian remains is in an acute state of neglect.

After the death of Koch general Bir Chilarai in 1571, his son Raghudev revolted against Koch King Nararayan and, as a result, the kingdom got divided into two parts. The region to the eastern part of the Sonkoch river comprising undivided Goalpara, Kamrup and Mangaldoi was ruled by Raghudev. He was a devotee of Lord Shiva. After the death of Raghudev, his second son Parikshit Narayan became the ruler of the kingdom. He was also a ardent devotee of Lord

Shiva and built a number of Shiva temples in and around his kingdom. People of the locality believed that the Shiva temple situated at Moterjhar was built by Parikshit Narayan.

According to legends, the Royal Palace of Parikshit Narayan was situated 4 to 5 km away from the Math-Mandir area of Moterjhar.

There were 18 big rooms and a big tank nearby. The relics of these rooms and the tank are in existence even today but the area is remote and there is no accessible road to reach there.

The existence of the temple and the Royal Palace was not known to the people of the locality as the area was full of dense forest and is said to be a haven of wild animals.

After Independence, some people of Moterjhar area while



grazing their domestic animals had a glimpse of the existence of the temple and the news spread like wildfire. Bhuan Chandra Prodhan, a veteran Congress leader of Golaghat heard about the existence of the Shiva temple at

Moterjhar. He was the headmaster of Jagannath Vidyalaya, Golaghat and in his presence the area was excavated and some earthen pitchers and some silver coins were found. But the whereabouts of these valuable coins and pitchers is still not known to the people of the area. Late Prodhan was elected to the Assam Assembly in 1957 and under his leadership, the temple complex was renovated and the people of the adjoining areas began to worship Lord Shiva.

In 1969, the Archaeological Directorate of Assam took over the Math-Mandir complex and declared it as a preserved area but no measures were seen taken to develop the infrastructural facilities of the complex and the area comprising the relics of the 18

## Body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, July 22: The body of Sanjib Das (18), a HS second year student, of Dafalating Kokila village in Titabar subdivision of Jorhat district was recovered from Kakodungri river on Friday.

Police sources said that the deceased went out for a morning walk and did not return home following which the police was informed. Later in the day, his body was recovered from the river. Police investigation is on.

## Child labourers rescued

CORRESPONDENT

BISWANATH CHARIALI, July 22: Acting on a tip-off, four child labourers, aged between 8 and 12 years, were rescued by NGO 'We for You', Howajra Police, Biswanath district labour department and activists of Biswanath district child protection unit at Gohpur subdivision in Biswanath district on Thursday.

The medical team comprising the doctors of GNRH Hospitals, Guwahati conducted the camp voluntarily while Gohpur MLA, Upal Borah inaugurated the free medical camp. Around 445 patients attended the camp. Free medicines were also provided to the patients. The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, Gohpur subdivision and NGO 'Sristi' distributed 2,000 drinking water bottles, ORS packets and bleaching powder during the free medical camp.

## Free medical camp held

CORRESPONDENT

BISWANATH CHARIALI, July 22: A free daylong medical camp was organised by 'Sristi' in association with GNRH Hospitals, Guwahati and the Gohpur unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party at Kolmoguri, Kalabari under Gohpur subdivision in Biswanath district on Thursday.

The medical team comprising the doctors of GNRH Hospitals, Guwahati conducted the camp voluntarily while Gohpur MLA, Upal Borah inaugurated the free medical camp. Around 445 patients attended the camp.

**Honorary donated:** Ward commissioners of ward number 19 and 18 respectively of Jorhat Municipal Board Ankur Gupta and Babi Dhar have donated their one month's honorarium of Rs 10,000 (Rs 5000 each) towards the Government's flood relief fund.

Both the ward commissioners presented the amount to the Jorhat Deputy Commissioner Virendra Mittal.

## 4 arrested in murder case

CORRESPONDENT

BISWANATH CHARIALI, July 22: Four suspected accused namely Pankaj Baruah (30), Deepak Deka (31), Dibakar Saikia (18) and Pranab Banerjee (35) were arrested by police on Thursday night in connection with the murder of one Nabajyoti Hazarika (30) of Batamari village under Sootea PS in Biswanath district.

A petty trader, Hazarika was found dead at Balijuri a few days back. Police claimed that business conflict was the main reason behind the crime. A case bearing number 88/2017 was registered with Sootea PS in this respect.

Rooms and the tank. On August 7, 2005 the then MP Anowar Hussain laid the foundation stone of an auditorium by sanctioning an initial amount of Rs 5 lakh but no steps were taken to complete the scheme.

Devotees of the adjoining areas like Moterjhar, Narakura, Uchita, Balajan, Pratappur, Bishnupur, Charakhola, Kachokhana, North Raipur, North Tokrarchera, Golaghat, South Raipur, Ratiaha have urged the government to sanction a suitable amount to complete the auditorium, develop the area with proper communication and encourage the research scholars to highlight the glorious past of the Koch kingdom. Otherwise, these important relics will surely be seen nowhere in the days to come.



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Wanted Bengali general Cast groom for bride, 30, '53", M.B.A., Govt. Bank Officer. Contact directly : 9435330807, 8724975190. Mat/G/P/I4052/2

**SUITABLE MATCH INVITED FOR KALITA GIRL, 27+, MTCRH, PARENTS HIGHLY QUALIFIED, GOVT. SERVICE HOLDER. CONTACT FATHER : 8133036939. Mat/G/P/090/3**

Hindi, Assamese, OBC girl on job with Semi-Govt. undertaking, B.Sc PGCDA, 36 yrs, '57". Guahati residents seek alliance with suitable Guwahati based employed (38-44 yrs) grooms, preferably. Contact Parents : 8811098449. Mat/G/P/14693/1

Assamese Muslim, 33, '5", fair and charming, well educated, from well established family of Guwahati. Seeking well educated grooms from good family background. Contact : 7896693694 (M). Mat/G/P/14700/2

Hindi/ Assamse (SC) 28 yrs '5"/'6" B.Tech, MBA, working in Govt. by Ghc. Contact Parents directly Ph. : 8399048808. Mat/G/P/14654/1

Groom wanted for a fair and good looking Assamese female, unmarried girl, DOB 1986, '54", Serving as Assst. Professor (Tezpur Central University) having good family background. Early marriage solicited. Contact Parents directly. Ph. No. 9954144240. Mat/G/P/14651/1

Girl, Assamese, Hindi, 29 yrs, '53", B.Tech, MBA, MNC (Delhi), Ghy based, parents Gazetted Officers. 9435402265. Mat/G/P/14710/1

Bengali/ Assamese female, 29 yrs, '51", Debari, Tula Rasli, working as School Teacher seeking established alliance. Call : 9436831353, 8638452889. Mat/G/P/A2763/1

Suitable match invited for an Assamese (Yogi Caste) girl MA, Assamese of 33 years, Height 5'7". Contact : 8876525334 (Brother). Mat/G/P/14767/1

Suitable match wanted for an Assamese Brahmin girl, MBA, 29 plus age, working in MNC Bangalore. Contact Mob : 9954058448. Mat/G/P/14777/1

Kalita/ Assamse/ 27/54" Ph.D. Asstt. Professor at Govt. College, 9613435785. Mat/G/P/14781/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 26/ 54" Masters/ beautiful girl, 9613766785. Mat/G/P/A2782/1

Beautiful Assamese, Brahmin, 28, B.Tech/ MBA (Delhi), Engineer in (MNC), Delhi, 9854082854. Mat/G/P/14862/1

**BRIDE WANTED**

Assamese/ Hindu/ Graduate/ Ph.D/ Govt. Teacher, 7035343835. Mat/G/P/2783/1

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Beautiful Hindu/ Assamse/ Kalita/ 26 yrs/ 52" MA/ working as a lecturer/ belongs from a good Assamese family/ lives in Assam. Contact : 8898087445. Mat/G/P/A2797/1

Beautiful Hindu/ Bengali/ Kayastha/ 25/ 50" B.Tech/ working as a IT Engineer/ Upper Middle Class family/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 8898087445. Mat/G/P/A2798/1

Beautiful Hindu/ Assamse/ Kalita/ 26 yrs/ 52" MA/ working as a lecturer/ belongs from a good Assamese family/ lives in Assam. Contact : 8898087445. Mat/G/P/A2799/1

Beautiful Hindu/ Bengali/ Kayastha/ 25/ 50" B.Tech/ working as a Doctor, two brothers. Father retired Government Officer. Phone number : 9014048761. Mat/B/P/14677/1

Bengali/ Kayastha, 32, '6", service under Railways (Engineering Trade). Two brothers. Father retired Government Officer. Phone number : 9014048761. Mat/B/P/14678/1

Bengali/ Kayastha, 35, '54", M.Sc. Ph.D. serving under Central Government. Only son. Phone uncle : 9401408761. Mat/B/P/14679/1

Beautiful/ Kalita/ Assamse/ 27/ 53" BE/ working in MNC at Metro. Early marriage. #9864089793. Mat/G/P/A2800/1

Assamse/ Kalita/ 26/ 54" MA/ College Lecturer in Gh. Residence. Contact : 7309475723. Mat/G/P/A2813/1

Abom 33 yrs, handsome, BE, MBA, Assistant Engineer Govt. Department. Only son. Father. Rd. Enginner. Cause no bar. (M) 9127202525, 8584063196. Mat/B/P/14713/1

2 Beautiful/ Assamse/ OBC/ 26/ 54" M.Tech/ Assistant Professor/ Ghy residence. #7086730669. Mat/G/P/A2815/1

Bengali/beautiful 24/ 54" M.Sc. (EVS), Guwahati residence. Castle no bar. Early marriage. #7399215520, 8638153087. Mat/G/P/A2816/1

Age 30 Kalita, B.Tech, MNC (PA 16 Lakhs), Delhi) (2), 30, OBC, Tech, MNC, Bangalore (27, 0BC, B.Tech, MNC, MCA, (4) 30, Kalita, M.Sc., MNC, Delhi) (7), 27, Kalita, B.Tech, MNC, Mumbai, Sandhani, 8011630847. Mat/G/P/14847/1

Age 24, Brahmin, MBA, service, Ghy (2), 24, Brahmin, B.Tech pursuing MBA, Chemistry (3) 24, Kalita, M.A., service, (divorce), Ghy (4) 28, Kalita, Dentist, (divorce) Ghy. Sandhani, 8011630847. Mat/G/P/14846/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 30/ 58" B.Tech from IITK working as a Consultant Metro. Contact : 9041722297. Mat/B/P/14771/1

Abom 31/100" MBBS/ MD/ working in Govt/ own house in Ghy. 9401722991. Mat/B/P/14778/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 33/ B.Tech NIT Rourkela MAA NITIE/ working as an Engineer in Metro. 8471887480. Mat/B/P/14779/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 32/ 58" B.Tech NIT Silchar/ working as an engineer Government/ PSU. 9401722997. Mat/B/P/14780/1

General/Assamse/ 31/ 57" B.Tech Asstt. Engineer at Govt. of Assam, 9613435785. Mat/B/P/14781/1

Bengali/ Brahmin/ 28/ 58" M.Tech from IIT Mumbai/ working at Reputed MNC. #9613766785. Mat/B/P/14785/1

Bengali/ beautiful and fair girl 25 years Govt. Emp., posted in irrigation Dept. (Engineer) seeks a boy from a good family. Mat/G/P/14848/1

Age 28, ST, MBBS/MD Radiology (posting SR. Chandigarh) (2) 32, ST, MBBS/ MD senior. Ghy (3) 27, OBC, MBBS, Service, Ghy. Sandhani, 8011630847. Mat/G/P/14849/1

Bengali/ beautiful and fair girl 25 years Govt. Emp., posted in irrigation Dept. (Engineer) seeks a boy from a good family. Mat/G/P/14850/1

27, Assamese, Kalita, (MA (Eco), GU, Assistant Professor (Govt. College) Guwahati, 9854082854. Mat/G/P/14863/1

37, Assamese, Kalita, issues divorce, MBBS/ MD (Mumbai), Govt. Doctor in Guwahati. 9854059693. Mat/G/P/14864/1

**SHUTTERING**

Assamese/ Hindu/ Graduate/ State Govt. Sector, residence in Guwahati. Contact : 9957695212 (direct). Mat/B/P/14873/1

Nepali/ Shrestha/ Newar, 34 yrs, 6", M.Sc., Govt. job looking decent Nepali girl for marriage. Call : 8383027300/ 9856873617/ 9971118428. Mat/B/P/14875/1

Assamese/ Hindu/ Senior Engineer at NF Railway. 9854152573, 7035343836. Mat/B/P/A2770/1

Kalita/ Assamse/ 32/ 59" BE Senior Engineer at NF Railway. 9854152573, 7035343836. Mat/B/P/A2771/1

Divorcee/ no issue, Assamse/ 38/ 58" MBBS, MD, Doctor at Gauhati. Contact : 8898087445. Mat/B/P/A2772/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ 40/ 57" MBBS, PG in Ophthalmology, APSC Clear/ Govt. Medical Officer. #8011641568. Mat/B/P/A2807/1

Bengali/ Kayastha/ 29/ 51" B.Tech Working Central Govt. Officer. Guwahati residence. #8631530877/ 7399215520. Mat/B/P/A2773/1

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Muslim/ Assamse/ 33 yrs/ MBBS/ now working in a Doctor's office from Assam only child. Mobile No. 958008145. Mat/B/P/14852/1

Smart handsome Hindu/ Assamse/ 34 yrs/ MBBS/ now working in a Doctor's office from Assam. Contact : 8898087482. Mat/B/P/14787/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ Brahmin/ 29 yrs/ Doctorate/ now working as a Professor in Govt. College/ Guwahati based family. Contact No. 958008145. Mat/B/P/14788/1

Smart handsome Hindu/ Assamse/ 32/ 57" BE/ working as an Engineer in lives in Guwahati. Contact : 8822243823. Mat/B/P/14789/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 33 yrs/ MBTech from NIT/ now working as a Mechanical Engineer in Govt. sector/ reported family from Guwahati. Castle bar. Contact : 958008145. Mat/B/P/14790/1

Smart Hindu/ Bengali/ 35 yrs/ MBBS/ MD, Doctor in AIIMS, Metro city. Contact : 9584082854. Mat/B/P/14791/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 35, Kalita, BE (AE/C) MBA, Engineer in (OJEC) Assam. 984082854/ 9854082854. Mat/B/P/14792/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 35, Kalita, BE (AE/C) MBA, Engineer in (OJEC) Assam. 984082854/ 9854082854. Mat/B/P/14793/1

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30, Assamse, Kalita, B.Tech (Karnataka), Engineer in (Accenture) Bangalore. 9854082854. Mat/B/P/14795/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 35, Kalita, BE (AE/C) MBA, Engineer in (OJEC) Assam. 984082854/ 9854082854. Mat/B/P/14796/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 35, Kalita, BE (AE/C) MBA, Engineer in (OJEC) Assam. 984082854/ 9854082854. Mat/B/P/14797/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 35, Kalita, BE (AE/C) MBA, Engineer in (OJEC) Assam. 984082854/ 9854082854. Mat/B/P/14798/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 35, Kalita, BE (AE/C) MBA, Engineer in (OJEC) Assam. 984082854/ 9854082854. Mat/B/P/14799/1

Hindu/ Assamse/ 35, Kalita, BE (AE/C) MBA, Engineer in (OJEC) Assam. 984082854/ 9854082854. Mat/B/P/14800/1

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CLOSE shave for Tamil judge in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, July 22: A prominent Sri Lankan Tamil high court judge today escaped an assassination bid in Jaffna after an unidentified man snatched the revolver of his personal protection officer and opened fire, police said.

Justice Manickavasagar Ilanchevan is known as a less resolute judge, he had struck terror in the hearts of criminals in the Tamil-dominated Jaffna town. Justice Ilanchevan's car was caught in a traffic block in Jaffna's Nallur junction when the shooting took place. He was unharmed while the cop suffered injuries. A man snatched the revolver of the cop and opened fire.

Justice Ilanchevan had presided in high profile rape and murder case of Sivalognathan Vidyas, a young student in May 2013. The incident had caused much public outrage. — PTI

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**INTERNATIONAL****US special ops chief confirms CIA ending support for Syria rebels**

WASHINGTON, July 22:

The head of the US military's special operations has confirmed that the Central Intelligence Agency is shutting down its programme to support rebels fighting against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

General Thomas M. Thomas yesterday denied that the four-year-old operation was brought to an end to placate Russia and earn its support for a ceasefire in southwestern Syria.

It was a tough decision "but absolutely not a sop to the Russians," Thomas said at a forum in

Aspen, Colorado.

"It was, I think, based on an assessment of the nature of the program, what we're trying to accomplish, the viability of it going forward."

Asked about Thomas's comments, the CIA declined to comment. On Wednesday

the Washington Post reported the covert CIA programme had been shut down.

The Post said President Donald Trump made the decision nearly a month ago after a meeting with CIA chief Mike Pompeo and National Security Advisor HR McMaster.

The Post said Trump made

the decision in a effort to find

ways to work with Russia in Syria, where Moscow supports Assad's government.

Trump has said the main US focus in Syria should be to eliminate the Islamic State group, rather than opposing the Assad regime.

The ceasefire, which

covers some of the area from which the rebels operate, was announced on July 7 at the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany.

President Barack Obama

approved the rebel aid program in 2013 as various

insurgent groups sought

external support in a general

endeavor.

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Syria, where Moscow

supports Assad's government.

Trump has said the main

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to eliminate the Islamic

State group in Syria and Iraq.

Support for the pro-

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city of Aleppo under a brutal

Russian-backed government

assault. — AFP

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Greenpeace's Arctic Sunrise ship sails during a protest in the Barents sea, Norway on Friday. — UNI

Greenpeace's Arctic Sunrise ship sails during a protest in the Barents sea, Norway on Friday. — UNI

**19 breaches in dykes ...**

(Contd from page 1)

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GJM supporters taking out a Khukri rally in Mangpoo near Darjeeling on Saturday. — UNI

**Minor girl raped by neighbour delivers baby, accused held**

NEW DELHI, July 22: A 15-year-old girl delivered a premature baby inside the washroom of a government school in Mukherjee Nagar area here and her neighbour who had allegedly raped her repeatedly over a period of one year has been arrested, police said.

The class 10 student had gone to the school to give an exam on Thursday. She experienced stomach ache and went to the washroom, where gave birth to the baby.

The girl was rushed to a hospital by the school authorities and the police was informed. The girl told the police that she was raped four-five times by her 31-year-old neighbour during the past one year. The accused used to give money to the girl asking her not to inform about his activities to anyone, police said. The accused was later identified by the girl and arrested yesterday. — PTI

## Kashmir issue needs to be settled bilaterally: Cong

NEW DELHI, July 22: A day after Farooq Abdullah suggested third-party mediation to resolve the Kashmir issue, a high-level policy-planning group of the Congress for Jammu and Kashmir today rejected the proposal, saying the issues need to be settled only bilaterally.

The group also blamed the central and state governments for the continued killings there and hit out at them for "failing to handle the situation effectively".

The Congress leadership had formed a policy planning group for Jammu and Kashmir to take forward the peace initiative in the state.

The group headed by former prime minister Manmohan Singh today met and discussed the prevailing situation in the state and expressed "deep anguish" over the developments in Kashmir.

Members of the group include former Union minister

P Chidambaram, former JK chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, Karan Singh and AICC general secretary-in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir Ambika Soni. J-K Congress chief Ghulam Ahmed Mir and the CLP leader in state assembly are also part of the group.

National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah had yesterday suggested third party mediation to resolve the Kashmir issue, saying India should take the help of "friends" and that dialogue was the only solution.

Reacting to this, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi had stayed away from any third party intervention to resolve the issue, saying "Kashmir is India".

"It is being said there should be discussion on Kashmir with China and Pakistan but my opinion is that Kashmir is India and India is Kashmir and this is our internal matter... our internal business and no one should interfere in it," he said.

The group also discussed the initiatives taken by the UPA government and said the present NDA government has "negated and reversed" all of those. — PTI

## States asked to implement Majithia Wage Board

NEW DELHI, July 22: The Centre on Friday reviewed status of implementation of the Majithia Wage Board award for working journalists and non-journalists with representatives of State governments here.

The meeting was held against the backdrop Supreme Court's judgement of July 19 in which it held that the Majithia Wage Board award has to be implemented in full.

The apex court had also clarified on four important issues like payment of wages as per Majithia Wage Board Awards, admissibility of variable pay,

applicability to contractual employees and financial capacity of the newspaper establishments to pay arrears.

The meeting, held under chairman of Labour and Employment Minister Bandaru Dattatreya, discussed the issues relating to implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Board with the representative of the state governments, an official release said.

As per the said Act, the implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Boards lies with the state governments, it said.

"During the meeting, the state gov-

ernments/ UT Administrations were impressed upon to implement the Wage Board Awards in letter and spirit.

Discussions were also held to bring the journalists of electronic and digital media under the ambit of the Working Journalist Act, 1955," the release said.

State governments were requested to tender their considered opinion in this regard.

As the last Wage Board was constituted in 2007, the issue regarding constitution of a new Wage Board was also discussed in the meeting. — PTI

## Mamata's campaign to dislodge BJP a daydream: Javadekar

KOLKATA, July 22: Union minister Prakash Javadekar today said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's call to 'oust BJP' was a "daydream" and it showed her "frustration and despair" at the growing support for the party.

However, Trinamool Congress hit back saying that BJP was scared after seeing yesterday's massive turnout at the chief minister's rally and her popularity. "Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not have so much popularity," TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said.

Commenting on Banerjee's call at the rally yesterday to oust BJP from the country for its "failure on all fronts", Javadekar said, "Modiji has the connect with the poor people of the country. So the poor is with us. We are getting stronger by the day, we must be humble".

He said Banerjee's tirade against the party "only demonstrated her frustration and despair as a growing number of people are coming to the BJP's fold every day in

West Bengal". "Her campaign to dislodge Modi is a daydream," he said. He alleged that her only agenda was to speak against the BJP and the prime minister and also accused her

**"Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not have so much popularity," TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said.**

of practising "divisive politics".

"What is the most worrisome feature is that Mamataji is dividing societies, she is dividing communities," he claimed.

"This is not acceptable. Communal harmony is the essence of democracy. It is important in democracy," the HRD Minister said.

He claimed that her regime was spreading

poverty across West Bengal instead of distributing prosperity which was the motto of Centre.

Javadekar also slammed the TMC government, accusing it of "doing politics" with education. "Education is not a political agenda, it is a national agenda. Education should be the top priority of all political parties," Javadekar said at a programme here.

"When we organise inter-state meets, West Bengal is at times absent. Everybody must participate (in such meets). I hope good sense will prevail," he said.

However, Chatterjee, who is also the state education minister, accused the Modi government of "safronising education" system in the country. "We condemn their (Modi government) move to saffronise education," he said. On Javadekar's charge that at times, the state was absent at inter-state meets, Chatterjee retorted, "Our officers had attended all such meetings and presented West Bengal's view". — PTI

## CBI to probe Shimla gangrape case

NEW DELHI, July 22: The CBI on Saturday took up the sensational gang rape and murder case of a school girl in Shimla that has led to massive protests in the hill state.

The investigation agency said it has registered two cases on the July 19 orders of the Himachal Pradesh High Court in connection with the gang rape and murder of the girl and into the custodial

death of an accused.

"On order dated July 19 of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the investigation of murder and rape of a minor girl in Shimla," the agency said in a statement.

The investigating agency said that it has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT), which has left for the crime

scene in the State.

The agency's action comes in the wake of a public interest litigation (PIL) filed in the state High Court. The HC ordered a CBI probe into the case on July 19.

The 16-year-old girl was kidnapped and gang-raped on July 4 after she was offered a lift in a vehicle by the accused when she was returning home from school. — IANS

**Congress MLA arrested on rape charge**

T H I R U V A N A N - THAPURAM, July 22: A Congress MLA in Kerala was to-day arrested on a rape charge filed against him on the basis of a woman's complaint, in an embarrassment to the opposition party.

The first time MLA, M Vinayakumar, who represents Kovalam constituency, was booked for alleged rape, stalking and abetment to suicide of a housewife at nearby Balaramapuram.

Vincent has maintained throughout that the allegation against him was baseless and was "politically motivated".

"The MLA has been arrested in the case," Kollam Police Commissioner Ajetha Begum, who is heading the investigation team, said.

The case was registered against the legislator for alleged rape, stalking and abetment to suicide, police sources said. The incident came to light on July 19 after the 51-year-old woman attempted suicide by consuming an overdose of pills and her husband filed a police complaint against the MLA, alleging that he used to repeatedly call her over the phone and harass her. — PTI



Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports (I/C), Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Vijay Goel and Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari flagging off the 10th Shram Yuva Daur, from Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Stadium at Trilokpuri in Delhi on Saturday. — UNI

## Ram temple should be constructed in legal manner: Shah

JAIPUR, July 22: BJP President Amit Shah today said his party wants the Ram temple in Ayodhya to be constructed in a legal manner after mutual dialogue.

"The party's stand is clear and mentioned in the last four Lok Sabha election manifestos. The temple should be constructed in a legal manner and there should be mutual dialogue," he said at a press conference here.

On suggestions that the creamy layer among SCs/STs should be excluded from reservation benefits, the BJP's supreme said a decision can only be taken after discussion with all parties in Parliament.

Shah, who is on a three-day visit to the state, said that all political parties should discuss the issue of holding Lok Sabha and assembly elections

simultaneously and take it up with the Election Commission.

"We definitely want Lok Sabha and state assembly elections should be held together. The BJP believes in the concept and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also expressed his desire with all political parties for discussion," he said.

Addressing the press conference, Shah referred to major steps by the BJP-led government in Centre, including demonetisation, GST implementation and shutting down shell companies.

He said the BJP was never against GST implementation by UPA-led government but it was against the way it was being implemented.

"The states were demanding that losses incurred by them should be fully compensated by major steps by the BJP-led government in Centre. We accepted their

demands while implementing the GST and now the states are with us," Shah said in reply on a question.

"There were apprehensions raised by the Opposition, but people of the country have accepted it," he said. Asked whether the government intends to bring any legislation on cow protection, Shah said that such laws already exist in BJP-ruled states. — PTI

## 349 dams have emergency disaster action plans: CAG

NEW DELHI, July 22: Only 349 of 4,862 India's large dams have emergency disaster action plans in place, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India's performance report on flood control and management schemes of the Water Resources Ministry has revealed.

"Out of 4,862 large dams, emergency action plans or disaster management plans of only 349 dams, which is seven per cent, were prepared (March 2016). Mock drill in respect of only one dam was conducted as of March 2016," a CAG report, tabled in parliament Friday, said.

The country's top auditor also revealed that out of 17 states or union territories selected for audit, only Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu had prepared action plans. "We found that in five large dams (two in Bihar, two in Uttar Pradesh and one in West Bengal) certain defects and deficiencies were pointed out during the safety review by expert committee but no remedial measures were taken due to non-availability of funds," it said. — IANS

were present in the court when the parents were taken in custody. Pandher was earlier out on bail.

The court is to pronounce the quantum of sentence on July 24. The court took stock of the arguments from prosecution lawyer JP Sharma who argued that scientific evidence had proved that Koli abducted, killed and raped the woman and tampered with the evidence.

On October 5, 2006, the woman was returning home from work and passed by the road outside the D-5 residence of Pandher.

Koli after killing her, beat her and buried the skull behind the house, which was recovered by the CBI.

The DNA of the skull matched with the parents of the deceased.

Her clothes, which were recovered from Koli, were identified by the parents.

Pandher was involved in the conspiracy of the crime, the court ruled.

Defence lawyer Devraj Singh contradicted the prosecution argument and said that on the date of crime Pandher was not present at the crime spot. He said Pandher's presence has been proved that on that date he was in Dehradun.

However, after taking

stock of arguments from both sides the court held them guilty. — IANS

The gruesome cases came to light in 2006 when the police discovered the skulls and bones of 16 persons, mostly children, from near Pandher's house in the Noida village of Nithari.

Earlier, many children had gone missing from the nearby slums of Nithari and their parents alleged that police had ignored their complaints.

It was alleged that Koli would lure the children to the house, offering them sweets and chocolates, murder them and have sex with the corpses. He was also accused of cannibalism. He would throw the bones and other belongings into a ditch behind the house. — IANS



Injured police personnel undergoing treatment at a hospital, in Ganderbal district, in J&K on Saturday. — UNI

Omar Abdullah sought investigation into the incident.

He tweeted: "Why would the Army beat up Jammu and Kashmir police personnel in a police station? This requires immediate clarification/action by the authorities."

Senior separatist leader, Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, took a dig at the Army.

Umer Farooq said, "Sad to hear about the severe beating of Kashmiri policemen by Army, by virtue of being Kashmiri even those who aid state oppression not spared." — IANS







# ISIS chief Baghdadi still alive, says US Defence Secretary



WASHINGTON, July 22: US Defence Secretary James Mattis said he believes the elusive ISIS leader Abu Bakr-al-Baghdadi is still alive, shooting down claims he was killed in a Russian air strike in war-torn Syria.

"I think Baghdadi's alive... And I'll believe otherwise when we've killed him," Mattis said.

"But, we're going after him. We assume he's alive," he told reporters yesterday.

Last month, the Russian military claimed it had struck a meeting of Baghdadi on May 28 near Raqa, Syria, in which Baghdadi was reported killed.

Multiple reports in recent weeks

have suggested that Baghdadi was killed in Iraq or Syria. Since making his public appearance as "caliph" in 2014, he has not been seen.

Pentagon officials have said that Baghdadi no longer is involved in the ISIS' day-to-day operations.

Mattis, however, said Baghdadi still has a role to play in the outfit.

Responding to other questions

on Afghanistan, the Pentagon chief said the policy review is not complete yet. He said he has not used the presidential authorisation to increase the troop number in the war-torn country by 4,000.

"You fight wars for a reason. You don't just fight wars - I'm going to go fight a war now. There's got to

be some end state to it, especially when you take a democracy that does not want to go fight wars and have to be able to compel the people to fight. Maybe they got their act together here. Maybe this makes sense. So, you come up with a political reason for it," he said.

"There was a political reason for going after Osama bin Laden. He attacked New York City. So, there's a decision at the political level," Mattis said.

"Once you get the policy right, then you have to get the strategy right... Because if you don't know where you're going, good luck when you take off on your journey," he said. - PTI



General Andre Lanata (L), French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe (2ndL), General Jean-Pierre Bosser (3rdL), Admiral Christophe Prazuck (3rdR), Admiral Philippe Coureau (2ndR), Chief of the Defence Staff French Army General Francois Lecointre (R) pose at the hotel Matignon following a meeting in Paris, France on Friday. - UNI

## US warns Iran of 'new and serious' consequences

WASHINGTON, July 22: President Donald Trump's White House dialed up the pressure on Iran, demanding the quick return of Americans detained in the Islamic Republic.

"President Trump is prepared to impose new and serious consequences on Iran unless all unjustly imprisoned American citizens are released and returned," the White House said in a statement yesterday.

The tough warning comes just days after Trump rowed back on a campaign promise and upheld the Iran nuclear deal, while introducing new non-nuclear related sanctions.

The threat of prisoner-related sanctions opens up a new front in tensions between Tehran and the Trump administration.

The message comes after a Chi-

nean American accused of "infiltration" in Iran was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

The man was identified as Xiyue Wang, a 37-year-old researcher at Princeton University.

US officials say Trump has taken a keen interest in the fate of Americans held overseas and was deeply affected by the case of Otto Warmbier, a student who was re-

**Detained Americans**

leased last month from a North Korean prison in a coma and died shortly after being sent back home.

"President Donald J Trump and his Administration are redoubling efforts to bring home all Americans unjustly detained abroad," the White House statement said.

"The United States condemns hostage takers and nations that con-

tinue to hostages and detain our citizens without just cause or due process."

The statement mentioned Xiyue Wang by name along with Sianak and Baquer Namazi and ex-FBI agent and CIA contractor Robert Levinson - who went missing in March 2007.

Washington and Tehran have had no diplomatic relations since April 1980 in the wake of the Islamic revolution, and tensions have sharpened under Trump after a brief warming under his predecessor, Barack Obama.

The two countries along with other major powers signed an accord July 14, 2015 aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear program. Washington has continued to honour the accord despite Trump's threats as a candidate last year to "rip it up." - AFP

## Taliban chief's son among bombers killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, July 22: The son of the Taliban chief was one of the three suicide bombers who died earlier this week while attacking Afghan security checkpoints in Helmand province, the terror group's spokesman confirmed on Saturday.

Abdul Rahman, son of Mullah Haibatullah, was one of the insurgents who carried out three car bomb attacks in Gereshk district and launched coordinated attacks on the Afghan forces which prompted the US air support and security reinforcements, reports Efe news.

According to the provincial governor's spokesperson Omar Zway, between Thursday and Friday, 67 Taliban members were killed and another 80 injured in clashes in the area, where Afghan troops have regained control of three important areas of the district. - IANS

General Andre Lanata (L), French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe (2ndL), General Jean-Pierre Bosser (3rdL), Admiral Christophe Prazuck (3rdR), Admiral Philippe Coureau (2ndR), Chief of the Defence Staff French Army General Francois Lecointre (R) pose at the hotel Matignon following a meeting in Paris, France on Friday. - UNI

BEIJING, July 22: Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval's visit to Beijing for a meeting of NSAs from BRICS countries may be key to ease tensions between India and China over the military standoff in Doklam, a Chinese analyst said.

Doval is scheduled to visit China for the meeting on July 27-28.

The meeting is hosted by his Chinese counterpart and State Councillor Yang Jiechi. It is part of a series of meetings of officials from BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa - ahead of this year's summit of the five-

member bloc of emerging countries in Xiamen city in September.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

is expected to attend the summit. Majall, a research fellow at the China Reform Forum thinktank, said Doval's visit may be key and would serve as an opportunity to ease India-China tensions.

His comments came in a piece in The Global Times, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party media group, which generally reflects the views of the ruling party, today. The tabloid has unleashed a barrage of anti-India rhetoric in recent weeks amid tensions between the two countries.

Chinese and Indian soldiers have been locked in a face-off in Doklam area in the southernmost part of Tibet in an area also claimed by India ally Bhutan for over a month after Indian troops stopped the Chinese army from building a road in the disputed area.

Both Doval and Yang are also

the Special Representatives for India-China boundary talks.

The two sides have held 19 rounds of

boundary talks to resolve their differences. - PTI

## Doval's visit key to ease Sikkim standoff: Chinese analyst

CHICAGO, July 22: A US police chief has resigned amid an uproar over the death of an unarmed Australian woman who had called to report a possible sexual assault and was shot by a responding officer.

Minneapolis police chief Jane Harteau had faced criticism over her handling of the killing of Justine Damond last Saturday night, which ignited an international outcry.

She did not appear before TV cameras until Thursday, saying she had been on vacation at a remote mountain location.

The Midwestern city's mayor Betsy Hodges said she asked for the chief's resignation yesterday and Harteau tendered it.

"I've lost confidence in the chief's ability to lead us further. And from the many conversations I've had with people around our city, especially this week, it is clear that she has lost the confidence of the people of Minneapolis as well," Hodges said in a statement.

In announcing her resignation yesterday, Harteau said she wanted to "let a fresh set of leadership eyes see what more can be done" to improve the police department.

Moments later the mayor announced her nomination of Assistant Police Chief Medaria Arradondo as Harteau's replacement.

The state's Bureau of Criminal Affairs (BCA), the agency investigating the shooting, said yesterday that Noor continued to refuse an interview with authorities. But investigators located and interviewed a witness they had been seeking, the BCA said.

The witness had been bicycling near the scene of the shooting and had stopped to watch officers provide first aid. The BCA did not disclose what the witness told investigators. - AFP

## US police chief resigns amid uproar over fatal shooting

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## India's 'smart' cities plan may adversely hit environment

LONDON, July 22: India's plans to create 100 new "smart" cities to support the country's rapidly growing urban population may have a significant detrimental impact on the environment, unless greater emphasis is placed on supporting infrastructure and utilities, a major study has found.

Researchers from the University of Lincoln in the UK conducted a detailed analysis of the environmental implications of the planned developments, which would see medium-rise housing (between three and five storeys) replaced with high-rise towers of 40 to 60 storeys.

The study used an "extended urban metabolism model" as a means of analysing the area, providing a basis for measuring flows of resources that are both consumed by and flow from the city.

It compared the existing urban form with the proposed form, considering factors such as numbers and heights of buildings, density

of dwelling and population, parking provision, open space, landscaping and street frontages.

The analysis was then extrapolated to predict the overall impact on the city if similar developments were to be carried out, as are proposed, across all of the island City of Mumbai.

The results suggest that in a city such this, where repeated electricity blackouts, water rationing and inadequate waste and sewage treatment are commonplace, increasing population density will have a significant further detrimental effect on the environment.

"The pursuit of cities to become 'smart', 'world-class', 'livable', 'green' or 'eco', has been promoted alongside increased population densities and urban compaction," said Professor Hugh Byrd, a specialist in urban planning at Lincoln. - PTI

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# Indian women's cricket team eyes slice of history, glory

LONDON, July 22: History beckons the Indian women's cricket team when it takes on England in the ICC World Cup final here tomorrow, aiming to cap a fairytale run with a maiden title triumph and put some past demons to rest.

The Mithali Raj-led squad has been living a dream too far in the tournament, the biggest moment of which has been the 36-run win over six-time champions Australia in the semifinals.

And the side will look to ensure that its gritty campaign reaches the logical conclusion after putting in the hard yards consistently in the tournament.

India's best performance in the event has been a runners-up finish in the 2005 edition, where the team had lost to Australia in the final. With Australia out of the way now, tomorrow could prove to be the moment that changes the course of women's cricket in India.

## BCCI announces Rs 50 lakh each to Indian women's team members

NEW DELHI, July 22: The Indian cricket board (BCCI) today announced a cash prize of Rs 50 lakh for each member of the Indian team for their performance in the ICC World Cup in England.

The support staff of the team will receive Rs 25 lakh each.

India stunned six-time champions Australia to reach their second ever final in the World Cup and will play England in the final at Lord's tomorrow.

"I would like to congratulate the Indian Women's Cricket Team for their exemplary show in the ICC Women's World Cup," said Committee Of Administrators (CoA) chairman Vinod Rai.

"The team has shown tremendous character and the girls have raised the bar with each passing game under the leadership of Mitali Raj."

"The Women's World Cup has been widely followed across India and this team's spirit and performance on the field has won admirers all over the world. I am sure this team has inspired the next generation of cricketers and many more girls will take up the sport in the years to come."

BCCI acting president CK Khanna said, "The BCCI acknowledges the performance of the Indian Women's Cricket Team."

"The team has a good blend of young talent and experienced campaigners in Captain Mitali Raj and Jhulan Goswami." - PTI

## India win two gold medals at Ukrainian tourney

NEW DELHI, July 22: India won two gold medals at the Simon Trestin Memorial Boxing Tournament in Ukraine today.

Thomash Meitei Mayengbam (64kg) and Laldimawia (52kg) won their respective final bouts against Ukrainian opponents to give India a haul of two gold medals.

While Thomash defeated Vagilevich 4-1, Laldimawia got the better of Vagilevich 5-0. - PTI

It was at this historic Lord's cricket ground, where the men's team took a game-changing world title in 1983 with an upset win over the invincible West Indies and gradually grew into a cricketing and financial powerhouse in the world.

A win tomorrow has the potential to do the same for women's cricket in India, where they have had to arrange funds for overseas tours in the past.

It is only the second time that India will have a shot at the world title. Jhulan Goswami and Mithali Raj were part of the runners-up team in 2005 and tomorrow will be their last chance to be a World Cup winner.

"For me and Jhulan (Goswami) it is very special because we are the only players from 2005 still with the team and for us it feels like going back to 2005," Raj said. "We are all very excited to be part of the World Cup final. We knew this tourna-

ment wasn't going to be easy but the way the girls have turned up at every situation when the team needed," she added.

If India win, they will become the

Australia's Elyse Perry (404).

Dominique Smitri Mandhana began the fireworks at the top of the order in the beginning of the tournament and Harman-

**India Women:** Mithali Raj (C), Harmanpreet Kaur, Veda Krishnamurthy, Mona Meshram, Punam Raut, Deepi Sharma, Jhulan Goswami, Shikha Pandey, Ekta Bishnoi, Poonam Verma, and Smriti Mandhana  
**England Women:** Heather Knight (C), Tammy Beaumont, Katherine Brunt, Georgia Elwiss, Jenny Gunn, Alex Hartley, Danielle Wyatt, Beth Langton, Laura Marsh, Anya Shrubsole, Natalie Sciver, Sarah Taylor, Fran Wilson, Danielle Wyatt and Lauren Winfield

**MATCH STARTS: 3PM IST**

fourth team to do so with England, Australia and New Zealand sharing all the preceding titles.

En route the summit clash, it has been a team performance for India and Raj has led from the front. With 392 runs she is the second-highest run-getter behind

prest Kaur took it to a different level with her incredible power-packed 171-run knock against Australia in the semifinals.

"It definitely is not going to be easy for England, but having beaten Australia, I am sure the girls are on a high but it will boil down to how we perform on the day.

"Playing the hosts in their own country is going to be a challenge but this isn't up to me," Raj said.

The left-handed Mandhana, who turned 21 last Tuesday, has faded after the first two knocks and her form would be crucial for India to make a start.

The Mumbai-player had come up with a crucial 90-run knock in India's 35-run win over England in the league stage and she would look for an encore.

Raj has been consistent, lending stability in the middle overs. Harmanpreet, on the other hand, has taken women's cricket by storm with her awe-inspiring batting, which is drawing comparisons with illustrious legends in men's cricket.

Jhulan Goswami and Rajeshwari Gayakwad have been able to contain the rival batters. Their fortunes will also depend on their performance.

England, after losing to India in the tour-

name-opener, have regrouped well, peaking at the right time. And it will not be easy for India to replicate the show.

England qualified for the final with a dramatic two-wicket win over South Africa with Anya Shrubsole hitting the winning runs in the final over.

Wicketkeeper-batter Sarah Taylor and Natalie Sciver have been crucial cogs in the wheel for them.

Captain Heather Knight believes her side has more to offer in the tournament and might just hit the peak in the summit clash.

"We keep finding ways to win at the moment, we haven't quite put the perfect performance together, we'd readily admit," she said.

"There's still one game to go and if we put a perfect performance in then, I'll be a very happy captain. It's great news (that it's sold out)," she added. - PTI

## India finish eighth in Women's Hockey World League Semi Final

JOHANNESBURG, July 22: The Indian women's hockey team conceded one-goal lead to go down 1-2 to Ireland and finish eighth in Women's Hockey World League Semi Final here today.

Despite maintaining an upper hand throughout the match, India let the opponents score two goals in the final quarter.

India started the first quarter rather slowly compared to Ireland, but shifted the gears 10 minutes into the game.

It was perhaps Ireland winning the first penalty corner of the match that came as a wake-up call for India in the 10th minute. Monika though was brilliant at the goal-line to defend the dragflick with her stick.

In the 15th minute, India won a penalty corner which was successfully converted by Gurjit Kaur, who came up with a well-executed flick striking the ball low to the left giving India a 1-0 lead.

There was plenty of entertainment in the second quarter with India dominating with improvised circle penetrations.

During one such circle entry in the 24th minute, Navjot Kaur was obstructed by Ireland goalkeeper Ayeisha McMerran which resulted in her being sent away with a yellow card for 10 minutes.

India were awarded a penalty stroke but nothing came off the opportunity with Ireland's stand-by goalkeeper Grace

O'Flanagan making a great save. India lost another opportunity to double their lead when a goal was disallowed as it came off the back stick of Indian striker Rani in the 28th minute.

Coming into the match after a 10-minute half-time break, India won back-to-back PCs in the 31st minute but unfortunately, they couldn't convert the chance. India won two more PCs in the 43rd minute but striker Rani's flick was blocked away by Ireland's keeper O'Flanagan.

Although Ireland attackers made brave forays into the circle and attempted shots on goal, goalkeeper Seema was on top of the job to keep the ball out. - PTI

Parupalli Kashyap and Prannoy Manu-Sumeeth reach semifinals at US Open

ANAHEIM (US), July 22: Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap and HS Prannoy entered the semifinals of the men's singles competition of the US Open Grand Prix Gold here today.

On a comeback trail, Kashyap reached his first semifinals of an international event in seven months after defeating compatriot Sameer Verma 21-13, 21-16 in 40 minutes to set up a clash with Korea's Kwang Hee Heo.

Kashyap had entered the semifinals at Korea Open last December.

For Prannoy, it was the second semifinal appearance of the season after his last four finish at the Indonesia Super Series

Premier last month.

Second seeded Prannoy saw off Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama 10-21, 21-15, 21-18 in a men's singles match that lasted exactly an hour at the Anaheim Convention Center Arena.

Prannoy will next take on 15th seed Tien-Minh Nguyen of Vietnam, who had beaten the Indian at the 2012 Badminton Asia Championships in their only meeting so far.

Third seeds Manu and Sumeeth defeated Japan's Hiroki Okamura and Masayuki Onodera 21-18, 22-20 in men's doubles. The duo, who had played at the Rio Olympics, will face top seeds Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han of Chinese Taipei. - PTI

Parupalli Kashyap



## India go down fighting to Qatar in AFC U-23 C'ships qualifiers

DOHA, July 22: India dished out a gritty performance to ratify hosts Qatar but eventually lost by a solitary goal to exit from the AFC U-23 Championships qualifiers here.

The Indians dominated the second half and almost found the equaliser but only for the woodwork to deny them. But Almoez Ali's 54th minute strike made all the difference at the Al Sadd Stadium last night.

With the narrow win, Qatar took a major step towards the 2018 AFC U-23 Championship in China. They now have six points from two matches and need just a point from their last match against Syria to emerge as the group winners.

For India, it was their second consecutive defeat after their loss against Syria in their campaign opener.

Qatar's more fancied side, struggled to find their rhythm as India put up a spirited performance.

After a drab first half in which chances were few for both sides, India's Lallianzuala Chhangte let fly a left footer from distance that flew centimetres over the bar.

But a few minutes later it was Qatar who were celebrating. - PTI

## Dravid will be unavailable for India's overseas tours: Rai

NEW DELHI, July 22: Former India captain Rahul Dravid "will not be available" for the senior Indian team's overseas tours owing to his commitments with the India A and Under-19 sides, the Committee of Administrators (CoA) chief Vinod Rai said.

While Rai admitted that they are trying to sort out Zaheer Khan's contract issues as he is still associated with IPL franchise Delhi Daredevils, CEO Rahul Dravid informed that the former skipper is likely to be available for India's tour of Sri Lanka.

"We're concerned issues are all sorted. He has two-year full-time contract (India A and U19). He has said that he is not available for tours abroad (senior team). He does not want to hang

around," Rai said after his meeting with BCCI officials.

It is learnt that with the Under-19 World Cup next year and some A series also lined up, Dravid will be available if chief coach Ravinder Singh wants him when the senior team camps at the National Cricket Academy.

This effectively rules Dravid out of the South African tour as calculated in remaining fixtures.

Rai also admitted that in case of Zaheer Khan they are "struggling" to create a template in which his IPL contract can be balanced with his

contract in place.

"Earlier, there was no system in place. We are trying to set templates.

Cricket Advisory Committee has been insulted in the process.

"The remit of the CAC was to ap-

point chief coach. The CEO and acting Secretary (Amritabh Chaudhary) were present when the presentations were being made and they zeroed in on Ravi Shastri.

"However, subsequently they (CAC) recommended names of two constituents (Zaheer and Dravid) and both CEO and acting Secretary were not privy," Rai said.

"That's the reason there was a lacuna in the first BCCI press release which stated that they have been 'approached' by the CAC."

Rai also wanted to clear the air about the perception that the Cricket Advisory Committee has been insulted in the process.

"They are busy people and their only intention was to give a good coach," - PTI

## India score 312-9 on day 2 in drawn warm-up tie

COLOMBO, July 22: India's top batsmen, including skipper Virat Kohli, got plenty of time in the middle as the visitors scored 312-9 on the second and final day of their warm-up tie against Sri Lanka Board's President XI which ended in a draw, here.

Resuming 135-3, overnight batsman Kohli slammed a fifty, while the rest of the middle-order – Ajinkya Rahane (40), Rohit Sharma (38), Shikhar Dhawan (41) too looked in good touch as they spent some time at the crease before retiring.

It was a good outing for Rohit, who was rested after the Champions trophy, as the Mumbai batsman scored at a brisk pace and his 49-ball innings had a four and two sixes.

Dhawan, who is also competing for the opening slot, was flu-

ent as he blasted seven boundaries in his 48-ball innings today.

**SCORECARD**  
Sri Lanka Board President's XI: 187  
India 1st Innings: b Sanjeva 54, 5  
KL Rahal 10 b Sanjeva 54, 5  
Fernando 12, Kohli 100 not out 53, A  
Rahane 40, Rohit 38, Dhawan 41, S  
Rahul 10, Jayawardene 10, Jayasuriya 12,  
Wickramasinghe 12, Jayawardene 12, Kaus  
166, 6-245, 7-246, 8-267, 9-312,  
Bowling: V Fernando 10-0-37-2, L  
Gamage 17-165, V Sanjeva 12-  
64, 1, R Jayawardene 13-152-0, T Kaus  
14-0-81-2, R Jayawardene 1-0-8-0,  
D de Silva 10-4-0. - PTI

and play an exhibition match against NEROCA before the start of ISL 2017-18 campaign. Both the clubs will be committed towards working together on grassroots development in the state and its surrounding areas.

After launching its own residential academy, Centre of Excellence, in Shillong, NorthEast United will focus on creating valuable partnerships through-out the North-East to identify home-grown talent from the hotbed of Indian football.

NorthEast United will hold a part of its pre-season in Imphal

and we are proud to partner with a team that has a huge fan-base in Manipur and is as committed to football development as we are."

Speaking of the partnership, NorthEast United owner John Abraham said, "Our tie-up with NEROCA FC is an extremely important step towards reaching out to the vast reservoirs of talent that Manipur possesses. We recognise the fact that grassroots is an extremely important building block for sustainable football development in the re-

gion and we are proud to partner with a team that has a huge fan-base in Manipur and is as committed to football development as we are."

Thangjam said, "Our partner-

NEROCA FC CEO Naohisa Thangjam said, "Our partner-

ship with NEUFCA will mark the dawn of a new era in football,

especially for a state like Ma-

nipur where sports is a way of life. We believe in giving ample opportunities in youth develop-

ment and grassroots and with

NEUFCA, who has the same prin-

ciples, I believe this partnership

will open new and more opportuni-

ties." - PTI

## Bolt on right path to world 100m defence

MONACO, July 22: Jamaican sprinting legend Usain Bolt insists he is on the right path as he targets the defence of his 100m crown at next month's world championships in London.

In his swansong season, the 30-year-old has struggled to light up the track.

In his outings over the blue riband event so far this season, Bolt had clocked 10.03sec in Kingston and 10.06 in Ostrava against relatively weak opposition before finally dipping under the 10sec barrier at Friday's Diamond League meet in Monaco.

A season's best of 9.95 seconds to win at a packed out 17,000-capacity Stade Louis II was just the tonic, the towering Jamaican said of his second appearance in Europe in his farewell season.

"I'm going in the right direction, although there is still a lot of work to do," he said after running a time that now moves him up to joint seventh on a world list headed by Christian Coleman of the United States with 9.82.

"Running sub-10 is always good. It was an exciting race, there was lots of energy."

As in Ostrava, Bolt suffered a sluggish start before opening up and easing through the line

glittering career at August's world championships in London.

And he acknowledged that his final season on his

track was an emotional one.

"I always love here for the fans, and of course I will miss the vibe around the track," he said.

"There are mixed emotions always - happy for my career, sad that it is ending."

When asked what his plans were after the world championships, Bolt was unwilling to disclose too many details.

"I'm planning to chill with my family after London," he said.

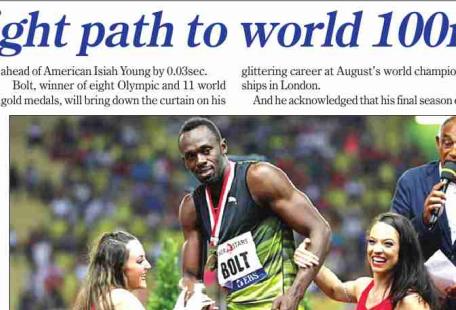
"And my plan after this season? I'm not sure."

Bolt said he was touched by the efforts meet organisers had gone to make his farewell appearances special.

Monaco's Prince Albert II presented the Jamaican with a giant golden figure of Hercules after video clips of his medal-winning career were shown on the stadium's big screens following his victory.

That came after Bolt had delighted hordes of screaming fans by joining in a synchronised cheerleading dance, which ended with his trademark pose.

One of Bolt's main rivals for the 100m crown in London will likely be Canada's Andre de Grasse. - AFP



## SU DO KU

6	12	5	8	10	9
1	3	4	6	7	8
5	8	11	6	1	12
9	11	8	4	2	1
5	2	1	12	9	11
4	3	10	9	2	13
8	10	2	11	12	7
2	10	12	8	7	11
9	7	3	5	6	9
10	9	5	8	7	11
5	11	5	11	3	4

### Solution of last problem

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







## 2 WOMEN PLUS

**Pallavi Gogoi** makes her way up American journalism.

## 3 MY SPACE

**Irshad Ali** examines his identity.

## 4 FROM THE MARGINS

**Ankush Saikia** on the what ifs of history.

# The Assam Tribune Sunday



## Czech out Prague!

**VIJAYLAKSHMI BARUA** is left breathless by the sheer charm of Prague.

Prague is a city that will simply take your breath away. With its vista of red roofs, Gothic spires and Baroque domes interspersed with magnificent castles and cathedrals, medieval towers and cobblestoned public squares with heroic sculptures, leafy avenues of beautiful Art-Nouveau buildings and the Vltava flowing right down the middle of the city, a more visually pleasing setting would be hard to find. Once the proud capital of Bohemian kings and Holy Roman Emperors, Prague had fortuitously escaped the brunt of WW II bombings, which is why most of its stunning medieval core remains intact. It has had a very recent beginning as the capital of the Czech Republic which came into being only in 1993, after the peaceful division of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czechs were not slow in taking advantage of their entry into the EU in 2004 to make major strides in the country's economic revival after decades of Communist rule. Today it is possibly the most progressive of the Central European countries, with a rich historical and cultural legacy.

Stare Mesto, Prague's historic Old Town, is the city's medieval heart. Flanked by lovely pastel-hued medieval buildings and the impressive Tyne

cathedral, the large square is crowded with visitors, street performers and musicians. The gothic Old Town Hall with its astronomical clock is a big draw. Yet away from the main tourist areas, Prague is surprisingly affordable, with its emphasis on meat, potatoes, dumplings and beer, one is assured of a hearty meal at a reasonable price.

Although Prague has a number of tourist attractions, the real charm lies in strolling through its neighbourhoods, taking in the varied architectural styles that showcase its development over the centuries, from the Gothic to the Baroque to the Neo-Renaissance and Art-Nouveau, while getting a feel of the beautiful city and its people.

Josefov, the earlier Jewish neighbourhood, was once home to Prague's numerous Jews, though today only a few thousand remain. Most had perished in the concentration camps, while a fortunate minority managed to escape. We strolled through the area, past the old synagogue and the Jewish cemetery, eventually ending up by the banks of the Vltava. The Hradcany (Palace district) lies spread atop the hill on the opposite bank, with the Mala Strana (Lesser Town) below it where earlier the nobles and the rich used to reside. Karlov Most, also known as the Charles Bridge, links the Old Town

neighbourhood with the Lesser Town. This medieval bridge is one of many across the Vltava, but there is none more beautiful, lined as it is with stone statues of emperors and kings, Christian saints and martyrs. Tourists crowd the bridge, which is pedestrian only, together with a number of artists and buskers.

One morning we took the tram to Prohorolac, at the top of the hill for a round of sightseeing in the huge Palace complex. It includes a number of buildings, and has been the seat of Czech rulers for centuries, and currently houses many government offices as well as the office of the Czech President. We were just in time to witness the ceremonial changing of the guards in front of the palace gates, which seemed to be quite a hit with the milling tourists, even though it was rather overrated. The Brits do it better over at Buckingham Palace.

The most impressive structure in the complex is the cathedral of St. Vitus, built in the high Gothic style with decorated spires, carvings and statues executed in the most meticulous detail.

I couldn't leave Prague without dropping at the Mucha Museum. I remember my schoolgirl fascination for those posters of graceful beauties in flowing dresses and flowers in their hair,

in the Art Nouveau style that Alfons Mucha had made uniquely his own.

Prague is a city of infinite charm and remarkable experiences, and it is definitely one place that I hope to return to again someday. Because once is never quite enough when it is a beauty called Praha!

(vbarua2011@gmail.com)

### 3 tips to maximise your Prague visit



Though Prague is a year-round tourist destination, September is a good time to visit as you get to see and experience Prague without the massive summer crowds and the weather is lovely.



Take a day-trip three hours south to the charming town of Cesky Krumlov in Bohemia near the Austrian border. Staying overnight in one of the little pensions along the river is even better.



If you like beer, you will be spoilt for choice. The Czechs love beer and consume more beer per capita than anywhere else in the world.



the hill-town of Gorkha from which the Nepalese kingdom had expanded under King Prithvi Narayan Shah in the 17th and 18th centuries. His kingdom was spread all over the Himalayas from the East rivers Teesta to the West of river Sutlej. Later, the border disputes and ambitious expansionism of both the British East India Company and the Nepalese Kingdom resulted in the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16. When one-third of Nepal was annexed by the British, the war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Sugauli on December 2, 1815 and implemented on March 4, 1816. The treaty was signed for

states of India, so that it would be easier for the British to recruit their sons in the army. Following the partition of India in 1947, an agreement between Nepal, India and Britain meant four Gorkha regiments from the Indian army were transferred to the British army, eventually becoming the Gorkha Brigade and loyalty fought for the British all over the world. Six Gorkha regiments, formerly part of the British Indian army, became part of the Indian army with the 11 GR formed after Independence and have been serving ever since. They have played an important role in all the wars and have won Battle Honours in the Uri Sector in 1947-48, Ladakh in 1962, Jammu and Kashmir in 1965 and 1971, and Kargil 1999. Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw once famously said, 'If a man says he is not afraid of dying, he is either lying or is a Gorkha.'

The Gorkhas also took part in India's freedom struggle against the British. After Independence, India entered into a Treaty with Nepal (Indo-Nepal Treaty) on July 31, 1950, offering reciprocal privileges of residence, ownership of properties, participation in trade and commerce, as well as free movement between the two countries. The bilateral treaty between Nepal and India meant to establish a close strategic relationship between the two South Asian neighbours has endangered the national identity of Gorkhas as it made their Indian citizenship a reciprocal one.

A Gurkha in his traditional attire can be identified with a Dhaka Topi (cap) and Daura Surwal (for male), and Gunjyo Cholo (for female). The Dhaka Topi literally means the headgear made of Dhaka – a fine cloth once exclusively imported from Dhaka, the present-day capital of Bangladesh. The Bhadgooley Topi is similar to Dhaka Topi but is black in colour with an adoring crossing khukuri given the fact that they are not made from Dhaka. This Bhadgooley Topi has a special significance with Assam, as Dr. Bhupen Hazarika had been wearing the cap since 1965. As a tribute to the legendary singer, the All Assam Gorkha Students' Union once appealed to the Gorkha community to call the Bhadgooley Topi as 'Bhupenda Gorkha Topi'.

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The Gurkhas, specifically Indian Gorkhas, are those people who speak Nepali or Gorkhali, who live across India, and do not wish to be identified with the citizens of Nepal who wish to be called Nepali or Nepali Gorkhas. In the Indian context, the term 'Gorkha' serves as an umbrella to identify a diverse group of people as a single entity, viz. the Gurungs, the Chhetris, the Rais, the Limbus, the Bahuns, the Tharus, the Newars, the Damais, the Saris, the Kamis, the Magars, the Tamangas, the Sherpas, etc. In fact, the Gorkhas consist of both Indo-Aryan and Mongoloid racial groups from ages past. The Gorkha is associated with the 'Khasas' – a tribe mentioned in the ancient Indian and Tibetan literature, including the *Mahabharata*, who lived at the northern periphery of the Indian subcontinent. The Khasas tribe now is obsolete as it has adopted other identities, such as Chhetri/Thakur, Bahun, Sarki, Sanayi, Damai, Kamti and Gaine/Gandharba. The Khasas speak the Khas language, now called the Nepali language in present-day India and Nepal.

The genealogy of the term 'Gorkha' can be traced to

perpetual peace and friendship between the two, ceding around a third of Nepal's territory (the lands of Sikkim, Kumaon, Garhwal and Kangra) to the British. Similarly, Kalimpong, the present district in North Bengal, was a part of Bhutan and was ceded to the British after the 1864 Anglo-Bhutan War. In the Anglo-Nepalese War, so impressed were the British by the fighting skills and valour of the Gorkha soldiers who fought so bravely with their traditional weapon khukuri that soon after the war was over, the British began to raise Gorkha forces. Over the years, they have become legends of sorts in the history of wars. Many of them, who served the British India, finally settled down in various parts of India after retirement from service. The British also settled many of the Gorkhas in strategic locations of India, such as in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, and other

hostels. Students from Ranchi, Kolkata and other nearby towns come here to study in the Don Bosco Academy and several schools dotting the place.

*The Colonization Observer*, published by the Colonisation Society of India, was a historical treasure trove and an excellent record for the period 1934 - 1944 and all that happened in the colony. I spoke to locals, read some more books, and then cross-referenced them to materials from the magazine," explains Harris. He had heard about McCluskiegunj from his parents and elders. He grew up in Gomoh, a town about 100 miles from McCluskiegunj.

Filming on a shoe-string budget made Harris decide to be anchor, commentator and interviewer himself. He trained a friend to operate a camera, drove from Patna to McCluskiegunj to shoot the film. It was difficult to locate specific places, like an old bungalow too deep into the forest. "It was physically challenging because there was a lot of walking and hiking involved. I had to practise my narration in front of the camera, then review it and then go for a final take sometimes doing the same shot nine times to get it right," says Harris.

"For me, documentary filmmaking is about learning something and then sharing it with others. I was fortunate to visit McCluskiegunj and more fortunate to make a film about its history and get access to some fantastic archival material," says Harris.

Harris was struck by the mystery of what made a group of Anglo-Indians set up their home in the middle of a dense forest and even made it work for some time. "I have dedicated my film to the spirit of those settlers who dared to dream of a homeland," he sums up.

— Trans World Features (TWF)



### UP CLOSE

**Shoma A. Chatterji**

## A home left behind

**PAUL HARRIS** discovered a small town – named McCluskiegunj, while researching for his documentary on Anglo-Indians.

McCluskiegunj, a small town in Jharkhand, is the setting for Konkona Sen Sharma's well-appreciated debut directorial feature, *A Death in the Gunj*. The place is also the focus for Australian-based filmmaker Paul Harris who almost accidentally came across it while researching for a project for his documentary *End of the Raj*. Fascinated by this tiny little world of old Anglo-Indians who settled down here many years ago, he decided to make another film, *Dreams of Homeland*.

Harris himself is an Anglo-Indian, now settled Down Under. He became a documentary filmmaker by choice. "In 2010, while I was researching for *End of the Raj – A History of Anglo-Indians*, a long documentary, I visited McCluskiegunj, around 70 kms away from Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand. I was curious about the history of a section of my community that had migrated to this place. I decided to make a film about the 'Gunj' as it is fondly called by the locals," says Paul.

McCluskiegunj was the brainchild of Ernest Timothy McCluskie who created this homeland for members of the Anglo-Indian community. Between the 1930s and '40s, scores of Anglo-Indians from all parts of the Indian sub-continent came to settle in this remote location once called Lapra, now in Jharkhand. Harris's film explores the historical context for the creation, development and eventual failure of the town, now almost bereft of the community. It no longer thrives with the exclusive lifestyle, noise and music of the Anglo-Indians who gradually shifted to discover fresher pastures, leaving a handful of senior citizens behind who have no wish to go elsewhere. It is now almost a ghost town.

Harris chance upon fantastic archival material from *The Colonization Observer*, an old journal. "I wanted to make a film which is part-travelogue and part history to document what the town is like today," says Harris.

It is an honest film stripped of glamour or cultural pretensions. The camera wanders around an old brick kiln that has now been reduced to a public toilet for passersby. Paul wanders across old homes, captures a construction in total decay, and stands against a backdrop of hoardings inviting boarders to many of the boys' hostels in the town. Surprisingly, the small town boasts of a good number of boys'



hostels. Students from Ranchi, Kolkata and other nearby towns come here to study in the Don Bosco Academy and several schools dotting the place.

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— Trans World Features (TWF)





## WOMEN PLUS

Bidisha Singh  
bidisha.singha@gmail.com

## The American dream!

**PALLAVI GOGOI**'s ascent to the top of the journalistic echelons in the U.S. is worth emulating.

**N**owhere else in the world can a person emigrate from another country and be measured not on their colour, religion or creed, but on the merits of their accomplishments, perseverance and experiences of what one brings to the table. It is what makes America great," Pallavi Gogoi writes to me in an e-mail. While this whole "America is great" might sound a little corny (according to her), in the "Trumponium" times of today, it's a big relief to know that Indians settled in the U.S. feel this way. Gogoi is one among the many Assamese success stories in this land of opportunities that has recently been caught in this whole "anti-immigrant" drama.

Gogoi has been in the US since the mid-1990s and has been associated with many of the big names in the media circle, starting out with Dow Jones as a financial journalist in 1996. Her glorious stint at *The Asian Age* in Delhi took her to all corners of India, before she was finally sent to London and Washington their foreign correspondent.

"At *The Asian Age*, I grew by leaps and bounds. I was about 23 years old - with very little experience, but was eager to learn. I accompanied veteran journalists like Janardan Thakur and Seema Guha to big interviews with politicians or to big political press conferences. I was talking to communists like Nalin Singh, Jaspal Singh and Arun Shourie.

Soon I was covering whistle stop election campaigning in Karnataka and I realised the power of shoe-leather reporting. I crisscrossed the State with politicians as they campaigned. And because of my extensive travels all over, I truly had the pulse of the populace and rightly predicted that the Janata Dal would win that year, against all odds. I was right - it was a sweep," Gogoi says, recalling those heady days.

While in America, her reports got published in *The Wall Street Journal*, from where she moved to *Business Week* magazine as a Chicago correspondent. After that, she covered the financial crisis at *USA Today* and then joined the Associated Press as a banking reporter before finally joining CNN as the markets and economy editor. Just recently, Gogoi joined the National Public Radio (NPR), one of the most prestigious American news organisations. "It's like the BBC of the United States," she explains.

For a girl who grew up in Shillong, this has, indeed, been a long and fulfilling journey. And she vividly remembers her wonder years. "I spent an idyllic childhood in this beautiful hill station, with myriad friends who came from really diverse backgrounds - Khasi, Jaintia, Asomia, Bengali, Kachari, Bihari and Nepali. Now, when I



I tend not to view events through the lens of an Indian living in America, but rather as a human being within a period in time.



look back at those days, I think that it gave me the foundation for a truly secular and global world view at a very young age," she says.

There has been a lot of uncertainty in the world after Donald Trump came into power. And as a journalist in that country, and an immigrant, Gogoi enjoys a vantage point where from she can clearly unravel whatever unfolds in the coming years. But all she wants is to stay true to her calling. "As journalists, our job is to record history as it is happening. Upheaval happens in many forms. I tend not to view events through the lens of an Indian living

## LET'S CREATE

**W**aste is the bane of modern living. While it's rather easy for city dwellers to simply set aside the garbage bin outside the door for the municipal man to collect it, do we ever wonder where all these tonnes and tonnes of daily waste are going to? Are the landfills? Will they be able to take the garbage-load of our ever-growing cities forever? Forget plastics and other non-perishables, what about the mounds of kitchen waste that we throw away without a thought? More than half of what we carelessly throw into the trash is organic matter, which when composted, can produce rich top soil for our plants. Unfortunately most of us do not segregate our dry waste

from wet waste, which makes composting impossible. This precious wet waste becomes unusable junk until it's used.

Until a decade or so back, there used to be a compost bin in every home, where all the kitchen waste would be dumped to make compost. Why can't we go back to do-



that again? It's rather simple and will be such a boon for the environment, for the civic authorities, for our plants and for us.

There are many options to make compost at home, even in urban apartments.

## Things that you will need

- A sturdy bin with a tight lid is a must. This container can be big or small, whatever suits your home space. Keep an extra bin to use when the previous one is set aside for composting.

- Make sure you have a tray that fits under your container and allows room for spills.

- A small bag of soil.

- Some old newspaper for shredding.

- A drilling machine or a hammer and nails to make holes in the container

## The process:

- First things first, punch small holes into your chosen container, at the bottom and all over.

- Lay down newspaper on the tray and then place the bin on top of it.

- Now layer the container with some dirt (garden soil).
- Now add a layer of dry stuff, newspaper will do. And you compost bin is ready to use.

- Add scraps as and when you get them. Vegetable waste, tea, coffee, rice, etc., can all be dumped here.

- You must maintain the wet and dry balance, so always add a handful of shredded newspaper, saw dust or dry leaves when you add the wet scraps.

- Once a week, you'll have to mix the compost by adding half scoop of new soil. Keep a small scoop next to the bin; that will make mixing and adding a lot easier.

- If the bin starts to smell, it means the balance is off, you will have to add more newspaper or add extra holes.

## What not to compost:

- Dog and cat poop: While these are great additions to your compost pile, it is not advisable to add the poop from dogs and cats to your compost. Their waste often contains microorganisms and parasites that you do not want to introduce to the crops you will be eating.

- Tea and coffee bags: Coffee grounds and tea leaves should only be added to compost if they are bag-less, or have been removed from their bags.

- Citrus peels and onions: The natural chemicals and acidity in citrus peels and onions can kill worms and other microorganisms, which can slow down the decomposition in your pile.

- Fish and meat scraps: Fish and meat are organic and will add nutrients to your garden, but unfortunately their smell will act like a magnet for any rats, mice, or cats in the neighbourhood.



## Lemon curry with lentil fritters

## Ingredients:

- Egyptian (masoor) lentils ..... ½ cup
- Yellow (moong) lentils ..... ½ cup
- Garlic cloves, sliced ..... 6
- Mustard oil ..... 2 tbsp
- Fenugreek seeds ..... a pinch
- Green chilli ..... 1
- Turmeric powder ..... ½ tbsp
- Rice powder ..... 2 tbsp
- Lemon juice ..... 3 tbsp or to taste
- Warm water ..... 4 cups
- Salt and sugar ..... to taste
- Vegetable oil ..... for frying
- Coriander leaves (chopped) ..... 1 tbsp

**Method:**  
Wash the lentils. Soak in cold water for three to four hours or until tender. Drain and grind the lentils along with two pods of garlic to a smooth paste.

Mix in a pinch of turmeric powder and salt and beat until fluffy. Heat vegetable oil in a deep frying pan or wok.



Drop in spoonfuls of the batter into the hot oil and fry until golden and crisp. Remove the fritters with a slotted spoon and drain on a kitchen paper.

In a small bowl, mix together the rice powder and lemon juice. Add the remaining turmeric powder, salt, sugar and warm water and stir until dissolved.

Heat mustard oil in a deep pan set over medium heat. Once hot, add fenugreek seeds and fry until the seeds crackle.

Next, add the green chilli and remaining garlic and sauté until aromatic. Tip in the rice powder mixture and cook stirring frequently, until the fritters are reduced to the desired consistency. Add the fritters and cook for a few minutes, or until spongy. Garnish with coriander leaves and serve with rice.



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

## Stuffed teazel gourd

## Ingredients:

- Teazel gourds (*bhat kerola*) ..... 6-8
- Nigella seeds (*kalijira*) ..... ½ tsp
- Mustard oil ..... 2 tbsp
- Coconut (fresh), grated ..... 1 cup
- Poppy seeds paste ..... 3 tbsp
- Yellow mustard seeds paste ..... 1 tsp
- Green chillies(es), deseeded ..... 1-2
- Turmeric powder ..... ½ tsp
- Flour ..... 1 cup
- Rice flour ..... 2 tbsp
- Vegetable oil ..... 2 tbsp
- Baking powder ..... a pinch
- Extra oil ..... for frying
- Salt ..... to taste

## Method:

Wash, then scrape the rough outer skin of the teazel gourd and cut them vertically, into equal halves.

Bring a large pan of water to boil. Place the gourds along with a little salt and cook until tender, but not overdone. Scoop out the seeds from the gourd halves using a spoon. Mash them and keep the seeds aside.

In a deep pan, heat the mustard oil and fry

nigella seeds until fragrant. Add the green chillies and the grated coconut.

Next, add the gourd seeds, turmeric powder, poppy seed paste and salt and cook, stirring, until the mixture leaves the sides of the pan.

Stir in the mustard paste and cook until combined. Remove from heat and allow the mixture to cool completely.

Carefully fill in the gourds with the coconut mixture. Mix the flours, baking powder and salt in a large bowl. Add two teaspoons of oil and rub in with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Whisk in enough water to make a smooth batter.

Heat an inch oil in a deep wok until hot. Dip the stuffed gourds into the batter and fry, turning occasionally, until golden and cooked through.

Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on kitchen paper. Serve immediately with mustard sauce.





## A boat sails by...

### FICTION

Meghna Goswami

**C**link, clink," I can hear the clinking of the wind chime. As I am sitting by the windowsill, I can see the raindrops falling through the blackish clouds like pure pearls of tears. Not very far away I see two kids playing outside in the rain. They are making paper boats and having a paper boat racing competition. As I watched them playing, my mind flew back to the past and a face came to my mind. It was Nishi's face.

I had met him 15 years ago. I used to quite a naughty teenager. I loved playing football, especially when it was raining and wished that it would rain thrice a week. It was one afternoon when suddenly winds started to blow and dark clouds covered the sky. I, having known that it would rain soon, went out kicking my football. As I reached the field I saw many of my friends gathered there to play in the rain. We formed two groups and started playing. Our team was doing very well. I was on the front and had scored the first goal for our team. I was going for another goal, my clothes were drenched in rain and my feet were covered with mud. Suddenly, one boy from the other team pushed me hard from behind. I fell down on the muddy ground and hurt my left knee against a sharp stone. It was stinging, so I decided not to continue that day. I left the field feeling a little disheartened and angry. It was then that I met him. As I was passing by the old bridge, I saw a boy of my age sitting by the road making paper boats. He was making boats of paper boats. Suddenly, feeling fascinated by him, I went to him and sat down. That was our first meeting. Gradually, I came to know that his name was Nishikant. I called him Nishi. As the days passed our friendship deepened and he became my best friend. Every afternoon during the monsoons I would meet him near the old bridge and we would together make paper boats and have a paper boat racing competition. He was not from a well-off family. His father was a modest shopkeeper, while his mother was a homemaker. But he was good in studies. As we grew up we went for further studies and after that I did not have any communication with him.

It was the day of my graduation when I came to know that Nishi was coming to meet me. I became really excited thinking of meeting him after all these years. I knew he would be reaching late but as I was so excited about



meeting him I did not want to have dinner. As I waited for him I felt sleepy so I took out a book to read. All of a sudden, my phone rang. It was from an unknown number. I had a bad feeling about it but I picked it up nonetheless. A man on the other side asked me if I knew someone named Nishikant. As I replied yes he said that someone named Nishikant had had an accident near the highway and had asked me to come quickly. I became worried, desperately hoping that it was not Nishi. I asked the man if he (Nishikant) was okay. He said nothing and asked me to come quickly. I rushed to the site. I saw a little crowd gathered near the highway. I

went there and saw a scene that I would never forget. I saw blood all over the damaged bike. At a little distance I could see a human hand near the light post. Blood was splattered all over the place. I could see some sweets scattered on the road smeared in blood. This was too much. I could not bear the sight anymore. Not far away I saw a man lying on the road with his face down. My legs became weak as I walked towards the man and turned him around. To my horror it was Nishi!

Five years later, I am still me. However, I have a void in my heart as I remember the old paper boats sailing triumphantly in the water puddle.

### Dan Polymer

**W**ish you had a financial game plan tailored to your priorities, lifestyle, hopes and dreams? You can start with this excerpt from *Financially Fearless: The LearnVest Program for Taking Control of Your Money*, the New York Times bestselling book from LearnVest CEO and founder Alexa von Tobel.

At LearnVest, we believe your emergency fund should contain at least six months' worth of net income (up to a year is our recommendation if you have kids or other dependents), and you should only touch it in a true emergency (and no, your family vacation is not a true emergency).

Get started with a free financial assessment.

This is a point that bears repeating: Unless there is a true emergency, it should sit patiently and liquidly in a savings account, waiting for you should you need it (God forbid).

While an ideal emergency fund is at least six months of net income stored in a savings account, it's best to have upwards of nine months saved if your job is unstable or you work as a freelancer.



## Let's talk money

### FOOLPROOF WAYS TO GROW YOUR SAVINGS

er and have an irregular income. Are you in an unstable financial position? If so, aim for nine months to a year.

As I may have mentioned once or twice, the money in this fund is best left untouched unless there is a true emergency. Here are five examples of situations that qualify:

**Emergency 1:** You've lost your job and need to continue paying rent, bills and other living expenses.

**Emergency 2:** You have a medical or dental emergency.

**Emergency 3:** Your car breaks down and is your primary form of transportation.

**Emergency 4:** You have emer-

gency home expenses. For example, your A/C breaks down in hundred-plus-degree weather, your roof is leaking, your basement is flooded.

**Emergency 5:** You have bereavement-related expenses, like travel costs for a family funeral.

**How to save:**

If getting six months of take-home pay together seems daunting, here are some tricks:

• **Direct deposit into your savings:** Think of yourself as a regular monthly bill you have to pay. All you have to do is arrange to have a set amount of money directly deposited from your

paycheck into a savings account each month. I recommend using a separate savings account because if you have access to your funds in your checking account, you're more likely to spend them. Again, it might hurt a bit at first to take home a little less every month, but trust me, after a while you won't even notice it's gone.

• **Never spend a bonus again:** It feels great to be rewarded for your hard work. And it feels even better to spend that hard-earned bonus on something you'll enjoy, like a trip to France or an iPad. At the same time, the pleasure of a vacation or new gadget is short-lived compared to financial security.

So make a pact with yourself to put every bonus you get from here on out to good use. If you direct 90 per cent of your bonuses straight into your savings account as a rule, you'll still have 10 per cent to treat yourself (plus the comfort of knowing that you're building a well-earned safety net).

• **Cut your unnecessary costs:**

Actually, most people spend money on more unnecessary items than they think. So take time to look at where your money is going in detail and begin to cut back.

Saving a little money here and there could help you put a lot away in the long run.

### MY SPACE

Irshad Ali

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**L**a laha Illalaha Muhammadr-ur-Rasulta", the first *Kalmah*, is what my father might have read out to me when I was born. Yes, the *Kalmah* and the *Adhaan* is what a child born to a Muslim family hears when he or she is born. But I have grown up in a place where there is a church just two doors down from our place and where we celebrate Diwali and Holi. I grew up watching the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*. Yes, I might not be a follower of the Sanatan Dharma, but that does not make me any less of a Hindu.

*Miyah*, a term most of us from Assam are familiar with, is what Muslims are addressed as, sometimes on our face, sometimes behind our backs. *Miyah* roughly means a Muslim of Bangladeshi origin. We have never

## I am what I think

I belong to the post-Babri, Dharavi, Gujarat, Dadri era where in some parts of the country Muslims still live an insecure life. Being from the North-East, I have never been afraid of communal elements. Sadly, it's not just us, Sikhs, Chris-

tians and Buddhists too face a similar situation. If you are a Sikh, you have to be from Punjab. But there are so many Sikh people who have never in their lifetime visited Punjab. The same goes for the Buddhists and the Zorastrians too. This discrimination is not limited to religion only, but to ethnicity as well. For example, the Bodo and the Kachari people who are actually considered to be the original inhabitants of this region by the historians, till date have not been accepted as Assamese by the society.

I belong to the post-Babri, Dharavi, Gujarat, Dadri era where in some parts of the country Muslims still live an insecure life. Being from the North-East, I have never been afraid of communal elements. But the political genocide of the BTAD shook me. Many Muslims lost their lives.



### HEALTHWISE

Dr. Yogiraj Das

## Sunset with ease

Some aspects of geriatric care that we all need to know.

**G**eriatrics is a new discipline of healthcare; just like paediatrics, geriatrics is also a discipline of healthcare, developed to take care of people of 60 years and above. Growing old presents people with a magnitude of adverse consequences like physical handicap, cognitive decline and loss of social relationships. The goal of geriatric care is to maintain social independence, functional mobility, cognitive ability of the elderly population.

Here are a few aspects of geriatric care –

**The process called ageing:** The ageing process is influenced by genetics, social, cultural, economic conditions and lifestyle choices of the individual.

**Primary ageing:** is primarily due to interaction between genetic and environmental factors.

**Secondary ageing:** is about adapting to changes of primary ageing. During the last century, changes have been rapid and the young and old have been exposed to a very different physical, social and cultural environment. Most of the changes are designed for the young. Due to such changes, the elderly find it difficult to adapt, and make certain negative behavioural adaptations to adjust to the changes. (Example: Reduction or cessation of social interaction, travelling, hobbies due to impaired vision, hearing, urinary incontinence, increased reaction time, etc.)

As each individual ages differently, the disease, manifestation and management of an elderly develops more and more with age from the average / common subset of disease, manifestation and management of a young adult. So each elderly patient needs to be examined and treated as an individual.

### Common problems

- Multiple diseases.
- Multiple medicines and their interactions.
- Atypical, non-specific or puzzling presentation.
- Late presentation to the doctor.
- High incidences of complication from even minor diseases.
- Need for active rehabilitation (physical, mental and social) after recovery.
- Reduced mobility and social interaction.
- Difficulty in adopting to new technology.
- Loneliness and depression.

**Evaluation of an elderly:** A comprehensive geriatric assessment by a trained multidisciplinary team with enough time to do a thorough work-up of the patient is necessary for proper evaluation of an elderly. A comprehensive geriatric assessment takes about two to four hours and is done in two to three sessions. The core team consists of:

• A geriatrician/physician (trainer in gerontology), nurse, social worker.

• Psychologist, dietitian, physical and occupational therapist and other specialists (as per requirement) like cardiologist, neurologist, urologist, oncologist, etc.

### Management of an elderly

• Management of an elderly must be by the same multidisciplinary team as mentioned above.

• After the comprehensive assessment, a care plan for each individual must be made, based on ground realities and not just by procuring a copy from the developed countries.

• The care plan has to be for acute care, as well as long-term care.

• A continued long-term care plan is a must to optimise the health of an elderly for successful ageing.

• The care plan should address not only health and disease, but also other aspects or problems in the life of an elderly like social, financial, family, community life, home amenities, safety and environment.

For example – a small change in the lighting of the house, and change in the position of furniture may prevent a future fall and its complications or may encourage mobility, social interaction and independence, thus improving the quality of life of an elderly.

• Prioritising healthy living as the driving force for successful ageing, at the same time, educating older people on how to cope with the gradual accumulation of functional loss will likely increase their ability for an active and healthy old age.

Though no one wants to get old, everyone does. And with increasing life expectancy we will be living for a longer period of life as an elderly. So, it is necessary that we plan properly for a successful, happy and satisfying ageing experience.

The then government which called itself the Messiah of the minorities did not stand up for us. Maybe this political negligence is the root cause for the members of our community being the least educated amongst all. But this does not give us an excuse to be any less patriotic.

Lack of access to quality education is the primary reason why there is still a partial lack of unity amongst the communities. Our textbooks tell us how Lachit Borphukan and his men defeated the Mughals but those books do not say that Muslims like Bagh Hazarika too fought for the Ahom Army. There was a chapter in our 10<sup>th</sup> standard Assamese textbook teaching us about the religious and ethnic diversity of Assam. Since our education system gives more importance on quantity rather than quality, most of the students either skipped the chapter or they just read by heart the common question-and-answer and so couldn't attain any knowledge from it.

Many Muslim families too are seen to be orthodox. Their girls are compelled to wear the *burqa*, their boys wear *kurtas-pajama* and often sport a beard. My family, on the other hand, is of the belief that a person's attire should not be governed by his or her religion. One should wear what he or she feels comfortable in or eat whatever they feel like eating, provided it is not harming anyone.

Even though our customs are a bit different from the other religions, I would like to assure everyone that we too are as much Assamese as my friends with surnames like Hazarika, Ingi, Basumatary, Goswami are. We feel proud of our motherland, our literature, our litterati, our Bishnu Rabha, our Bhupendra, our Zubeenda and our Paponda and we too stand up with our heads held high whenever and wherever we hear.

O mor apnor desh, o mor sikuni desh, enekhon suwola, enekhon sulola, enekhon moromor desh.



## What if ... ?

**C**ounter-factual novels look at alternative history, at events arising from a "what if?" scenario. One of the most well-known in this genre, Robert Harris's *Fatherland*, is a detective novel set in a 1960s Europe where the Nazis have won World War II and Hitler is still alive. To my knowledge there hasn't been much alternative history in Indian fiction, including Indian English writing. The current border standoff with China made me think of "what if?" scenarios involving North-East India, some of which could make interesting stories.

One of the most far-reaching events in the North-East was the arrival of a group of Shan people through the Patkai range somewhere around the 13th century. Though estimates of their number vary, it is accepted that they, through a process of intermarriage and consolidation with local communities and tribes, laid the basis for a larger Assamese society in the Brahmaputra Valley. If these people had never arrived in the valley, then perhaps the original inhabitants generally believed to be the Bodo Kachari group which is found in pockets across the North-East, might have created a more widespread society (assuming no other group with a more comprehensive idea of social organisation arrived in the valley).

In any case, it was the Ahoms who cobbled together a kingdom in the following centuries (though exactly how much control they had over the entire valley is open to debate), which then came into conflict with the Mughals – who by then had Bengal in their control. Several battles were fought between both sides, with territory in the valley being lost and regained. The decisive battles were at Saraghat and Itakhuli on the Brahmaputra towards the end of the 17th century, where the Mughal army was defeated. What might have happened if it was the other way around, i.e., if the Mughals had won a decisive victory? The Brahmaputra Valley would have come under Mughal control, and this could have led to a long-term change in the composition of its society.

The next large group to enter what we today call the North-East were the British, in the form of the East India Company. It is often held that they landed up in Assam looking for sources of revenue like tea and

oil. However the process of colonisation was not straightforward. The first troops under Captain Welsh reached Upper Assam towards the end of the 18th century. They did not stay on though, as the province was considered too remote and insubrious to merit occupation, and wracked by internal rebellion, raids by hill tribes, and incursions by the Burmese. The British returned a

### FROM THE MARGINS

Ankush Saikia

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So here we are today, a part of India. As one can see, it might not have been this way. Parts of the North-East might have been occupied by other countries, parts of it might have had some sort of independence. It just goes to show that the fortunes of countries and communities are like those of people, prone to being thrown about by the winds of chance.

second time about two decades later, after the invading Burmese army had subdued Manipur and Assam (and carried off numerous people as slaves). What brought them back was the proximity of the Burmese army to Bengal (and then capital Calcutta) as well as reports that the French – with whom the British then had a trading rivalry – after being expelled from India were plotting with the Burmese. The Yandaboo Treaty of 1826 followed, while the discovery of tea was largely due to the efforts of Scottish adventurers such as the Bruce brothers, and the discovery of oil came much later. This Assam

Valley was in no way central to the British Empire; indeed, most books on the subject mention Assam in a cursory way, if at all.

The point here is that British intervention might not have taken place if the Burmese hadn't entered Assam, for instance (the period known locally as the *Maan-or oyashii*, or if they had agreed to cease their activities short of the Bengal border. What could then have been the shape of the North-East today? The states of Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram might have been countries of some form, or Burmese states the way Sagapa and Chin on the border are today. A large segment of the population from today's Bangladesh would have come up the Brahmaputra valley and into the hills above, driven by the need to find living space. The original inhabitants would have been squeezed into pockets, with the largest perhaps being in Upper Assam. It is anybody's guess as to what the status of Arunachal Pradesh would have been.

Arriving closer to present times, we find that with the departure of the British in 1947, today's North-East became a part of India. One can speculate about what might have happened had the British stayed on, or if the North-East had been tagged along with East Pakistan at Partition (for a short-lived period, Assam province had been a part of Bengal Presidency). The experience of tribes here in the Chokmas might have occurred several times over.

Then in 1962, my mother was among those who were evacuated from Tezpur to the South bank of the Brahmaputra following the Indian defeat in the then NEFA. They returned after a few days when China pulled back, but one could imagine a scenario where my mother and her family ended up stranded on the other side, say like the Tibetans who had followed the Dalai Lama to Assam in 1959 and were to never go back to their homeland.

So here we are today, a part of India. As one can see, it might not have been this way. Parts of the North-East might have been occupied by other countries, parts of it might have had some sort of independence. It just goes to show that the fortunes of countries and communities are like those of people, prone to being thrown about by the winds of chance. It is also instructive to see how the various communities of the North-East – long having lost control of their own destinies – have ended up dependent on the actions of others.

Ankush Saikia is the author of the Detective Arjun Arora series.

## FORECAST

JULY 24 – 30, 2017

### ARIES



A nebulous link suggests that the influence of certain friends may not be as helpful as you think. While confiding can often bring many benefits, this time you might find the opposite.

### TAURUS



You might feel like doing something on the spur of the moment to relieve a feeling of pressure. If you feel this way at the start of the week, it might be more beneficial to stick with an idea or project.

### GEMINI



You may easily absorb other people's energies this period, which could have an impact on certain decisions. In fact, Monday might be the best time to commit to a path or try a new solution.

### CANCER



The early part of the week could coincide with mixed messages, or you might be tempted to leap into action based on false information. Unexpected pitfalls could lie ahead.

### LEO



There is a positive shift in the air that will enliven and invigorate you. You will feel you are in your element and ready to tackle the next big project or make some significant changes. Be careful about what you promise.

### VIRGO



Your social life continues to look upbeat, with a focus on this sector coinciding with a reunion, or perhaps you will look up someone you haven't heard from in a while.

### LIBRA



You may lack energy in a situation that calls for action at the start of the week. However, there's also a good chance that you've already invested time and energy into this matter.

### SCORPIO



If you've been experimenting with various ideas and trying on new options for size, you might be tempted to take one of them further without thinking it through properly.

### SAGITTARIUS



Doing the best for everyone may mean that plans become watered down and no easy solution presents itself. You may find yourself in this situation over the coming days.

### CAPRICORN



Mixed messages could be an issue now, as well as the temptation to act on the spur of the moment. From Thursday, you'll enter a more intense phase that could pave the way for deeper change.

### AQUARIUS



Go easy with your money, as something that seems worth purchasing could turn out to be a disappointment. Save your cash for something that's worth your while.

### PISCES



While opportunities for fun and delightful experiences continue to present themselves, there's a shift in the air that could encourage a more dedicated outlook.



### SCREENSHOTS

Souvik Ghosh

## Two to tango

Bollywood actors Ranbir Kapoor and Katrina Kaif have been busy promoting their recent film *Jagga Jasoos*. Here, the two actors speak on their personal chemistry.

Ranbir: Was it tough to summon up enthusiasm each time you entered for the shooting of *Jagga Jasoos*?

Katrina: For me, it wasn't. There are two reasons. We both have immense belief in Anurag Basu as a filmmaker in the industry. Everyone has a lot of belief in his talent. Apart from that, everything was very unique on set, it wasn't boring. There were some frustrating moments, but it was all new and innovative. Ranbir and I have certain dynamics that push us to try and compete, which somehow drives us and keeps us motivated.

Ranbir: Apart from competitiveness, we can amuse and entertain ourselves. There were actually some mundane days, but one will see me and Katrina up to something, like having a conversation which is very deep or fighting or pulling each other's leg or something that keeps the energy always high.

■ How do you stay focused as an actor when you know all eyes are on you and your relationship with Ranbir (the relationship and break-up)?

Katrina: I think as an actor, all eyes are always on you. To me, only the film matters and the stage performances. I feel actors must be responsible when they are performing on a stage, or a theatre or in front of a movie camera. To me it does not matter what people are saying or thinking about me and what matters is what I am feeling. When I was going through difficult times, it mattered to me what I was feeling and not what people or the media were saying.

■ Tell something about your character in the film, Ranbir.

Ranbir: My character is a lonely boy in search of his stepfather who brought him up and went missing. It is his quest and journey. It is his search with Shruti (Katrina's character) to find his stepfather. Jagga, the role I play, stammer and so he sings because when you sing you do not stammer.

■ In what genre is this film?

Ranbir: Every Disney film, be it *Sleeping Beauty*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and *Beauty and the Beast*, etc., that I watched as a child stayed with me. I loved that kind of entertainment and *Jagga Jasoos* is in that genre. It will entertain people like all other Disney films.

■ How is *Anurag Basu* unique as a director?

Katrina: He is a very unique artist. I find his vision very unique and I find him very cinematic. He has in him the natural affinity to the ways stories are told or should be told in cinema. Everything he does is very rooted in emotion.

■ Ranbir, you worked with Anurag Basu earlier in *Barfi!* What made you choose this script to work with Basu again?

Ranbir: After *Barfi!* me and Dada (Anurag Basu) were talking about our next venture. Then, he told me about this detective character which he wanted to make as a musical. We both wanted to make a film which the entire family can go and watch. So we loved this idea. We both loved this genre and the ensemble script, along with all the ingredients to produce the film.

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