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NEWS CAPSULE

J-K encounter

SRINAGAR, March 28: Three civilians were killed in security forces' action against protesters near an encounter site in Budgam district in Kashmir during an anti-militancy operation which ended with the killing of one of the militant. "One militant has been killed and a weapon has been recovered from the scene," officials said. — PTI

Gold seizure

GUWAHATI, March 28: The Government Railway Police today seized 27 gold bars weighing 27.5 kilograms along with 7 kg opium from the possession of two persons boarding the down Rajdhani Express. The two — Bhagirath Prajapati and Ashok Sarma — were arrested. — Staff Reporter

Enemy property

NEW DELHI, March 28: The total valuation of immovable enemy property in the country stands at Rs 1.04 lakh crore. Lok Sabha was informed today by Minister of State for Home Hansraj Ahir. — PTI

Foreign funds

NEW DELHI, March 28: As many as 25,000 voluntary organisations, including schools and madrasas, in the country are receiving foreign funds, Lok Sabha was informed today by Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju. — PTI

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

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: With India looking to have closer links with the South Asian countries, the Namami Brahmaputra festival will showcase the economic potential of the Brahmaputra river, which has access to the Chittagong port of Bangladesh and Bhutan too evincing interest in utilising the waterway.

Speaking to journalists on board the inaugural run of Ro Ro boat MV Gopinath Bordoloi ahead of the festival, Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said, "So far, only the devastating side of the Brahmaputra had been publicised. Not many know that it has ac-

CM fixes April 30 deadline for dyke repair

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: Taking strong note of the delayed progress of repairing works of embankments in the State, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal warned all responsible officers of water resources department of dire consequences in the eventuality of failure to complete the works in time. He set April 30, as the new deadline to complete all the embankment strengthening and repair-related works, sardan official press release. It needs mention here that the Chief Minister had earlier set March 31 as the deadline for completing. (See page 7)

Odisha is new destination for Bangla migrants

SPL. CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, March 28: After the Northeast, Odisha has emerged as the new hot spot for illegal Bangladeshi migrants.

According to official records

around 3,700 such immigrants

have been identified in Odisha.

Though they have been found

involved in cases of petty theft,

illegal fishing, there have been

reports of involvement of

these migrants in any major

crime, said Minister of State

for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju in a Lok Sabha reply.

The illegal migrants, when

detected, are dealt with as per

provisions of the Foreigners

Act, 1946, he said.

Underlining the urgent need

for developing a competitive

temperament amongst the

Government departments,

the Chief Minister said that

the Water Resources Depart-

ment should strive hard to dis-

pel its negative image. He also

asked the Department to

Centre confirms ban on BBC

Centre confirms ban on BBC

SPL. CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, March 28: The Centre has confirmed that the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has been barred from filming in tiger reserves for a period of five years following the Kaziranga National Park incident.

There were several inconsis-

tencies between the synopsis

provided by the producer

and final documentary released

for airing. The documentary

was not submitted for preview

by the authorised committee

as per the undertaking given

by the producer, Minister of

State for Environment and

Forest and Climate Change Anil

cess to the Chittagong port. We want to showcase its economic potential to the world."

The five-day-long Namami Brahmaputra, billed as the biggest river festival in the country, will be inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee on March 31. Programmes have been organised across 21 districts from Sadiya to Dhubri. Nobel laureate Dalai Lama, yoga guru Ramdev, Union ministers Nitin Gadkari and Mahesh Sharma, among others, are also expected to attend the festival, besides delegates from neighbouring countries.

"We want to highlight specifically the potential of the river as an economic lifeline and how it can be used to reach

(See page 7)

Madhav Dave said.

The permission granted before making the film included the condition for preview before release. However, the documentary was not submitted to the authorities for preview.

In a Lok Sabha reply, Dave said the government is aware of a documentary released by the BBC, which they have misrepresented the immuni-

ty provided to forest personnel under Section 197 of the CEPAC as a 'shoot to kill' policy.

The National Tiger Conserva-

tion Authority as per power

vested under Section 38(O)(2)

and 38(O)(1)(k) of the Wildlife

(See page 7)

Fest to showcase Brahmaputra potential

Curtain raiser of Namami Brahmaputra at Majuli

A CORRESPONDENT

MAJULI, March 28: A curtain raiser event of Namami Brahmaputra was held at Kamalabhera today with the beginning of the Samanvay journey to pay tribute to the mighty river, amidst prayers by Satradhikars and colourful cultural performances by various troupes.

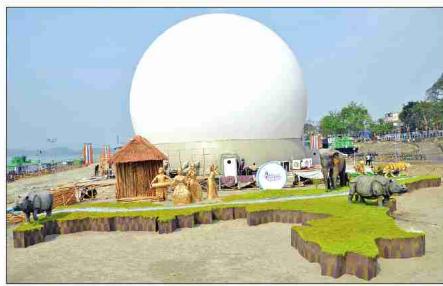
On a boat, decorated with scenes from Sriramanta Sankaradeva's first drama, *Citragupta*, six Satradhikars started their journey from the ferry ghat at 10 am. A 60-member cultural troupe is also the part

of journey in another vessel.

The boat journey will cover nine districts of the State with nightfalls at different places before reaching Guwahati on March 31, the inaugural day of the central function of the Namami Brahmaputra festival.

Adhikar of Uttar Kamalabhera Satra Janardan Devagowami, Burha Satriya (Burha Adhikar) of Barpeta Satra Basistha Devagowami, Adhikar of Bhogur Satra Dutta Devagowami, Adhikar of Bar Alengi Satra Bhabananda Devagowami and Deka-Adhikar of Adi Bihimpur Satra Atul Chandra Mahanta form the Satradhikar's team.

MoU to dredge river on April 4



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New Huggies Wonder Pants' **Hug-fit** design is inspired by a mother's hug.



Huggies Wonder Pants' unique hug-fit design makes it stretchable and soft so your baby is comfortable in it at all times. And its **Leak-Lock** system protects from leakage. So your baby feels warm and secure.

Irrigation Dept Secy arrested for corruption

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: Sleuths of anti-corruption and vigilance wing today arrested Kujendra Doley, Secretary, Irrigation Department, for allegedly accepting bribe from a contractor at his office in the State Secretariat.

Doley was caught red-handed while accepting the first instalment of the bribe amount demanded. "He was caught while he was accepting Rs 15,000 as the first instalment. He had demanded Rs 80,000 to clear the bill due to the contractor.

Jaitley was briefing the party MP's after BJP's parliamentary party meeting here which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar told reporters after the meeting.

"The finance minister in (See page 7)

JOCOSERIOUS



Paying obeisance to the mighty river will help tackle floods!

tor in question," sources said.

The investigating agency

also carried out searches both

in his Secretariat (Jnana Bhawan)

offices and residence located

at Six Mile area and cash

worth a sizeable amount has

been reportedly recovered.

Jaitley was briefing the party

MP's after BJP's parliamentary

party meeting here which

was also attended by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, Parlia-

mentary Affairs Minister Ananth

Kumar told reporters after the

meeting in (See page 7)

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Spinal Life Physiotherapy Clinic an advanced centre for pain, paraparesis and injury requires immediately a Bachelor of Physiotherapist BPT with concrete knowledge and experience in Neurological disorders and to do work with Orthopedic. Sonagon, Jayanta Road, Six Mile near GRNC Hospital, with five days from the date of advertisement preferably in male candidate send your CV to borah.arip@yahoo.com, Ph: 9854045021, SV/P/60659/3

Required 1 Male & 1 female Marketing Executive, Teachers and Attendant for an upcoming Shremukh Primary School at Ganeshguri, Office Address: 10th APBn Gate, Kalipurhata, Ghy-19, Contact: 9864880950, SV/P/6704/1

(Vacancy for HSLC/HS/ Graduate) MNC company recruits 250 Post at Guwahati and all districts of North-East facilities free lodging + bonus earning 7,500/- to 35,000/- Contact: Christianbasti #8876126442, 7896825978, 757954653, SV/P/6707/8

APPOINTMENT

Aakash (Divisions of Aakash Educational Services Pvt. Ltd.) requires the following positions to be initially placed as Office Staff for its centres of Guwahati.

a) Centre Incharge
b) Jr. Accountant / Accountant
c) Sr. Counsellor / Counsellor
d) Front Office Executive (FOE)
Eligibility - Centre Incharge :
a) A Management Graduate / Post Graduate Diploma with minimum 4.5 years of experience in a Management / Administrative Head position in a reputed institute / organization. Must have the capacity to work individually.

b) Jr. or Accountant / Accountant : A Commerce Graduate / Post Graduate Diploma with 2-3 years experience as an Accountant / Sr. Accountant in a reputed institute / organization. The candidate should be well versed in Tally and other accounting software.

c) For Counsellor / Counsellor : A Graduate / Post Graduate with minimum 2-3 years of experience in Counseling / Guidance in a reputed institute / organization. The candidate should be fluent in English and must have a pleasing personality. Female candidates are preferred.

d) For Front Office Executive : A Graduate with minimum 1 year of experience in a reputed institute / organization. The candidate should be fluent in English, and must have a pleasing personality. Female candidates are preferred. Freshers are welcome.

The salary and perks will be the best in the industry, and as per qualification and experience.

Interested candidates may walk-in for an interview with complete Bio-data and a recent passport size photograph on Sunday, 27th April, 2017 between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the following address:

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Medical IIT-JEE Foundations
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Dr. Tarun Ch. Das, Commercial Complex, Block-C, Above Indian Bank, Dharapur, Azara, Guwahati - 781 014
Tel: 0361-284031/ 9577886153 (R)
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Required Physics teacher for part/full time. Having experience more than 3 years. Maths Coaching Centre. Six Mile, VIP. Road, Ghy-22, #7896503597, 8822913922, SV/P/6711/1

Required 2 Nos. of B.Arch. of having minimum two years of work experience in preparation of detailed drawings. Contact: Details: Email ID: drawing@9880600000.com, M: +91 9435903044, SV/P/6717/1

Required part-time teacher for subject Hindi & Sanskrit in a Coaching Institute at Barhalumukh/Athgaon @ g-mail.com. Ph: 9706505380, SV/P/AV0719/1

Direct joining CallCentre, Showroom, Receptionist, Bill Collector, Telecaller, EMI Collection, Security, 9613803279, SV/P/6689/1

Urgently required Computer, Operator, Receptionist, Showroom, Back Office, Bill Collector, Marketing, 7002338314, SV/P/6691/1

Direct joining EMI Collection, Back Office, Office Counseling/ Assistance, Receptionist, Dataentry, 9854957226, SV/P/6690/1

Urgently required, PVC pipe company, Sales Executive, having exp: Hardware Product Sales. Qty: any graduate. Sly: 15K - #8876250890, SV/P/A0717/1

Manufacturing company urgently required, B.Com (Female) having exp: 1yr+. Sly: 10- 30K #9435193017, SV/P/A0715/1

Urgently required, Receptionist (Female) having English fluency. Sly: 7K- Back Office Executive, having English fluency + good computer knowledge. Sly: 9K+ #7896404122, SV/P/A0714/1

Manufacturing Company urgently required. B.Com (Accountant) (male/female) having exp: 1yr+. Sly: 10- 30K #9058447751, SV/P/A0716/1

Rhino Army Pre-Primary School, Sarbari, Jorhat requires Teacher (Contractual): Min. Graduate + B.Ed/NTT & Computer qualified. Experience required. Last date of receipt of application: 04 April, 2017. Apply: Principal, Rhino Army Pre-Primary School, Sarbari, Jorhat.

Relationship Officer: Sal: 20000/- Accountant Job: 70000/- Dataentry Receptionist #957956703 cityagency.com?7@gmail.com SV/P/A072/1

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Training/P/6694/1

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IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Jogen Bayan
Born: 06.08.1924
Death: 18.03.2007
On 10th 'Punar Tithi', we pray to the Almighty for eternal peace of your departed soul.

Smt. Uttara Bayan & Purabi Bayan, Guwahati-5
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Akhilesh elected leader of SP in both Houses of UP legislature

LUCKNOW, March 28: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav was today unanimously elected Leader of the SP Legislature Party in both the Houses of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, at a meeting of party legislators.

SP veterans Azam Khan and Shyam Singh Yadav were conspicuous by their absence from the meeting.

At the meeting of SP MLAs and MLCs, the former Chief Minister was unanimously elected as the combined leader of the party in both the State Assembly and Council, SP spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary said.

Besides, Akhilesh was also authorised to pick the leader of the party in the Legislative Council, he added.

Akhilesh is a member of the Upper House, where senior SP leader Ahmed Hasan leads the party. Akhilesh had yesterday nominated seniormost party MLA Ram Govind Chaudhary as the leader of the SP in the Assembly, paving the way for his becoming the LOP in the Assembly.

Both Azam Khan and Shyam Singh Yadav, who were strong contenders for the post of LOP in the Assembly but failed to find favour with Akhilesh, gave a miss to today's meeting.

Commenting on the choice of Chaudhary for the key post, the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) accused the SP of "acting under BJP's pressure" to deny senior leader Akhilesh the position.

"SP acted under BJP's pressure to deny the position of LOP to a dynamic and strong leader like Azam Khan, which could have posed problems for them in the legislature," state RLD chief Masood Ahmed alleged. — PTI



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath meeting newly elected MLAs after the oath taking ceremony of 17th UP Assembly at Vidhan Sabha in Lucknow on Tuesday. — UNI

CPM in a catch-22 situation over Rajya Sabha election

KOLKATA, March 28: With reduced strength in the Assembly and inability to send a leader to the Rajya Sabha on its own, the CPI(M) in West Bengal found itself in a catch-22, needing to seek support of the Congress before it can nominate a Left nominee to the Rajya Sabha on its own. They have to either depend on the TMC or the Congress to ensure victory of its candidate.

Seeking support of the Congress for its nominee would amount to violation of the official party line that the party had adopted in the last

party congress.

However, CPI(M) state secretary Surya Kanta Mishra said, "The elections are in July and we are yet to discuss the matter. We will think over it at the appropriate time."

But a number of other CPI(M) leaders, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, conceded that the conflict between the party line and the absence of numbers in the Assembly has landed the party into a precarious situation.

"Seeking support of TMC is beyond question, so the only option left is the Congress. But our party line prohibits us from aligning with the Congress. In the upcoming state committee meet we will discuss a way out," a senior CPI(M) state committee member said.

After the humiliating defeat of the Left-Congress alliance in the last Assembly poll, the CPI(M) politburo in May, last year had said that the electoral tactics evolved in West Bengal were not in consonance with the central committee decision and take up an alliance or understanding with the Congress party. — PTI

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Participating in the debate, Sushmita Deb (Congress) said before joining ISER status, the government should address the issue of connectivity to Berhampur which does not have an airport. — PTI

No dearth of funds for centres of excellence: Javadekar

NEW DELHI, March 28: The government today assured the Lok Sabha that there would be no dearth of funds for any institute of national importance.

Moving a bill to amend National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act 2007 in the Lok Sabha, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said the changes will enable two institutes at Berhampur and Tirupati to be governed by the legislation.

With the passage of the Bill, the number of Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) will go up to seven from the existing five, he said.

This institutes promote research and innovation in basic sciences, unlike the IITs, he said.

Public expenditure in higher education is the real investment that any country can make because it enables one to shape up its future, Javadekar said.

Every year, the Budget for all IISERs was Rs 900 crore, while it was Rs 300 crore for Indian Institute of Science.

"Every effort is made to ensure that adequate funds are available to various centres of

excellence and there will not be any shortage of funds for them," he said.

The focus of the government is to promote quality education and the purpose of quality education is to produce good human beings, he said, adding that subjects of humanities were also taught and research programmes are promoted.

Participating in the debate, Sushmita Deb (Congress) said before joining ISER status, the government should address the issue of connectivity to Berhampur which does not have an airport. — PTI



Gardener dressing the hedge at Thiruvananthapuram zoo on Tuesday. — UNI

Scribe who shot sting video on jawan booked

NASHIK, March 28: Nashik Police has booked a woman journalist of a news portal for allegedly doing a sting on the abuse of the "buddy" system by the Army by videographing a jawan from Kerala, who was found dead here earlier this month.

The case was registered at Deolali camp police station last night against Poonam Agrawal under Sections 3 (spying) and 7 (interfering with officers of the police or members of the armed forces of Union) of the Official Secrets Act.

She was booked for violating Army rules by entering prohibited areas and conducting a shoot there, Vinayak Lokare, the sta-

tion-in-charge said today. The scribe from Delhi was also booked under sections 306 (Abetment of suicide), 451 (criminal trespass), 500 (defamation) and 34 (common intention) of the CrPC.

The jawan went missing on February 25 after he purportedly figured in the expose by the portal. Mathew, a native of Karuvelli in Ezhukon in Kollam district, joined the Army 13 years ago and was working as artillery gunner. — PTI

Interpol rejects ED plea for warrant against Lalit Modi

NEW DELHI, March 28: India's efforts to get an arrest warrant issued by the Interpol against Lalit Modi in a money laundering probe in T-20 cricket tournament faced a setback with the agency stating to have accepted the former IPL chief's plea against the move.

The global police body officials said today, has apparently ruled in favour of Modi who had challenged the request of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for issuance of a 'Red Corner Notice' against him in connection with its probe into the financial aspects of the cash-rich cricket tournament.

The ED had first made the request in 2015 to the Interpol. A 'Red Corner Notice' is an arrest warrant circulated by Interpol on behalf of the government of a particular country.

Modi also tweeted from his official handle a certificate endorsing such a stand by the Interpol which stated that he is not subject to an Interpol Red Notice or diffusus and is not known in Interpol's database.

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We provide Nurse for bedridden patients, old age care and baby care. Contact MALT : 95081-66529. Nursing/P/6678/3

COMMERCIAL SPACE
Buying, Selling, Renting-Office spaces, Showrooms, Godowns, Warehouses. Anywhere in Guwahati. Promoter: 739040555, 9435106266, CS/P/0448/1

2070 sqft. main road space on rent at Christianbati fully furnished. Suitable for Banks, Office, Showroom. Ph. : 9085058000. CS/P/0705/1

A fully furnished coaching institute (2100 sqft.) available for rent at a prime location in Panbari Bazaar, Nepal Market, Guwahati for two years and established brands in Guwahati. Call 9706005329 for more details. CS/P/0705/2

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1800 sft. for office/institute/godown behind Hotel Gateway. 7870878787. OS/P/6539/2

BUSINESS

India's largest selling Cement Fly Ash Bricks Machine Diesel/Electric Operated, 25-type's Bricks. In same unit. Minimum 4500 bricks perday. 40% Commission saving. Starts From 2,20,00/- Guwahati, 09525584433, 09552538433. Bus/P/0672/1

Tips to start new Farm Industry & Entrepreneurship (Micro/ Mini/ Small & Medium). Call : Bloom-up, 94767-99866. Bus/P/6705/8

PAYING GUEST

Girl's working women paying guest opposite A. G. Bus Stop, Beliha. Ph. No. 9678896427, 8474835646. PG/P/955/1

P.G. for Girls/Women near Ganeshguri Ph: 8134865535. PG/P/439/15

Furnished, deluxe, single/ double seats for Boys/Men. attachable L/B near Ganeshguri. 98540-86966. PG/P/A0709/8

INTERNATIONAL

Scottish lawmakers to hold independence vote on eve of Brexit

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017

Executive accommodation (Boys), Single room/attached Bath/Inverter/24 Hrs water. Ganeshguri, Ganeshguri. (9954029888). PG/P/A0504/8

Safe accommodation (Girls): Single/2-3seaters/Aqua/Inverter/Freeze/24 hrs water/parking. Opp. Hatigan P.S. 9954029888. PG/P/A0677/8

Kaushik Boys PG. Firmgate, Khanpara, Ghy. Janapath Bane lane-1, NEIRIM connected road. 9864923495. PG/P/A0707/7

Maa PG for Boys. Zoo Road, Jorhat Bus Stop. Ph. : 9864034142, 705713899. PG/P/A0667/2

PG for Boys/ Working Men @ Survey. Attached Bath/ Inverter/ 24 hrs. water. 9435277739. PG/P/6662/5

PUBLIC NOTICE

By an affidavit before the Notary Kunimip (M) dt. 24.3.17, 1, Dipa Smita declare that our daughter's name inadvertently appear as Jayashree Garima instead of Jayashree Singha in her birth certificate.

I, Panchami Gogoi have corrected my father's name legally from Dilbar Gogoi to Mohan Ch. Gogoi vide Court affidavit dated 27th March 2017 sworn before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Dibrugarh Assam. PN/495/1

WASHINGTON, March 28: Indian-American Vanita Gupta, who headed the Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice in the Obama administration, has been appointed as president and CEO of "The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights," becoming the first woman to head the prestigious organisation.

Known for her fearless advocacy of all human beings, 41-

GODOWN

2100 to 9800 sqft. Industrial shed/warehouse. Godown at Khanpara, Beliha, Lokhra, Amlang, Changari, Mirza, 9435403986. Godown/P/A0606/8

Renting/Lesasing-Godowns & Industrial sheds at Gauhati, Amlang, Lokhra, Boragam, Jarabat, Promaster, 7399040555, 943106266, Godown/P/A0449/8

LOAN

IIFL Gold Loan against gold jewellery, interest rates starting @ 9.24% pa with minimum documentation. Call Tinsukia branch - 9854385974, 0374-2340512/22. Loan/P/A059/9

MEDICAL

CLINICAL / HAIR TRANSPLANT AVAIL. 30% DISCOUNT ON YOUR HAIR TRANSPLANT SURGERY BY BOOKING BEFORE 31ST MARCH. CALL SKIN CENTRE BHANGAAGAR @ 99544-4991 OR DR. R.K. GOGOI @ 98640-12367 FOR DETAILS. Medical/P/495/3

PACKERS & MOVERS

P&C Packers & Movers Household Goods, Packers & Transporters Service all over India. Maheshgroup. Ph: 9435145246, 7127452759. P&M/P/4773/30

By an affidavit before the Notary Dibrugarh Purneswar Goswami S/o Durgeswar Goswami inadvertently appear as Purneswar Goswami S/o Durgeswar Goswami in Voter ID Card and P.M.C. PNP/P/669/1

By an affidavit before Notary National Packers & Movers relocalization of local, domestic, household goods, car etc. Since 1984. Contact: (0361-2453362, 954200989, 9864060927. Visit: www.npnpacker.com. PNP/M/2369/1

Agarwal Packers & Movers Ltd. (APML) since 1987, always check Chairman, Ramesh Agarwal's Photo for authenticity call: 9300300300/ 9860015001, P.M./861/10 @ yahoo.com.

By an affidavit before Notary Dibrugarh Sangmeta Gossamii W/o Purwas Gossamii inadvertently appear as Sangmita Gossamii and S. Chakraborty Gossamii in Voter ID Card and PAN Card. PNP/P/669/1

I have changed my name from Arpana Gogoi to Paramananda Gogoi as per Notary Kunimip (M) dt. 28.03.2017. PNP/P/669/51

I have changed my name from Arpana Talukdar as per affidavit before the Notary Public, Kamrup (Metro), Guwahati. PNP/P/6678/1

The Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim on an application made by Anjana Gohain (Enrolment No. 834/2002-2003), have permitted to change her name from "Anjana Gohain" to "Anjanu Gohain Choudhury" on the Roll of Advocate. M.C. Bhuyan, Secretary.

"Kathy" was an inspiration to millions in different parts of the world," said Bolton.

Kathrada, who frequently referred to Mandela as his "elder brother", was among three political prisoners who were sentenced to life imprisonment together with the South African anti-Apartheid icon after the infamous Rivonia Trial of 1964.

The two others were Andrew Mlangeni and Dennis Goldberg. They played major roles in shaping the country's policies after Mandela's election as the first democratic President of South Africa.

"We are deeply saddened to learn this morning of the passing on of our dear friend and founding trustee, Ahmed Kathrada," said the Nelson Mandela Foundation on Twitter.

Kathrada was born on August 21, 1929 in Schweizer-Reneke, a town in the North West Province of South Africa, and introduced to politics as a young boy. -PTI

Lisbon Treaty on Wednesday and thus triggering two years of Brexit negotiations.

The Brexit vote last year has spurred the independence campaign of Sturgeon, head of the ruling Scottish National Party, who argues that Scotland is being forced out of the European bloc at its will.

Both Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU, but they were outnumbered by voters in England and Wales, who backed Brexit.

Lawmakers in Edinburgh are due to vote on Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon's bid for a new referendum, despite the Prime Minister's last-minute appeals.

The Scottish vote had been scheduled for last Wednesday, but was postponed after the terror attack near the British Parliament in London, the same day, in which four people were killed and dozens more injured.

The attack has not, however, put the brakes on Britain's EU divorce, with May vowed to stick to her timetable of invoking Article 50 of the European Union's

EU — although after winning the backing of Scottish Parliament she needs approval from London for a referendum to take place.

Rejecting such a request would be politically risky for May, whose Government is also trying to prevent the collapse of the power-sharing arrangement which governs Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland executive collapsed in January following a dispute between the two main parties, the Democratic Unionist Party and Irish nationalists Sinn Fein, which failed to reach a new power-sharing deal by 11:00 GMT Monday deadline.

The British Government has extended the talks and, if a resolution is not reached, fresh elections could be called or London could resume direct rule over Northern Ireland. -APP

Vanita Gupta appointed prez of 'Leadership Conference'



on June 1.

"At a time when our nation's ideals and progress are being threatened in such fundamental ways, The Leadership Conference is a vital nerve centre of the broad swath of civil and human rights organisations that are fighting for justice, fairness, and equality around the country," Gupta said.

"Civil and human rights work has never been easy, and these unprecedented times demand a clarity of vision, strategy and solidarity that the Leadership Conference coalition is uniquely positioned to champion," she said in a statement.

Henderson, who will step down after 21 years, said leaders had the responsibility to cultivate, encourage and make

paths for the next generation to lead and to thrive.

"That time has come for me, and I could not be more pleased to pass the baton of leadership to Vanita, a talented litigator, strategic visionary and tireless advocate who is deeply committed to building a country as good as its ideals, the mission of The Leadership Conference," he said.

Eric Holder, the former US Attorney General, said throughout her career Gupta has pushed the nation to live up to its promise of equal justice for all.

"Her fierce advocacy for the rights of all Americans, while at the helm of the Civil Rights Division, proves that she will be able to lead the important coalition of the Leadership Conference member organisations," Holder said.

As head of the civil rights division, Gupta oversaw a wide range of criminal and civil enforcement efforts to ensure equal justice and protect equal opportunity for all during one of the most consequential periods for the division. -PTI

Carlos the Jackal sentenced to life for 1974 Paris bombing



PARIS, March 28: Self-styled revolutionary Carlos the Jackal, already serving two life terms for murder, was given a third life sentence today for a deadly 1974 Paris bombing.

Prosecutor Remi Croson du Cormier had told the court in Paris yesterday that "all evidence gathered in this investigation points to Carlos," while admitting that investigators had found no DNA, fingerprints or CCTV evidence from the grenade attack on a store in the French capital that left two dead and 34 injured on September 15, 1974.

The flamboyant white-haired defendant, wearing a black shirt and jacket with a trademark kerchief in the breast pocket, blew kisses at supporters at the start of the hearing, taking the stand to denounce the "absurdity of a trial held 43 years after the fact".

Lawyers for the 67-year-old Venezuelan native, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, had derided the two-week trial as "judicial paleontology". Defence lawyer Francis Vuillemin, calling for an acquittal, said a судия could only find the guilt of his client, who has been in prison in France since he was arrested by French elite police in the Sudamericano capital Khartoum in 1994. -PTI

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Indian-origin anti-Apartheid activist dead

JOHANNESBURG, March 28: Veteran Indian-origin South African anti-Apartheid activist Ahmed Kathrada, who was one of Nelson Mandela's closest aides, died today at a hospital here aged 87.

Kathrada died this morning at the Donald Gordon Hospital, his foundation said.

"This is great loss to the ANC (African National Congress), the broader liberation movement and South Africa as a whole. Internationally he was a stalwart in his support for the Palestinian struggle," Naeem Bolton, Executive Director of the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, said.

"Kathy" was an inspiration to millions in different parts of the world," said Bolton.

Kathrada, who frequently referred to Mandela as his "elder brother", was among three political prisoners who were sentenced to life imprisonment together with the South African anti-Apartheid icon after the infamous Rivonia Trial of 1964.

The two others were Andrew Mlangeni and Dennis Goldberg. They played major roles in shaping the country's policies after Mandela's election as the first democratic President of South Africa.

"We are deeply saddened to learn this morning of the passing on of our dear friend and founding trustee, Ahmed Kathrada," said the Nelson Mandela Foundation on Twitter.

Kathrada was born on August 21, 1929 in Schweizer-Reneke, a town in the North West Province of South Africa, and introduced to politics as a young boy. -PTI

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (R.F.P.)

Deputy Director, Town and Country Planning, Dispur, Guwahati-6, Assam, invites sealed Proposals (RFP) in two bid systems (Technical bids in two separate envelopes and Financial bids in one envelope) for the preparation of Master Plans for Jagorhat, Rangia and Morigaon, Assam, which will be received up to 2:00 p.m. of 10.04.2017 based on the technical and financial bid evaluation criteria mentioned in the RFP. The bid document will be submitted to the Deputy Director, Town and Country Planning, Dispur, Guwahati-6, Assam, on 10.04.2017 at 2:30 p.m. in presence of intending bidders or his authorized representative. If the date of receipt of RFP changes to 10.04.2017, then the date of opening of bid will also change to 10.04.2017. The major scope of works for the consultants firms will be to convert the Master Plan and Cadastral maps (Revenue maps) along with other details to web ready GIS format. Detailed bid documents can be obtained from Office of the Deputy Director, Town and Country Planning, Dispur, Guwahati-6, Assam on payment of Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred) only in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Deputy Director, Town and Country Planning, Dispur, Guwahati-6, which is non-refundable. Time of completion of the work is 6 (six) months from the date of issue work order. All payments are subject to availability of funds.

All other details can be seen in the RFP document.

Sd/- Deputy Director
Town and Country Planning
Dispur, Guwahati-6

Janasanyog/6033/16

Notice

The following candidates for the post of Barber and Cobbler for District Civil Defence Force (Guwahati) Assam State Bureau published with advertisement No. CG/2013/PFT/144 dated 14th September, 2016 (Janasanyog/417516) are hereby informed to appear in the physical screening test / Medical, physical efficiency test / Trade test to be held on 25-04-2017 (for Barber) and 26-04-2017 (for Cobbler) from 8:30 AM onwards at Central Training Institute, Civil Defence & Home Guards, Bokakhat, Guwahati-26 as per following terms and conditions.

1. No TA / DA is admissible.

2. The tests will be started from 8:00 AM onwards.

3. The call letter with your Roll No. which is already sent by post is your admit card for the Physical screening test / Physical efficiency test / Trade test.

4. Bring the call letter to the test venue along with original supporting documents relating to age, caste, educational qualification etc. and proof of identity. (Pan Card or Voter ID or Passport or Aadhar Card or Driving Licence or Bank / Post Office Pass Book etc.).

5. No mobile phone is allowed to enter into the test arena before 8:00 AM and after 10:00 AM.

6. Candidates will come prepared for the physical screening test / physical efficiency test / trade test. Department of CD&HG will not be liable for any injury or other casualty suffered by a candidate during the tests.

7. False documents / false information / misrepresentation of facts shall lead to rejection when detected, even after selection. Submission of fake documents shall make the candidate liable to face criminal proceeding.

List of eligible candidates (Barber)

Sl. No. / Roll No. / Name of Candidate / Father's Name

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Name of Candidate	Father's Name
1	BBR-1	Babita Rajbonsi	Mohan Rajbonsi
2	BBR-2	Jogen Bezenba	Umesh Bezenba
3	BBR-3	Debjit Das	Dira Ram Das
4	BBR-4	Abiraj Thakur	Debjit Deo Thakur
5	BBR-5	A. Umageshi	A. Laumer Rao
6	BBR-6	Annuad Hoque	Abdul Rahim
7	BBR-7	Anowar Hussain	Mahrur Ali
8	BBR-8	Ajanta Das	Mohan Das
9	BBR-9	Hemanta Shill	Aliur Shill
10	BBR-10	Jayanta Kaitla	Lebanesh Kaitla
11	BBR-11	Manoranjan Barman	Lil Mannoren Barman
12	BBR-12	Manjori Baisly	Sambhu Ram Baisly
13	BBR-13	Rahul Thakur	Manjori Baisly
14	BBR-14	Naomoyi Barman	Namoyi Barman
15	BBR-15	Noorul Islam	Shamsul Islam
16	BBR-16	Parimal Barman	Parimal Barman
17	BBR-17	Prasanna Kaitla	Parimal Kaitla
18	BBR-18	Rajib Barman	Rajib Barman
19	BBR-19	Rajendra Barman	Rajendra Barman
20	BBR-20	Rakesh Barman	Rakesh Barman
21	BBR-21	Ranjan Barman	Ranjan Barman
22	BBR-22	Ranu Barman	Ranu Barman
23	BBR-23	Rituparna Barman	Rituparna Barman
24	BBR-24	Rituparna Barman	Rituparna Barman
25	BBR-25	Rituparna Barman	Rituparna Barman
26	BBR-26	Rituparna Barman	Rituparna Barman
27	BBR-27	Rituparna Barman	Rituparna Barman

This individual call letters have already been issued and send to the candidates through post. If any candidate does not receive his call letter, he may collect the duplicate call letter from the office of the concerned authority on 24.03.2017 during office hours on production of proof of identification. He may also visit our departmental website www.dcdgassam.gov.in for information on list of eligible candidates for appearing in the above test.

Sd/- (L. R. Bordoloi)

Dy. Director of Civil Defence and

Deputy Commandant General of Guards

Assam, Bokakhat, Guwahati-28

Cum Chairman

of the Selection Board

Janasanyog/10653/16

Date: 27.3.2017

INVITATION FOR RE-TENDER

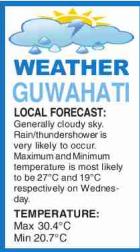
This Re-Tender Notice is with reference to Tender notice issued by the office of the Director, Soil Conservation Deptt., Assam, R.G.B. Road, Guwahati-05 invites Tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works under ROP-XXI (NABARD).

Sl. No.	Name of Division	Scope of Work	Approved Value of Work (Rs. In Lakhs)	Comperision Period	EMD (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)
1.	Nagpur S.C. Division	Muavran Land Development & Water Harvesting Project, Group-A under ROP-XXI	66.30	75 Days	2 % (General)	2000.00
2.	Jorhat S.C. Division	Land Development and Muavran Land Development Project at Phupingchagan (Group-A under ROP-XXI)	62.92750	75 Days	1% (for SCST/ OBC/ MBC)	2000.00
3.	Darrang S.C. Division, Margherita	Integrated Marshy Land Development and Decorestation work at Bothnagar (Group-I under ROP-XXI)	35.79668	75 Days		2000.00

The schedule for the Tenders can be seen in the website Mppublictenders.gov.in

Sd/- Director

Soil Conservation Deptt., Assam

**Bail plea rejected**

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: The Gauhati High Court today rejected the bail petition of Habibur Rahman, who was arrested in connection with a rhino poaching case in Kaziranga National Park in 2012.

The counsel appearing for the CBI, SC Keyal, probing the case, opposed Rahman's bail petition. The CBI had already filed the final complaint in 2014 in connection with the case where six persons have been arrested.

Conference

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: The Department of Mass Communication, Assam Don Bosco University, is organising a roundtable conference on Thursday on "Communication for Development: Critical Approaches" at Sonapur as part of its event titled "Imageind 2017 – The Sonapur Edition", sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research.

A documentary by filmmaker and musician Wanphrang Dhangdoh will also be screened after the conference.

A number of programmes, including a photography workshop (on April 1) and a community connect programme (on April 5), have also been lined up during the event.

Cotton College Geography dept alumni meet

GUWAHATI, March 28: An alumni meet was organised by the Department of Geography, Cotton College here on March 25, stated a press release issued here today.

The occasion was graced by many retired professors and heads of the department.

Gauhati East MLA Siddhartha Bhattacharya also attended the function. Dhruv Jayoti Saikia, VC, Cotton College State University, was the chief guest. The programme was convened by Pradip Sharma, Associate Professor of Department of Geography, Cotton College. He delivered the welcome address.

A souvenir, *Basundhara*, was released on the occasion by Professor Harendra Nath Shaw, retired professor of the Geography Department of the Gauhati University. A photo exhibition was also organised to revive the memories of the good old days. It was inaugurated by retired Professors Biraj Choudhury.

An informal interactive session was also held, in which the alumni shared their experiences as students and some cherished memories from their past. This was followed by formation of an alumni association.

Roads destroyed in name of water supply project: MLA

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: The fifth edition of "Ward Talks", organised by a city-based weekly, was held recently at the Geetanagar High School playground where hundreds of residents of Ward Number 21 of GMC participated, said a press statement.

Localities such as Ambikaguri Nagar, Geeta Nagar, Arunachal and Pariakalbari, among others, fall within the ward.

The discussion was chaired by Siddhartha Bhattacharya, MLA of Guwahati East constituency. Among others who participated were Hiranya Kumar Barman, Additional Deputy

Arun Sarma cremated with state honours

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: The mortal remains of eminent playwright, journalist, litterateur Arun Sarma was consigned to the flames today with full State honours at the Navagraha crematorium around 3 pm in the presence of a large number of his admirers from different walks of life.

Writer Eli Ahmed also paid her tributes to Sarma. His body was taken to the All India Radio, Guwahati centre, which he had joined as a producer in 1960. From there, the body was taken to Rabindra Bhawan, where a number of eminent personalities paid their homage to Sarma, remembering him as one of the greatest playwrights and a multifaceted personality who greatly enriched the cultural and literary fields of Assam.

The friends and admirers of the celebrated playwright thronged his Chenkukuthi residence since early morning to pay their homage to the creator of *Asishborod Rong* (The hues of blessings). Sarma breathed his last at a private hospital in Delhi yesterday. His body was brought to Assam last night.

"Not just a writer and dramatist, Arun Sarma was an institution in himself," said educationist Dr Amanjyoti Choudhury, who also recited a poem as a tribute to Arun Sarma.

In the words of his brother and eminent writer-journalist Apurba Sarma, Arun Sarma was a pioneer in introducing modern

thought process into the Assamese theatre literature. "Enriched with extensive study of the foreign literature, he also tried to bring in a new style of writing and story-telling. In the context of the family, he was the second head of the family whom we looked up to after the death of our father," he said.

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State Cultural Affairs Minister Naba Kuma Dolay said that Sarma would continue to live through his works. Regarding the preservation of his works, the minister said the State Government, in consultation with eminent cultural workers, would chalk out



Police personnel giving a gun salute to eminent playwright Arun Sarma at Navagraha crematorium in Guwahati on Tuesday. – UB Photos

a plan to preserve his works.

Film personalities Cheetana Das and Palitra Margherita, State BJP president Ranjit Dass, flutist Prabhat Sarma, singer Tarali Sarma and others also paid floral tributes to Sarma at the Rabindra Bhawan.

GUWAHATI, March 28: The Gaonpati High Court today rejected the bail petition of Habibur Rahman, who was arrested in connection with a rhino poaching case in Kaziranga National Park in 2012.

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Namami Brahmaputra**Dist admin to bring out cultural rally tomorrow**

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: To promote the Namami Brahmaputra festival, the Kamrup Metro district administration along with the Education Department is organising a cultural rally on March 30 from Nehru Stadium to Judges' Field.

The rally will begin at 8 am that day, said Dr M Angamuthu, Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metro. The Inspector of Schools

and the District Elementary Education Officer, Kamrup Metro, has already been instructed to chalk out the programme for the participation of the students to make Namami Brahmaputra, the biggest river festival in India, a great success. For this purpose, instructions have been given to the concerned authorities to provide buses for the transportation of the students," he said.

The DC appealed to all the students and the teachers

community to be part of the event "which would endorse the tourism and natural resources of the State and also glorify the mighty River Brahmaputra".

Apart from this, the Kamrup Metro district administration is organising an on-the-spot painting competition and essay competition on the theme of 'The mighty River Brahmaputra' at the Guwahati Circuit House on March 30 to create awareness among the student community.

Govt mints water taxis from airport to city

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: The State Government has mooted the idea of operating water taxis from the LGBI airport to the city through the Brahmaputra.

In fact, the Inland Water Transport Department plans to launch the service this year itself.

Speaking to journalists ahead of the Namami Brahmaputra festival in the city today, Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said that a feasibility study is being conducted and it would take around two months to complete it.

"We are planning to build a ghat on the Brahmaputra near

the airport. Our target is to operate around 50 water taxis on the river initially. We will put ASTC AC buses at the airport which would ferry the passengers to the ghat. From there, the passengers would be brought to the Kachanam ghat in the water taxis," Patowary said.

IVT director Bharat Bhushan Dev Choudhury said it was served in a survey that it takes just 18 minutes to reach the fancy Bazar in a water taxi. The Transport Department is also exploring the idea of including water taxi fee in the flight fares for those passengers who wish to take the service. Discussions are on with airline companies in this regard.



Activists of Protibondhi Suraksha Santha staging protest on their demands in Guwahati on Tuesday. – UB Photos

Teachers' training

GUWAHATI, March 28: A teachers' training programme was held at the Bishnu Nirmala Sishu Pithi Bhawan at Latasil here yesterday under the aegis of the Kamrup Metro district administration in association with the National Child Labour Project (NCLP).

In the daylong programme, teachers of the 54 Special Training Centres were imparted trained regarding the Child Labour Act and on how to make society aware against the menace of child labour.

Before the training programme, an inaugural meeting was held where Guwahati East MLA Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Kamrup Metro Deputy Commissioner, Dr M Angamuthu, and the Inspector of Schools

and the District Elementary Education Officer, Kamrup Metro, were present.

In his speech, Dr Angamuthu called for steps for eradication of child labour and appealed to workers of NCLP to create awareness in society against child labour.

Bhattacharya praised NCLP for its endeavour in working for eradication of child labour.

H Gowami, Deputy Labour Commissioner, Prasenjit Talukdar, Labour Inspector, and B Das, Child Protection Officer, participated as trainers.

– Staff Reporter

**Admission Notification-2017
SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MEGHALAYA**

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ALL'S WELL FOR THOSE WHO SLEEP @ 10PM

The better quality sleep you get the better your immune system gets. The better your immune system gets, the better your health gets. The better your health gets, the better your life gets.

According to a statistical study, lesser than 7 hours of sleep a night increased people's risk of catching a cold. This risk was 3 times higher than that of those

people who slept for 8 hours or more a night. What this study really uncovers is the need to get adequate good quality sleep to feel less stressed and increase mental alertness and daytime activity levels.

Deprivation of sleep, on the other hand has a cumulative and long lasting ill effect on overall health. It adversely affects the mood, well-being and decreases productivity by depleting energy reserves, hindering the ability to learn and process information and increases reaction time

to stimuli. On a regular basis, if sleep deprivation continues unchecked, it can open the doors to a variety of diseases, chronic as well as deadly - such as heart disease, kidney disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and stroke, along with a negative impact on cognitive performance. Various studies have also proven that sound sleep helps in restoring organs, muscles and replenishing immune cells.

The following guidelines are recommended to help improve both the quality and amount of sleep.

EXERCISE:

Exercise during the day, preferably in the late afternoon, at least 4 hours prior to bedtime. Exercise daily at the same time. This will help your body to adjust to a routine and help induce physical exhaustion at the end of the day. Aerobic exercise, not necessarily "aerobics," but the type that gets your heart beating, gets you sweating and panting for 20 minutes or more is better, but 45 minutes to an hour of brisk walking will suffice. Exercise is a great sleep inducer, when done at the right time.

TIMING REGULARITY:

Go to bed and get up at regular times, even if you're tired in the morning. Don't vary your time of going to bed or getting up. However, if you have consistent sleep problems, then try getting up half an hour earlier in the morning than your usual time; it may help you get to sleep that night.

RELAX INTO SLEEP:

Don't try to make yourself sleep. If you're unable to fall asleep after 20-30 minutes in bed, leave your bed, engage in some relaxing activity (such as sitting in a chair and listening to a relaxation tape, or having a cup of herbal tea), and do not return to bed until you're sleepy.

EAT LIGHT:

Avoid eating within 2 hours of bed time, but don't

go to bed hungry. If necessary, have a light snack, or warm milk. Avoid spicy foods. Avoid fluids within 2 hours of bed time to eliminate a trip to the bathroom in the middle of the night.

AVOID ALCOHOL:

Avoid any alcohol consumption or use of other substances in the evening. Avoid moderate-to-heavy use during the day. If you continue to have problems, stop use completely.

REDUCE COFFEEINE:

Reduce caffeine and nicotine consumption as much as possible. If you must have coffee, have it only in the morning and have no more than two cups.

DEVELOP A SLEEP RITUAL:

Work out a regular sleep ritual before bedtime. Develop a sedentary evening routine that begins an hour or 30 minutes before the desired bedtime.

a. Take a hot shower or bath - Coming out of a warm shower or bath into a cooler bedroom will cause a slight decrease in body temperature - a trigger for sleep.

b. Read - reading will still the mind and relax you, but be sure to read something with ink pages, not a backlit tablet. Avoid reading in bed.

c. Avoid mental or physical stimulation such as watching exciting TV or exercising.

d. Go to bed only when you feel sleepy or tired. If you do not fall asleep in 15-20 minutes, leave the bedroom and engage in one of your sleep

preparation rituals. Return to bed when you feel sleepy.

DE-STRESS: Everyone experiences stress. Here are some tips on how to manage it:

a. Do not lie in bed worrying about the challenges of the upcoming day. Anything you cannot resolve a couple of hours before you go to bed can be put off until the next day.

b. Try breathing exercises - Breathe deeply and slowly, from the diaphragm while lying in bed. Inhale for six seconds and then exhale for six seconds. This slow deep breathing is a trigger to tell the body to relax.

c. Try relaxation exercises - One exercise is to flex and then relax muscle groups, working one group at a time until you have completed your whole body. Paired with breathing exercises, this helps your body to release tension and relax completely.

CREATE A SLEEP-CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT:

Take some time to create an atmosphere conducive to sleep. Find ways to minimize noise and other distractions. A few simple modifications such as ear plugs, a device that emits "white noise", a humidifier, fan, blackout curtains, or eye shades may make the difference in helping you get the sleep you need. Also, check that your mattress is comfortable and supportive. If you have allergies, consider purchasing allergy proof pillow and mattress covers.

To know more, log on to www.sleepat10.com

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

A mind troubled by doubt cannot focus on the course to victory.

— ARTHUR GOLDEN

The Assam Tribune

Human trafficking

It's quite disturbing that Assam has emerged as a happy hunting ground for human traffickers, with official figures presenting a grim scenario. As per Union Home Ministry data, only 65% of the over 300 women and children trafficked from the State during 2016 could be rescued. Compared to the previous year, the number of trafficked children stood higher at 130 but only 37 of these children could be traced and rescued. The nefarious network of traffickers has been successful in luring out young women and children from impoverished families from backward areas under the pretext of providing them better livelihood options in places like Delhi, UP, Haryana, etc., and then selling them off to brothels or to 'employers' only to be sexually exploited. A large number of trafficked children are also being used in begging and in the organ trade. It is only due to efforts of a few NGOs that the lid has been blown off the sinister racket a few years back, with many girls rescued in recent years. Apparently, the Assam Police has cut a sorry figure in both preventing trafficking and rescuing those trafficked. As there has been no sustained crackdown hard on the thriving racket responsible for perpetuating the immoral business, the situation has failed to ease. On many occasions, it has been seen that the police is quite lackadaisical in taking cases of trafficking to their logical conclusion. For this to change, the administration and the courts need to pull up the police for their lapse. Besides, the police also need to be sensitized in handling trafficking cases. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has done well to take up the matter seriously with the police and he needs to intervene personally so that there is intensified vigil and surveillance of human trafficking.

To check the growing incident of human trafficking, we need to put in place an efficient anti-trafficking mechanism at the grassroots that can coordinate with the departments and agencies concerned at different levels. We also need an extensive database of all human resources available in our villages so that there can be monitoring of women, children and youth going outside Assam in search of job. Apparently, economic compulsions and lack of education have been at the root of the problem, with the interventions from the Government and non-government agencies failing short of making the desired impact. Strengthening the law-enforcing mechanism apart, crucial socio-economic issues need to be addressed for securing a long-term solution. Poverty, illiteracy, lack of employment avenues, etc., which constitute the breeding ground for the scourge can be overcome only with good governance. Some peculiar problems afflicting the North-east such as insurgency, ethnic unrest, flood, and large-scale immigration have worsened the situation. Women and children invariably happen to be the most vulnerable section in this nefarious trade, who are often lured out of the region with better job prospects, and even marriage, but generally end up getting trapped and exploited in the vicious sex racket.

Right to privacy

For the moment the Supreme Court of India has deferred a challenge to the Centre's notification making the use of Aadhaar cards compulsory in certain aspects of public life. This it has done for the pragmatic reason that such a subject of crucial importance has to be deliberated upon by a full-bench of seven justices; given the shortage in the number of judges the Indian courts are facing, formation of such a bench would take some time. The Apex Court too was of the opinion that there was no hurry in deliberating on the issue since an interim order of October 15, 2015 by a five-justice bench already offers protection against compulsory use of Aadhaar card for certain purposes. Even earlier, on August 11, 2015, a three-judge bench had restricted the compulsory use of Aadhaar cards making it voluntary in such social welfare schemes as receipt of food grains, kerosene and cooking gas. The October 15 directive had extended its scope to other social welfare measures as rural job-guarantee scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, provident fund and pensions for the aged widows and differently-abled individuals. This was the rationale for the latest Apex Court clarification that the Centre cannot insist on the production of Aadhaar cards to provide citizens with measures such as free midday meals to students, but can do so in services such as opening of bank account.

It may be noted that petitioners had opposed the Centre's notification making it mandatory for a person to show his Aadhaar card as identity proof for availing an array of welfare measures on two grounds. First was that a compulsory requirement violated an individual's right to privacy because it collects a person's biometric and other personal data which might be misused. At the same time, such a directive violates the provisions of the directives issued by the Court earlier and thus amounts to contempt of court. In an increasingly porous world, the protection of the right to privacy has become a global concern. In fact, entities like cellular service providers are going to great lengths to ensure that personal data does not enter the public domain without an individual's consent. However, in a nation like India with its enormous population, the inverse is equally true – there have been numerous cases of bogus claimants for welfare measures, something which might be prevented if infallible proof of identity like the Aadhaar card is made mandatory. In Assam, for instance, with its problem of illegal immigration, such a mode of individual identification might have come in handy for the detection and deportation of foreign nationals if it had been implemented long ago. However, one can rest assured that the learned judges of India's Apex Court will deliberate on the pros and cons of the issue and pass appropriate directives.

Indigenous rights vs political pragmatism

■ Sangeeta Sharma

Of the hallmarks of democracy, largely accepted as the best form of political system, is its scope for change. The elected class is held accountable and answerable through periodic elections. Nobody can escape that. Hence in India, the electorate exercises its highest political right and elects people who will govern the country every five years. The choice is based on what respective political parties promise for the upcoming years. There is also an underlying expectation that this party will deliver where other parties failed. The 2016 elections of Assam riding on a wave of change and an end to the misdeeds of previous governments was something like this.

The new BJP Government was voted to power with overwhelming majority to ensure that they could provide governance with a change and solve the long-standing problems that the State and the people have been suffering from. As the new government completes almost a year of being in power, it is not too early to analyse a few issues about what the new Government has delivered. In 2016 elections, the BJP gave the call of ensuring safety of the indigenous people and their rights. Their coalition took on board different political formations representing the various ethnic communities. The BPF which was earlier a part of the Congress Government also allied with the BJP. The call of the election was 'Jati, Mati, Bheti'. The newly-elected Government introduced the controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill which will

guard the identity of the Assamese nationality (*Jati*), the land of the State (*Mati*) and the foundation of Assamese nationalism (*Bheti*).

The Government started on a positive note. Immediate steps were taken to initiate the process of ensuring that the problems of the indigenous people were addressed. Despite electing a national party, the people were initially assured that the Government will work for safeguarding the interests of the State's indigenous communities. They looked up to the newly-elected Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. However, in one year, the Government has traversed a long distance from what was promised to the electorate. Some of the policies initiated by the Government would force us to rethink what their election manifesto promises.

To start with, the Government promised to safeguard the identity of the Assamese community. The long-drawn Assam Movement and the Accord that followed had certain provisions to ensure that the community did not become a minority in its own land. The interest of the *Asomiya Jati* is to be safeguarded. But rather than moving towards implementing the relevant clauses of the Assam Accord to safeguard the interests of these people, the Central Government introduced the controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill which will

provide a fertile ground for the creation of a greater composite Assamese society. Tragically, similar battles are being drawn again. If the Citizenship Amendment Bill is passed, Assam will have to house a large number of Hindu Bangladeshi and the Assamese language will again find itself pitted against the Bengali language. It is futile to expect the newly-induced Hindu Bangladeshi to accept the Assamese language and culture as they have been fighting for long to safeguard their own cultural identity.

Coming to the next crucial as-

pectively pave the way for giving citizenship to the Hindu Bangladeshi who were already in Assam or might immigrate in the future. The Assamese community struggled long for safeguarding our culture, identity and language. The memories of the language movement are still fresh in the minds of the people. At that critical juncture, the neo-Assamese or the Na-Asomiya community put their weight behind the Assamese people and

eventually gave the way for giving citizenship to the Hindu Bangladeshi who were already in Assam or might immigrate in the future. The Assamese community struggled long for safeguarding our culture, identity and language. The memories of the language movement are still fresh in the minds of the people. At that critical juncture, the neo-Assamese or the Na-Asomiya community put their weight behind the Assamese people and

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of land was given over to the private enterprise Patanjali. Around 150 acres of land in Balpara near Tezpur was given over to Patanjali for constructing a herbal and mega food park. It is again demanding 33 acres land more. It is to be noted that Patanjali was already allotted around 3,828 bighas of land in Chirang district in the BTC area. This was followed by massive protests as this will lead to large-scale eviction. While claims were made that this enterprise will create jobs, lack of skilled manpower makes it difficult to fathom that local people will be given any high end jobs in these enterprises.

Coming to the question of *Bheti* or the foundation of the Assamese community, Assam is known as the land of Sankar-Azan. Syncretic culture is the hallmark of the community and Assam is enriched by diversity that different communities contribute. But differentiating between immigrants on the basis of religion, introducing controversial policies like compulsory Sanskrit which is not even the root of many tribal languages of the region, will eventually loosen the secular ethos of Assamese identity and threaten the communal and ethnic harmony that has largely prevailed. The need of the hour is to remind the present Government of their electoral promises and ensure that no policy that will risk the integrity of *Jati, Mati, Bheti* of Assam is initiated.

The Assam Movement brought forth the bitter fact that the State earns very less revenue from its oil and tea production. The Assam Accord promised to address this. Rather than ensuring that the oilfields of Assam work in an efficient way and the people get their due, the new Government handed over a number of oilfields to the private sector stating low productivity. Interestingly, one of the companies that won such a bid, Megha Engineering and Infrastructure, could not complete a previous project worth Rs 2,400 crore in time. While land continues to be the cause of many conflicts, large tracts

ECE: a boon for children

■ Mrinal Bhaumik

Early Childhood Education (ECE) refers to the care and education of children from birth to eight years of age. The first eight years of a child's life is a period of tremendous growth and development. During this period, the brain develops at its fastest pace. The brain connections multiply exponentially in the first three years, and the potential for ensuring optimal development is very high up to age eight. During the first eight years, a large proportion of a child's brain develops as a consequence of interactions with the environment. This period is, therefore, regarded as a 'window of opportunity' that needs to be fully utilized and strengthened to ensure long-term benefits.

ECE is a child-centred, play-based and developmentally appropriate programme. It focuses on the all-round development of children by providing activities, experiences and opportunities for cognitive, language, social, emotional, physical and motor development. The National Policy on Education (NPE, 1986) hails ECE as "an important input in the strategy of human resource development, as a feeder and support programme for primary education and

1911, opined that high value should be placed on creativity that can be developed in children by providing them with expressive activities, play, art and movement. Jean Piaget, the Swiss developmental psychologist, categorically states that all children need to be provided at least one year of pre-school education in the age group of 3-6 years. ECE derives its theoretical base from a synthesis of ideas and principles propounded by a host of prominent forerunners of early childhood education. Friedrich Froebel, the originator of 'Kindergarten', was of the view that education should aim at fostering the natural development of children and therefore the curriculum at the early childhood stage should be child-centred in approach and based on the playful nature and interests of children. Maria Montessori, the world-renowned Italian educationist, observed that any attempt at educating children should be based on the desire of the child to learn spontaneously. Montessori visited India in 1924 and conducted several short-term courses and demonstrations in different parts of India, that exerted a profound influence on the domain of elementary education at that time. Rachel and Margaret McMillan, the co-founders of the first nursery school in London in

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experience for the child and individualized to meet his or her needs and interests.

It is to be noted that the curriculum of ECE should suit the child's requirements in different contexts and should be in tune with the age, needs and abilities of the child. The curriculum should also focus on the holistic development of the child in a stimulating and stress-free environment, fostering active exploration and experimentation through play and activity. Moreover, since it is an arguable fact that children learn best through play, all the four kinds of play, viz., free play, structured play, manipulative play and creative play should be an integral part of any ECE programme. Again, in order to ensure quality in ECE, the teachers have to be qualified, professionally trained and specifically sensitized to the perspectives of child development.

The assessment in ECE should be continuous and comprehensive in nature and observation can act as a potent tool in such assessment. The information gathered from the assessment can be utilized for classroom planning and for preparation of developmentally appropriate activities. It is important to note that a quality ECE programme depends on a strong partnership between the

teachers and the students' families. Parents are their children's first teachers and they have a telling influence on their children's attitudes, emotions, values and ideas.

A quality ECE programme should always focus on the development of the children's gross and fine motor skills. Gross motor skills involve control and coordination of large muscles (e.g., running, climbing, jumping, crawling and skipping), whereas fine motor skills involve the finer muscles (e.g., cutting, pasting, tearing, threading beads and clay modelling). Sand and water play, which develops the children's motor skills in an exciting and engaging setting, should be an integral part of early childhood education. In fact, sand and water play also develops their observation skills, stimulate their imagination as well as help them socialize and solve problems.

In fine, it may be deduced that the teachers and the parents need to know the characteristics of early childhood education in order to meet the educational needs of the children adequately and appropriately. Besides, by being cognizant of such characteristics, the pre-school teacher can plan for age and developmentally appropriate activities. It is important to note that a quality ECE programme depends on a strong partnership between the

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, — This is regarding the

development that Aadhaar card has been made mandatory by the Union Government for many purposes and the Supreme Court's recent directive on it. It has been made mandatory for the students appearing for all-India entrance examinations like JEE, NEET-UG and many other examinations of premier institutes. Aadhaar is also required for availing scholarships or fellowships awarded under the Central Government schemes. Though students from Assam have been exempted at the moment, they do face numerous problems while attending educational institutes outside Assam. Students without Aadhaar card are also not permitted to appear in entrance tests at centres outside Assam.

It is of equal concern, if not more, to learn now that the Aadhaar number has been made mandatory for senior citizens to avail concessions in train tickets from April 1, 2017. It

Aadhaar requirement and Assam

has also been made mandatory for filing IT returns and for applying for PAN card, this taking effect from July 1, 2017. It is only obvious that the list is only getting longer by the day.

As a consequence of these developments, the people of Assam stand to lose out or face severe difficulties on many schemes of things due to non-coverage under Aadhaar. The Government of Assam has conveniently cited the non-completion of the NRC as a reason of Majuli. It may be justified but only till the Government shows its true resolve to complete the NRC by 2017 as promised, and only if it takes proper steps to ensure that its citizens are not disadvantaged, whether they are in or outside Assam. Yours etc., ABHINJAN BARUA, Silchar.

Woes of Majuli

Sir, — Majuli has been fortunate to attain the distinction of becoming the first river island district in the country with another addition of a feather to its cap by the recent declaration of the island to be the India's first carbon neutral district and biodiverse heritage site. There may not be any ambiguity on the Government's efforts in planning development for Majuli since its takeover of power at Dispur. And the present Chief Minister, who happens to be the MLA of Majuli Assembly constituency, bears a strong political will to convert the river island into a dreamland for the islanders with a strong administrative mechanism. But the single-most problem of erosion that has made a large chunk of the population both landless and homeless, washed away a host of *Satra* institutions and handicapped the entire socio-economic structure of the island, appears to receive little attention in the present critical moment when the landmass is on the verge of total extinction.

Saving Majuli by digging the river Brahmaputra will be a distant dream and the Government, therefore, is expected that a holistic approach is adopted for appropriate protection measures based on ground reality bearing in mind the losing battles fought so far. Yours etc., CHANDRA BHUYAN, RG Baruah Road, Guwahati.

APSC exam schedule

Sir, — Under the leadership of the new chairman in-charge Brig Ranjit Borthakur (Retd.), the APSC has shown a commendable spirit in raising the lost glamour of the age-old institution which hit rock bottom during the tenure of Rakesh Paul. The first big thing the new chairman did was the publication of the academic calendar for the year 2017. Earlier, there used to be a dark cloud of uncertainty looming over as to when the exams will be held and results sometimes. It takes even a year to declare the interview results. However, now with this single step, the APSC has successfully reinstated the lost faith of the candidates on the institution. Moreover, the declaration of the results immediately after the conclusion of interview has raised fresh zeal and enthusiasm among the aspirants.

Now the big question here is: Will the APSC be able to stick to the schedule as published? Because any delay in an exam will initiate a chain of delays in the subsequent examinations and

the whole purpose of publication of the academic calendar will be a futile exercise. There have been rumours that the prelims of CCE 2016, which is scheduled to be held on the month of May, will be delayed to June or July. And these rumours (?) were in fact confirmed by the APSC officials when contacted over phone.

So through your esteemed daily, I would like to highlight the fact that any delay in the examination will break the spirit of the aspirants. The CCE is a very long process and a delay of a month in the prelims will lead to a delay of nearly six months on the whole process. With acknowledgement of his hard work and sincere efforts, I would like to request the present chairman to look into the matter considering the impact it will have on the future of the aspirants and ensure smooth conduct of the exam as per schedule to the best of his ability. Yours etc., AN ASPIRANT, Guwahati.

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

CM urged to address concerns

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: While lauding the initiative of the State Government for taking up measures to revive the glory of the mighty Brahmaputra and the project to create a express highway on both banks of the river, engineer JN Khatnar today asked Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to address the excavation and desilting-related concerns of the people simultaneously while planning the mega project.

Stressing that managing a river like the Brahmaputra by excavating and desilting will be a much challenging job keep-

ing in mind the geography, geology, environmental issues and river technologies, Khatnar said that massive silt deposition, a continuous natural process related to the Brahma-

Excavation, desilition of Brahmaputra

putra, is still a big hurdle in the 360-degree success of the ambitious project.

It may be noted that the Chief Minister has announced construction of an approximately 900 km-long express highway on both banks of the river from Sadiya in the east to Dhubri in the west, which is supposed to arrest the river

length, originating in China and flowing through India and Bangladesh to the Bay of Bengal, we have always concentrated on flood control problems and erosion management for which real problems could not be targeted. These issues need to be carefully considered for this prestigious project," he said.

"The utilities of a four-lane

express highway by the side of both banks of the river, right from Sadiya to Dhubri as proposed, should be need-based, as the starting point of both the roads will be from Sadiya in

one year.

"I would like to bring to the notice of the Chief Minister some of the aspects that need a relook in the project and also express concern over flood and erosion not getting the recognition as a national problem," Khatnar told *The Assam Tribune*.

"We should not forget the presence of Majuli, the biggest river island of the world located within the Brahmaputra, which is receding day by day due to massive loss of land mass caused by uncontrolled erosion, as a result of total mismanagement in adopting proper scientific approaches till date," he further added.

the extreme boundary of our country next to China. More over, suitability of using silt only in the express highway construction project is also a matter of concern from the engineering point of view," he stressed, adding that continuous accumulation of silt would eventually make it difficult for managing the growing silt year

by year.

Completion of the field visits,

the learning gap of each of the students studying in these schools will be properly assessed, enhancement of reading, writing and numerical ability will be ensured, awareness among teachers, students, administrators, communities and stakeholders for quality education will be successfully generated," the minister said.

Sarma also held video-conferencing with the Deputy Commissioners of the eight districts that will be covered in the first phase to take stock of the preparations and inaugurated a website of Gunotsav.

The Chief Minister and the Education Minister will visit schools in Kamrup (M) district in the first phase. An amount of Rs 15 crore had been earmarked in the budget for 2016-17 for Gunotsav.

He opined that the findings of the

programme are likely to lead to a

substantial increase in budgetary allocation for improving elementary education from next year. He added that report cards for individual students as well as schools are expected to be prepared within 60 days after

the completion of the field visits.

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erated," the minister said.

Sarma also held video-conferenc-

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of the eight districts that will be cov-

ered in the first phase to take stock

of the preparations and inaugurate a

website of Gunotsav.

The Chief Minister and the Education Minister will visit schools in Kamrup (M) district in the first phase. An amount of Rs 15 crore had been earmarked in the budget for 2016-17 for Gunotsav.

He opined that the findings of the

programme are likely to lead to a

substantial increase in budgetary

allocation for improving elementary

education from next year. He added

that report cards for individual

students as well as schools are expected

to be prepared within 60 days after

the completion of the field visits.

"It is expected that the learn-

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studying in these schools will be

properly assessed, enhancement

of reading, writing and numera-

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among teachers, students, ad-

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Sri Sri Basanta Deva Sarma, Burha Satradhikar of Barpeta Satra and Sri Sri Janardan Deva Goswami, Satradhikar of Uttar Kamalabari Satra along with others arriving at Neora Tighai on a boat en route to Guwahati for the Namami Brahmaputra festival, on Tuesday. — UB Photos

Rongali Utsav CORRESPONDENT

JAGIROAD, March 28: The Sadou Jagiroad Rongali Bihu Samelan will organise a two-day Rongali Utsav centrally at the Jagiroad HS School play ground here on April 16 and 17.

A 51-member celebration committee with nine co-committees was constituted with Jitendra Kr Deka, Suman Talukdar and Abanti Kr Bora, Ganesh Agarwalla as president, joint secretaries, treasurer respectively. A State-level 'Bhupendra-sangeet' competition will also be organised on the last day of the samelan.

OBITUARY

Diganta Sarma CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, March 28: Diganta Sarma, secretary of the Assam Sikhsak Karmachari Akhyayamancha and an Assistant Professor in English of Manabendra Sarma Girls' College of Rangia, breathed his last at the GMCH on March 27 evening due to illness. He was 42.

An active leader, Sarma was closely associated with the agitation for the provincialisation of the venture institution in the State since 2009. He was the secretary of Asom Yuva Parishad, Rangia district committee.

He leaves behind his father, mother, and wife.

Pramod Ch Bora CORRESPONDENT

JAGIROAD, March 28: Pramod Ch Bora (Baloo) of Jagi village under Mayong Circle died recently at a city nursing home, Guwahati due to urological disorders. He was 67.

A popular man among the people of the area, he was associated with several socio-cultural and religious organisations.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a host of relatives.

Silver jubilee celebration of Hitesh Raychaudhury Memorial school

CORRESPONDENT

GAURIPUR, March 28: The silver jubilee celebration of Hitesh Raychaudhury Memorial School established in 1990 in the Barpurnatty area of Gauipur was held on March 25 and 26 with a two-day colour programme.

On the first day of the celebration, the main flag was hoisted by Gautam Narayan Baru, president of the celebration committee and another 25 flags were hoisted by 25 invited guests. Smriti tarpan was performed by Azad Ali SK, retired

ADC and Mrinalini Sharma, mother of Health Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sharma paid floral tributes and garlanded the portrait of Hitesh Raychaudhury, a young entrepreneur who died in an accident in 1989. The cultural procession was flagged off by Mrinalini Sharma. The meet of the new and old students and teachers held in the afternoon was conducted by Ashoka Chakrabarty and attended by Anjali Brahma, working president of the Saou Asam Lekhaki Samoroh Samiti. Competitions on Bhupendra and Jyoti Sangeet and

Goalpariya folk song and dance were held in the evening.

On the second, tree plantation was conducted by a number of senior citizens. The open meeting held under the presidency of Satyajit Raychaudhury was attended by Dr Brahmanta Nath Ray Chaudhury, Ashok Chakrabarty, Dr Dhruba Chakrabarty and a few others. The souvenir published to mark the occasion was released by Mrinalini Sharma. An attractive cultural evening was also organised and was attended by the local and invited singers.

World Poetry Day

CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, March 28:

Karun Karma Junior Girls' College, Nahari observed World Poetry Day on March 21 with the inmates of the Nahari district jail. Anupama Devi, noted social worker and president of the governing body of the college and Amiya Kr Sarma, Principal of Amiya Kr Sarma, Principal of the college met the inmates of the jail and participated in the meeting organised on the occasion, which was presided over by Superintendent of the jail, Raju Hazarika Saikia.

A Devi on behalf of the college donated a number of books. Dr K K Goswami, the consulting physician of the jail was present to the meeting. A poetry book composed by Pra Dip Kaka (Kumar Bipul) an inmate of the jail was also distributed. Jagadish Deka, Jailor, offered the vote of thanks.

PMAY-G scheme launched in Darrang district

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, March 28:

Bringing a new wave of change in the rural housing sector of Darrang, the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) , Darrang on Thursday launched the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY-G) by starting the construction work of as many as 594 dwelling houses covering all the 51 gaon Panchayats (GP) under six Development Blocks across the district.

A ceremonial foundation stone laying function was organised in each of the GPs to mark the launching of the centrally sponsored biggest rural housing programme. Binanda Kr Saikia, MLA, Sipajhar along with Bupnes Ch Das, Chief Executive Officer, Darrang Zila Parishad-cum-PD DRDA, Darrang, Ganesh Ch Deka, BDO, Sipajhar, Development Block and Prashanta Baisya, Assistant Engineer, DRDA, Darrang laid the foundation stone of a house for a beneficiary in village Bhutabhati in Sipajhar.

On the sidelines of the function, the PD, DRDA, Darrang, Bupnes Ch Das informed the media that the Rural Development department has set a target of constructing a total of 4,258 dwelling houses under the scheme for the year 2016-17 and out of these, the construction work of 594 new housing units has been started with the help of its first instalment amounting to Rs 32,500 each released in the bank accounts of the respective beneficiaries through the process of Direct Bank Transfer (DBT) thereby leaving no option for any middleman culture in the process. A time of 90 days have been fixed for completion of each of the 4,258 targeted houses from the date of transfer of the first instalment of fund which will be followed by transfer of two more installments of Rs 78,000 and Rs 19,000 respectively depending on the progress of the work, he added.

He further informed that looking at the poor financial status of a beneficiary and the possibility of diversion of the Government fund to some of their daily family needs as being the individual holder of the said bank account, the Government in order to check such illegal practices and ensure completion of the construction work within the stipulated time, has introduced a new mechanism of signing of MoU between the implementing Government agency and the respective beneficiary for the

first time which may allow the Government to undertake necessary legal action against a beneficiary if his guilt has been proved.

Laptop distribution: Laptops were presented under the Anundouram Baroah Award sponsored by the State Government to a total of 2,034 meritorious students of Darrang district who had come out successful in HSLC, Assam High Madrasa, Sanskrit Tol and Senior Madrasa final examinations held in 2016 securing first division and above.

In this connection, the Darrang district administration organised a public award giving function at the district library auditorium here recently. Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, Ashok Kr Barman formally inaugurated the function in presence of MLAs from Sipajhar LAC and Kalagona LAC Binamda Kr Saikia and Maheswar Boro respectively and other guests including Bupnes Ch Das, CEO, Darrang Zilla Parishad, Madhusudan Nath, DDC, Darrang, Dr Khagendra Kr Nath, Principal, Mangaldai College and Kalpana Deka, ADC, Darrang besides several hundreds of teachers, guardians and selected students.



With Rongali Bihu round the corner, an artisan making pepa, at Demow on Monday. — UB Photos

Bharat Chandra Sharma: a tribute



Bharat Ch
Sharma, a
resident of
Kamarchub
tezpur, a
renowned
educationist and
retired principal
of Tezpur Academy and
Tezpur Bengali HS School left
for his heavenly abode on
March 19.

Born in 1932 at Tezpur, after
completion of his graduation,
he proceeded to Alla
habad University to pursue

MA in English and after com
pletion of his Master degree,
he started his career as an As
sistant Teacher in Bihaguri HS
School and thereafter, in the
year 1971, he joined as Vice
Principal of Tezpur Academy
and subsequently he was pro
moted to the post of principal.
Thereafter, he was appointed
as principal of Tezpur Bengali
HS School and retired in the
year 1992 from his service.

He was honoured with the
prestigious President's Medal

for his distinguished service as
teacher in the year 1987. He has
also authored English Grammar
and History books for the stu
dents of Class V and VI.

He was a human being par
excellence. One personal qual
ity that I always recall is his
genuine affection and over
whelming kindness to people
around him. He walked with
kings yet lost not the common
touch. A dedicated member of
Ban Theatre till his last day, he
was also associated with vari
ous socio-cultural and reli
gious organisations of Tezpur.

He was sailing for some time,
He fought with time but lost
the battle and finally he an
swered the inevitable sum
mons from his maker.

He is survived by his wife,
one son and two daughters
along with host of relatives.

Today, on the day of his ady
ashraddha, I pray to the Al
mighty for eternal peace of his
noble soul.

— Hemanta Kumar Sarma

Deb Kumar Banerjee

Deb Kumar Banerjee, a re
tired engineer of the Military
Engineering Service, Govern
ment of India, a noted social
worker and secretary of Ram
Krishna Sevashram, Tezpur

ing HSLC, he joined at Dar
rang College, Tezpur in Sci
ence stream and after passing
Higher Secondary, he joined the
Technical Institute, Calcutta
where from he passed Di
ploma in Engineering. After
passing, he joined in the MES in
1967 at Barpeta and served at
Calcutta, Silchar, Misamari and
lastly at Tezpur and retired from
the year 2008.

Late Banerjee served with

award from the President of
India.

He joined the Tezpur Ram
Krishna Sevashram where the
committee appointed him as
secretary for dedication as
a worker. He renovated the
guest room of Ram Krish
na Sevashram, started free hos
pital for poor students and free
schooling in his Ashram Com
plex and lastly he started a
charitable Homeopathic dis
pensary at Ashram complex.
His dream was to start a
guest house at Ashram Com
plex for the devotees and vis
itors. He was connected with

various socio-cultural and reli
gious organisations of Tezpur.

He was a human being par
excellence. One personal qual
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mons from his maker.

He is survived by his wife,
one son and two daughters
along with host of relatives.

Today, on the occasion of his
adyashraddha, I pay my hom
age to the departed soul.

— SC Biswas

'Gap between the haves, have-nots still wide open'

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, March 28: The Depart
ment of Law and Community Col
lege, Tezpur in collaboration with
the National Human Rights Commis
sion, New Delhi organised a day long training
programme on human rights at the Uni
versity campus recently.

The resource persons included,
Justice Dr MK Sharma, former Judge of the
Supreme Court and Justice Dr AH Sa
kia, Chairperson, Meghalaya Human
Rights Commission, among others.

Delivering the inaugural address, as

the chief guest, Justice Sharma said that

the Indian Constitution incorpo
rates all subjects including human rights and em
phasises on the three kind of justice – social,

economic and political. Although we have given political justice, but social and economic justice is yet to be fully delivered as the gap between haves and have-nots remains wide open, he said.

Later, he took part in a special session,

where he elaborated upon various provi
sions of the Indian Constitution regard
ing the Rights available to the citizens.

He also discussed the Universal Decla
ration of Human Rights Act, 1993, which

ensures fundamental human rights to be
universally protected and practised.

Bodoland state and ensuring political
rights for the Bodos living outside the
proposed Bodoland.

The dharma programme was addressed by
the vice-president, ABSU, Dipen Boro,
adviser, ABSU, Khowinkhra Swargiary,
president, Sonpur ABSU, Birud Boro,
adviser, SDC, ABSU, Sujata Basumatary,
officer, bearers of the woman wing of the
students' body Dayabati Swargiary, Jubani Narzary, Beulyata
Basumatary, Sajala Narzary, Sopon Gogo
and Soroni Ramchari. Over 1000
people from various parts of the district
attended the programme.

Speaking at the dharma programme,
the vice-president, ABSU, Dipen Boro
said that ABSU and its supporting orga
nisations have been involved in a series
of mass democratic Bodoland move
ment over the last many years, but the
creation of a separate State by the Gov
ernment of India has not materialised till
date. Coming down heavily on both the
State and the Central Governments for
their alleged failure to meet their pre
commitments of creating a separate State
for the aboriginal Bodos, Dipen Boro further said that there must be Bod
oland State under the provisions of Article
2 & 3 of the Constitution of India to
protect, preserve and safeguard the iden
tity of the Boro and other tribal people

with language, culture and tradition.

Expressing strong resentment over the

Government's apathetic mood towards

the Bodos, Dipen Boro also said that many

agitation programmes have taken place

and based on the commitment by Satyendra Garg, Joint Secretary, Home (NE)

for holding tripartite talks in Guwahati

with the Government, major agitational
programmes like the National Highway
Blockade Programme in January was post
poned. "However, the assurance has not
materialised till date," he said.

Addressing the protesters, ABSU ad
viser, Khowinkhra Swargiary appealed to
the Government of India to immediately
come forward with a pragmatic policy
decision on the Bodoland issue and polit
ical rights of the Bodos of the region
through appropriate political talks in the
presence of the Home Minister of India.

World TB Day: "We must unite to
end TB by identifying and treating pa
tients to eradicate TB from India," said
Dr Anju Moni Chetia, District TB Off
icer, Sonapur district while addressing a
public meeting at the Nursing Training
Center, Kamaklata civil hospital on World
TB Day recently. She added that tuberc
ulosis could be reduced by building
awareness about the disease and making

efforts at eliminating it as tuberculosis is
curable and preventable. She further said
that the people must be aware about the
disease and the treatment provided by
the Government.

It was also revealed that 2915 cases of
tuberculosis have been detected in Son
pur district comprising Tezpur and Biswanath
and Gohpur subdistricts and all the TB positive patients are getting treatment under DOTS. The multi drug resistance (MDR) TB cases in 2016 was 36. "Total MDR cases registered under
DOTS programme since 2012 is 207 in Son
pur district are getting proper treat
ment as the District TB centre is func
tioning with 85% success rate among the
positive TB cases and 5% default cases," it
was informed.

Free medical camp: A free medical
camp was conducted by Rotaract Club of
Guwahati Luit, Rotary Club of Tezpur &
Narayana Superspeciality (BAFNA) Hos
pitals Guwahati at Shree Shree Hari Sab
ha here recently.

The daylong Mega Free Health
Check-up Camp christened as 'Umeed'
was formally inaugurated by Prashant
Bengani, President of Rotaract Club of Tez
pur, Tushar Jahan President, Rotaract Club
of Guwahati Luit, Sankul Baruah, Senior
Executive, Narayana Superspeciality Hos
pitals Guwahati.

BAFNA Hospitals Guwahati along
with other members.

**Protest against Muivah's state
ment:** Various organisation including
AASU, AATSA and Congress workers
registered their strong protest at the
recently held meeting against the NSCN supremo T Muivah's statement on Framework agreement
for the proposed Nagaland and the pur
ported Central Government's support to it.
The protesters burnt the effigy of Prime
Minister Narendra Modi and T Muivah at
the heart of the town here and in Dikie
juli town near Nafad Maidan.

Coming down heavily on the BJP Gov
ernment, general secretary of Sonapur
District Committee Congress, Bikash Kalita
said that Government which was
elected with the commitment of assur
ance of protecting jati, mati and bheti is
now unable to protect the people of Assam.
Echoing the same sentiments, the
AATSA central executive, Mohan Tanti
said that Adivasis have shed their bloods
at the hands of the Nagas for protecting
their lands in the Assam-Nagaland border
areas. "We will protect our land at
any cost and not let Nagas get Assam
land. We appeal to the both Central and
State Governments to clear their stand
in this regard," he said.

Nagaland employees call off strike

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, March 28: The Nagaland government employees have called off their ongoing pen-down strike today.

In a letter to Nagaland Chief Secretary, Confederation of All Nagaland State Services Association president and convenor of State Services Associations S Takutlu Aier informed that the government employees' associations have accepted the offer of the government on condition that the government immediately issue notification for implementation of 7th ROP

nationally with effect from July 1, 2017 and actual payment from January 1, 2018. The association also said the agitation was withdrawn on another condition that the increment be effected from December 1, 2017 on the basis of notional fixation effected from June 1, 2017 and the same may be mentioned in the notification.

On Monday, the Nagaland Cabinet requested the agitating employees to call off their pen-down strike and resume duty.

The Cabinet sat met on Monday during which it expressed concern over the pen-down strike by the State government employees.

NOTICE

Some applications have been received by this Directorate from students passing MBBS from Medical Colleges outside the state of Assam praying for allowing to do internship training in the Medical Colleges of Assam. In view of this a counseling shall be held in the office of the undersigned on 01.04.2017 at 12 noon. All interested candidates who have passed MBBS from Medical Colleges outside the state of Assam and are willing to do internship training in the Medical Colleges of Assam may come for the counseling at the office of the Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmille, Khanapara with all relevant documents on the said date and time.

Sd/- Prof. (Dr.) A. K. Barman
Director of Medical Education, Assam
Sixmille, Khanapara, Guwahati-22

Janasanyog/10631/16

State Level Science Exhibition

The State Level Science Exhibition for School Children from class VI to XII is going to be organised by SCERT, Assam from 3rd to 6th May 2017 at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati. The main theme of the exhibition is "Science, Technology, and Mathematics in Nation building". The selected exhibits will represent the state in the Jawaharlal Nehru National Science, Mathematics and Environment Exhibition organised by NCERT, New Delhi in November 2017. Heads of the Schools should contact the concerned Inspectors of Schools/ District Elementary Education Officer in the respective districts. The guideline for the exhibition will be uploaded in SCERT's website: www.scertassam.net.in. For further communication they can communicate through the telephone no. 03612382507.

Sd/- Director,

SCERT, Assam, Guwahati-781019

Janasanyog/10636/16

অসম লোকসেৱা আয়োগ
ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

No. 105PSRC/13/2016/2017

NOTIFICATION

It is for information of all concerned that the below mentioned candidates for the post of Deputy Director (Serology Division) in the Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam, Guwahati are hereby notified that their essential documents as indicated against their names by 31.03.2017 by 5.00 P.M.

Subject to receipt of documents to the satisfaction of the Commission with the specified time mentioned above, the candidates may be allowed to appear in the Viva-Voce interview to be held shortly.

I/II Deputy Director, Serology Division in the Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam, Guwahati.

Sl. No.

Name

Father's Name

Documents Required

1. FREEMAN BORO KHAGEN BORO Minimum 5 years experience certificate

2. BOBITA PAYENG LALIT CHANDRA PAYENG -Do-

3. NAYANA HAZARIKA ANUPAM KUMAR HAZARIKA -Do-

4. ABHINATA BORAH TULSI BORAH -Do-

5. ABANI KUMAR PATAR BABUL PATAR -Do-

6. HIWYANG NARZARY JITTEN NARZARY -Do-

7. BHABAJIT DOLEY MININDRA DOLEY -Do-

8. APARNA JYOTI RABHA LIT PRADIP RABHA -Do-

Note:

1. All the documents related to educational qualification must be issued on or before the closing date of the advertisement i.e 20.02.2017.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary,
Assam Public Service Commission
Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22

Janasanyog/10648/16

No. BN/62/2017/2

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Building), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites fresh bids for the following works having financial nature of work.

Details of the bid may be seen in e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 30-03-2017 to 10-04-2017.

The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Sl. No.

Name of Work

Approx. Value of work

Time of completion

Earnest Money Deposit

E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of

Tender Cost

1. BN/BOP-01 Implementation of Scheme under State Specific Fund for up gradation of BOP and strengthening of road communication 2015-16 at Kheria in Golaghat district.

Rs. 1,67,20,500.00

12 (twelve) months

Rs. 8,44,000.00
(for General)
Rs. 1,67,250.00
(for reserved category)Enginner PWD,
Jorhat Building
Division, Jorhat
Assam

5000.00

-Do-

Rs. 3100.00

2. BN/BOP-02 Implementation of Scheme under State Specific Fund for up gradation of BOP and strengthening of road communication 2015-16 at Nawnihal in Golaghat district.

Rs. 1,04,76,700.00

12 (twelve) months

Rs. 2,0,90,000.00
(for General)
Rs. 1,04,800.00
(for reserved category)

-Do-

Rs. 3100.00

3. BN/BOP-03 Implementation of Scheme under State Specific Fund for up gradation of BOP and strengthening of road communication 2015-16 at Goraijan in Golaghat district.

Rs. 1,04,76,700.00

12 (twelve) months

Rs. 2,0,90,000.00
(for General)
Rs. 1,04,800.00
(for reserved category)

-Do-

Rs. 3100.00

4. BN/BOP-04 Implementation of Scheme under State Specific Fund for up gradation of BOP and strengthening of road communication 2015-16 at Ratangpur in Golaghat district.

Rs. 1,04,76,700.00

12 (twelve) months

Rs. 2,0,90,000.00
(for General)
Rs. 1,04,800.00
(for reserved category)

-Do-

Rs. 3100.00

5. BN/BOP-05 Implementation of Scheme under State Specific Fund for up gradation of BOP and strengthening of road communication 2015-16 at Neginjan in Golaghat district.

Rs. 1,01,06,500.00

12 (twelve) months

Rs. 2,0,20,000.00
(for General)
Rs. 1,01,100.00
(for reserved category)

-Do-

Rs. 3000.00

6. BN/BOP-06 Implementation of Scheme under State Specific Fund for up gradation of BOP and strengthening of road communication 2015-16 at 2 Morigaon village in Jorhat district.

Rs. 1,01,06,500.00

12 (twelve) months

Rs. 2,0,20,000.00
(for General)
Rs. 1,01,100.00
(for reserved category)

-Do-

Rs. 3000.00

Sd/- Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building),
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-2

Janasanyog/6027/16

NSCN-IM silent on Centre's reaction

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, March 28: Af-

ter Union Home Minister

Rajnath Singh termed NSCN-

IM general secretary Th

Maivah's statement that New

Delhi has said "yes" to inte-

gration of Naga areas as "er-

roneous," there were no re-

sponses from the outfit and instead

it maintained a studied silence

over the Government of India's

flat response over Muivah's

statement.

For two consecutive days,

Muivah had said the Government

of India had agreed to integration

of Nagaland areas in the Frame-

work Agreement signed on

August 3, 2015.

The NSCN-IM general sec-

retary first claimed this

March 21 and reiterated the same while speaking to cadres at a Council meeting at Camp Helirom the very next day.

A local daily here reported quoting an NSCN-IM source that "there will be some meetings over this." The Government of India is very cautious while addressing the issue of integration vis-a-vis the Naga areas.

There was no official response from the outfit and instead it maintained a studied silence over the Government of India's flat response over Muivah's statement.

For two consecutive days, Muivah had made an impassioned speech at Camp Helirom last week to which there were animated reactions in Assam and Manipur over the weekend.

The report said that a statement from the NSCN-IM is likely to be issued over the next few days making clear the context of statements from both

Muivah and New Delhi. The Framework Agreement is understood to have included the concept of a pan-Naga body that would facilitate integration of Naga people across State boundaries. However, a clear picture of whether this would amount to integration of political boundaries is not clear.

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reactions, particularly in Imphal Valley, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs quickly issued a rejoinder on March 25.

Naga talks interlocutor RN Ravi had, according to report published in *The Assam Tribune*, reiterated the Government of India's stand that there is no agreement with the NSCN-IM on integration of Naga territories.

The NSCN-IM has been demanding integration of all Nagaland-inhabited areas in Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Manipur has been vocal in its opposition to this demand and has forced successive Prime Ministers to fly to Imphal and clarify its position on the territorial integrity of Manipur.

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CAPSULE

ICICI Bank

NEW DELHI, March 28: ICICI Bank today announced a partnership with mobile app firm Trucaller for a newUPI-based mobile payment service. Called Trucaller Pay, it will allow users of the app to instantly create a UPI id, send money to any UPI id or a mobile number registered with the BHIM app. ICICI Bank said in a statement: - PTI

Berger Paints

KOLKATA, March 28: Leading paint company Berger Paints has started commercial production at its Jorhat plant. The plant would manufacture automotive and general industrial paints and would have a production capacity of 4800 kilolitres per annum. - PTI

Britannia

NEW DELHI, March 28: FMCG major Britannia Industries today said it has entered into a joint venture with Greek firm Chipta SA for producing and selling ready-to-eat croissants in India. The estimated investment in the joint venture company - British Foods Ltd - in Phase I is Rs 100 crore. - PTI

V-Guard

NEW DELHI, March 28: Consumer electrical and electronics player V-Guard Industries today said it has received principle approval from its board to acquire a majority stake in Guts Electromech Ltd... - PTI

Datavind

MONTREAL, March 28: Canadian mobile device maker Datavind has plans to invest Rs 100 crore in telecom services business in the first six months of getting a licence and offer data services at Rs 200 per year. The company, known for making low-cost tablets and smartphones, has applied for a pan-India virtual network operator licence in the country. - PTI

ASUS laptop

NEW DELHI, March 28: Taiwanese electronics giant ASUS today launched ZenBook UX330 premium ultra-thin laptop with aluminium design inspired by the Swiss watch and a Japanese Zen garden. The notebooks are available across all online retailers at a starting price of Rs 76,990. - IANS

Yakult Danone

NEW DELHI, March 28: Probiotic drink maker Yakult Danone India is expecting India to be one of its leading market on global scale in the coming years as the company is enhancing its sales network. Yakult Danone India has signed Japan-based Yakult Honsha and Groupe Danone of France, today roped in Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty as its brand ambassador as it plans to promote health benefits about the product. - PTI

PVR target

NEW DELHI, March 28: Multiplex operator PVR is looking at around 90 per cent jump in revenue to around Rs 4,000 crore in four to five years driven by expansion across the country. The company has set a target of 1,000 screens in next four to five years. - PTI

Ashok Leyland

NEW DELHI, March 28: Hinduja flagship firm Ashok Leyland will invest Rs 400 crore to develop new light commercial vehicles within the next two years and plans to triple its sales in the segment by 2019-20. - PTI

Land leasing, house renting to attract GST from July 1

NEW DELHI, March 28: Come July 1 and leasing of land, renting of buildings as well as EMIs paid for purchase of under-construction houses will start attracting the Goods and Services Tax.

Sale of land and buildings will be however out of the purview of GST, the new indirect tax regime. Such transactions will continue to attract the stamp duty, according to the legislation Finance Minister Arun Jaitley introduced in the Lok Sabha yesterday for approval.

Electricity has also been kept out of the GST ambit.

GST, which the government intends to roll out from July 1, 2017, will subsume central excise, service tax and State VAT among other indirect levies on manufactured goods and services.

The Central GST (CGST) Bill – one of the four legislations introduced,

states that any lease, tenancy, easement, licence to occupy land will be considered as supply of service.

Also, any lease or letting out of the building, including a commercial, industrial or residential complex for business or commerce, either wholly or partly, is a supply of services as per the CGST Bill.

The GST Bills provide that sale of land, sale of building, except the sale of under-construction building, will neither be treated as a supply of goods nor a supply of services. Thus GST can't be levied in those supplies.

"Goods" in earlier drafts of the Bills were defined as every kind of movable property other than money and securities but includes actionable claim. "Services" were defined as anything other than goods. It was thought that GST may be levied on supply of

immoveable property such as land or building apart from levy of stamp duty.

But the Bills presented in Parliament now have clarified this position.

Tax experts said that currently service tax is levied on rents paid for commercial and industrial units, although it is exempt for residential units.

Deloitte Haskins Sells LLP Senior Director MS Mani said: "While service tax is applicable at present on sale of under-construction apartments, it is levied on a lower value as abatement allowed. The abatement is ostensibly to take care of the value of the land involved in the construction of apartments."

He said the GST Rules, which will come up for discussion in the Council meeting on March 31, would help ascertain whether a lower rate of GST is proposed for such transactions or whether a similar abatement proce-

dure would be prescribed.

"This would also be dependent on the rate fixation committee which is expected to finalise its recommendations in April," Mani said.

Experts said service tax is currently levied on payments made for under-construction residential houses after providing abatement, which brings down the effective rate from 18 per cent to around 6 per cent.

"The government is trying its best to make GST litigation-free. The Bills very clearly specify that GST would be charged on any lease of land or letting out of the building or construction of a complex, building, civil structure or a part thereof, where whole or any part of consideration has been received before issuance of completion certificate or its first occupation," Nangia & Co Director Rajat Mohan said. - PTI



A Canadian delegation led by Bardish Chagger, Government House Leader and Minister of Small Business and Tourism of Canada, meeting Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilisers and Parliamentary Affairs, Ananth Kumar, in New Delhi on Tuesday. - UNI

Minimum balance

Penalty by banks must be reasonable: Govt

New Delhi, March 28: The charges levied by banks in case minimum balance is not maintained in accounts must be reasonable, and should be a fixed percentage on the difference between the actual and required balance, the government said today.

"Banks should ensure such penal charges are reasonable and not out of line with the average cost of providing the services," Minister of State for Finance Santosh Kumar Gangwar said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

"In case a customer fails to enclose minimum balance with-

in a month, the banks can levy penal charges, which should be a fixed percentage levied on the difference between the actual balance maintained and the minimum balance agreed upon at the time of opening of the account," he said.

The Minister said that in the event of default on agreed minimum balance/average minimum balance, the bank should notify the customer clearly through SMS, e-mail and later in case the minimum balance is not restored within a month from the date of notice, penal charges will be levied in the Rajya Sabha.

The RBI has said that banks have been advised to formulate a policy on penal charges with the approval of the bank board concerned. - IANS

maintains the minimum balance within one month, no penal charges should be levied, he added.

Scheduled commercial

banks (excluding regional rural banks) have the freedom to fix service charges on various services rendered by them, as per their board-approved policy subject to general instructions on levy of service charges by banks contained in the Reserve Bank of India's Master Circular.

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Telcos ask DoT for mechanism to control mobile handset quality

New Delhi, March 28: The COAI has flagged the issue of mobile device quality impacting data throughput and call drops and asked the government to work out a "proper mechanism" to control the quality of handsets in the country.

The cellular operators' body has claimed that there has been a "massive influx of untested and uncertified smartphones (more than 10,000 models in India) due to design variations introduced by the device manufacturers".

The Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) contended that the onus of call drops and service quality has been attributed squarely to

operators in the recent past, but "the role of devices in issue of service quality and call drops has not been considered adequately".

It has sought an "urgent policy intervention", drawing attention of the Telecom Department to degradation in data in case of dual-SIM LTE mobile devices.

..It is of paramount importance that a proper mechanism to address and control the quality of mobile devices in India is devised. In absence of such a regime, the impact on network quality could blow out of proportion, especially with the influx of more affordable devices in the market and the creation of new device ecosystems,"

tem with Internet of Things," the association said.

COAI has shot off a letter to Telecom Commission Chairman claiming that tests conducted on some dual-SIM 4G handsets revealed that placing a SIM, which has only 4G LTE capability, in the second slot (meant for 2G only) significantly deteriorated the throughput of any other operator's 4G SIM present in the main slot, by up to 40 per cent.

"The analysis so far points to a chipset-specific implementation by MediaTek. All the device models that have the MediaTek chipsets are likely to have this issue. It is estimated that MediaTek chipsets are present in more

than 35 per cent of the smartphones in the country," COAI alleged.

Responding to the charges, a MediaTek India representative said that the company "recently became aware of these reports and it is of the utmost priority to address".

"While MediaTek's solutions are globally compliant and fully adhere to all global standard bodies-defined guidelines, we are already working closely with all the telecom operators to ensure any reported issues are resolved..

The Indian mobile market is a key focus and of great importance for MediaTek," the company representative said in a statement. - PTI

Over 75% MNCs prefer India for outsourcing: Survey

Mumbai, March 28: Buoyant economy, regulatory reforms have made India the most preferred market for outsourcing business among more than 75 per cent multinational companies, says a survey.

However, higher costs and economic uncertainty following the introduction of demonetisation at the end of last year as well as the impact of the new US administration were found to be concerns with the MNCs, according to the survey carried out by leading real estate consulting firm CBRE.

"More than 75 per cent of the multinationals consider India as preferred market for outsourcing," the survey said.

The analysis largely focuses on the responses received from the 50 multinationals respondents. As per the findings, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi NCR have emerged as the most preferred destinations for expansion by the companies.

"Companies displayed strong intentions to expand in tier 1 cities with the technology and outsourcing hub of Bengaluru receiving the strong-

est interest," CBRE said.

It also noted that IT firms in Bengaluru growing larger, an increasing number of companies are opting to expand in tier II cities such as Chennai and Hyderabad, which offer more space to choose from, lower operating costs and rapidly improving infrastructure.

The survey found that about 50 per cent of multinationals will invest more in their workplace and space efficiency programmes, ranking it as their main priority for the coming year. - PTI

NITI Aayog preparing Cabinet note

New Delhi, March 28: Government think-tank NITI Aayog is preparing a fresh Cabinet note recommending closure of 7 more sick PSUs as part of an exercise to tackle mounting losses incurred by these entities.

"Cabinet note is being prepared for closure of 7 more sick PSUs," a senior government official told PTI.

The Aayog, tasked with preparing a roadmap for ailing public sector undertakings, had

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Women dressed in traditional costumes ride motorbikes as they attend celebrations to mark the Gudi Padwa festival, the beginning of the New Year for Maharashtrians, in Mumbai on Tuesday. — UNI

Prez poll: CPI(M) to take a call once NDA decides candidate

NEW DELHI, March 28: The CPI(M) today sought to side-step the issue of supporting a joint opposition nominee for the upcoming Presidential elections, saying such a decision can be taken only after the ruling BJP-led NDA decides to put up a candidate.

"It has to be a collective decision. The party (BJP) which has the highest number of votes in the collegium (electoral college) has to take the first step. ... Based on that, all other parties will (take a decision)."

"However, till now there is

no such initiative, nor is there any indication," CPI(M) leader Mohd Salim told reporters here.

He was replying to a question on whether the Left would put up a candidate or support a joint opposition candidate for the presidential poll. To repeated questions including one from Shiva Sena MP Rohtagi about the name of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat for the top position, he said, "Let something come out ... Let there be some serious proposal."

Asked what if such a name crops up, he said, "Of course, then it will give an opportunity

to the opposition to come together."

Safin also castigated the NDA government for clubbing major amendments on various laws, including the Competition Commission, with the Finance Bill, thereby "giving a go-by to thorough debate on such crucial legislations in Parliament".

He said there was a proposal to merge the Competition Com-

mission of India with the National Company Law Tribunal and "both of them have completely different mandates".

Accusing the government of

"minimising the importance of parliamentary norms and procedures", he said, "while the government accuses the opposition of disrupting Parliament, when the Lok Sabha is running smoothly, why can't it discuss these important issues. Why are they avoiding debate?"

Targeting the Trinamool Congress, the CPI(M) MP said it was pursuing "an agenda which suits the Sangh Parivar. ... There are ample examples of that. It is a 'blow hot, blow cold' relationship with the Sangh Parivar." — PTI

Mamata calls for crack-down on child trafficking

KOLKATA, March 28: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday directed the state police and the bureaucracy to responsibly monitor the issue of child trafficking and stop the traffickers at all costs.

"The police and the block development officers (BDO) have to take responsibility to thoroughly monitor the issue of child trafficking in the state. Whoever is involved in trafficking should not be spared," Banerjee said during an administrative meeting in West Bengal's Jalgajpur district.

She also asked the other departments associated with the matter to play their role so that trafficking can be stopped.

"Apart from the police and the BDOs, those who are associated with child welfare have to look into the issue. This is also a responsibility of the Social Welfare Officers. The Women and Child Department also has to play the role they are expected to," the Trinamool Congress supremo said.

Banerjee's comments come against the backdrop of a recent crackdown at a

Jalgajpur-based child adoption centre, for its alleged involvement in several cases of child trafficking.

According to CID sources, 17 newborns were trafficked to various parts of India and abroad in the name of adoption by producing manufactured documents.

Several persons, including political leaders, child protection officers, doctors and owners of the accused child adoption centre, were arrested by the sleuths earlier this month for involvement in the case. — IANS

CBI seeks cancellation of Jagan's bail

NEW DELHI, March 28:

The CBI has moved the special CBI court in Hyderabad seeking cancellation of bail of YSR Congress chief Jagan Mohan Reddy in a corruption case. CBI sources said Reddy was allegedly trying to influence a witness in the corruption case against him.

The government sought to address the concerns by saying the process was under way for filling up these vacancies before the parties like the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the JD(U) and the BSP kept demanding a commitment that it will be done within a week.

The House was reportedly adjourned and finally for the day at 3.10 pm as the opposition parties insisted on an immediate discussion on the issue.

The Chair, however, said that their notices for a discussion under an Adjournment Motion have been disallowed.

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot, who spoke amid the din, said the probe has been probing cases of corruption against Reddy. — PTI

RS proceedings washed out in protests over vacancies in Commissions

NEW DELHI, March 28:

Proceedings in the Rajya Sabha were washed out today due to relentless protests by the Opposition members over vacancies in the commissions for SCs, STs, backward classes and minorities.

The government sought to address the concerns by saying the process was under way for filling up these vacancies before the parties like the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the JD(U) and the BSP kept demanding a commitment that it will be done within a week.

The House was reportedly adjourned and finally for the day at 3.10 pm as the opposition parties insisted on an immediate discussion on the issue.

The Chair, however, said that their notices for a discussion under an Adjournment Motion have been disallowed.

He said that in 2007 and 2010, when Congress-led government was in power, there was a delay of three and five months, respectively, in

the Leader of Opposition has to be there in Lokpal selection panel, the apex court had said that the LoP is "dispensable" and things can proceed without the LoP who can be replaced by the leader of the largest opposition party in the committee.

The apex court had also expressed disappointment when the Centre said the amendment to replace the LoP with the leader of the largest opposition party in the proposed selection committee of Lokpal is pending with Parliament and asking it to clear would amount to "judicial legislation".

In the Lok Sabha, the largest opposition party Congress has only 45 members and lacks the requisite 10 per cent of total 545 seats, giving rise to the requirement to amend the present Lokpal Act.

The law provides the selection of chairperson and members of Lokpal shall be through a selection panel consisting of the Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker, LoP in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India or a sitting SC judge nominated by the CJI, an eminent jurist to be nominated by President of India on the basis of recommendations of first four members of selection committee. — PTI

Presidency student runs canteen in campus

KOLKATA, March 28: A first year student of Presidency University has set up a mobile canteen in the campus offering fast food, favourite among the Gen Next.

"Instead of oil-dripping biryani or regular full-course meal at other canteens, my cart offers quick grabs with which the present generation can instantly connect," Political Science student Raunak Kapoor said.

His cart offers chicken sandwiches, cold coffee, noodles and the like. "We are regularly adding one thing or the other," said the 20-year-old student.

"We have moved into a faster alternative to typical canteens and offering something which is funky for current generation and you can see the response," he said pointing towards a group of students assembling before the mobile van.

The canteen, which started functioning from March 1, is recording Rs 35,000-40,000 sales every day and is open till the evening hours. Before this, Raunak was asked to do a trial basis for four days in February by the authorities and it clicked. This is the first time the institution has a canteen run by its own student.

"It is a start-up. I am a student and my fellow students, management, faculty members are my customers. People look for cheaper version of food and more healthy type of meal. I think our concern meets both parameters," he said.

Vice-Chancellor Anuradha

Lohia said, "We had always been supportive to start-ups and did not object when Raunak approached us with the project. We hope such initiatives will inspire more entrepreneurs."

Affirming the support of the management, Raunak said, "They have allotted me this space, in a strategic area of the campus. And they have been very cooperative during trial run."

"I am running the canteen with the help of seven staff during the day and also attending classes. I face no problem. I am doing well in exams and there is no conflict," he said.

One of the patrons, History student Suman Das said, "Raunak is popular among students and polite to customers. His cart offers small grabs priced at Rs 10-20 and his strategy is more business-oriented."

Savouring noodles, English Honours student Debalina Chakraborty said, "Here the menu is similar to the ones we relish at coffee shops and hangout zones but for a cheaper price. Even a month back, we had to venture outside the campus to have Shikanji or other mocktails but not any more."

Raunak, who had 23 entrepreneurship projects in his school, said he now wished to expand the start-up to other institutions.

"Promod-da", owner of another canteen, said, "For regular meals, students visit our place. But I have best wishes for a young student." — PTI

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High-fibre diet benefit

A diet rich in high-fibre foods – such as fruits, vegetables, legumes and whole grains – encourage the production of short-chain fatty acids that are beneficial for the immune system and may help protect against the onset of Type 1 diabetes, a study shows.

The findings showed that the western diet which lacks dietary fibre affects human gut microbiota and the production of short-chain fatty acids acetate or butyrate.

The specialised diet uses starches – found in many foods including fruit and vegetables – that resist digestion and pass through to the colon or large bowel where they are broken down by microbiota (gut bacteria).

This process of fermentation produces acetate and butyrate which, when combined, provided complete protection against Type 1 diabetes, the researchers said.

"Our research found that eating a diet which encourages the gut bacteria that produce high levels of acetate or butyrate improves the integrity of the gut lining, which reduces pro-

inflammatory factors and promote immune tolerance," said Eliana Marino, researcher at Monash University in Australia.

"We found this had an enormous impact on the development of Type 1 diabetes," Marino added.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Immunology*, highlighted how non-pharmacological approaches including special diets and gut bacteria could treat or prevent autoimmune diseases such as Type 1 diabetes.

"The materials we used are something you digest that is comprised of natural products – resistant starches are a normal part of our diet. The diets we used are highly efficient at releasing beneficial metabolites. I would describe them as an extreme superhero."

Explained Charles Mackay, Professor at Monash University.

However, the diet was not just about eating vegetables or high-fibre foods but involved special food and a special process and would need to be managed by nutritionists, diabetics and clinicians, Mackay noted. – IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY For Wednesday, March 29, 2017:

This year you alternate between a "go-get-it" attitude and a cautious, stand-offish one. You have a tendency to the unexpected, which often throw those around you into a tizzy. You are strong-willed and focused. If you are simple, your desirability is not the issue – your timing is. After summer, you could meet someone of significance to your life's history. If you are ahead, the two of you will combine your energy to complete an important project together. TAUROS knows how to draw out your depth.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Intense; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You might have to deal with someone who has been dislancing him- or herself as of late. This person simply refuses to be open as you would like him or her to be. To many people, your frustration could seem unwarranted. Tonight: Some do much-needed shopping.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You're not a day passes, you'll feel more and more competent as you attempt to deal with a problem involving a partner. This person might be unwilling to take a risk and accept a change. Find out where his or her insecurities stems from, then discuss the issue. Tonight: All smiles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You know what is happening behind the scenes. Of course, you will want to know more about what is going on. Chatter you hear might gossip, but you'll still want to be involved. Just ask fewer questions and listen more. Tame your imagination. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You have a morning responsibility to handle. Once completed, you might decide to hold a meeting. Discussions could lead to some new ideas. Be sure to let others know where you stand on everything; you don't want to cause yourself a headache later. Tonight: Where the action is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Others respond to your take-charge attitude. You might hear whispers about what others think or want. You could be overly focused and demanding in your own way. Be more easygoing in order to draw people to your side. Tonight: Out late.

LIBRA (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You have the ability to distance yourself and see the big picture. You also might want to distance yourself from a domestic matter or an investment involving real estate. Try not to be too serious about this matter. Give this some space for now. Tonight: Be near good music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might want to have a long-averse talk. A close associate could be doing this conversation, which will leave you feeling closed off. Ask questions in the nice way possible, as this person might be fearful of your judgment. Tonight: Visit with a pal at a favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You'll want to defer to a loved one. At the same time, your creativity soars with great ideas, and not applying them to the situation at hand might be make time for a child or loved one; you need to let go and enjoy this person. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Focus on a quirky roommate or family member. This person might be obnoxious, but consider how much excitement he or she adds to your life. Investigate new possibilities that pop up from out of nowhere. Focus more on your daily life. Tonight: Soak away your stress in a hot bath.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Though many crossroads might interfere with your plans, your sense of romance emerges. Regardless of what your status is, you should remain open to new possibilities. Try not to do your defensive gear. You'll want to get a full idea of what is going on. Tonight: Very playful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 18) Stay secure about a personal issue. Be willing to stand behind your offers and/or thoughts. Communication remains active, and as a result, you'll get a lot of feedback. Understand that a difficult friend is the only one who can change his or her mood. Tonight: Head home early.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE You'll want to take the lead in a meeting. What is stopping you? Others remain highly responsive to your ideas, inquires and brainstorming sessions. Do not lose control of this discussion, but do allow everyone to share his or her thoughts. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

** *

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Mideast conflicts leave millions unsure of next meal: UN

CAIRO, March 28: The devastating conflicts gripping the Middle East and North Africa have left 30 million people unsure of their next meal, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation said.

"Food security and nutrition levels in the Near East and North Africa have sharply deteriorated over the last five years," the agency said in a report released yesterday.

"The prevalence of severe food insecurity in the adult population... Was close to 9.5 per cent in 2014-2015, representing approximately 30 million people," it said.

"Countries such as Iraq, Sudan, Syria and Yemen have rates that are among the highest in the world, reflecting the devastating impacts of the ongoing conflicts on their food security and nutrition situation."

FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative Abdessalam Ould Ahmed said that conflict was hampering efforts to cope with the severe water shortages affecting agriculture in many countries

in the region.

"A peaceful and stable environment is an absolute precondition for farmers to respond to the challenges of water scarcity and climate change," he said.

Yemen, which is the Arab world's poorest nation and has seriously depleted its underground water sources, has seen food security deteriorate dramatically since its civil war escalated two years ago with the intervention of the Saudi-led coalition.

A third of its 22 provinces are on the brink of famine, the UN World Food Programme warned on Friday, adding that 60 percent of its population of 17 million was going hungry.

The FAO said that the six-year-old civil war in Syria was also having a devastating effect on access to food for civilians.

"The Syria crisis in particular has deepened during the period 2015-2016, leaving more than half of the population in need of food assistance," it said. - PTI

Trump likely to slash foreign aid

NAIROBI, March 28: The world's largest humanitarian crisis in 70 years has been declared in three African countries, the brink of famine, just as President Donald Trump's proposed foreign aid cuts threaten to pull the United States from its historic role as the world's top emergency donor.

If the deep cuts are approved by Congress and the US does not contribute to Africa's current crisis, experts warn that the continent's growing drought and famine could have far-ranging effects, including a new wave of mi-

grants heading to Europe and possibly more support for Islamic extremist groups.

The conflict-fuelled hunger crises in Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan have culminated in a trio of potential famines hitting almost simultaneously. Nearly 16 million people in the three countries are at risk of dying within months.

Famine already has been declared in two countries of South Sudan and 1 million people there are on the brink of dying from lack of food, UN officials have said.

Somalia has declared a state of emergency over drought

and 2.9 million of its people face a food crisis that could become a famine, according to the UN, and in northeastern Nigeria, severe malnutrition is widespread in areas affected by violence from Boko Haram extremists.

"We are facing the largest humanitarian crisis since the creation of the United Nations," Stephen O'Brien, the UN humanitarian chief, told the UN Security Council after a visit this month to Somalia and South Sudan.

At least USD 4.4 billion is needed by the end of March to avert a hunger "catastrophe" by the UN. - AP

Rawat arrives in Nepal

KATHMANDU, March 28: Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat is in Nepal on a four-day official visit during which he is likely to call on the country's top leadership and hold talks on stepping up bilateral defence cooperation.

Chief of Staff of Nepali Army Purna Chandra Thapa received Rawat at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu today.

As a tradition between the two national defence forces, Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari will confer the honorary General of Nepal Army to Rawat at a special programme at her official residence 'Sheetal Niwas' tomorrow, the *Kathmandu Post* reported. - PTI

Around the WORLD

Mystery buyer snaps up Trump's childhood home for USD 2 mn

NEW YORK, March 28: President Donald Trump's childhood home in the New York borough of Queens has sold for USD 2 million to an anonymous buyer in the neighbourhood – to an unknown buyer.

Built by his father Fred in 1940 in the upmarket enclave of Jamaica Estates, the building served as the President's home for the first four years of his life. The address is listed on his birth certificate.



The two-story mock Tudor-style house embellished with red brick sold at auction in January for 54 percent more than its selling price in December, when a real estate investor paid USD 1.39 million for it. The house is now worth USD 2 mn.

For Trump, a real estate developer who made his fortune building low-cost housing, also helped develop Jamaica Estates. He moved his family to a colonnaded nine-bathroom mansion he built nearby in 1951. Asked about the house when he appeared on NBC's "The Tonight Show" in September, then-candidate Donald Trump said it was "sad" the building was on sale at the time. "I want to buy it," he said. - AFP

China building world's largest nano research facility



BEIJING, March 28: China is building the world's largest multifunctional research platform for nanotechnology which would help develop more powerful computers and intelligent robots, official media reported today.

The Vacuum Interconnected Nano-X Research Facility in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, integrates the state-of-art capabilities of material growth, device fabrication and testing in one ultra-high vacuum environment, Ding Sunan, deputy director of the project said.

"We are exploring a new technology route of nano-scale devices production on the platform which simulates the ultra-high vacuum environment of space," Ding, a researcher at the Suzhou Institute of Nano-Tech and Nano-Bionics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences said.

Nano-X has received initial funding of 320 million yuan (about USD 46.5 million) and will eventually have a budget of 1.5 billion yuan. State-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Construction of the first stage began in 2014 and is expected to be completed in 2018. It comprises 100-metre-long ultrahigh vacuum pipelines connecting 30 pieces of equipment. - PTI

India not participating in UN talks on nuclear weapons ban

UNITED NATIONS, March 28: India is not participating in the first UN conference in more than 20 years on a global nuclear weapons ban which opened here amid objections from major nuclear powers.

More than 120 nations in October last year voted on a UN General Assembly resolution to convene the conference to negotiate a legally binding treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

Britain, France, Israel, Russia and the US voted no, while China, India and Pakistan abstained from voting on that resolution.

The first substantive session of the conference began here yesterday.

In its Explanation of Vote (EOV) given for its abstention on the resolution in October, India had said that it was "not convinced" that the proposed conference could address the longstanding expectation of the international community for a comprehensive instrument on nuclear disarmament.

India also maintained that the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the single multilateral disarmament negotiation

forum.

It had further said that it supports the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention, which in addition to prohibition and elimination also includes verification.

It had said that international verification was essential to the global elimination of nuclear weapons, India feels that the current process does not include the verification aspect.

In line with its position that India articulated in the EOV India has decided not to participate in the current conference that will run through 31 March.

It will, however, continue to follow the developments in the event.

The US' envoy to the UN, Jeffery Haley, said the Assembly "suddenly" wants to have a hearing on ban nuclear weapons and while as a mother and daughter, she wants a world with no nuclear weapons, one also has to be "realistic".

She said given the current times "bad actors" cannot be allowed to keep their nuclear weapons while other nations try to maintain peace and safety.

"We would love to have a ban on nuclear weapons, but in this day and time we cannot honestly say that we can protect our people by allowing the bad actors to have them (nuclear weapons) and those of us who are good trying to keep the peace and safety not to have them," Haley told reporters.

Haley joined by UK's Ambassador to the UN Matthew Rycroft and her French counterpart Francois Delattre, spoke just before the General Assembly convened its first substantive session of the conference.

"We have to be realistic. Is there anyone who believes that North Korea would agree to a ban on nuclear weapons? So what would we be?"

She said Washington believes in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and had reduced its weapons by 85 percent since the treaty went into place. She added that while the US would want to see a world without nuclear weapons, the time for it is not today and it will defend its citizens as well as its friends and allies.

"One day we will hope we no longer need nuclear weapons. But today, in this day and time, in the situations that we are in, we unfortunately don't have the ability to do that," she said. - PTI

Trump lauds Modi for poll success

WASHINGTON, March 28: US President Donald Trump has called Prime Minister Narendra Modi to congratulate him on his party's electoral success in State elections, the third telephone conversation between the two leaders since the new administration took over in Washington.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer told reporters that Trump congratulated Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday on their electoral victories.

The President spoke with German Chancellor Merkel and Indian Prime Minister Modi earlier today to congratulate them on their parties' success in recent elections, "Spicer said.

The two leaders are expected to meet on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Germany in July.

Following the elections, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party formed the Government in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur. However, lost Punjab to main rival Congress.

Merkel's Christian Democrat party easily won an election in the Saarland State on Sunday, dealing an early blow to centre-left hopes of ending her more than decade-long reign.

Previously, Modi and Trump talked over phone on January 24, when they had resolved to stand "shoulder-to-shoulder" in the global fight against terrorism and for defence and security.

According to a White House statement, Trump had "emphasised that the US considers India a true friend and partner in addressing challenges around the world."

The two leaders had also exchanged invitations for visits. Prime Minister Modi was the fifth foreign leader Trump had spoken to on phone after he was sworn-in as the US President on January 20. - PTI

Monster cyclone Debbie batters northeast Australia

SYDNEY, March 28: A monster cyclone made landfall in northeast Australia today, cutting power and uprooting trees as coastal towns went into lockdown in the face of lashing rain and howling winds.

The Bureau of Meteorology, which forecast up to 500 millimetres (50 cm) of rain, said people should stay calm and not be complacent as the eye of the storm passes.

"Do not venture outside if you find yourself in the eye of the cyclone – very destructive winds from a different direction could resume at any time," it said.

"People in the path of the very dangerous cyclone should stay calm and remain in a secure shelter," Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, who warned the storm was shaping up as a "monster" and would last for hours, said more than 30,000 homes were already without power.

There were fears the tempest's arrival would coincide with early morning high tides, causing severe flooding, but its progress slowed before it crossed the coastline between the towns of Bowen and Airlie Beach. The full force of the cyclone was already being felt in popular tourist destinations.

"It felt like we were underneath a freight train for most of the night, strong base rumbles as the... wind rattled panes and made the buildings shake," Cameron Berkman, who is holidaying on Hayman Island, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

The two leaders had also exchanged invitations for visits. Prime Minister Modi was the fifth foreign leader Trump had spoken to on phone after he was sworn-in as the US President on January 20. - PTI

"These winds are going to keep pounding, pounding, pounding," he said. "I suspect before the day is out, we will see a lot of structural damage in the cyclone's path." - AFP

UNITED NATIONS, March 28: "Bad actors" cannot be allowed to have nuclear weapons on the cost of those trying to maintain peace and safety, US envoy to the UN Nikki Haley has said as she voiced opposition to a UN conference negotiating a legally-binding instrument to prohibit such weapons.

"We would love to have a ban on nuclear weapons but in this day and time we cannot honestly say that we can protect our people by allowing the bad actors to have them and those of us who are good trying to keep the peace and safety not to have them," Haley told reporters here.

Haley joined by UK's Ambassador to the UN Matthew Rycroft and her French counterpart Francois Delattre, spoke just before the General Assembly convened its first substantive session yesterday

that the General Assembly would go through, in good faith, trying to do something but North Korea would be the one cheering and all of us and the people we represent would be the ones at risk," Haley, the first Indian-American to be elevated to a cabinet position in the Trump administration, said.

She said Washington believes in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and had reduced its weapons by 85 percent since the treaty went into place. She added that while the US would want to see a world without nuclear weapons, the time for it is not today and it will defend its citizens as well as its friends and allies.

"One day we will hope we no longer need nuclear weapons. But today, in this day and time, in the situations that we are in, we unfortunately don't have the ability to do that," she said. - PTI

Violence against docs flayed

WASHINGTON, March 28: Condemning the increasing attacks on doctors in India, an influential body of Indian-American physicians has sought intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to put an end to violence against medical professionals.

"We urge the Government of India to make all efforts possible and put an end to this ongoing violence against medical professionals and enable them to continue to serve the country with dignity, pride and security," Ajay Lodha, president of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) said in a letter to the Prime Minister.

"Physicians in India feel threatened and their lives are in danger. Some hospital administrators have begun to hire bouncers, whose imposing presence deters patients' relatives from

aggressive behaviour," he said yesterday.

"The medical fraternity in several States is on strike due to the recent incidents of violence against doctors. This is not good for the people committed to care and also is not benefiting the doctors," Lodha said.

AAPI is an umbrella organisation of Indian-American doctors and has nearly 90 local chapters. "Violence against doctors has reached such an extreme in India that the medical staff is afraid to come to work and they need a police presence in the hospitals where they work," Lodha said.

About 49 doctors have been attacked in the State of Maharashtra alone since 2015, he said. "The violence against physicians in India will put a dent in the area where we have been growing rapidly as world leaders," he said. - PTI

Heroin found hidden in dog crate at Kennedy Airport

NEW YORK, March 28: Two men were arrested on drug charges after heroin was found hidden in the false bottom of a dog crate containing a Labrador retriever that had been shipped from Puerto Rico to New York.

Samuel Seebrooks, 35, of the Bronx, and Carlos Betancourt-Morales, 27, of Coney Island, were arraigned on drug possession and conspiracy charges on Sunday, according to the Queens district attorney's office.

Prosecutors said Seebrook and Betancourt-Morales met up at a Bronx IHOP restaurant on Friday night and travelled in separate vehicles to the American Airlines Priority Parcel Services at Kennedy Airport.

The two men had a brief conversation before Betancourt-Morales entered the cargo building signed for a delivery receipt for the dog crate, prosecutors said. He was stopped by police as he pushed the crate on a rolling cart toward the building's exit. - AP

Extreme summers driven by human-caused global warming

NEW YORK, March 28: Extreme weather events such as unprecedented summer heat, flooding, drought and torrential rain, are an effect of human-caused global warming, a new study has found.

Researchers from Pennsylvania State University in the US looked at a combination of roughly 50 climate models from around the world.

They looked at the historical atmospheric observations to document the conditions under which

extreme weather patterns form and persist.

Scientists found a link between extreme weather events and the impact climate change is having on the jet stream.

The unusual weather events such as the 2003 European heat wave, the 2010 Pakistan flood and Russian heatwave, the 2011 Texas and Oklahoma heat wave and drought and the 2015 California wildfires piqued our interest, researchers said.

"Most stationary jet stream

disturbances, however, will dissipate over time," said Michael Mann of Penn State University.

"Under certain circumstances, the wave disturbance is effectively constrained by an atmospheric wave guide, something similar to the way a coaxial cable guides a television signal," Mann said.

"Disturbances then cannot easily dissipate, and very large amplitude swings in the jet stream north and south can remain in place as it rounds the globe," he said.

This constrained configuration of the jet stream is like a rollercoaster with high peaks and valleys, but only forms when there are six, seven or eight pairs of peaks and valleys surrounding the globe.

Uncrossable barriers in the north and south - and a wave with large peaks and valleys can occur.

Theoretically, standing jet stream waves with large amplitude north/south undulations should cause unusual weather events, researchers said.

"They found the pattern has become more prominent in both observations and climate model simulations." - PTI

City CCC tourney

GUWAHATI: March 28: In today's matches of the City Cricket Coaching Centre organised City Premier League, Lion XI, Cobra XI and Crocodile XI won their respective matches at the Dispur Parade Ground.

Brief scores: **Rhino XI 139** (Bulbawer Ranghang 56, Giri Raj Phukan 2/36), **Lion XI 145*** (Ranjan 62, Ravi Thuri 31), **Karma XI 99** (Aman Kalta 58, Arindra Deka 22, Manish Thakur 26, Bhupen Deka 10), **Cobra XI 102/7** (Abhijeet Singh 22, Anubhab Acharya 26, Aman Kalta 21), **Tiger XI 502/2** (Anupam Deka 22), **Crocodile XI 512** (Rahul Zaman 21).

The Assam Tribune
PROPERTY & LIFESTYLE
Corner

TODAY
On Page 12

for all your
Property & Lifestyle needs

Big win for Metro Rly in All India Inter Railway Cricket

SPORTS-REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 28: In the 62nd edition of the All India Inter Railway Cricket Tournament, which got off here yesterday, two group league matches were played today.

At the Assam Cricket Association's Baraspati stadium, Metro Rly beat North East Railways by 71 runs in the rain hit match while at the NRSA Stadium in Maligaon, East Coast Rly. North West Rly. Other groups are being organised at Kolkata, Patna and Visakhapatnam.

Brief score: **Metro Railway 303/6**

in 44 overs

Sudip Chatterjee 98, Adit

Patra (5), Dipu (5), Sambhu Das (5), Somnath Das (5), Arindra Deka (5), Kishore Das (5), North Eastern Railway 181/9 in revised 32 overs (Akash Kumar 87, Nishant Rai 40, Nilkantha Das 3/35, Arunabha Nandi 3/35, Sourav

ECOR 151 (Abhishek Yadav 33, Lagannit Samal 29, Suji Lenka 24, Arindra Deka 22, Manish Thakur 26, Abhijeet Singh 22, Anubhab Acharya 26, Aman Kalta 21), **Gaurau 219** (Md Ahmed 39, Gaurau Khati 21, Lagannit Samal 4/17, Ankut Yadav 3/7, Jayant Behera 3/28).

Navarang enter final

SPORTS-REPORTER
GUWAHATI, March 28: Navarang Club sailed into the final of the NSDS organised 24th Uma Churan Bania Memorial T20 Cricket tournament.

In the low scoring first semi-final of the championship at the Jorhat Field here today, Navarang defeated Royal's Club by 41 runs.

In reply to Navarang's 103 in 20 overs, Royal's were all out for 62 in 17.4 overs. The second semi-final between Bajaj Cricket Club and SCG Club is going on at the time of filing of this report.

Brief scores: **Navarang 103** (Hrithik Tamuli 36, Sagar Khan 4/16, Arun Sarma 3/14), **Royal's 62** (Souvik Das 21, Sekharjoy Barman 3/13, Romario Sharma 2/11, Basab Hazarika 2/19).

Tennis, TT meets in city

GUWAHATI, March 28: An all Guwahati inter school open tennis championship is being organised at the SAI complex, Paltanbari here from March 30 to April 1.

Competitions will be conducted in the age group of U-10 (boys and girls combined, singles), boys U-12 (singles), girls U-12 (singles).

All an Guwahati table tennis championships will also be organised at the SAI complex from March 30 to April 1. The various categories are cadet, sub junior and junior for both boys and girls, stated a release.

KK Boro retained as AABA president

GUWAHATI, March 28: The Assam State Amateur Boxing Association (AABA) has retained Kali Kanto Boro and Hemanta Kumar Kalita as president and secretary respectively in its Annual General Meeting held here on Sunday.

Representatives from 29 districts were present. In the meeting, Sonowal as the City Patron and Jadab Deka, Nagen Chetia, Mukul Hazarika, Dr Parag Thakur, Jamini Mahanta as advisers. Sankar Pradhan became the treasurer of the committee.



Golap Rabha, Mr India title holder in the 75kg category, in the all India bodybuilding championship held at Ludhiana on March 26, poses for a photo with former Mr India Biju Gogoi (L) and State bodybuilding body treasurer Atul Chetia.

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