





## Kashmiri Pandits demand revocation of Article 370

JAMMU, Aug 27: Panun Kashmir, a representative body of migrant Kashmiri Pandits, today demanded revocation of the contentious Article 370 which gives special status to Jammu and Kashmir and the creation of a separate homeland for the community within the State.

At the body's annual national convention here, several resolutions were passed, which besides revocation of Article 370, also called for political reorganisation of the State and creation of a Centrally-administered Union Territory north and east of the Jhelum river for the return and

rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, a statement said.

Pledging to continue its struggle for a homeland, the delegates unanimously adopted the resolution seeking abolition of Article 370 of the Constitution.

"A resolve was made to support all efforts leading to the repeal of Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution. Panun Kashmir realises that unless Article 370 is abolished, the movement for repeated partitions of India will remain alive and potent," the statement said.

Former BJP leader Hari Om termed Article 35A as a "dis-

### IIT-KGP Professor drowns trying to save son

KOLKATA, Aug 27: A professor of IIT Kharagpur got drowned in a large water-filled ditch today while trying to rescue his 4-year-old child who had fallen into the waterbody near the IIT campus in Kharagpur rural area of West Midnapore district today, police said.

Local people took Joydip Bhattacharjee, a faculty member of the Department of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering, and his son out of the water and took them to hospital where the Professor was declared dead.

IIT sources said the 40-year-old Professor was taking a stroll with his two children outside the campus when one child fell into the ditch while trying to take a selfie.

Bhattacharjee tried to pull out his son from the water, but lost balance and fell into the ditch.

Registrar Pradip Ghosh said, "He went outside to spend the Sunday with his two children. We are shocked to hear the news about his death."

"IIT-KGP mourns the loss of its faculty Prof Joydip Bhattacharjee. It is unfortunate we have lost such a young, talented soul," Dean faculty Prof Subhashis Tripathy said. — PTI

## Operation in Pulwama ends

SRINAGAR, Aug 27: The operation inside a district police complex in south Kashmir ended today where three militants had launched a deadly suicide attack which left eight security personnel, including four CRPF men, dead.

The militants were killed by the security forces yesterday.

A police official said here that the bodies of all three militants had been recovered and they were foreigners.

"The operation in Pulwama is over and three militants have been killed," the official said.

"Their identity and group affiliation is being ascertained," he said.

The official said four CRPF jawans and four Jammu and

Kashmir Police personnel had lost their lives in the *fidayeen* attack. The militants had stormed into the district police lines complex in Pulwama, 25 km from here, at the crack of dawn yesterday.

While the police, CRPF and Army personnel quickly swung into action and cornered the militants, they first ensured that family members of the police personnel living within the complex were evacuated to safety.

After the family members were taken out of the residential quarters, the security forces began the offensive which resulted in the killing of the militants.

Director General of State police SP Vaid yesterday said

it was a sad day for the security forces who suffered such a heavy casualty.

"However, the boys fought bravely and we are only more determined to wipe out militancy from the entire State," he said.

Meanwhile, floral tributes were today paid to two CRPF personnel who were killed in the attack.

While the wreath-laying ceremony of two CRPF jawans was held here yesterday, tributes were paid to constable Borase Dinesh Dipak, a resident of Gujarat and Mohammad Yaseen Tali, a resident of Jammu and Kashmir this morning at the Recruit Training Centre at Humhama on the outskirts of the city here. — PTI

## Call to assess groundwater banking potential

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: The Niti Aayog has suggested conducting a study to assess the country's groundwater banking potential by 2018 to effectively manage the limited resource.

Groundwater banking, the think tank said, is a practice of recharging specific amount of water in a groundwater basin that can be later withdrawn and used by the entity that deposited the water. The policy think tank has also recommended expediting the "Groundwater Development and Management" programme under which the Centre is preparing aquifer management plans and quantifying the availability of water in aquifers.

An aquifer is a layer of permeable rock which can contain or transmit groundwater.

The Aayog said that in 4,530 blocks (which were surveyed in 2011) in eastern and northeastern States, where groundwater development has been reported as safe, groundwater-based irrigation may be developed sustainably.

India's groundwater resources amount to 433 billion cubic metres (BCM) and are 39 per cent of the total water resources. Surface water resources make up the remaining 61 per cent. Groundwater accounts for around 63 per cent of the total water used in irrigation.

"A feasibility study should be conducted for assessing the groundwater banking potential in India by 2018.

"Some clear advantages of groundwater banking are: low fixed costs as compared to dams and reservoir construction, no requirement for rehabilitation and resettlement and less environmental changes," it said.

The Aayog has made the suggestions in "Three Year Action Agenda, 2017-18 to 2019-20", released by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley three days ago.

On aquifer mapping being carried out under the Groundwater Development and Management Programme, it said the scheme should be prioritised in pockets where the resource is "over-exploited, critical and semi-critical".

As on March 31, 2011, out of the 6,607 administrative units surveyed, 4,530 units were safe, 1,071 were found to be over-exploited, 217 were critical, 697 semi-critical and 92 completely saline. — PTI



Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba at the World Heritage Site-famed Mahabodhi temple in Bodhgaya, on Sunday. — UNI

## 'Super Rich' hubby to pay Rs 4L a month to estranged wife

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Sounds unbelievable, but true! A millionaire husband has been directed by a Delhi court to pay his estranged spouse a whopping Rs 40 lakh maintenance every month with 15 per cent raise every year for deserting her and their son minor daughter.

The fact that the husband figured in the list of "Super Rich" category of a business magazine and the net worth of his business was around Rs 1,000 crore, was taken note by the court in fixing the maintenance.

Principal Judge Narayan Kaushal awarded additional 15 per cent per year raise in the maintenance amount for her and their daughter, noting that there was a "significant jump" in the income of the husband in two financial years which could not be ignored.

The woman, in her application filed through advocate Manav Gupta, had alleged that she was thrown out of her matrimonial house in March 2008 after which she had filed a petition in the high court for maintenance.

However, during the pendency of the maintenance petition, the husband filed a petition for dissolution of marriage in January 2011.

She then moved the trial court for maintenance on August 4, 2011 and a magisterial court on February 8, 2013 granted her a maintenance of Rs 1.25 lakh a month.

In the proceedings before the high court, she was granted a maintenance of Rs 75,000 per month on March 5, 2013. Both these orders were challenged before higher courts which eventually reached the Supreme Court.

The apex court through its April 2014 order had remitted the matter back to the trial court, after which the woman withdrew the plea before the high court. — PTI

### IIT-KGP Professor drowns trying to save son

KOLKATA, Aug 27: A professor of IIT Kharagpur got drowned in a large water-filled ditch today while trying to rescue his 4-year-old child who had fallen into the waterbody near the IIT campus in Kharagpur rural area of West Midnapore district today, police said.

"The ongoing demographic attrition in Jammu needs to be reversed at every cost, as Jammu is the backbone of the nation in the State," he said.

Convenor of Panun Kashmir, Agnivesh Kumar called upon the youth of the community to keep working on "novel instrumentalities of struggle" for a homeland in exile, and to awaken the world against the *jehad* where the Professor was declared dead.

IIT sources said the 40-year-old Professor was taking a stroll with his two children outside the campus when one child fell into the ditch while trying to take a selfie.

Bhattacharjee tried to pull out his son from the water, but lost balance and fell into the ditch.

Registrar Pradip Ghosh said, "He went outside to spend the Sunday with his two children. We are shocked to hear the news about his death."

"IIT-KGP mourns the loss of its faculty Prof Joydip Bhattacharjee. It is unfortunate we have lost such a young, talented soul," Dean faculty Prof Subhashis Tripathy said. — PTI



Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs (i/c) & Parliamentary Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi participating in Bhoomi Pujan of Dharmic Leela Committee in New Delhi, on Sunday. — UNI

## Uncertainty over Durga Puja in Darjeeling hills

DARJEELING, Aug 27: The indefinite strike in the hills for the past two months has made the Durga Puja celebrations in September uncertain.

With no sign of the shutdown being called off, most of the Durga Puja organisers in the hills have either cancelled the plans for the Puja or have decided to hold it in a small way.

The Durga Puja, the biggest festival of Bengal, is scheduled to be held from September 26-30.

The indefinite shutdown in the hills, which started on June 15 over the demand for a separate State of Gorkhaland, entered its 74th day.

According to the officials of the Bengal association, Kursoong, which has been organising Durga Puja at the century-old Raj Rajeswari Hall for the past 100 years, the budget for organising Durga Puja has been slashed.

The British era heritage hall run by the association was set ablaze by miscreants in July.

"Initially we had decided against or-

ganising the Puja this year, as there was a lot of uncertainty. We are yet to place the order to make the Durga idol. So this time we'll organise it in a very small way. We have to make a marquee and the Durga idol will be much smaller in size," a member of the association told this news agency.

None of the members of the association wished to be named as they are afraid of backlash from pro-Gorkhaland activists.

Suhomoy Chatterjee, a member of the Bengal association, Darjeeling said, "this year we'll be organising Durga Puja, but our budget is low, as neither have we collected Puja subscription from the locals nor has any proper sponsor. Initially, we had thought that we would cancel the Puja as there was a lot of threats, but later we have decided that we'll organise it in a small way."

The Bengal association in Darjeeling has been organising the Puja at the Narendrapur Narayan Bengali Hindu Hall for the past 100 years. The total number of Durga Pujas or-

ganised in various parts of the hills is around 10-15.

Apart from these two century-old Durga Pujas in the hills, most of the other small Puja committees have decided against organising a Puja to avoid the ire of pro-Gorkhaland supporters and due to lack of preparation that is needed to organise the five-day long festival.

"This time we are not at all prepared to organise a Puja. Let's see if the shutdown is called off in the next one week, we might plan something," said a member of a Puja committee of Kalimpong.

Contrary to the Durga Puja celebrations in the plains, where most of the Pujas are theme-based, Durga Puja in the hills are organised in a traditional way.

Senior GJM leader and Darjeeling MLA Amar Singh Rai, too was apprehensive about the fate of Durga Puja in the hills.

"I really don't know whether it will be organised or not. But I am hopeful that it will be organised in a small way. And I'll extend all sort of support to organise it," Rai said. — PTI

## 3 pro-Gorkhaland supporters held

DARJEELING (WB), Aug 27: Three persons were arrested here for their alleged involvement in arson and violence that took place in the hills on June, the police said today.

The three persons, who are active supporters of the Gorkhaland movement, were arrested last night.

The situation in Darjeeling hills remained tense, although no incident of violence was reported since last night as the indefinite strike demanding a separate State in the hills entered its 74th day.

Internet service in the hills remains suspended since June 18.

The GJM yesterday had decided to attend the August 29 meeting after the party received an official invitation from the State Government urging it to attend the talks. A five-member delegation of the GJM led by party convener Binay Tamang will attend the meeting. — PTI

## Army to induct medium-range missiles

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: After years of wait, the Indian Army will finally get an advanced medium-range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM) system by 2020 which will be able to shoot down ballistic missiles, fighter jets and attack helicopters from a range of around 70 kms.

The missile system will be produced by premier defence research organisation DRDO in collaboration with the Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI), a senior Army official said.

The MRSAM system will be capable of shooting down enemy ballistic missiles, aircraft, helicopters, drones, surveillance aircraft and AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control Systems) aircraft, the official said.

"The MRSAM for Army's air defence is an advanced all weather, 360 degree mobile land-based theatre air defence system capable of providing air defence to critical areas against a wide variety of threats in a combat zone," the official said.

The first set of missile systems will be ready in the next three years, he said. — PTI



A child browsing through a book at the Delhi Book Fair-2017, at Pragati Maidan, on Sunday. — UNI

# Trump's cybersecurity advisors resign en masse

WASHINGTON, Aug 27: Seven members of Donald Trump's cybersecurity team, including an Indian-origin data scientist, have resigned, accusing the US president of ignoring the pressing national security matters.

In a group resignation letter, the members of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), whose purview includes national cybersecurity, cited both specific shortfalls in the administration's approach to cybersecurity, and broader concerns that have undermined the "moral infrastructure" of the US, Fortune reported.

"You have given insufficient attention to the growing threats to the cybersecurity of the critical systems upon which all Americans depend, including those impacting the systems supporting our democratic election process," the letter reads.

They also cited his failure "to denounce intolerance and violence of hate groups" when asked about the "horrible violences in Charlottesville" as one of the reasons why they left.

Unit the Right' march was organised on August



12 to protest against the proposed removal of a statue of General Robert E Lee, who commanded the pro-slavery Confederate forces during the American Civil War. Violence broke out after they were confronted by anti-racism groups and later a car plowed into one group of anti-racism protesters in Charlottesville.

Trump had blamed both sides including the "alt-left" for the deadly violence. The members, who were appointed under the previous administration, resigned just before the panel was supposed to hold its quarterly business meeting.

They include Obama-era officials: the first ever White House Chief Data Scientist DJ Patil, Office of Science and Technology Policy Chief of Staff Cristin Dorgelo and White House Council on Environmental Quality Managing Director Christy Goldfuss.

The president recently lost two other people before the NIAC members resigned. His administration dissolved the Manufacturing Council and the Strategic and Policy Forum, but not before a good number of their members already left. - PTI

## Indians among eight killed in major road accident in UK

LONDON, Aug 27: Indians were among six men and two women killed in a major accident in which their mini bus got crushed between two trucks on a highway in southern England.

The crash occurred on the southbound M1 highway at Newport Pagnell in Buckinghamshire in the wee hours of yesterday.

All those who died were travelling in the minibus which got crushed between the two larger vehicles.

"We are extending all possible assistance to those affected by this tragedy," the Indian High Commission in London said.

The two truck drivers arrested from the scene of the accident were charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Maserak, also accused of careless driving while over the prescribed limit of alcohol, has been remanded in custody to appear at High Wycombe Magistrates' Court tomorrow.

Wagstaff, charged with dangerous driving, has been bailed to appear at Milton Keynes Magistrates' Court on September 11.

"The charges are in connection with a collision shortly before 3:15 AM yesterday in which six men and two women died. Four people who were injured and taken to hospital remain in serious conditions," Thames Valley Police said in a statement.

The British police is yet to release details of those killed in the crash.

The driver of the minibus has been identified as India-born Cyril Joseph.

The 52-year-old father of two, originally from Kerala and based in the UK for 15 years, was described as "lovely and generous" by friends.

The others in his minibus were tourists from Chennai who had reportedly hired the vehicle along with family based in Nottingham to travel to London, from where they had plans to go on a tour of Europe. - PTI

## India's Afghan role focused 'on economy, not security'

WASHINGTON, Aug 27: Assuming that nobody has talked about asking India to send troops to Afghanistan, a senior Trump administration official has said New Delhi's role in the war-torn country is focused around economic and democratic development, not security issues.

President Donald Trump reached out to India in his Afghan and South Asia policy speech last week seeking an enhanced role for New Delhi, especially in the economic, political and social spheres, to bring peace and stability in the war-torn Afghanistan.

The official clarified that there is no specific ask or to do list from the United States to India, but the president expects that India would continue with its good economic developmental issues.

"I don't think the president has articulated any specifics [about India's role in Afghanistan]. But, the inter-agency [team] in the US has discussed this issue as part of the overall deliberations, and is focusing on what can be done in terms of the economic development issues, and support democratic de-

## 3.8 million displaced by DR Congo violence: UN

KINSHASA, Aug 27: The

number of people displaced by conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, mainly in the volatile Kasai region, has nearly doubled in the past six months to 3.8 million, a United Nations official has said.

George Okoth-Ogendo,

the number two official at the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR), said yesterday that food and clothing was needed for the 1.4 million in Kasai who have fled their homes in violence that has killed more than 3,000 people.

"Immediate protection" was required, he told AFP on the last day of a three-day visit to the country, in particular for children "who are sleeping in conditions that are difficult to imagine".

In the southeastern province of Tanganyika, clashes between Bantus and Pygmies have also forced thousands to flee, as has the long-running violence in the Kivu region, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council, an NGO.

In Kasai, violence erupted last

September after the death of a tribal chieftain known as the Kamanya Nsou, who rebelled against the authority of President Joseph Kabila's regime in Kinshasa and its local representatives.

The killing sparked violence that has escalated, including alleged violations of human rights such as extrajudicial killings, rapes, torture and theft of child soldiers.

In addition, about 33,000 Congolese have fled Kasai for Angola, and "the conditions today in Kasai are such that we cannot encourage or promote the return of refugees," Okoth-Ogendo said.

At the same time, the country is also having to cope with the arrival of about 500,000 refugees fleeing fighting in Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and the Central African Republic – where about 60,000 people have fled to DR Congo this year, he said. - AFP



Two people dressed as Star Wars Storm Troopers cross Reforma Avenue in Mexico City, Mexico on Saturday. - UNI



German police surround protesters during 'Ende Gelände' demonstrations against open cast brown coal mining near Bedburg Hau, Germany on Saturday. - UNI

## Hurricane Harvey wreaks havoc in Texas, 2 killed

THIMPHU, Aug 27: TV host

slammed American president Donald Trump calling him a "menace to society" who was "defiling the seat he holds".

"I think he is a menace to our society. I apologise but I actually tried everything I could to stop him from soiling this most sacred seat in our country."

"I really find him to be a plague on the very basic human decency that America was based on. I don't think he has any ideology except the ideology of Donald Trump and that's a very dangerous one," Padma Lakshmi, who had campaigned for Hillary Clinton for the presidential election against Trump, said.

She was speaking at a session titled, "Mistress of Spices" at the 8th Mountain Echoes literary festival here.

The model turned author, who had known Trump before the latter became US president, said she found him to be a "little buffoonish" and "tacky" earlier and she had hoped he would not get elected.

"I have known Donald Trump personally. I don't know him well but I have known him for a very long time. He lives in New York and we often eat at the same parties and etcetera. I never took him that seriously."

"Earlier I thought Donald Trump was tacky, showy and nouveau rich and was like many men with a little power trying to get as many chicks as you could with it," she said.

Earlier in the day, Padma

Lakshmi had attended a session

titled "Woman Up", where she along with journalist-author Barbara Dutt, Amitra Tripathi, archaeologist Kuenga Wangmo talked about women issues in their respective professions.

Taking examples from her own professional career, she underlined the need for women being recognised for their work and not looks.

The Indian-American television host recalled her journey from being part of a female-dominated fashion industry to making her way into a male-dominated food industry where she was continuously judged for her looks. - PTI

HOUSTON, Aug 27: Hurricane Harvey, the most powerful to hit the US in about 12 years, left a trail of destruction as it swept across Texas today, pummelling the region with heavy rains and claiming at least two lives since making landfall on the US Gulf Coast.

Harvey continued to batter Texas during the early hours of this morning, dropping half a foot of rain on Houston and causing dire, and deadly, flash floods.

By midnight, the authorities had reported two deaths that appeared to be related to the storm, one in Rockport and the other in Houston, with up to 14 people injured.

Some eyewitness accounts stated that more people had died and media reports had earlier said three persons had been killed in connection with the hurricane.

Forecasters warned that Harvey's onslaught was just the

beginning. In an advisory yesterday, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami said the storm was already producing "torrential rains", and it warned that "catastrophic flooding" was likely in the days ahead.

Harvey bombarded the stretch of the Gulf Coast in Texas with home-ripping winds and torrential rains. As emergency officials scrambled to assess the extent of the damage, hundreds of thousands of people were without power after utility poles were knocked to the ground.

Emergency responders continued to comb through the debris of collapsed buildings, overturned trailers, broken power poles and uprooted trees.

Harvey is the strongest storm to hit Texas, the center of the US oil and gas industry, since 1961.

The streets in Houston were

drenched and deserted last night as millions of people along the Texas coastline took stock of the devastation – houses crushed by trees, gas stations torn to shreds, road signs blown out.

US President Donald Trump, facing the first big natural disaster of his term, had said he has signed a disaster proclamation that "unleashes the full force of government help" shortly before Harvey made landfall.

Houston Mayor of Houston Sylvester Turner said the city will receive two to three feet of rain in the coming days.

"This is serious...It is important that people stay off the roads," Turner said.

He said that the city is prepared for what he described as a "major water event".

Some areas could get up to more than 100 centimetres of rain. - PTI

## Hundreds of Israelis gather in anti-Netanyahu protest

PETA TIKVA, Aug 27: Hundreds of protesters gathered in front of Israel's attorney general's home to demand he indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on corruption charges.

The weekly vigils have become the vanguard of a grassroots protest movement against Netanyahu's alleged financial misdeeds and illicit connection to executives in media, international business and Hollywood.

Netanyahu has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and called the accusations against him a "witch hunt orchestrated by a hostile media.

The scandal has yet to threaten his lengthy rule, but has harmed his public approval ratings.

Last night's demonstration comes a week after a pair of high-profile organisers were arrested and after Israel's Supreme Court ruled the protests could continue as long as they didn't exceed 500 people or include the use of loudspeakers in the residential area.

Israeli police said far more than that arrived Saturday, with some

2,000 attending. They also said protesters violated the other conditions set by the court, using loud speakers and spreading out to adjacent streets.

What began as a gathering of a handful of good governance activists outside the home has now, in its 40th week, swelled into a powerful display of flag-waving Israeli citizens each Saturday night that has drawn heavy media coverage, sparked counter pro-Netanyahu protests and unnerved police.

Israel law says the prime minister can only be removed by parliament, though the Supreme Court has since ruled that government ministers and mayors had to resign if indicted.

Israel's justice minister has said the prime minister is not compelled to do so. But should the attorney general issue an indictment, there will be a legal challenge and public pressure for him to step aside. The weekly protests are ostensibly aimed at encouraging an indictment. - AP

## 5 climbers die in Austrian Alps

BERLIN, Aug 27: The Austrian Red Cross says five mountain climbers have died in the Austrian Alps.

The head of rescue services Anton Voithofer tells the Austrian news agency APA that the five died Sunday in an accident at Mount Gabler, east of Innsbruck.

APA reported the five mountain climbers were part of a group of six. Rescue efforts are still underway and it is not clear what happened to the sixth person. Five helicopters are involved in the rescue efforts. - AP

## ISIS ups knife attack

BRUSSELS, Aug 27: The Islamic State news agency Aamaq has claimed the Brussels attacker who assaulted three soldiers with a knife as an Islamic State group soldier.

In a statement today, it said he carried out the Friday evening attack in response to calls to target countries of the coalition that is fighting ISIS. Belgian prosecutors have opened an attempted terrorist murder probe. - AP

## Indira showed what women leaders were capable of: Bhutan's Queen Mother

THIMPHU, Aug 27: Bhutan's Queen Mother, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, showered praise on Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at a book launch here on Saturday, referring to her as a woman of great courage who had a charismatic character. Wangchuck said she was personally inspired by Gandhi.

Titled *India's Indira*, the book is a collection of essays and reflections on Gandhi by eminent personalities from several quarters of the world. It has been compiled by Indian National Congress and has a foreword by Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Congress MP and acclaimed writer, Shashi Tharoor shared the dais with the Queen Mother and the life of Indira Gandhi was briefly explored in a conversation between the two.

"It is 100 years since Indira Gandhi was born. She was a lady of great courage, character and deter-

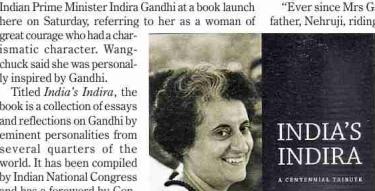
mination. She was determined to take India to great heights.

"Ever since Mrs Gandhi came to Bhutan with her father, Nehruji, riding on a yak, the bonds of lasting ties between our two nations were established," Wangchuck said.

The Queen Mother further stressed that she was greatly admired and respected in the circle of international leaders.

"Indira showed the world very early what women were capable of. She was a towering lady with a great personality. She personally showed me what a lady could achieve. I think like me all Bhutanese ladies need to learn from the example of India," she added.

The book was launched at the ongoing Mountain Echoes Literary Festival here, which concludes on Sunday. - IANS





## WEATHER GUWAHATI

**LOCAL FORECAST:** Generally cloudy sky. Rain/thundershower is very likely to occur. Maximum temperature is most likely to be 35°C on Monday.

**TEMPERATURE:**  
Max 35.0°C  
Min 27.8°C

## TV scribe dies in road mishap

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: A 27-year-old promising television journalist, Rima Sharma, died after being hit by a truck at around 12.30 last night at the ABC area of the city.

Rima was coming out from the Dona Planet campus on her scooter to the truck, coming from the Ganeshguri side, hit her.

She was rushed to GMCH where she succumbed to her injuries, her colleagues said. Her last rites were performed at Nabagraha today.

A resident of Nizarpur, Rima had joined the *Prag News* in 2010. She had interviewed a number of celebrities and had been anchoring the show 'Biswar Ajab Khabar' for the channel.

DCP (traffic) Amanjeet Kaur said a truck has been seized on suspicion. "We are trying to ascertain if it is the same vehicle. We have also collected CCTV footages from the nearby shops and outlets and found the image of the vehicle. We have circulated the image to all concerned for tracking the vehicle," she said.

Several organisations, including BIP, AGP, the All India Federation of Diploma Engineers, AAMSU, the Guwahati Press Club, the Dispur Press Club, the GMC major and others have condoled her death.

The Electronic Media Forum Assam (EMFA) has expressed shock at the sudden demise of Rima Sharma.

Prior to her last rites performed at Navagraha, Rima was paid rich tributes at her work place and the Guwahati Press Club.

## Memorial lecture

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: Tongam Rina, noted journalist from Arunachal Pradesh, will deliver the memorial lecture on the occasion of the 30th death anniversary of freedom fighter and journalist Harendra Nath Baruah. She will speak on the topic Arunachal-Asso Relation and the Media. At the programme to be held at the Vivekananda Kendra on August 31, the orators will also felicitate Nitin Bora, editor of the Assamya Pratidin and GL Agarwalla, chairman of the GL Publications. – Staff Reporter

## Erratic rainfall causing curious flood-drought coexistence

SIVASISH THAKUR

### Experts blame it on climate change



2014, while it stayed normal in 2007. 2008, 2010 and 2012.

Another trend concerning annual precipitation has been that the rabi season (October to March) has witnessed more deficit rainfall than the kharif season (April to September). In fact, barring 2007 and 2008, all the years including 2015 recorded deficient rainfall. During the kharif season, the rainfall-deficit years had been 2009, 2011 and 2013.

Again, month-wise rainfall data during

against the normal norm of 2001 mm.

The district-wise rainfall distribution pattern during the kharif season in 2015-16 shows deficient rainfall in one district (April), seven districts (May), eight districts (June), 20 districts (July), two districts (August) and 16 districts (September). It was scanty rainfall in two districts (July) and one (September), while excess rainfall was witnessed in 16 districts (April), six districts (May), nine districts (June), 15 districts (August) and two dis-

tricts (September). Normal rainfall was recorded in nine districts (April), 13 districts (May), nine districts (June), four districts (July), eight districts (August) and seven districts (September).

For the rabi season during the same period, rainfall was deficient in nine districts (October), eight districts (November), four districts (December), seven districts (January), five districts (February) and 11 districts (March). Scanty rainfall occurred in 14 districts (October), seven districts (November), two districts (December), three districts (January), 11 districts (February) and one districts (March). Excess rainfall was recorded in one, five, 16, 12, four, and seven districts in the months of October, November, December, January, February and March respectively. Two districts and three districts recorded no rainfall in November and February respectively.

In 2014, while the rainfall during the kharif season (April to September) was normal, it was scanty during the rabi season (October to March), resulting in overall deficient rainfall for the year (all seasons).

## CM launches State Youth Forum

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today termed the youth of the Northeast as drivers to the South-East Asia, he also called upon the youth to embrace more responsibility to transform the region into a new growth engine.

Launching the Assam Youth Forum in presence of writer Chetan Bhagat at the Sankaradeva Kalakshetra here today, Sonowal categorically said in order to materialise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream to turn the Northeast as the engine for the country's growth, the youths of the region will have to play a catalytic role.

"Assam has rich human resources, mainly youth. We are committed to channelise the youth's energy to put the State as well as the country into a high growth trajectory," Sonowal added.

## IIT-G organises 9th Half Marathon

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: As part of its 19th edition of Techniche, IIT Guwahati today organised its ninth Guwahati Half Marathon, a running event for promoting better social and human interaction among the residents in and around Guwahati.

The marathon had its theme Run for awareness of organ donation – live life give life."

The Guwahati Half Marathon-2017 appealed to the people to be a part of the change which was for the betterment of society. It urged the people to become more responsible towards issues like poverty, illiteracy, hunger lack of development, infestation, etc.

Professional footballer Ruben Borga, who was the lead striker for North East United FC in the first season of ISL, was the chief guest of the event. Abu Nechim, fast bowler from Royal Challengers Ba-



People taking part in the Half Marathon, in Guwahati on Sunday. – UB Photos

nagore team, was the guest of honour while Bharat Nayak, Editorial Director and co-

ordinator of The Logical Col-

Bhogeswari Phukanani In-

door Stadium, GNRC Road,

Dispur, followed by a six-km

run for the general public.

Jyotish Ratna'

award

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: Noted astrologer Khargeswar Goswami was today conferred the title Jyotish Ratna at the North East Vedic Astrological conference here.

The award was presented to Goswami by Satradhikar Pitamber Deva Goswami. The programme was held at the District Library auditorium.

The title was given to Goswami in recognition of his contribution to the research and development of Indian astrology and his encouragement to the propagation, modernisation and popularity of this branch of knowledge.

Goswami, presently working with ASTEC, has been doing research on the astrology for the past thirty years.

The two-day meet, which concluded today, was organised by the Indian Institute of Oriental Culture, Assam Branch and the Vedic Astrological Research Society, Guwahati.

Noted astrologers and scholars discussed several issues regarding Sanskrit literature, Kavya, Vedanta, Puranic, Vaastu, Tantra, Palmistry, etc. during the meet.

## Mazdoor Morcha backs school bus drivers

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: The BJP Mazdoor Morcha, Assam Pradesh, has extended its support to the drivers and the helpers of the Maharsi Vidya Mandir, Panikhaiti, who have been facing problems regarding their wages. ESI and PF leave benefits, regularisation of their services and other issues. The Morcha has urged the school authorities to redress the grievances of these drivers and helpers.

He further informed that this time, bamboo and steel meshes are used in the walls. Besides, polymer fibre and a chemical admixture have also been used to add strength to the concrete used in the plaster of the walls. The restoration works of the church started in February this year. The structure is expected to be ready for services by October 26 next.

## Third building of region's oldest church undergoing restoration

AJIT PATAWARY

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: The 114-year-old third building of the historic Christ Church is undergoing restoration. Christ Church, Guwahati is the oldest church of the NE region and services in this church started about 173 years back in 1844. The church is located between the Pinbazar Nehru Park and the Office of the Lower Assam Commissioner. It is facing the Cotton College Centenary Gate.

Its first building was completed in 1845. The first service in this building was held on October 26 that year. This building collapsed under the impact of the 1856 earthquake. The second building was built in 1861 and this imposing structure collapsed under the impact of the 1897 earthquake, which had a magnitude of 8.

This necessitated the construction of the Assam-type third building and construction work for the purpose started in 1901. Construction of this Assam-type structure was completed in 1903.

This beautiful Tudor Roof structure had galvanised CI sheets on its roof. It had timber pillars, brick half-walls and bamboo mesh walls. The walls were mud-plastered.

Christ Church



Forces of the elements and termites had eaten into its vitality and some renovations of the structure were carried out around 40 years back in 1978. During this renovation process, the mud plaster of the walls was replaced by concrete plaster. However, such renovations could not add much to its vitality and hence the present restoration works have been undertaken, said Jayanta Sarma of the

Heritage Conservation Society of Assam (HeCSA), a nascent State-based archaeological conservations' group. This group is implementing the restoration project at an estimated cost of around Rs 40 lakh.

The restored building will have an additional

floor area of around 500 square feet to cater to the need of the growing number of the worshippers of the church. The church has now

around 120 regular worshippers. The restored church building will have a total floor area of around 2,500 square feet, said architect Ranjib Baruah and Christ Church Guwahati member Pinuel Basumatary.

Baruah, who has been working on the de-

sign of the church building and supervising the restoration works, said, "We are sticking to the original design of the building and have not added any new architectural feature to it. This has been done to keep the traditional value of the structure intact."

The structure has its wooden doors and windows crafted in gothic style. The timbers used in this structure were mostly Sal and teak and these timbers were kept dipped in linseed oil for some days to enhance their resistant capacity against the forces of elements. In the restoration works, old Sal timbers are used, Baruah said.

He further informed that this time, bamboo and steel meshes are used in the walls. Besides, polymer fibre and a chemical admixture have also been used to add strength to the concrete used in the plaster of the walls. The restoration works of the church started in February this year. The structure is expected to be ready for services by October 26 next.

## In this cyber age, District Library still attracts book lovers

A CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: In this age of Internet, does a modern-day reader prefer to read a book or turn its pages? Has the traditional reading habit changed over the years? The District Library, Guwahati, established in 1955, however, has a different story to tell.

Located near Dighali-pukuri, a bustling area, this library currently boasts of a total collection of 46,128 books which cater to all age groups. The library also maintains an online catalogue which is handled by its authorities. It is headed by Krishna Bordoloi who is the district librarian.

According to the Mcafee Report (2014), 70% of youth in India spends more than five hours on the Internet in a normal week. It cannot be ignored that in the cyber age, the District Library is still attracting book lovers.

In 2016-17, around 2,000 books were brought in and the collection is updated annually. The public can also donate old books, if they are in good readable condition.

The District Library also has a branch (Bishnu Nirmala Shishu Library), exclusively for children under the age group of 16, at Latasil in Uzan Bazar. For the physically challenged persons, a section exists in the District Library here. This section is being run with the support of the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata.

Most of the visitors who come to the District Library are regular readers. Ashok Rajkhowa (63) has been a regular visitor to the library for the last six months and enjoys the wide collection of books here. Another regular reader Abhijit Bordoloi (26) has been visiting the library for two years now.

## Making a mockery of Swachh Bharat

I am in a dilemma as to whether I should appreciate the efforts of the State government, as mentioned in the news item headlined 'New India initiative by GMC-2022' (AT, August 17), or take it as just another instance of cheap publicity resorted to by the government. We have made a mockery of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by doing some occasional photo-ops and little else. The fact is that we perhaps

the country with the municipal corporation here doing little in keeping the city garbage-free.

Why is there a need to take up new initiatives when we are not capable of rendering the basic services? We surely have a long way to go before we can even think of successfully implementing this mission.

— Anandita Chakravorty,  
Khalipara, Guwahati.

### Power blackouts

Already grappling with frequent power cuts, residents in many parts of the city, especially in Kalyani Sagar Path of Khalipara area have voiced worries over being at the receiving end. In the summer season, the residents reaches its peak.

area. Many patients, students and workers from different parts of the nation reside in the area. However, due to poor cellphone network, they are facing a hard time. On many occasions, they cannot make money transactions or utilise the mode of payment due to improper network. The cellphones have become a basic need nowadays and the service providers should find a solution to fix the problem.

— Dr Gitartha Roymedhi,  
Survey, Beltoia, Guwahati.



live in one of the dirtiest cities in the world. The families of the low income group



Citizens' voice

Citizens are requested to express their Guwahati-specific views within 100 words and mail the same to citizensvoice365@gmail.com

noted that information on the Internet is just a click away and saves time but reading a book helps in better understanding and leaves a lifelong impression.

"There should be a culture of reading books so that people can develop an interest and habit of reading and learning," said Jaya Chowdhury, assistant librarian.

Most of the visitors who come to the District Library are regular readers. Ashok

## MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Regret for wasted time is more wasted time.

— MASON COOLEY

**The Assam Tribune****Combating floods**

The recipe recently offered by Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti to tackle the problem of floods, desilting and interlinking of rivers, has been mooted before. While these can perhaps be tried out in river basins in other parts of the country, there is doubt whether the same can be done with a powerful mega river system like the Brahmaputra in order to tame it. It may be recalled that in 1974, expensive dredgers were purchased by the Assam Government to undertake de-silting of the main stem of the river to deepen it. However, it was discovered that no sooner had a particular stretch been dug, it filled up again with detritus in a matter of days and the attempt was abandoned. As for linking up rivers there are numerous terrain-related obstacles surmounting which would pose a challenge. Human intervention in systems created by Nature has always been fraught with unforeseeable consequences and thus any attempt to dabble with flow regimes have to be undertaken with care. At the same time it must also be borne in mind that floods are necessary to maintain the rich fertility of the soil in the Brahmaputra Valley; for instance, wetland ecosystems like that prevalent in Kaziranga or Orang are dependent on floods for survival. Thus the objective will have to be to reduce the impact of floods rather than eliminate them altogether.

The key to containing floods in Assam lies in the fact that around 60% of the water flow in the main river are contributed to by the Siang-Dihang, Dibang, Lohit and Subansiri. Experts believe that building a series of small reservoirs across the length of these rivers to hold the silt and water during the season of maximum discharge is necessary to combat flooding in the valley. However, so far the Centre seems to be thinking more in terms of building mega dams rather than smaller multipurpose structures, something that has caused great concern amongst the downstream section of the populace. Vehement protests and activism by different groups, for example, forced the deferment in construction of the Lower Subansiri project, a stalemate that continues even today. Thus Bharti's exhortation to Arunachal and Assam to agree on realizing the Middle Siang mega project capable of producing 9,600 megawatts of power is not likely to find favour with the people of Assam! Because of its penchant for constructing huge dams, the suspicion has become rife amongst the populace that the Centre is more interested in electricity generation rather than combating floods. During the course of seven decades since independence, numerous expert panels had been formed and master plans related to the Brahmaputra basin management have been framed. Rather than forwarding impractical solutions Bharti would do better to shake the dust off those master plans and determine whether any of the suggestions are worth a try.

**NE-South Asia ties**

Notwithstanding the international borders the North-east shares with South-east Asia, and also the fact that there existed traditional bilateral engagements between the regions, the kind of mutual interactions we have today can hardly be said to be satisfactory. On the other hand, the proximity with its SE Asian neighbours – if harnessed pragmatically – could have had a positive impact on the North-east's economy. Indeed, had enough emphasis been given on tapping the bilateral potential between the two regions and building on their historical and cultural ties, the North-east could well have emerged as a major hub of South-east Asia. Regrettably, the tendency of New Delhi to view and assess everything concerning the North-east through the security prism remained a stumbling block in realizing the region's latent potential. Thankfully, things are changing gradually now, with the ostensible pretext of security now getting somewhat sidelined. Therefore, we are having deliberations on opening up the borders of the north-eastern States through road, rail and air so that the region is linked with its SE Asian neighbours. The Three-Year Action Agenda of NITI Aayog unveiled recently emphasizes on harnessing the North-east's proximity with SE Asia by ironing out transit treaties and through development of physical infrastructure. This is a step in the right direction and it is only by acting pragmatically that we can translate into reality the prospects accruing from its strategic location. While the Look East Policy (now rechristened Act East Policy) was launched precisely with this objective, the ambitious policy remained more or less on paper for the lack of effective follow-up. Of late we have had some engagements with Bangladesh but gainful mutual commitment with other SE Asian nations continues to be a non-starter notwithstanding the flurry of rhetoric about securing enhanced connectivity between the two regions.

Facilitating enhanced bilateral ties can trigger a visible growth in the stagnated economies of the North-east, as the spheres offering potential bilateral engagement between the North-east and SE Asia are many. From tourism and industry to cultural exchanges, there exist exciting vistas that can be mutually benefiting for both – more so for the North-east given that it has easy access to several neighbouring countries. For materializing all this, we must do the groundwork by investing in infrastructure. Connecting the two regions through airways, roadways and railways will be imperative to expediting the desired bilateral cooperation in matters of trade, tourism and other economic activities. Then, merely throwing the borders open without equipping the North-east to compete on equal terms with its neighbours could be self-defeating, as the region stands to gain little from one-way trade and commerce other than becoming a market for goods from outside. This calls for investments in infrastructure and capacity building of our human resources. A roadmap with a vision that can identify our strengths and builds further on those, needs to be put in place.

**Gorkhaland movement and Assam****■ Om Prakash Basnet**

**W**hen the issue of Gorkhaland comes up in a serious debate and discussion, a question is often raised: Why is the demand for Gorkhaland in West Bengal and not in Assam? Some people are even of the opinion that being the highest Gorkha populated State in India, the demand should have been raised in Assam. But the Gorkhas of Assam believe that merely having a large population cannot work as a centrifugal force for creation of a new state, as it requires so many other conditions to be fulfilled and the Gorkhas of Assam lack all of these. The Gorkhas of Assam have become totally Assamese by heart and soul and they do not want to be separated from the mainstream. The Anglo-Gorkha war broke out in 1814, which resulted in the defeat of the Gorkhas and subsequently led to the signing of the Sugauli Treaty in 1815. According to the treaty, Nepal had to cede all those territories that the Gorkhas had annexed from the Chogyal of Sikkim to the British East India Company (i.e., the area between the Mechi river and the Teesta river). Later in 1817, through the Treaty of Titali, the East India Company reinstated the Chogyal of Sikkim, restored all the tracts between the Mechi and the Teesta to the Chogyal and guaranteed his sovereignty.

However, though the British handed over Darjeeling to Sikkim, it was taken back for political reasons in 1835, executed with a deed of grant. Before 1905, when the then Viceroy of India Lord Curzon directed the partition of Bengal, Darjeeling was a part of the Rajshahi division, which now falls in Bangladesh. For a short period from 1905-1912, it was even a part of Bhagalpur division. In November 1864, the Treaty of Sinchula was executed, in which the Bengal Durbar, which originally had been under the Cooch Behar state and taken over by Bhutan in the second

half of the 18th century, along with the passes leading into the hills of Bhutan and Kalimpong were ceded to the British by Bhutan. The present Darjeeling district can be said to have assumed its present shape and size in 1866 with an area of 1234 sq miles. Prior to 1861 and from 1870 to 1874, Darjeeling district was a 'Non-Regulated Area' (where Acts and regulations of the British Raj did not automatically apply in line with the rest of the country).

**The demand for a separate administrative unit in Darjeeling has existed since 1907, when the Hillmen's Association of Darjeeling submitted a memorandum to the Minto-Morley reforms panel demanding a separate administrative set-up.**

try, unless specifically extended. From 1862 to 1870, it was considered a 'Regulated Area'. The term 'Non-Regulated Area' was changed to 'Scheduled District' in 1874 and again to 'Backward Tracts' in 1919. The status was known as 'Partially Excluded Area' from 1935 until the independence of India.

The demand for a separate administrative unit in Darjeeling has existed since 1907, when the Hillmen's Association of Darjeeling submitted a memorandum to the Minto-Morley reforms panel demanding a separate administrative set-up. In 1917, the Association submitted a memorandum to the Chief Secretary, Government of Bengal, the Secretary of State of India and the Viceroy for the

creation of a separate administrative unit comprising the Darjeeling district and adjoining Jalpaiguri district. In 1929, the Association again raised the same demand before the Simon Commission. In 1930, a joint petition was submitted by the Association, Gorkha Officers' Association and the Kurseong Gorkha Library to the Secretary of the State of India, Sam Hoare, for separation from the province of Bengal. In 1941, the Hillmen's Association under the presidency of Rup Narayan Sinha urged the Secretary of State of India, Lord Pethick Lawrence, to exclude Darjeeling from the province and make it a Chief Commissioners Province.

In 1947, the undivided Communist Party of India (CPD) submitted a memorandum to the Constituent Assembly with copies to Jawaharlal Nehru, the vice-president of the interim government, and Liaquat Ali Khan, finance minister of the interim government, demanding the formation of Darjeeling district and Sikkim.

In independent India, the Akhil Bharatiya Gorkha League (ABGL) was the first political party from the region to demand greater identity for the Indian Gorkha ethnic group and economic freedom for the community when in 1952, under the presidency of NB Gurung, the party met Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India, in Kalimpong and submitted a memorandum demanding the separation from Bengal. However, the stand for the proposed state stands diluted as purportedly the majority of the Gorkha population emigrated from Nepal and sur-

rounding areas in large numbers after the independence of India. In 1980, under the presidency of Indira Gandhi, the Pranta Parishad of Darjeeling wrote to the then Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi with the need to form a new state in Darjeeling. A violent movement for a separate state of Gorkhaland was started in 1986 by Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) led by Subhash Ghising. The agitation ultimately led to the establishment of a semi-autonomous body in 1988 called the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) to govern certain areas of Darjeeling district. However, in 2007, a new party called the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) raised the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland once again. In 2011, GJM signed an agreement with the State and Central governments for the formation of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), a semi-autonomous body that replaced the DGHC in the Darjeeling hills.

There had been municipality election in the GTA area this year and the TMC bagged the Mirik municipality out of four. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made the Bengali language compulsory in all schools in place of Nepali. The people of Darjeeling area felt humiliated by this act and got united to accomplish the age-old demand of Gorkhaland. All the political parties and social organizations of the hill area have come under the banner of 'Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee' (GMCC).

The Gorkhas of Assam have expressed their solidarity and support for Gorkhaland. The Gorkhas of Assam have the feeling that once Gorkhaland is created, there will be a state for the Gorkhas of the country and the problem of identity will be resolved to a great extent.

**Assam floods: some alternative remedies****■ Tarun C Borgohain**

**T**he entire Brahmaputra Valley is to be considered as a single drainage basin which is gradually getting too full. Adoption of a permanent plan for moderation of flood, control of siltation and rehabilitation/resettlement of affected people is necessary taking into consideration the developments in the areas within and beyond the borders. The master plan should be supplemented with sub-basin-wise plans for retention, protection and thorough drainage development in phases. A river specific flood moderation and protection plan has therefore been mooted for long-term sustainability. No model study and/or pilot project is necessary for adoption/implementation of the same. Moderation of flash/peak floods, control of riverbank erosion, and reclamation of land in maintaining environmental balance are the priorities. An abstract of the integrated plan is brought out herein below:

Flood moderation, control of silt and scope of resettlement of the river within the territorial jurisdictions. The dam will have un-gated river sluices designed to pass the normally observed flood waters at a height sufficient to retain water for maintaining a pond-

age during the winter season. An open spillway on the dam shall be at an admissible level for retaining the excess water as long as possible in the event of a probable maximum flood. This will induce settlement of the silt in the lake. The energy dissipators, to be provided on the downstream side of the dam, will reduce the velocity of flow through the river sluices and the spillway.

C) Plunge pools are to be created at the convenient locations wherever possible in the downstream stage of the river to accommodate the surging waters of the river/streams and surface run-offs from both the sides. C) Channelization of the river course to required grade and size to accommodate probable maximum flood should be gradually accomplished. Reopening of the old river courses like Mora Pugladi, Mora Dikrong, etc., will supplement the retention capacity which is desirable. Providing wider section of the channel in the adjoining areas of *obras* and other water bodies should be ensured so as to ensure that the existing ecological resources are not drained out in high velocity of flow. Back flow from the main river will be beneficial.

D) Creation of retention tanks having sluice gates alongside the river channel at all the convenient locations should be a must so as to facilitate the storage of flood waters at a height sufficient to facilitate the moderation and control of silt in the major rivers:

A) Creation of medium and small reservoirs in cascades with sufficient flood cushion in the hilly stages will be helpful in moderation of peak floods. Integrated operation and monitoring of all such reservoirs must be ensured as a precondition to the projects. The maximum and mini-

mum combined discharges allowable into the downstream must be specifically stipulated and complied.

B) Reclamation of the ponds, *beels* and other water bodies linked to the river.

F) Creation of raised platforms on both the banks and in the adjoining areas to required heights for resettlement/rehabilitation of the flood-affected people of the locality and for plantation and grazing should be a must in process of disposal of the excavated mud during the development of the surge lake, plunge pool, retention tanks and their maintenance. The existing embankments may also form part of the raised platforms wherever possible.

G) In general the embankments should either be abandoned duly clearing the waterways in phases or adequate cross drainage should be provided with sluice gates in the areas where exclusive protection against peak floods is necessary. The availability of wide section of the channel in the adjoining areas of *obras* and other water bodies should be ensured so as to ensure that the existing ecological resources are not drained out in high velocity of flow. Back flow from the main river will be an added advantage.

Flood moderation and control of silt in the major rivers:

A) Creation of medium and small reservoirs in cascades with sufficient flood cushion in the hilly stages will be helpful in moderation of peak floods. Integrated operation and monitoring of all such reservoirs must be ensured as a precondition to the projects. The maximum and mini-

um combined discharges allowable into the downstream must be specifically stipulated and complied.

B) The riverbed areas beyond the mainstream like that on the right bank side of the Brahmaputra on the upstream of the Bogibeel bridge should be dozed off at least up to the lowest water level duly maintaining a 50m barrier along the riverbank so as to accommodate peak floods and induce silting.

C) The riverine areas at different stages of its course on both the banks should be free to accommodate the peak/flood water levels. Construction of the embankment from Bogibeel bridge to Selamukh along the right bank of the Brahmaputra has been a curse to the communities living in the affected area. It has caused an environmental disaster having permanent implications.

D) Channelization of the Brahmaputra river to required grade,

shape and size and suitable alignment to induce linear flow and self-cleansing velocity as also to maintain balance of flow. While the channelization below the water level will be done with dredges, large mounted excavators, etc., the excavation machinery can be deployed above the water level in the winter. The excavated mud should preferably be dumped alongside the riverbanks for creating a protected barrier. A 200m wide channel in the mid-stream should be good enough to start with.

Organization for disaster management in the respective areas involving the local people should be preferred. Maintaining a public army/task force for the purpose with the locally available resources and requisite provisions is necessary for prompt and proper operations at the time of crisis and need. Adoption of the latest techniques and available resources for erosion control is necessary. Creation of a multidisciplinary task force associated with the Water Resource Department for handling of excavation and dredging equipment and erosion control machinery is also required. Imparting training and preference in field-level deployment of the local affected people during the execution below the water level is desirable for their acquaintance of the circumstances.

More importantly, the inter-basin transfer of water should be avoided. The impacts of diversion of the Mora Pugladi and Rangnadi have been devastating. Drainage, protection and retention, should be the priority.

**Letters to the EDITOR****NE DD news channel**

another North-east channel, the authority should go for one 24x7 NE DD news channel for airing news in various north-eastern languages (e.g., Assamese, Nagamese, Khasi, Mizo, Manipuri, etc.). Simultaneously, the unpopular existing DD North East channel may be converted into 'DD Arunabhava' channel which will be mandated to telecast high quality programmes so as to make it popular among the viewers. Yours etc., DOLANCHAPA MUKHERJEE, Uluberia, Guwahati.

**Electronic Science**

Sir – The Chief Minister, Education Minister and other policy-makers of the State should consider the introduction of Electronic Science as a stream in the degree as well as upcoming model colleges. I feel the introduction of such subjects because this will lead to the success of the 'Make in Assam' as well as the 'Make in India' projects to a greater extent. Moreover, the

employment issue of a number of qualified candidates (clearing NET/PhD) in that stream can also be solved. Also this can contribute to the digitization of the State machinery. I request the Government to consider the issue as soon as possible. Yours etc., MRIDU MITA SHARMA, Gauhati.

**Android phones**

Sir – The android phones are used by everyone mostly for activities other than talking. These phones have become a source of concern for the society. Easy internet connectivity has made these phones a source of information and entertainment. Most people these days use social media sites and are exposed to news, happenings and personal contacts. The use of these phones is giving rise to many new illnesses, both physical and mental. The pornographic sites and adult contents are harming the users. Information about anything available on the net

is not always authentic and genuine. The online games are polluting the work culture and addiction to the game is becoming a health hazard. Google have made things easy for everyone. Everyone search for solutions in Google without verifying their authenticity. The society as a whole will have to pay the price of the misuse of the smart phones in the days to come. Yours etc., Dr PINAKI CHAKRABORTY, Silchar.

**Medical counselling**

Sir – In the medical counselling,

seats are allotted to the students on the basis of NEET conducted by the CBSE. During the first counselling for the medical colleges of Assam, the first two rank holders of the AHSEC were allotted seats provided they would qualify the NEET exam. (The qualifying marks are 131 for NEET-2017). Again, it has been declared that the first three position holders will be allotted the seats provided they score 50% marks in the NEET. It has been a confusing scenario. Further, it has been mentioned that the position holders of the AHSEC have been called for the counselling. No criteria have been mentioned regarding the position holders and their eligibility for the seat allotment. In the first counselling, seats are allotted on the basis of qualification and then on the basis of scoring 50% of marks in NEET. If the first three position holders are being allotted seats, then why not the rest of the 10 rank holders? There are equally good students as they had made it to the merit list. I am one of the position holders of the AHSEC HS exam: the notification doesn't clarify whether all the position holders will be allotted seats or not. Further, what is the minimum marks in NEET for those students to get considered for counselling? Yours etc., RONAK JAIN, 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.

## NE fashion week Assam edition held

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: The Assam edition of the North East India Fashion Week, building up for the premier fashion event's third edition in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, later this year, was held at the

Assam Engineering Institute playground, Chandmari here on Saturday evening.

The organiser of the fashion event was Affluent Ray of Light (ARL), a non-profit organisation dedicated to globalise the social and cultural aspects of the different

tribes of the Northeastern region.

The Assam edition of the event, christened 'The Kha' movement - Assam edition', was conceptualised to

inspire and encourage the upcoming handicraft artisans and design of the region.

### APOLLO HOSPITALS CHENNAI DIABETOLOGIST & ENDOCRINOLOGIST

Dr. T.S.Boochandran MBBS,MRCOG, MSc

Will be available only for consultation at DIBRUGARH on 22-09-17.

Patient having any Thyroid, Parathyroid disorder, Obesity and related disorders, General medicine & Diabetic related problems can register their names at:

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We accept all Public Sector & Private Health Insurance Policies. For processing of your Insurance coverage please carry valid address proof, Insurance Card, Proof of Identity & Policy documents.

### Workshop for prosecutors, investigators organised

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: In a bid to bring about coordination between prosecutors and investigators, the Assam Police organised a workshop yesterday at the initiative of the Additional Director General of Police (Prosecution). The workshop was attended by 65 public prosecutors, additional public prosecutors, investigating officers and other senior police officers. It focused on collecting digital evidences and cyber crime. The workshop also focused on collection and handling of electronic records and presentation of the same in the court. The workshop was also addressed by Mukesh Sahay, Director General of Assam Police.

## Mobile vety camp at Sonapur

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: A team of NDRF veterinary doctors and veterinary nursing assistant staff yesterday organised a mobile veterinary camp at Sonapur to provide necessary support to the cattle and livestock affected in the floods.

The animals affected by floods in different districts of Assam were being helped by mobile veterinary camps organised by the World Animal Protection in coordination with the Veterinary Emergency Response Unit (VERU), East Zone, College of Veterinary Sciences, 1st Battalion of the NDRF Department of Animal Husbandry and Just Be Friendly (JBF). Since August 23, more than 10,000 animals have been treated through such camps.

In yesterday's programme, the team of veterinarians screened the livestock for a range of diseases and administered vaccination and de-worming medication. In order to help the flood-hit farmers and cattle owners, free medicines, vaccines and tonics were distributed in the camp. More than 5,439 domestic animals were treated for different diseases.

## Bhagawat Jayanti

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: Srimanta Sankaradeo Naamghar Kalakrishi Kendra, Pub Samanta, is going to observe 'Bhagawat Jayanti' at the Naamghar on September 6 from 10 am. Members of the Kendra and general public have been invited by the organisers to attend the ceremony. On the occasion, Bhagawat Path will be done by Jagat Chandra Banua, president of the publication section, Srimanta Sankaradeo Singha, a press release stated.

### APOLLO HOSPITALS CHENNAI DIABETOLOGIST & ENDOCRINOLOGIST

Dr. T.S.Boochandran MBBS,MRCOG, MSc

Will be available only for consultation at Guwahati

on 23rd September 2017

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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on IT/ITES

### Q1. Whether software is regarded as goods or services in GST?

**Ans:** In terms of Schedule II of the CGST Act 2017, development, design, programming, customisation, adaptation, upgradation, enhancement, implementation of information technology software and temporary transfer or permitting the use or enjoyment of any intellectual property right are treated as services.

But, if a pre-developed or pre-designed software is supplied in any medium/storage (commonly bought off-the-shelf) or made available through the use of encryption keys, the same is treated as a supply of goods classifiable under heading 8523.

### Q2. What are the implications of recognising the development, design, programming, customisation, adaptation, upgradation, enhancement and implementation of information technology software as a service?

**Ans:** The primary implication is that the place of supply rules applicable to services would apply in determining taxability of the supply of software services. The same would be applicable in situations of supply of services involving a temporary transfer or permitting the use or enjoyment of any intellectual property right. The other implication is that the supplier of software services would not be eligible for the composition scheme.

### Q3. 'A' is a dealer in computers and computer parts having turnover of Rs. 8 lakh in a year; does 'A' have to register under GST?

**Ans:** Every supplier located in a State or Union Territory, whose 'aggregate turnover' in a financial year exceeds twenty lakh rupees, is liable to be registered under GST. This limit of turnover for a special category State is ten lakh rupees. 'A', whose aggregate turnover is only Rs. 8 lakh in a year, is therefore not liable to registration.

### Q4. The registered person 'B' receives small portions of software code from individuals which he then integrates and supply as a package to clients. These individuals are having small turnover of Rs. 5 to 10 lakh, and therefore are not registered in GST. Whether there is any liability on 'B' in respect of services provided by such individuals?

**Ans:** If the supplies are made by unregistered suppliers, GST is liable to be paid by the recipient, who is a registered person, under Section 9(4) of the CGST Act, 2017. Therefore, in this case 'B' is liable to pay GST on services provided by these individuals. 'B' can claim credit of this tax paid by him on reverse charge.

### Q5. What is the rate of tax on IT services?

**Ans:** The rate of GST on IT services is 18%.

### Q6. Whether exports of software services attract GST?

**Ans:** Exports and supplies to SEZ units and SEZ developers are zero-rated in GST. Zero-rating effectively means that no tax is payable on exports but the exporter/supplier is entitled to the input tax credit on inputs/input services used in relation to exports. The exporter have two options for zero rating, which are as follows:-

1) To pay integrated tax on supplies meant to be exported and get refund of tax so paid after the supply is exported.

2) To make export supplies under a bond or letter of undertaking and claim refund of taxes suffered on inputs and input services in relation to such exports.

### Q7. How do I determine whether IT services provided by me constitute export of service?

**Ans:** The supply of any service is considered an export of service, where the following conditions are met:

- 1) The supplier of service is located in India;
- 2) The recipient of service is located outside India;
- 3) The place of supply of service is outside India;
- 4) The payment for such service has been received by the supplier of service in convertible foreign exchange; and
- 5) The supplier of service and the recipient of service are not merely establishments of a distinct person in accordance with explanation of section 8 of the IGST Act, 2017.

### Q8. How do I determine the place of supply of IT/ITES services?

**Ans:** Place of supply of IT/ITES services is the location of the recipient in terms of Section 12 and 13 of the IGST Act, 2017. However, if the recipient is not registered and his address is not available on the records of the supplier, the place of supply would be the location of the supplier.

### Q9. How to determine the location of the recipient?

**Ans:** Location of the recipient of service is defined in Section 2(14) of the IGST Act. A recipient of services is treated as located outside India if the place of business where he receives services is outside India or, if he does not have a place of business, his usual place of residence is outside India.

### Q10. Would I be liable to pay GST on reverse charge even if the foreign supplier of software from whom I buy for use in my firm registered under GST was to accept the payment in Indian Rupees?

**Ans:** Yes, you would be liable to pay GST. Supply is treated as an import of service if the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) The supplier of service is located outside India;
- 2) The recipient of service is located in India; and
- 3) The place of supply of service is in India.

The place of such supply would be taken to be the location where the firm is registered (in GST) and the supplies would attract integrated tax (GST). The factum of which currency was used to pay the consideration is immaterial.

### Q11. I am an Indian Company who makes software and sells it outside the country. I have hired a firm (not a related party) 'C' located abroad to facilitate the supply of software in Europe and the USA; would I be liable to pay GST on the payments that I make to this entity abroad?

**Ans:** No, this case, 'C' is covered by the definition of 'intermediary' [Section 2(13) of the IGST Act, 2017]. The place of supply of such intermediary service is location of the supplier in terms of Section 13(8) of the CGST Rules, 2017. As 'C' is located outside India, GST is not payable in this case.

### Q12. What factors determine the location of 'C' (in question 11) as being outside India?

**Ans:** In terms of Section 2(15) of the CGST Act, 2017, the location of a service provider is to be determined by applying the following steps sequentially:

- 1) Where a supply is made from a place of business for which the registration has been obtained, the location of such place of business;
- 2) Where a supply is made from a place other than the place of business for which registration has been obtained (a fixed establishment elsewhere), the location of such fixed establishment;
- 3) Where a supply is made from more than one establishment, whether the place of business or fixed establishment, the location of the establishment most directly concerned with the provision of the supply; and
- 4) In absence of such places, the location of the usual place of residence of the supplier.

The location of 'C' is to be determined by applying the criterion from (2), or (3), or as the case may be, (4).

### Q13. I am an agent in India of a foreign IT/ITES provider (principal located outside India). For agency services, I bill the principal in convertible foreign exchange. Whether GST liability arises in this case?

**Ans:** You are an intermediary and the place of supply of the service provided by you to the principal is in India irrespective of the mode of payment. Hence, GST is payable on the services provided by you as an intermediary to the principal.

### Q14. I have more than one SEZ unit in different States; do I need to take separate registrations? Also, I have two SEZ units in one State. Can I take a single registration?

**Ans:** 1) Yes. Under GST, every entity shall take GST registration in each State from which it makes taxable supplies. However, a single registration can be taken for all your SEZ units within a State, whether located in one SEZ or more than one SEZ.

2) A person having unit(s) in a Special Economic Zone as well as outside the SEZ in a State shall make a separate application for registration for SEZ unit(s) as a business vertical distinct from other units located outside the Special Economic Zone in that State. Refer Rule 8(1) of CGST Rules, 2017.

### Q15. I have a unit in the DTA and another in the SEZ; can I take a common registration?

**Ans:** No. A person having unit(s) in a Special Economic Zone as well as outside the SEZ in a State, shall make a separate application for registration for SEZ unit(s) as a business vertical distinct from other units located outside the Special Economic Zone in that State. Refer Rule 8(1) of CGST Rules, 2017.

### Q16. If I supply a laptop bag along with the laptop to my customer, what would be the rate of tax leviable?

**Ans:** If the laptop bag is supplied along with the laptop in the ordinary course of business, the principal supply is that of the laptop and the bag is an ancillary. It is a composite supply and the rate of tax would that as applicable to the laptop.

### Q17. I am obtaining online database access services from a company abroad over the net, would I have to pay tax on reverse charge?

**Ans:** The recipient, if registered, has to pay the applicable IGST on reverse charge basis. If the recipient is not registered, the matter is treated as an online information and database access or retrieval service (OIDAR) and the OIDAR service provider is liable to take registration and pay tax.

### Q18. When would it be construed that I have made a supply of services involving temporary transfer or permitting the use or enjoyment of any intellectual property right?

**Ans:** Generally, the End User Licence Agreement (EULA) is the legal contract between a software application author or publisher and user of that application governing the usage. The agreement is renewable and/or could be amended from time to time. To find out as to whether there is an element of supply involved when software is delivered to its customer, the terms and conditions of EULA are material.

### Q19. What special provisions are attracted in GST with regard to associated enterprises?

**Ans:** An enterprise which participates, either directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, in the management, or control or capital of the other enterprise is an associated enterprise. In the context of GST, associated enterprise is particularly relevant in the case of supply of services, where the supplier is located outside India. In such cases, the time of supply will be the earlier of date of entry in the books of account of the recipient of supply or the date of payment – thus, within 'associated enterprises', the levy under GST is attracted once such book entries are made even if no actual payment takes place or no invoice is issued.

### Q20. What would be the tax liability on replacement of parts (no consideration is charged from a customer) under a warranty and whether the supplier is required to reverse the input tax credit?

**Ans:** As parts are provided to the customer without a consideration under warranty, no GST is chargeable on such replacement. The value of supply made earlier includes the charges to be incurred during the warranty period. Therefore, the supplier who has undertaken the warranty replacement is not required to reverse the input tax credit on the parts/components replaced.

### Q21. An Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) has an obligation to provide repair services to their customers in the warranty period. This activity is outsourced by OEM to 'D', who bills the OEM for the services he provides to the customer. What is the tax liability of 'D'?

**Ans:** 'D' is providing service to the OEM. GST is payable on the value of any supplies made by 'D' to OEM i.e. in respect of bills raised by 'D' on the OEM.

### Q22. How will the defective parts be sent to the mother ware house/repairing centre for repair by the down stream repairing centres? What is the tax liability?

**Ans:** The defective parts shall be sent for repair on a delivery chalan accompanied by such e-way bill as may be prescribed. GST shall be chargeable on the repair amount, including the cost of parts, charged by the repair in centre.

### Q23. What is the tax liability in a scenario where supplies are made from multiple locations (in different States) of the supplier to the recipient under a single contract?

**Ans:** Delivering services from various locations and integrated pricing for the contract as a whole is the norm in IT/ITES industry. Normally the contract or agreement with the recipient is entered into by one of the branches (let us say "Main Branch"). Therefore, in such cases of service delivery from multiple locations of the supplier to the recipient, the supply could be visualized as consisting of two distinct supplies. First supply- the different branches of the supplier located across different States are making the supply to the main branch which entered into a contract or an agreement with the recipient for the supply of such service. Second supply- main branch is making a supply to the customer. GST is to be levied accordingly. In such a scenario, the main branch would get input tax credit of GST paid by the other branches on supplies made by them to the recipient.

### Q24. In the scenario envisaged in previous question, the main branch is said to be entitled to ITC of the GST paid by the other branches. Thus, it is a revenue neutral situation. What are the valuation guidelines for such services?

**Ans:** The second proviso to Rule 26 of the CGST Rules, 2017 provides that where the recipient is eligible for full input tax credit, the value paid in the invoice shall be deemed to be the open market value of goods and services.

### Q25. Can payment of GST on reverse charge basis on import of goods/services be done through book entry or ITC?

**Ans:** No. GST payable on reverse charge basis is to be discharged through cash only. Rule 85(4) of the CGST Rules, 2017 refers.

### Q26. Is the requirement of transferring of credit through ISD mechanism mandatory?

**Ans:** The ISD provision under the CGST Act, 2017 is not mandatory. It only provides the manner of distribution of ITC wherever the business entity wishes to distribute the ITC as an Input Service Distributor.

### Q27. What is the format for invoices to be issued in the case of reverse charge payment of GST?

**Ans:** No separate format for type of invoicing including self-invoicing has been prescribed. The contents of the invoice have been prescribed in Rule 48 of the CGST Rules, 2017.

### Q28. I am a software provider, registered at Mumbai. I supply software to my clients in Bangalore- would I be required to take a registration in Karnataka?

**Ans:** No. The supplies would be treated as inter-State supplies and GST is chargeable on the same.

### Q29. I am an exporter of services. Would I be entitled to refund after the 1st of July (appointed day)?

**Ans:** For exports upto 30th June, 2017 refund may be claimed under the provisions of the Chapter V of the Finance Act, 1994. Exports made on and after 1st July would be eligible for refund under the GST law.

**Note:** Reference to CGST Act, 2017 includes reference to SGST Act, 2017 and UTGST Act, 2017 also.

Similarly reference to CGST Rules, 2017 includes reference to SGST Rules 2017.

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Disclaimer: The replies given above are only for educational and guidance purposes and do not hold any legal validity.

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## Closure of vital Matijuri bridge for repairs inconveniencing Hailakandi residents



Repairing work going on at Matijuri bridge. - Photo: Hailakandi Correspondent

### CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, Aug 27: Over one lakh people of Hailakandi district are facing extreme difficulties due to the closure of the 50-year-old Matijuri bridge over Katakhal river. The bridge was closed in April after a major crack was seen in the middle of the bridge. The State Road Board division of the PWD has closed the bridge for traffic as well as pedestrians due to the ongoing repair work. The repairing of the damaged area began on August 18 last and may be completed within the next couple of days, said Rabin Kumar Das, Assistant Executive Engineer of the State Road

Board division in Hailakandi, who is in charge of the repairing work. He said that Rs 16 lakh had been released for the repairing of the damaged 36-square metre area of the bridge. He exuded confidence that the bridge will be safe for another ten years after repairing.

To complete the repairing work as soon as possible, 25 mechanical engineers have been engaged. Das said, It was constructed by Gammon India 50 years back.

Most of the people of Hailakandi are dependent on this bridge while going to Assam University, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Silchar Medical College and Hos-

pital, Polytechnic, Veterinary Hospital etc. Matijuri road is connected to Silchar via Hailakandi. The people opted for this road journey to Silchar via Dwarahand because of the scenic beauty on both sides of the road. The bridge has utmost importance considering the needs of the university goers and patients from Hailakandi.

Due to the closure of the bridge for repairing work, the people particularly the students are facing a tough time to cross the river in this rainy season. The two engine boats of the Inland Water Transport Department with a capacity of 160 passengers each have

been placed alongside two country boats for crossing the river, informed Das.

The people of the locality have demanded that the timings of the boats should be extended upto 10 pm. They also alleged that the engine boats are defective and may cause a major accident anytime in the middle of the river.

However, the people of the locality have demanded the construction of a new bridge as the existing bridge is not suitable for vehicular movement.

Das informed that the department is preparing a detailed project report (DPR) for a new bridge in the area which would be submitted soon.

The welcome address will be delivered by Dr Khargeswar Deka, Principal of Goreswar College where altogether 59 meritorous students who secured 1st class in the BA final examination, 2017, from the college will also be felicitated, along with founders of Goreswar College and institutions who helped to establish the college.

On the occasion, the lanterns will be lit by Haricharan Deka, former president of the governing body of Goreswar College.

Mahesh Basumatary, EM, BTC, Haricharan Deka, advocate and former president, Governing Body, Goreswar College, and Balashish Kalita, MLA, Rayong, will attend the meeting as guests of honour.

This is a complete negligence on the part of APDCL at a time

## Sankalp Se Siddhi prog held at Tezpur

### CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, Aug 27: With the pledge for building a new India by 2022, Krishn Vigan Sarma, Sonitpur organised a daylong programme, the New India Manthan: Sankalp Se Siddhi at the District Library on Saturday here with the objective of doubling the farmers' income by 2022 based on "Seven-point strategy".

The programme was graced by the Union Minis-

ter of State for Railways, Rajen Gorain, BRP Sarma, MP, Tezpur, Binapani Goswami, MLA, Tezpur LAC, Rupak Sarma, MLA, Nagaon LAC, Dr KM Baruah, Vice-Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat and MK Deka, DC, Sonitpur and the district heads of line departments viz., Agriculture, Fisheries, Veterinary and a host of Government officials, bankers, NGOs. Altogether 782 farmers participated in the programme.

The programme was inau-

gurated with the lighting of lamp by Union Minister Rajen Gorain and the presence of other dignitaries which was followed by the welcome address by Dr PC Deka, Head, KVK, Sonitpur and administering of the 'New India Manthan Pledge' by the Central Minister.

Participating as the resource person, Dr AK Tripathi, Director, ATARI, Zone-VI dealt at length on the significance of the programme. He also covered different as-

pects of doubling farmers income by 2022. Binapani Goswami, MLA, Tezpur LAC spoke on different Government initiatives for doubling of farmers income. Rupak Sarma, MLA, Nagaon LAC appealed to the participants to take up agriculture for self-employment. RP Sarma, MP, Tezpur spoke on the different flagship programmes being implemented by the Union Government for boosting farm productivity and welfare of the farming community.

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Chankha questioned that if Gopinath Bardoloi alone could save this region from going into the hands of those who espoused partition of the country, why is it that we have failed

### OBITUARY GP Tamuli

#### ANN Service

JAMUGURIHAT, Aug 27: Guru Prasad Tamuli, retired professor, Assamese, Tagore Hem Baruah College, Jamugurihata, a prominent social worker, and a leading member of the historic Assam Movement died recently at his own residence at Kusumtola, Jamugurihata due to old-age ailments. He was 83.

Born at Tamugurihata, Sarthebari of Barpeta district in 1934, he joined Tyagbir Hem Baruah College, Jamugurihata in 1967 and retired in 1997. He was associated with various social, literary, educational and nationalist organisations. He was the founder vice-president of Assam Yuval Samaj, president, Tezpur Zila Karmachari Parishad, president, Tezpur Zila Assam Sahitya Sabha, a life member and the central executive member, a member of the Tezpur Mahukura Planning and Development Committee.

He leaves behind three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers.

## Jatin Prasad Bora

Jatin Prasad Bora, left for his heavenly abode on Friday, the 18th of August 2017 at the Dispur Polyclinic, Guwahati.

Jetha was the third child of Tarini Bora and Ganahantini Bora of Puranigudam, Nagaon. He started his career as an employee of the Nagaon Post Office and later joined the Assam Tea Corporation, from where he retired as the Senior Accounts Officer in 2002.

## Lack of drinking water in primary schools causing health hazards

### CORRESPONDENT

GAURIPUR, Aug 27: Almost all primary schools located at rural areas under Dhubri, Gaupur, Golaghat, Agnani blocks have no arrangements for pure drinking water. Though the Department of Education, Government of Assam has constructed school-buildings, kitchens and provided mid-day meals, free textbooks etc., it has failed to provide the basic necessity of pure drinking water for the children.

According to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, water-borne diseases are caused by a variety of micro-organisms, biotoxins and toxic contaminants which lead to devastating illnesses such as cholera, schistosomiasis and other gastro-intestinal problems.

After visiting a number of schools located at remote rural and *chaur* areas, this correspondent found very horrifying scenes of children drinking river water due to the lack

of even a tubewell. In some schools arrangements have been made for drinking water by preserving rain-water, but those too are in a damaged condition, with the result that children are found suffering from Hepatitis-A, Travellers diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid fever, cholera etc. People of the district have urged the Government to provide pure drinking water to the students.

**Ganesha Puja:** Under the auspices of Shri Sri Ganesh Puja Celebration Committee, Ganesh Puja was observed on the premises of Ganesh Akhara at Gaupur with a two-day long

programme on August 25 and 26. After installation of the Siddhikar's idol, puja rituals started as per Vedic customs. Hundreds of devotees thronged the puja premises and offered prayer by offering *bhandi lata*, one of the favourite diets of Lord Ganesh. Several troops coming from nearby areas performed *naam-kirtan* and *bhajan*. After completion of the puja, *khichri borg* was distributed among the devotees.

An attractive *arati* competition was also organised the next day. The winners of the *arati* competition were given attractive prizes.

tributions that he had made for the growth of the institution. IIT Guwahati recently organised two academic events—Dr Jyotiprasad Medhi Memorial Annual Lecture and Cauchy Day.

The first Jyotiprasad Medhi Memorial Annual Lecture was held on August 16 to celebrate the life and works of the eminent mathematician and statistician who passed away this year on February 3. While introducing the event, Prof Bhakti Kumar Sarma said that the Department of Mathematics feels honoured to organise such an event and that Dr Medhi has been and will be the source of inspiration for thousands of mathematics lovers. In his address, Prof Gautam Biswas, Director of IITG, mentioned about the monumental achievements of Dr Medhi and at the same time expressed the greatness of the Institute to Dr Medhi for the various con-

tributions that he had made for the growth of the institution. Addressing the gathering, the Head of the Department of Mathematics Prof Swaroop Nandan Bora said that those who got the company and blessings of such a respected and noble academician are very fortunate.

Before delivering the memorial lecture, eminent statistician and Professor Rahul Roy of the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi Centre said that he felt proud to be speaking the memory of Dr Medhi. Prof Roy said that Prof Medhi's eminence is widespread all over the world and that he cannot simply be termed as an eminent Assamese mathematician; he was a global mathematician and statistician of repute.

Discussing the works of Dr Medhi, Prof Roy expressed his amazement that this kind of seminal work, which drew attention worldwide, was carried out so long ago. Presentation of

### Foundation day of Goreswar College today

#### ANN Service

GORESWAR, Aug 27: Goreswar College is organising its 43rd foundation day at the college premises on August 28 with a day-long programme. The meeting will be presided over by Anindra Nath, president, Betta Siksha Aru Krishn Unnayan Sangha, Goreswar.

The welcome address will be delivered by Dr Khargeswar Deka, Principal of Goreswar College where altogether 59 meritous students who secured 1st class in the BA final examination, 2017, from the college will also be felicitated, along with founders of Goreswar College and institutions who helped to establish the college.

It was one of the worst hot summer day leaving the residents of these localities in desperation even as the power in the inverters got exhausted paralysing the life of the people.

Despite repeated complaints

## Prolonged power cuts irk people in Goalpara

### CORRESPONDENT

GOALPARA, Aug 27: Some parts of the Goalpara town have been experiencing power cuts for the last 24 hours due to technical snags since Friday morning causing severe hardships for the residents.

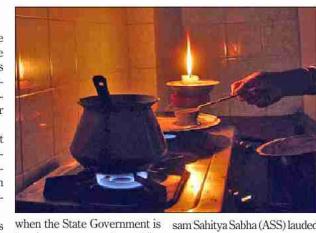
It was one of the worst hot summer day leaving the residents of these localities in desperation even as the power in the inverters got exhausted paralysing the life of the people.

Despite repeated complaints from the people, the staff of the Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd (APDCL), Goalpara, have not been able to repair the glitch.

This technical glitch in the power transmission has exposed the hollowness of the APDCL leading to resentment among the people in the town.

The insensitivity of the local administration and the senior officials was demonstrated as the complaint telephone numbers were not functional and no senior official was available at the field level to provide correct information on the technical snag and to assuage the feelings of the people.

"This is a complete negligence on the part of APDCL at a time



when the State Government is harping on power reforms. The APDCL should work more professionally", a few aggrieved residents of the town opined.

**Foundation day observed:**

The foundation day of Goalpara Zila Sahitya Sabha (GZSS) was observed at the Sahitya Bhavan here recently.

Addressing the opening ses-

sion, the Principal of Habraghat College, Krishnai, Dr Mantu Kumar Das underscored the need for expansion of the activities of the Zila Sahitya Sabha. He said that over 500 members have been enrolled by the secretary of the Zila Sahitya Sabha.

Earlier, the flag of the Zila Sahitya Sabha was hoisted by Goalpara (east) Zila Sahitya Sabha president Ali Munir Ben Mehdil and floral tributes were offered by noted writer Praneshwar Rabha.

Chief guest Abani Mohan Saikia, assistant secretary of A-

## NE India Inter College debating contest held at Sonapur College

### GUWAHATI, Aug 27:

"If we say that the North-east is always exploited by the Centre, we must ask why this region's leadership is allowing it?", said Monalisa Chankha, the renowned columnist, poet and editor of *National Page*, while speaking from the speaker's chair at the North East India Inter College Debating Competition, held recently. The event was organised by Sonapur College and *The Telegraph*.

This was stated in a press release.

Chankha questioned that if

it is incorrect".

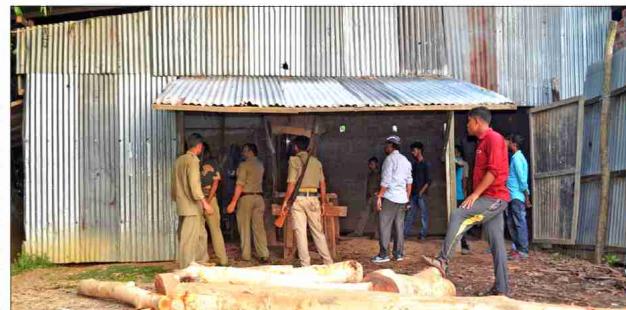
Earlier in the day, Dr Devabroto Khanikar, Principal, Sonapur College delivered his welcome address.

The jury of the debate competition comprised Suresh Ranjan Godika, a freelance journalist and the editor of Assamese periodical *Jeevan*, Associate Professor of Arya Vidyapeeth College of Guwahati Sangeeta Kakoti and the Chief Public Relations Officer of IIT, Guwahati, Labanu Knowar.

Anwesha Saha and Shubham

Firdausi of Gauhati Medical College were the joint winners while Abhishek Kabra of BG College, Jorhat and Bwenee Kemp of Tetso College, Dimapur were adjudged the second and the third best debaters respectively. They received the Siman Urba Singh Memorial Prizes along with the cash prizes of Rs 10,000, Rs 7,000 and Rs 5,000 respectively. The Gauhati Medical College and the North Lakhimpur College were adjudged the best and the second best teams respectively and lifted the Siman Urba Singh Memorial Prizes besides cash awards.

A special prize, namely "The Telegraph Unputdownable Debater" of North East India Inter College Debating Competition-2017, sponsored by *The Telegraph*, was received by Anwesha Mahanta of Cotton University, Guwahati.



Personnel of the Forest Department, Salna conducting a raid at an illegal sawmill at Amoni, Nagaon on Saturday. - UB Photos

## Achievements of Dr Jyotiprasad Medhi, Cauchy recalled

### GUWAHATI, Aug 27:

Under the auspices of Shri Sri Ganesh Puja Celebration Committee, Ganesh Puja was observed on the premises of Ganesh Akhara at Gaupur with a two-day long

programme on August 25 and 26. After installation of the Siddhikar's idol, puja rituals started as per Vedic customs. Hundreds of devotees thronged the puja premises and offered prayer by offering *bhandi lata*, one of the favourite diets of Lord Ganesh. Several troops coming from nearby areas performed *naam-kirtan* and *bhajan*. After completion of the puja, *khichri borg* was distributed among the devotees.

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Discussing the works of Dr Medhi, Prof Roy expressed his amazement that this kind of seminal work, which drew attention worldwide, was carried out so long ago. Presentation of

contribution of Dr Jyotiprasad Medhi.

It is worth mentioning that in addition to faculty members and students of IIT Guwahati, Gauhati University, Cotton University, IAST, many admirers of Dr Medhi, his son Shubhankar Medhi and daughter-in-law Yashodhara Medhi were also present.

To commemorate the birth anniversary of famous French mathematician Augustin-Louis Cauchy, (1789-1856), considered to be one of the best mathematicians that the world has ever produced, a two-day programme called Cauchy Day was organised by the Department of Mathematics, IIT Guwahati on August 20 and 21. A large number of students participated in Mathematics quiz, short talks and poster presentation, mainly depicting the monumental works that Cauchy had achieved. On August 21, the

birthday of Cauchy, eminent mathematician and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awardee Prof Kaushal Verma of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore delivered a lecture titled "The Quadrature domains in the complex plane". Many results of Cauchy that were derived many years back were demonstrated in the course of the lecture. Prof. Verma's talk centred around domains on which a suitable test class of holomorphic functions satisfies a generalized mean value property. Prof Verma appreciated the efforts of the department for organising this event twice a year – each time in the name of a different famous mathematician of the world.

Prior to Prof Verma's lecture, the Head of the Department, Prof Swaroop Nandan Bora briefly discussed the contribution of Cauchy to the world of mathematics, physics and civil engineering.

Dr Jyotiprasad Medhi

Augustin-Louis Cauchy

**Body of woman recovered**

DIBRUGARH, Aug 27: Closer on the heels of a sensational murder of a woman in the district, another suspected rape and murder of a woman has come to light in the city here, following recovery of a



woman's body in one of the bogs of the Guwahati-Dibrugarh Special train in Dibrugarh. The deceased identified as Supra Das was lying half naked on the floor of the bogie. The body was first noticed at 7 am by Railway workers engaged in cleaning the coaches, said... Staff Correspondent



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REFINERY DIVISION  
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER  
NIT No. 0C1900221

Job Name: Contract for Catalyst Loading in DHDT Reader

Bid submission end date & time: 13.09.2017, before 11.00 a.m.

& Opening date & time: 14.09.2017 after 11.00 a.m. (<http://e-procure.gov.in/e-procure.aspx>)

email Id: dhdtreader@nrl.in

Ph: 03776-265477; Fax: 265514

For details of tender and subsequent corrigendum, addendum if any please visit website [www.nrltender.gov.in](http://www.nrltender.gov.in)

No. M/C/H/2017/17096

Dated: 25/8/2017

**NOTICE**

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender for Outsource of Dietary Services for admitted patients of Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh which was published in the newspapers "Assam Tribune" and "Dainik Janambhumi" on 25.06.2017 is hereby cancelled. Drafting of the re-tender for the same will be published shortly.

Sd/- Superintendent

Assam Medical College Hospital

Dibrugarh



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(28th Aug to 31st Aug 2017)

ADMIRAL (Hindi)

A GENTELMAN-SRR (H) U/A

At 9.30 a.m. & 4.30 p.m.

BAUMOSHAI BANDOKKABAZ (H)

At 8.30 a.m. & 4.30 p.m.

QUADI BANDI (Hindi)

At 8.30 a.m. & 4.30 p.m.

ANNABELLE:CREATION (Eng.) A

ANNABELLE:CREATION (Hindi)

TOILET EX PREM KATHA (Hindi/Jua)

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# STATE

## Indian varsities need more teachers, reformed curriculum: former UGC chief

### CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Aug 27: The poor showing of Indian institutions in world university rankings has become cause of concern among educationists in the country. Former President Pranab Mukherjee had expressed his worries on the dismal performance of the institutes of higher learning.

In this backdrop, Prof.

Sukhadeo Thorat, the former chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) said that besides the development of the physical infrastructure, universities and colleges which is why he believes, the curriculum in the universities call for a much-needed reform.

"Dr Ambedkar's role and perspective on nation building", organised by the Assam University Silchar SC and ST Employees Welfare Association as a part of observing Ambedkar 126th birth anniversary.

Thorat was recently to deliver a memorial lecture on 'Dr Ambedkar's role and perspective on nation building', organised by the Assam University Silchar SC and ST Employees Welfare Association as a part of observing Ambedkar 126th birth anniversary. Speaking to *The Assam Tribune*, Thorat said that the universities and colleges have sufficient teachers and faculty staff.

He said that the view that despite rich and unforgettable contributions, Dr Ambedkar is being ignored in the Indian universities and colleges which is why he believes, the curriculum in the universities call for a much-needed reform.

"Dr Ambedkar's role and perspective on nation building", organised by the Assam University Silchar SC and ST Employees Welfare Association as a part of observing Ambedkar 126th birth anniversary.

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### NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF LAST DATE

The LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM for One year VFA Training Course on Elementary Knowledge in A.H. & Vety. Sc., at the School of Vety. Sc. & A.H., Ghungoor, Silchar for the Session 2017-18 is hereby extended till 11.09.2017 (5.00 pm) due to prevalent circumstances to provide further opportunity to the candidates of the food affected areas.

It is further clarified that intending male candidates need to apply in the prescribed Application Form, after downloading it from the Govt. of Assam's website [assam.gov.in](http://assam.gov.in), instead of applying in Standard Form available in the market.

Sd/- Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Assam, Chonkuthuli, Guwahati-03.

Janasanyog/C/02/2017



(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER TELECOM DISTRICT, BSNL BHAWAN: TEZPUR-784001

No. WN-700/IOFC Tender/TZ/2017-18/24

Dated at the Tezpur 26/08/2017

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

On behalf of GMTD, BSNL, Tezpur sealed Tender are hereby invited from eligible experienced contractor/Firm for laying of OFC and its associated works in Tezpur Telecom District.

- Date of issue of Tender Forms from 31/08/2017 to 20/09/2017 during office hours.
- Last date of submission of duly filled tender forms 21/09/2017 up to 1400 hrs.
- Date of opening of tender on 21/09/2017 at 1530 hrs.
- Cost of tender documents is Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred ninety only).
- Details available in BSNL website [www.assam.bnsl.co.in](http://www.assam.bnsl.co.in)

Sd/-, Divisional Engineer (P&A), O/o the GMTD, BSNL, Tezpur

### ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

NIT No : CGM/D/APDCLCAR/DEPOSIT/ PART-II/2016-17/106

Due to technical error in the BOQ format, the BOQ for NIT no CGM(D/APDCLCAR/DEPOSIT/ PART-II/2016-17/102 for construction of 11 KV line bay & terminal equipment to Misra Military Camp from 33/11KV/Anomi S/S under Nagaon Electrical Circle, APDCL(Car) on "Turnkey" mode will be re-uploaded.

After necessary correction, the tender will be available from 14/08/2017 to 20/08/2017 during office hours. The bid closing date of 31/08/2017 to 14:00 Hrs. of 07/09/2017 Techno Commercial bid will be opened on 07/09/2017 at 16:00 Hrs. Only the successful bidders of Techno Commercial bid shall be qualified for opening of financial bid. All other details will remain the same as before.

Details may be seen in the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in> OR [www.apdclicar.com](http://www.apdclicar.com)

Sd/-, Chief General Manager (D), APDCL, CAR, 2nd Floor, Bijupur Bhawan, Paltanbazar, Guwahati-1

CAS/2017/56



(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER TELECOM DISTRICT, BSNL BHAWAN: TEZPUR-784001

No. PH-202/Rigger/Tender/TZ/2017-18/10

Dated at the Tezpur 26/08/2017

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

On behalf of GMTD, BSNL, Tezpur sealed Tender are hereby invited from reputed Indian Registered Companies/Public Limited/Private Partnership/Proprietor ship Firm for providing riggers for GSM RF optimization works including all other works in Tezpur Telecom District.

- Date of issue of Tender Forms from 31/08/2017 to 20/09/2017 during office hours.
- Last date of submission of duly filled tender forms 21/09/2017 up to 1400 hrs.
- Date of opening of tender on 21/09/2017 at 1530 hrs.
- Cost of tender documents is Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred ninety only).
- Details available in BSNL website [www.assam.bnsl.co.in](http://www.assam.bnsl.co.in)

Sd/-, Divisional Engineer (P&A), O/o the GMTD, BSNL, Tezpur

No. RLA/149/2017/4

FORM 'D'  
NOTICE

Under Section 6(1) of the Assam Land Requisition and Acquisition Act, 1964 (Assam Act XV of 1964), the Governor of Assam is pleased to decide the acquisition with effect from the date of publication of notice of the lands required under Section 3(1) of the said Act as per schedule below, measured as and demarcated in Mousi/Pargana, Sust, Village, Bhagwan Borphor in the Demulai district of Assam.

### SCHEDULE OF LAND

District: Oheimaj, Mauza/Fargana, Sustiborgon, Village - Bhagwan Borphor (File No. DLA/5/2013)

Ap. No.: 7, 22, 206, 195, 154

Area: 8B-01K-L's

BOUNDARIES

Block "A" - North: Dg. No. 194

East: Dg. No. 1 (K)

South: Dg. No. 185

West: Dg. No. 39

Total Area more or less 08 (Eight) Bigha-01 (One) Katha -02 (Two) Lessa of land.

Sd/-, Collector

Sd/- Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam

Revenue (LR) Department

Janasanyog/C/2993/17

### ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD.

#### NOTICE

It is for general information of the public that the newly constructed 33 KV Feeder from 132/33KV Bordubi GSS to 33/11 KV Tipling Sub-Station, Dulaijan under Naharkhatia ESD is going to be test charged at any time on 29th August-17, Tuesday and final charging will be done afterwards at any time after that date.

Everyone is hereby cautioned not to climb over the electric poles or touch them. Also, the public is hereby requested to maintain a minimum safe distance of 03 (Three) meters in both horizontal as well as vertical direction from the overhead conductors of the line.

Any one acting in contravention of the above will do so at his/her own risk. Assam Power Distribution Co.Ltd. (APDCL) will not be responsible in any way whatsoever in the event of any Electrical Accident.

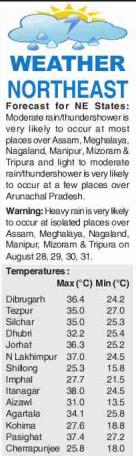
The route of the 33 KV Line- 132/33 KV Monkhusi GSS, Monkhushi, Madhuban TE, DNPL, Hukuta Charai, Ban-Hukuta Village, Ter-Meri Village, Nabaijai Gaon, Baruinal Tinali, Naipinathar, Tipling Puronghat (Sosan), 33/11 KV Tipling Sub-Station.

Asst. General Manager

Dulaijan Electrical Division

APDCL:: Dulaijan

SA/2017/55



**WEATHER  
NORTH EAST**

**Forecast for NE States:** Moderate rain/thundershower is very likely over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura and light to moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places over Arunachal.

**Warning:** Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on August 28, 29, 30, 31.

Temperatures :	
	Max (°C) Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	36.4 24.2
Tinsukia	35.0 27.0
Silchar	35.0 25.4
Dibrugarh	32.2 25.4
Jorhat	36.3 25.2
N Lakhimpur	37.0 24.5
Shillong	25.3 15.8
Imphal	27.7 21.5
Mangaraj	38.0 24.5
Aizawl	31.0 13.5
Agartala	34.1 25.8
Kohima	27.6 18.8
Pasighat	37.4 27.2
Cherrapunji	25.8 18.0



Students under the banner of All Manipur Students Union taking out a procession on the occasion of 52nd Hunger Marchers Day in Imphal on Sunday. — Correspondent

## DTPU set up at Tawang

ITANAGAR, Aug 27: Tawang District Police and Tourism Department have jointly established a dedicated District Tourist Police Unit (DTPU) with a Help Desk at Dungyurmani, Old Market, Tawang to ensure safety and security of tourists visiting the district.

The special unit, DTPU, set up on August 17, would be working towards providing assistance, guidance to the tourists visiting their places of interest in Tawang and also ensuring their safety and security. The unit can also take legal action on complaints of tourists and will provide assistance with the documentation and reporting.

The Help Desk would be manned by specially trained personnel with good communication skills and local knowledge, with the Deputy SP Tawang being designated as the District Nodal Tourist Police Officer, according to an official press note. — Correspondent

## Country going towards uncertainty and unrest, says Tripura CM

PRABIR SIL

AGARTALA, Aug 27: Those who had promised to bring 'aecch din' before the general elections, have been taking the country towards uncertainty, unrest and despair, said Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar.

The spirit of Constitution – secularism is at stake during the current government regime because there have been persistent efforts for making a new India – one country, one religion, he said while speaking at a programme to mark the 127th birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar at Rabindra Bhawan here on Sunday.

"In our Constitution, secularism was given priority keeping in mind the bitter experience of the Partition on the

basis of religion but this vital effort for conversion which is a crime as per the Constitution. They are openly saying that if you want to stay here you must convert into a particular religion. They are also giving reason – Those who are Muslim or belonged to other religion, they were basically Hindu and converted into other religion under pressure", he said.

In his hard-hitting speech, the Chief Minister further said the current government has been slashing outlay in welfare schemes. "The situation is turning disastrous with value of Rupee falling rapidly and prices sky-rocketing. There is no hope for job opportunity even as altogether 1.34 crore job aspirants are coming up every year. Banking sector is all set to face dust if the privatisation attempt is implement-

ed", he pointed out. In his speech, former Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof Sukhdeo Thorat also expressed his dismay at the way things are going on in the country. "Discrimination against our country even 70 years after Independence. It is a fact that improvement is reported in the socio-economic condition of ST/SC/OBC and others but there is still a gap which needs to be bridged immediately", he opined.

The spirit of secularism which is mentioned in the Constitution must be implemented at the ground zero level to uphold the dignity", he added. SC Welfare Minister Rotan Bhowmik and Mayor of Agartala Municipal Corporation Dr Prafullajit Sinha also spoke on the occasion.

ed", he pointed out.

In his speech, former Chair-

## Flood situation improves in Senapati district

IMPHAL, Aug 27: The flood situation in Manipur's Senapati district improved considerably on Sunday with waters of Barak river and its tributaries flowing below the red mark while the traffic along Imphal-Mao sector of National Highway 2 has also been restored, reports said.

Senapati district headquar-

ters said the worst flood in the last three decades after heavy rains wreaked havoc in the early hours of Saturday, causing flash floods in the Barak riverbeds of the hilly district forcing many villagers to flee to safer places. Mudslides also blocked the traffic along the NH 2. But there was no report of any casualty.

An orphanage at Karong hous-

ing 120 children was washed away by the flood water. The children are now taking shelter at a hotel and junior school.

The flash flood and mudslide washed away at least 22 houses at Chakhamel besides damaging other properties in Karong and Senapati towns.

The authority is taking up steps to provide relief materials. — Correspondent

## Drugs seized

SHILLONG, Aug 27: Illegal drug substances were seized during a surprise raid conducted by district authority and Police in Roing township area here recently, an official press release said.

Six persons were arrested from rented house located at APST Colony and 10 packets containing one gram each of illegal drug substances were seized.

On getting information from the arrested persons the team further conducted a raid at Mayu-II and arrested two more drug peddlers and apprehended a drug user from their house. Six packets of drugs of 1 gram each and one plastic pouch of 5 gm was seized from the peddler and two packets were seized from another arrested person.

Police informed that during their inspection at APST Colony they found the arrested persons consuming drugs. He further informed that following an input the team rushed to the spot to arrest one of the accused in connection with a robbery case where they found six persons using illegal drug items.

is hopeful that the entire North East would be peaceful once solution is finally arrived at.

On oil exploration, Zeliang

said that Mokokchung, Mon, Dimapur, Peren and Wokha districts are the oil belt of Nagaland.

He said the tussle over oil

exploration would soon be resolved as talks are being held with the Centre over the modalities and percentage of share between stakeholders.

On the entry problem of

Myanmar Nagas to Nagaland, the Chief Minister said the Home department had been put on the job to contain the incident. Since the Assam Rifles has reportedly denied that they asked for Aadhaar cards, Zeliang said the case would soon be confirmed during the next meeting.

## Formula needed to resolve Naga issue'

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Aug 27: The winners of the FIAAMA North East DIVA 2016-17 called on Chief Minister N Biren Singh at his office chamber in Imphal, sources said. The winners of the beauty pageant are Pedeni Ongrui Naingal of Sikkim, 1st runner-up Loukrapam Angoubi Chanu of Manipur and 2nd runner-up Poonam Das of Assam. The grand finale of NE Diva Pageant was held on August 20 at Guwahati.

AMSU Jiribam branch also observed the Hunger March

## Assam, Arunachal urged to agree for Middle Siang project

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: In view of the floods in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, Union Water Resources Minister Bharti has urged the two Northeastern States to agree for the Middle Siang hydropower project, which she said, will tackle the calamity as well as solve their water woes.

"The flood situation is being witnessed this year also in States where the calamity was not reported earlier. And States which reported floods in the past, the situation there has deteriorated," she told reporters here.

The Union Minister said such a situation has emerged mainly because of accumulation of silt in huge quantities in rivers, particularly the Ganga and its tributaries. "These rivers need to be desilted. River interlinking is quite important using monsoon water," she added.

On the Middle Siang, Bharti said she will pursue the State Governments to agree

## Manipur Govt making efforts to increase Sangai population

SOBHAPATI SAMON

IMPHAL, Aug 27: Manipur Government is making sincere efforts to increase the population of Sangai deer at Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP), which is the natural habitat of the State animal.

This was disclosed by Forest and Environment Minister Th Shyamkumar Singh while addressing the one-day Consultation cum Sensitisation workshop on "Conservation of Sangai in Manipur for State Legislators, Administrators and Media" held here recently.

He stated that the Sangai is the pride of the State and expressed the need to revamp the KLPN.

The workshop was organised by Forest Department in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Rucervus eldi eldi or Sangai deer, one of the rarest deer on Earth, live on floating land masses in KLNP, world's only floating reserve

covering 40 square km area. The reserve is a part of the 246 sq km Loktak lake, located at Bishnupur district, located about 50 km from here.

The last Census, carried out in March 31 and April 2 last year, put the Sangai population at 260 against 204 in March 2013 census. There was just 14 Sangai at KLNP during the first census in 1977. Inter-

estingly, the carrying capacity of KLNP is said to be about 297 Sangai, according to experts.

Expressing happiness over the

people's participation in tree plantation activities, he felt there is a positive change among the general population about environment and clubs, NGOs and associations are spreading awareness about tree plantation. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force K Angami, Additional Chief Secretary Shambhu Singh, scientist from Wildlife Institute of India, Chairman of Manipur Pollution Control Board L Radhakrishna and media persons attended the workshop.



Devotees on the way for immersion of idol of Lord Ganesh after three days of celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi Puja in Shillong, on Sunday. — UB Photos

## CAPSULE

## GST cess on cars

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: The Cabinet may this week consider issuing an ordinance to increase the cess on mid-sized, large cars and SUVs to 25 per cent from 15 per cent under the GST regime at present. The GST Council, the apex tax setting body under the goods and services tax (GST), had on August 5 approved raising cess on SUVs, mid-sized, large and luxury cars that had become cheaper post-GST rollout on July 1. — PTI

## New MF schemes

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: With mutual funds gaining traction among retail investors, asset management companies have filed draft offer documents with the regulator SEBI for 85 new schemes so far this year. In comparison, 106 draft papers were filed by the fund houses in 2016. Equity linked savings plan (ELSP) and fixed maturity plans (FMPs) are some of the themes for which the MF houses have filed the applications. — PTI

## McDonald's dispute

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Food court operators, suppliers, mall operators and employees of McDonald's are agitated over these days because of its decision to close 169 outlets across north and east India in view of its legal battle with franchise partner Vikram Bakshi. Other than the 6,000 employees starting at job loss, food court operators like frozen food suppliers, dairy product and sauce suppliers as also mall operators are up against an uncertain future as the long-term agreement with the food chain now hangs in the balance. — PTI

## MakeMyTrip target

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Online travel agency MakeMyTrip has said it is looking at hotels to contribute around 75 per cent of its overall business by 2020 going forward. "Hotel is currently 57 per cent of our business. By 2020, 75 per cent of our total business will come from hotels. We are very bullish about the future," MakeMyTrip Founder, Chairman and Group CEO Deep Kalra told PTI.

## BSE CEO

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Top stock exchange BSE's board has approved another five-year term for its CEO Ashish Chauhan, who has steered a strong turnaround and a highly successful IPO of the bourse with strong business expansion. Chauhan, who joined BSE as managing director in 2009, was made MD and CEO for a period of five years with effect from November 2, 2012. — PTI

## Intel Technologies

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Electronics maker Intel Technologies has posted revenue to rise by around 50 per cent to reach Rs 6,500 crore this fiscal, a senior official of the company said. — PTI

## MINI India introduces MINI on Tour

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: MINI India has introduced MINI on Tour – an exclusive platform to provide the legendary MINI go-kart experience across 18 cities in India.

The MINI on Tour will commence in Jaipur and travel to Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Dehradoon, Agra, Lucknow, Kolkata, Indore, Ahmedabad, Pune, Goa, Mangalore, Mysore, Kochi, Coimbatore, Salem, Vizianagaram and Bhubaneswar during August-December 2017, a press release said.

MINI on Tour is a state-of-the-art mobile showroom featuring the brand's flagship, the new MINI Clubman on display and offers exclusive chance to experience and test drive the entire MINI range of cars available in India which includes the MINI 3-door, MINI 5-door, MINI Convertible, and the MINI Clubman. MINI on Tour will be stationed for four days across two prime locations in each city.

## UIDAI refutes reports of Aadhaar data access

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: The UIDAI today asserted that Aadhaar system has stringent security features to prevent any unauthorised capture or transmission of data, refuting reports that hinted at sensitive biometric data being allegedly accessed by certain foreign agencies.

The statement by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) came after WikiLeaks hinted that CIA had allegedly accessed the Aadhaar database.

Dismissing the allegations, UIDAI said Aadhaar biometric capture system has been "developed within our own

country and it has adequate and robust security features to prevent any possibility of any such unauthorised capture and transmission of data regardless of any biometric device that may be used."

The UIDAI said that such "misinformation was being spread by certain 'vested interests'."

"Some vested interests are trying to spread misinformation that since 'Cross Match' is one of many devices which are being used in biometric devices by various registrars and agencies in Aadhaar ecosystem, the biometrics being

captured for Aadhaar are allegedly unauthorisedly accessed by others," the UIDAI statement said rejecting charges of data compromise.

Outlining the stringent checks and balances in UIDAI system, it said that any biometric device before being used in Aadhaar system is "thoroughly tested" internally and externally extensively by Standardised Testing Quality Certification (STQC) and certified.

"In addition, there are many other rigorous security features and processes within UIDAI through which it ensures that no biometric data of

any individual is unauthorisedly accessed by anyone in any manner whatsoever," the UIDAI said.

The Aadhaar issuing body said that the biometric identity had been issued to over 117 crore people, with around 4 crore authentication taking place every day.

"Till date, there has not been a single case of leak of biometric data, theft of identity, or financial loss to any one on account of use of Aadhaar. The UIDAI will continue to take every possible measure to ensure that Aadhaar remains safe and secure," it said. — PTI



Defence Minister Arun Jaitley, Secretary (DP) Ashok Kumar Gupta, HAL CMD T Suvarna Raju and BEL CMD MV Gowtama during the dedication of Hawk-i to the nation at HAL in Bengaluru on Saturday. — UNI

## Govt ready to provide capital support: Finmin

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: The Finance Ministry is open to providing capital support for facilitating consolidation among state-owned banks, which are reeling under mounting bad loans, official sources said.

The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of an alternative mechanism, or a panel of ministers, to decide on consolidation proposals for state-run banks.

On receiving a proposal from stressed banks, if the ministerial panel finds that the merger is going to create a strong bank, it will not let it go for want of fund shortage, the

sources said, adding that acquisition will come at a cost.

"First, the merger proposal should come from the board," said a source, who did not want to be named.

If the alternative mechanism finds the match viable, the Finance Ministry could provide capital support to the acquiring bank if there is a shortfall," he said.

Sources said the government is keen that at least one merger proposal reaches a logical conclusion by the end of the current fiscal, which is next March-end.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, after the Cabinet decision last week, had said that the government has not set any target for consolidation.

There are now 20 public sector banks (PSBs) other than SBI.

These state-owned banks are grappling with Rs 6-lakh crore worth of non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans, which is about 75 per cent of the total distress.

After in-principle approval for consolidation, the banks would take steps in accordance with the law and SEBI requirements. The final scheme will

be approved by the Cabinet.

An official source said: "It is not necessary that a larger public sector bank should overtake a smaller or mid-size lender. If there is synergy, two or three banks can merge to create a bigger and stronger entity so that the dependence on public exchequer is minimised."

**Notification on Banking Regulation Act:** The government has notified the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act under which it can authorise the RBI to issue directions to banks to initiate insolvency resolution process to recover bad loans. — PTI

### PSB merger

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## Elephant TMT bars launched

BUSINESS REPORTER



Rakesh Singh (3rd from left), MD, Sree Bajrang Infracon Pvt Ltd, addressing the media in Guwahati on Sunday.

but also meet customers affordability expectations."

Singh further said, "Elephant TMT 500 D bars, which have been developed to address the specific needs for steel bars, can form the strongest bond with concrete. These bars are not only technologically advanced,

TMT bars start losing their mechanical property at 250°C. Talking of earthquake-resistance, uniform energy dissipation during each cycle of Elephant TMT 500 D bars shows uniformly maintained durability which allows the bars to withstand construction module at higher seismic level."

Announcing the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy, Singh said: "We have decided to contribute to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. We will contribute 1 per cent of the mandatory 2 per cent expenditure out of the net profit to Guwahati Municipal Corporation for maintaining cleanliness of the city."

Directors of the company Dilip Kumar Debashish Dutta were also present at the press meet.

With the new policy, that came into effect in February last, intending to make the country spirit trade transparent and hygienic, a senior Excise official said the revenue from the trade, which was around Rs 21 crore, may jump to Rs 200 crore.

The State government has abolished the maha system and amended the Excise Rules to put in place a scientific system of bottling and trading of country spirit. It will also help

## PSBs take recovery action against 5,954 wilful defaulters

finance ministry data.

The total outstanding loans by wilful defaulters rose to Rs 92,376 crore at the end of financial year 2016-17, from Rs 76,683 crore at the end of financial year 2015-16 – up 20.4 per cent.

At the end of March 31, 21 banks together have taken action against 5,954 wilful defaulters under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Sarfaesi) Act, as per data collated by the Finance Ministry.

The country's largest lender SBI has taken action against 1,444 such defaulters with outstanding loan of Rs 20,943 crore.

Remaining 20 banks with outstanding loans due to public sector banks by wilful defaulters amounted to Rs 92,376 crore, according to the

### Building brand presence

## Future Group to focus on small stores

MUMBAI, Aug 27: Future Group is looking to increase the penetration of its smaller format retail stores in tier II and III cities in a bid to source about 65 per cent of total sales from its private labels in the next five years, a top company official said.

"The product business is certainly one of our growth drivers. We expect equal share of product business in the next three years," VLCC Healthcare Director Sandeep Ahuja told PTI.

The firm offers weight loss solutions and beauty treatments.

The company has been clipping at a CAGR of 16-18 per cent for the last five years and is eyeing a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore this fiscal.

"We will achieve a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore this year, with 65 per cent from services and 35 per cent from products," he said.

Its portfolio includes skin care, sun protection, hair care, lip balms and slimming products, among others.

Non-traditional channels like e-commerce and teleshopping contribute about 10 per cent of sales, with e-commerce contributing a major bulk. The Delhi-based company has earmarked Re 70-80 crore for marketing spends this year. — PTI

"Opening more stores will in turn increase our brand presence," Toshinoya added.

Presently, about 35 per cent of the company's sales comes from private label products.

"The stated target of the group is to increase this in the next five years to about 65 per cent. Opening smaller format stores will increase penetration and help establish the brands further," he explained.

Speaking about the challenges post-goods and services tax (GST), he said that as far as general merchandise is concerned, there were some supply disruptions which were however regularised in a few weeks. "Considering we are a large business, we manage a lot of our own merchandising and supply chain.

There are about 414 Easyday stores across the country, as well as 120 Heritage and 154 Nilgiri stores in the south," he added. — PTI

## Excise dept eyes revenue of Rs 200 cr

## Branded country liquor to hit markets in Sept

STAFF REPORTER

curb the menace of illicit country liquor.

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: The first batch of branded country spirit, manufactured under the new policy of the State Government, is expected to hit the markets in September first week, amidst hopes that the revenue from the sector would go up by more than ten times.

With the new policy, that came into effect in February last, intending to make the country spirit trade transparent and hygienic, a senior Excise official said the revenue from the trade, which was around Rs 21 crore, may jump to Rs 200 crore.

The State government has abolished the maha system and amended the Excise Rules to put in place a scientific system of bottling and trading of country spirit. It will also help

The new law describes the country spirit as plain spirit and "coloured or flavoured spirit which has been made in India from extra neutral alcohol (grain-based) as base material and which is issued for consumption as potable alcoholic liquor and is not deemed to be foreign liquor."

The branding will be based on colour and flavour of the spirit. A number of regulations have been outlined in the new law to ensure hygiene and transparency. There are also provisions for affixing holograms on the cap of the bottles. "From bottling to retailing, the entire system will be like IMF," an official said.

Chemical examiners will regularly test the products. The capsules or sealed bottles will be labelled and they will bear a distinct serial number.



BOP	Price	BPO/BOPSM	Price	Off/PF	Price
HAJAR	381	HAJAR	310	LORWICH	242
SOOKLATINGA	381	LORPHUA	276	SOTAI	241
ANAWADA	382	MADHLUR	289	BANAHALUE	246
DULFRATING	250	LUKWAH	206	LORPHUA	231
HIRAJULI	280	SOTAI	206	SOOKLATINGA	231

As per the latest auction sale (No 34) held at Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) on August 22-25, the total tea offerings were 1,56,772 packages, out of which 77 per cent were sold. Brighter Assam teas were in line with quality, others were irregular and easier. Major packeters and western Indian buyers lent fair support. The auction average price for this week stood at Rs 150.42, up by Rs 4.71 from last year.

**Top Garden Sold prices**

Secretary, Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers Association (GTABA)



Dinesh Bihani

## Away from boardroom blues, Infosys focus on 'next big idea'



NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Shrugging off a week-long upheaval at the board, Infosys employees stepped in to restore client confidence through a video saying they continue to focus on the "next big idea", unperturbed by the recent events at the company.

Infosys, which has over two lakh employees, has been hogging headlines the founders and the management engaged in a war of words — often publicly on allegations of governance lapses at the company.

Last week saw the founders staging a dramatic coup, bringing back co-founder Nandan Nilekani as its Chairman, replacing P. Sashegave. The entire episode has also seen exits of CEO Vishal Sikka and two other independent board members.

The company has rushed into a damage control mode. Apart from the video featuring employees, Infosys also held marathon investor calls and a press meet within hours of Nilekani taking over on the evening of August 24.

Nilekani has said his priorities include putting in place a long-term governance structure, bringing in stability at the firm and repairing relations with "valued iconic" founders. — PTI



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu being welcomed by Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, on his arrival in Chennai on Sunday. Tamil Nadu Acting Governor Vidyasagar Rao is also seen. - UNI

## PM asks bureaucracy to work towards creating 'New India'

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked the bureaucracy to work with clear objectives towards creating a 'New India' by 2022.

He was interacting with a group of 80 Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries serving in the Government of India, the third of the five such interactions.

During the interaction, officers shared their experiences on subjects such as agricul-

ture, drinking water, citizen-centric governance, innovation and teamwork in governance, project implementation, education, manufacturing, internal security, and solar energy, a PMO statement said.

On manufacturing, the Prime Minister said the ecosystem for electronics manufacturing in India should now be focused on manufacture of medical equipment devices, the statement said.

He highlighted the impon-

## Time to stay united, says Vice President

CHENNAI, Aug 27: The need of the hour for people is to stay united, shun violence and towards equality in all aspects to enable India progress, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said today.

After inaugurating an exhibition "New India – resolve to achieve" to mark the platinum jubilee of the Quit India movement at Anna University here, he said seven decades after the country had achieved independence, issues like poverty, illiteracy, gender inequality and caste discrimination were still prevalent.

"We must all resolve to fight these evils and work towards the country's progress," said Naidu, who was on his maiden visit to the city after taking over as Vice President. - PTI

Sasikala is the AIADMK chief and in jail on a corruption case.

The two factions' decision to remove Sasikala from the post of party general secretary triggered the unrest.

About 20 MLAs are reportedly supporting Dhinakaran.

Though BJP has downplayed its part in the merger of the two factions, party leaders have made it clear that they were keen that the two groups come together.

While there is speculation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will soon make changes in his ministry, party sources indicated a Cabinet reshuffle was due.

The AIADMK, which has 37 and 13 members in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha respectively, has often lent its support to the Government on key issues in Parliament. Its members also voted for the NDA's presidential and vice presidential candidates in the recent elections.

Representatives of the JD(U), which is in power in Bihar and joined the NDA recently, are also likely to join the Government. - PTI

## AIADMK likely to join NDA soon

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: The AIADMK will soon join the NDA and be a part of the Modi Government at the Centre, a senior BJP leader said.

It is only a matter of time before an announcement is made on this, the BJP leader, who is a key party functionary involved with the southern State's affairs, said.

"The AIADMK will certainly join the NDA. It is only a matter of time. And when it joins the NDA, then it is natural that it will also join the Government," the leader, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said.

He also played down the rebellion by a group of AIADMK MLAs, who owe allegiance to TTV Dhinakaran, against Chief Minister K Palaniswami, claiming that it was more an internal matter of the regional party and not a threat to the State Government.

Following the recent merger of two AIADMK factions headed by Palaniswami and former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, the party has been hit by fresh dissent with a group of MLAs rallying behind Dhinakaran, whose aunt, VK

The family was headed towards Vallabhipuram, their native place (in Bhavnagar district). On the way, it appears the driver fell asleep at the wheel, following which the jeep went onto the wrong side of the road. Finally, the truck driver was at fault," said Asari. - PTI

## 11 of a family die in Gujarat road mishap

AHMEDABAD, Aug 27: Eleven members of a family died when their jeep collided with a truck near here this morning, police said.

The accident, in which one person was injured, took place near Tagdi village of Ahmedabad district.

"Eleven members of a Mumbai-based family, including five women, died, while one teenage boy was critically injured in the accident on the Dhandhuka-Bawala Road this morning," said District Superintendent of Police RV Asari.

Preliminary investigations revealed the jeep driver lost control and the vehicle went onto the wrong side of the road, resulting in a head-on collision with the truck coming from the opposite direction, he said.

"The family was headed towards Vallabhipuram, their native place (in Bhavnagar district). On the way, it appears the driver fell asleep at the wheel, following which the jeep went onto the wrong side of the road. Finally, the truck driver was at fault," said Asari. - PTI

Tight security arrangements were being put in place in Sunaria Jail in Rohtak, where the CBI court judge will pronounce the quantum of sentence in the Ram Rahim case against 50-year-old sect chief.

Authorities said they are ensuring that law and order is maintained at all

## Quantum of sentence in Dera chief case to be pronounced today

CHANDIGARH, Aug 27: A multi-layer security cordon has been thrown around the Rohtak district jail where the CBI special court judge will be flown to pronounce the quantum of sentence against convicted Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh tomorrow.

Ahead of the pronouncement of the sentence, police have left nothing to chance and have taken important functionaries of the sect, who could gather followers, into preventive custody.

Sunaria Jail lies on the outskirts of Rohtak city and several security barricades have been set up near the route leading to the prison complex, police said.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court had yesterday ordered the Haryana Government to make necessary arrangements at the district jail at Sunaria in Rohtak for the judge to pronounce the quantum of sentence for convicted sect chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in the rape case.

50-year-old Gurmeet Ram Rahim has been lodged in the Sunaria Jail after his conviction by the special CBI

court in Panchkula on Friday.

Police and paramilitary forces were maintaining a strict vigil and various *nabas* have been set up in entire Rohtak.

Rohtak Range IG Navdeep Virk, who has been taking stock of the security situation ahead of pronouncement of the quantum of sentence tomorrow, said today that "there has been a complete clampdown on Dera centres (*Naam Charchha Ghar*) and all important functionaries who could gather people have been put under preventive detention in the entire State".

Virk said that tight security arrangements have been made so that no untoward incident takes place after the sentence is pronounced by the court tomorrow.

Rohtak Deputy Commissioner Atul Kumar, said the situation in the district was completely under control and the police and paramilitary forces were fully prepared to tackle any situation.

Kumar said every person entering Rohtak from outside was being checked at several places.

If during checking, any person fails to produce proof of identity or specify

reason for visiting the district, then he would be taken into custody, he said in an official release.

*Nabas* have been set up at borders of Rohtak district and the Duty Magistrate has also been deputed.

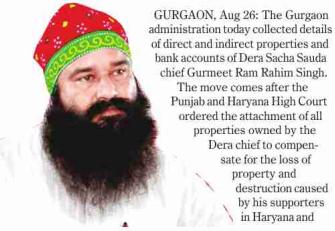
Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) prohibiting assembly of five or more persons, and carrying of firearms and other weapons is already in place in Rohtak.

CBI judge Jagjeet Singh had held Ram Rahim guilty of rape in a case that was registered on the basis of an anonymous written complaint in 2002 that he had sexually exploited two female followers.

Minutes after the sect head was convicted on Friday, his followers who had gathered in thousands over past few days in Panchkula unleashed mayhem. 36 people died and over 250 were injured in the violence which broke out at Panchkula and Sirsa after Ram Rahim was convicted.

The CBI filed the chargesheet against the Dera head in Ambala court in July 2007 about five years after the registration of the rape case. - PTI

## Gurgaon admin collects property & bank details of Dera chief



GURGAON, Aug 26: The Gurgaon administration today collected details of direct and indirect properties and bank accounts of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh.

The move comes after the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered the attachment of all properties owned by the Dera chief to compensate for the loss of property and destruction caused by his supporters

other States.

Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon, Vinay Pratap Singh directed all sub-divisional magistrates and tehsildars to collect all the relevant records.

"We have also directed them to ensure that no property related to Dera Sacha Sauda is entitled to sale and purchase. The details would be sent to the high court through the State Government," he said.

"Dera Sacha Sauda's 'Charchha Ghar' situated in Gurgaon is being monitored by the SDM concerned," he said.

The official also urged the residents to maintain peace and harmony. - PTI

## Uneasy calm in Haryana, Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Aug 27: An uneasy calm prevailed today in Haryana and Punjab where curfew was relaxed at some places that were hit by violence in the aftermath of the conviction of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a rape case.

There was no report of any violence in Haryana since yesterday even as security forces remained on alert.

Relaxation in curfew was being given at various places where it had been clamped earlier, officials said.

In Sirsa, the district administration this morning relaxed the curfew for five hours in and around Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters here after restrictions were imposed on August 24.

Rail service from Delhi to Katra via Ambala have been resumed, Haryana DGP BS Sandhu said, adding peace prevails in the State.

Punjab was also peaceful and no unnatural incident had been reported from anywhere, an official spokesperson said.

Tight security arrangements were being put in place in Sunaria Jail in Rohtak, where the CBI court judge will pronounce the quantum of sentence in the Ram Rahim case against 50-year-old sect chief.

Authorities said they are ensuring that law and order is maintained at all

## Cameraman attacked

SIRSA, Aug 27: A 35-year-old cameraman of a news channel was today attacked allegedly by followers of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh after he tried to enter the campus of the state.

The group of followers ran away with his car and allegedly damaged the camera. The victim, identified as Sunil Kumar, suffered injuries in his hand and leg.

"We have recovered the looted car from the possession of the followers and the victim has lodged a complaint," a senior police official said.

The incident took place when the cameraman along with a journalist tried entering the sect's premises and their car was spotted by the followers who then started chasing them.

He has been taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Ram Rahim's supporters had attacked mediapersons when violence had erupted after the conviction of the self-styled godman by a CBI court in Panchkula. - PTI

## Swaraj to attend Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will travel to Colombo to participate in the two-day Indian Ocean Conference to be held from August 31 in which Sri Lankan Prime Minister and President are among key speakers.

India Foundation, a Delhi-based think tank, will host the IOC 2017 in collaboration with RSIS, Singapore, and NIFS, Colombo – both research and study centres – and the theme of the conference is peace, progress and prosperity, the foundation said in a statement.

It will see participation from around 35 countries and have speakers from 25 countries.

The conference will be held in Temple Trees, the official residence of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister.

This will be the second IOC conference. The first was held in Singapore last year in partnership with think

tanks from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, it said.

The conference will be inaugurated



by Seychelles Vice-President Vincent Meriton, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, besides Swaraj, the

statement said.

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena will deliver the valedictory address.

There will be ministerial representation from Bangladesh, Japan,

Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Vietnam and the conference will also be attended by senior officials from the USA, Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Germany, Kenya, South Korea and Afghanistan, among others, it said.

A special plenary will have speeches from Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal, Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce of Bangladesh, Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka and Iwao Horii, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan.

The conference will also see two plenary sessions on peace and one each on progress and prosperity. - PTI



Devotees immersing an idol of Lord Ganesha, in Mumbai on Saturday. - UNI



## US supports return of status quo on Doklam issue: official

WASHINGTON, Aug 27: (Doklam) situation very carefully. We are concerned. We hope that the two sides can negotiate a peaceful resolution to the issue. We support return to the status quo," the official told PTI.

"We're also concerned about Bhutanese sovereignty issues. We're concerned in general terms about sovereignty issues and adherence to international law. I think that certainly pertains to this particular issue," said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

given the sensitive nature of confrontation between India and China. India and China have been locked in a standoff for over two months in the Doklam area of the Sikkim sector. The face-off began after Indian troops stopped Chinese military from building a road in the area.

Even as Chinese officials and the state-run media have increased rhetoric over the past few months, which at times is seen as entering the domain of threatening

India, which has taken a mature and strong stand against Beijing, according to experts, is believed has not reached out to Washington on this issue.

However, as a close friend the US has been closely monitoring the situation.

"We hope that India and China can find a negotiated solution to return to a peaceful state of affairs in the area. We are just viewing it very carefully and we are in conversation with the Indian gov-

ernment about the issues. We stand ready to help if that is desired. But, for the time being, we're monitoring the situation carefully," the official said.

The senior administration official, in response to a question, however, quickly clarified that there has been no such request from India and there is no such intention on the part of the United States as well.

"What kind of help? You said ready to help," the official was asked.

"Well, you know, I think it's for India and China to decide if that was necessary. I think for the time being the US is monitoring the situation very closely and very carefully," the official said.

"You know, it's US says it's a bilateral issue between India and China to work through. But certainly, we are interested in seeing peaceful relations prevail in the region. So, if there's anything the US can do to help that situation, we stand ready to assist," he added. -PTI



Members of a forest fire brigade take part in a training session in Tongliao, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China on Saturday. - UNI

### Around the WORLD

#### Fires in smartphone batteries

NANJING, Aug 27: Nanodiamonds - tiny particles 10,000 times smaller than the width of a hair - can prevent lithium batteries from bursting into flames, making your smartphones, laptops and other mobile devices safer to use, scientists say.

Researchers, including those at Drexel University in the US, developed a recipe that can turn electrolyte solution - a key component of most batteries - into a safeguard against the chemical process that leads to battery-related disasters. - PTI



#### 'Exercise pill' closer to reality

LONDON, Aug 27: An exercise pill - which can induce the health benefits of physical activity - may be closer to reality as scientists have identified the mechanism that 'switches on' the exercise response in the body.

Researchers from University of Leeds in the UK found that a protein called Piezo1 in the lining of blood vessels is able to detect a change in blood flow during exercise. - PTI

## Thai junta under fire from allies over Yingluck escape

BANGKOK, Aug 27: Thailand's junta has come under fire from conservative allies following ousted prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra's escape overseas, with many questioning how the military could have let her flee given she was heavily monitored.

Yingluck, whose government was toppled by the military in 2014, pulled a dramatic disappearing act before a scheduled court judgment on Friday in a criminal negligence trial.

She faced up to ten years in prison and a lifetime political ban if convicted. But instead she was a no show, with junta and party sources saying she had fled abroad.

Analysts say Yingluck most likely cut a secret deal with the junta to exit the country - a charge the military has denied.

The leadership is desperate to avoid instability as it digs in for a long stay.

The junta says it does not yet know how the country's first female prime minister managed to slip the net.

But key conservative figures, some of whom agitated for the coup that toppled Yingluck and are seen as political allies of

the junta, rounded on the military in a series of statements over the weekend. "It was clear that security officials followed her closely and took photographs of her everywhere she went, all the time. But she still was able to escape," Panthep Puapongpan, one of the leaders of 2014 protests against Yingluck's government, told reporters.

"With Yingluck now escaped, the government, the security forces and the NCPO has to take responsibility," he added, using the official acronym for the junta.

Veera Somkwanid, another prominent opponent of the Shinawatra political dynasty, took to Facebook to vent his frustration.

"The government must hunt down the traitors and punish the persons (who might have helped her escape), otherwise the NCPO will end up being the defendant," he wrote.

Yingluck frequently complained of being constantly followed by military intelligence since she was ousted from office. - AFP

## RJP Nepal registers with EC to take part in local polls

KATHMANDU, Aug 27: Nepal's Rastriya Janata Party, a key Madhesi party, today registered with the Election Commission for the provincial and parliamentary elections to be held next month.

The disgruntled Rastriya Janata Party (RJP-N) recently decided to take part in the local level polls to be held on September 18 after the Constitution amendment bill tabled in the Parliament failed to get through as it could not garner required two third majority votes.

The party had boycotted the first and second phase of local-level elections, expressing reservation to taking part in the polls

without having their demands being fulfilled.

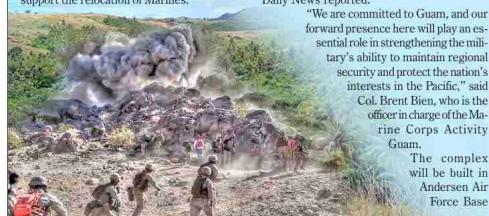
The local-level polls are being held in Nepal for the first time in almost two decades. Millions of Nepalese voted in the first two phases of the polls as the Himalayan nation takes a crucial step towards cementing democracy amid political turmoil.

A team led by party coordinator Mahatha Thakur registered the party at the Election Commission after submitting required legal documents yesterday, the party said in a statement.

The Commission had set August 27 as the deadline for the political parties to get registered. - PTI

## US Marines live-fire range planned on 'pristine' Guam land

HAGNATA (US), Aug 27: A US military live-fire training range is being built on Guam to support the relocation of Marines.



Black Construction Corp. Was awarded a USD 78 million contract on Friday, the Pacific Daily News reported.

"We are committed to Guam, and our forward presence here will play an essential role in strengthening the military's ability to maintain regional security and protect the nation's interests in the Pacific," said Col. Brent Bien, who is the officer in charge of the Marine Corps Activity Guam.

The complex will be built in Andersen Air Force Base

on a patch of land that the community has said is one of the last pristine places on Guam.

It will be near a wildlife refuge and will require part of the refuge to be closed when the range is in use.

Sabina Perez, spokeswoman of a group against the complex, said the military seems to be rushing to get its projects started.

"Our group has been contacting our local leaders to tell them to prevent this toxic legacy from happening," Perez said.

The group, called Pritihi Litekyan, has garnered the support of Speaker Benjamin Cruz, D-Tumon, Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje, D-Yona, and Sen. Fernando Esteves, R-Yona.

"No amount of money can compensate for

other adverse impacts to Guam's historic sites, 187 acres of limestone forests, endangered species and fishing areas that are part of this particular live-fire training range project," Terlaje said.

The Department of Defense has not kept its promises to avoid these adverse impacts to Guam and in fact continues to expand its control over lands and waters of Guam and the Marianas."

Terlaje is calling on Gov. Eddie Calvo to make time to meet with federal authorities to find ways to prevent the potential impacts of the firing range complex.

The group also is working on scheduling a face-to-face meeting with military officials, Perez said. - AP



The masked man dressed as Cipotegato is pelted with tomatoes at the start of the fiestas of Tarazona, Spain on Sunday. Cipotegato represents a released prisoner defending himself from townspeople as he runs around town, making his way to a monument erected in his honour. - UNI

## PV Sindhu goes down fighting in World Championship final



Nozomi Okuhara of Japan celebrates after defeating PV Sindhu in the final of the BWF World Championship at Glasgow, on Sunday.

GLASGOW, Aug 27: PV Sindhu once again missed out on a big global title as she came up short against a spirited Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the women's singles final at the BWF World Championship.

The lower ranked Okuhara won 21-19, 20-22, 22-20 in an energy-sapping summit clash, which tested the skills and fitness levels of both the athletes.

Sindhu looked to be in cruise control as she took a five-point lead in the first game, going up 11-6. But Okuhara returned in all new attacking avatar after the change of sides and dictated the terms of play, completely surprising her opponent.

Okuhara upped the ante and zoomed ahead into lead, but Sindhu wasn't ready to give in and she equalled the first game at 19-19. Okuhara though kept her cool to take the game 21-19.

The second game saw Okuhara and Sindhu fight toe to toe, matching each other in rallies, drop points and net play. At the break, Sindhu held a slight advantage at 11-9, but Okuhara's tremendous defensive abilities and persistence kept her in the game.

Sindhu broke away to a three point lead at 20-17 and had three game points, but the Japanese rallied back to tie the game at 20-20. At 21-20 Sindhu again had the advantage and then came the point of the match as the

two girls traded 73 shots in a rally for the point with Sindhu finally winning the point to tie the match at a game all.

Okuhara came out all guns blazing in the decider and raced to a 5-1 lead but Sindhu came right back into the match by winning four consecutive points. She once again led the match at the change of sides but Okuhara's ability to dig deep in her reserves kept her in the game.

Sindhu broke away to take a two-point lead at 19-17 but Okuhara played long points and kept her cool to get back to 19-19. Sindhu then committed an unforced error by hitting the shuttle into the net to hand her opponent a world championship point.

This was followed by yet another tense rally that saw Sindhu come out on top as she hit a great shot down the line. Okuhara got another match point at 21-20 as Sindhu hit the net again and this time she converted it by winning the final point with a delicate cross-court drop shot.

Earlier, Sindhu cruised into the final of the World Championship with an easy win over Chen Yufei of China.

The 22-year-old Sindhu notched up a straight-game (21-13, 21-10) win over World No. 10 Chen in the women's singles semifinal last night, to assure India of at least a silver medal from

her after compatriot Saina Nehwal had to settle for a bronze.

Nozomi Okuhara had beaten Saina 12-21, 21-17, 21-17 in the first semifinal yesterday. This was Sindhu's first final appearance in the World Championship and thus her best ever performance. This was the third medal for Sindhu in the World Championships, having won bronze twice in 2013 and 2014 after losing at the semifinal stage in both the editions.

India has won one silver through Saina in 2015 and four bronze in the World Championships since this Glasgow edition.

Prakash Padukone was the first Indian to have won a medal with his bronze in men's singles in 1983 before the Indian women's doubles pair of Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa bagged a bronze in 2011.

Sindhu became the only second Indian to reach the final of a World Championship after Saina achieved that feat in the last edition at Jakarta.

This was India's best ever show in a World Championship as the country managed to grab two medals for the first time. – Agencies



PV Sindhu

## Mayweather stops brave McGregor, retires unbeaten

LAS VEGAS, Aug 27: Floyd Mayweather outclassed Conor McGregor with a 10th-round stoppage here to win their money-spinning superfight and clinch his 50th straight victory.

Former welterweight boxing champion Mayweather, who had emerged from a two-year retirement to take on the Irish mixed martial arts star, took his time to get going before dominating from the fourth round.

The end came with a tired McGregor doubled over the ropes as Mayweather landed two hard left hooks, prompting referee Robert Byrd to intervene and declare a technical knockout.

"He's a lot better than I thought he'd be," Mayweather said. "He's a tough competitor, but I was the better man tonight."

Mayweather said he had deliberately taken his time early on in order to take advantage of a fatigued McGregor.

"Our game plan was to take our time, go to him, let him shoot his shots early and then

take him out down the stretch," he said. "I guaranteed to everybody that this wouldn't go the distance."

McGregor meanwhile suggested the fight could have been allowed to go on, but praised Mayweather's clinical tactical display.

"He's composed, he's not that fast; he's not that powerful, but he is composed in there," McGregor said.

"I thought it was a bit of an early stoppage. I was just a little fatigued. He was just a lot more composed with his shots."

The fight had followed a perfectly expected script but McGregor, in his first ever boxing appearance, by no means embarrassed himself.

Mayweather will now head into what he says is a permanent retirement with a perfect 50-round record, legend Rocky Marciano.

"A win is a win, no matter how you get it," Mayweather said. "Rocky Marciano is a legend and I look forward to going into the Hall of Fame one day." – AFP

But once Mayweather began to find his range and McGregor reacted rapidly, there was only going to be one winner.

The 40-year-old American scored a will after the fourth

round, snapping back McGregor's head with a series of stinging blows.

McGregor meanwhile suggested the fight could have been allowed to go on, but praised Mayweather's clinical tactical display.

"He's composed, he's not that fast; he's not that powerful, but he is composed in there," McGregor said.

"I thought it was a bit of an early stoppage. I was just a little fatigued. He was just a lot more composed with his shots."

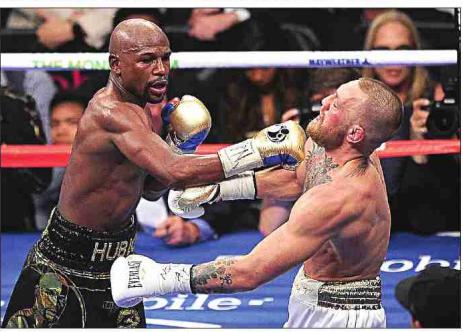
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"A win is a win, no matter how you get it," Mayweather said.

"Rocky Marciano is a legend and I look forward to going into the Hall of Fame one day." – AFP

Mixed martial arts star Conor McGregor (R) competes with boxer Floyd Mayweather during their fight at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Saturday. Mayweather outclassed McGregor with a 10th-round stoppage to win their money-spinning superfight and clinch his 50th straight victory.



Floyd Mayweather and Conor McGregor in the ring.

Two-time winner Novak Djokovic has already shut down his season to recover from an elbow injury while defending champion Stan Wawrinka faces knee surgery.

With Kei Nishikori, the 2014 runner-up, and Milos Raonic also injured, five of the current world top 11 will be missing when the tournament starts on Monday.

However, for tennis romantics, Murray's withdrawal came after the draw was made leaving top seed Nadal and third-seeded Federer in the same half, thereby ruling out a collision in the final.

Nadal, 31, heads to New York on the back of a quarterfinal loss to Nick Kyrgios in Cincinnati and a Montreal last-16 defeat to Canadian teenager Denis Shapovalov.

The Spaniard said he would rather not have Federer in his semifinal path, should they get that far.



"I prefer to play against another player, an easier one if it's possible," said Nadal, who has not got past the fourth round since 2013 and starts his campaign against Dusan Lajovic, the world number 84 from Serbia.

"It would be fun for everybody in-

## Messi scores twice in Barca win



Deportivo Alaves' Tomas Pina (C) vies with Barcelona's Lionel Messi during the La Liga match at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, on Saturday.

MADRID, Aug 27: Lionel Messi scored twice and saw a penalty saved as Barcelona maintained their perfect start to the season in La Liga with a 2-0 win at Alaves.

Without new signing Ousmane Dembele, who completed the second most expensive transfer ever by moving for 105 million euros (\$125million) from Borussia Dortmund on Friday, or the injured Luis Suarez, Messi ensured Barca didn't lose any early ground in the title race despite a tumultuous start to the campaign of the field.

The five-time World Player of the Year missed from the penalty spot for the 20th time in his career as Fernando Pacheco produced a stunning save midway through the first half.

However, Messi wasn't to be denied as his deflected effort opened the scoring shortly

ly after half-time before a sweetly-struck volley secured all three points.

"We're happy because we have overcome a difficult test," said Barca coach Ernesto Valverde.

"We've overcome difficult moments, we have six points and

we can now move forward."

Barca's pre-season preparations were rocked by the loss of Neymar to Paris Saint-Germain for a world-record 222 million euros.

Dembele has been bought to replace the Brazilian, but Barca's business may not be finished with a final push for Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho expected before the Spanish transfer window closes on Friday.

"We hope that by the 31st (of August) we have an even more competitive team, that is clear," added Valverde.

"We want an even better team and if there is a possibility we are open to it."

Alaves shocked Barca a year ago by winning at the Camp Nou, and the hosts were left to rue a big chance missed by Ruben Soriano at 0-0 before succumbing to Messi's magic. – AFP

## Opinions divided on Sharapova's return

NEW YORK, Aug 27: Rivals remain divided over Maria Sharapova as the former world number one from Russia prepares to return to Grand Slam tennis tomorrow at the US Open after a 15-month doping ban.

The 30-year-old Russian received a wildcard into the field for the year's final Grand Slam event that starts on Monday on the New York hardcourts with the night feature match pitting Sharapova against Romania's second-ranked Simona Halep.

"I don't think any tennis fan in the world is not going to have that match on. Let's be honest," said US 15th seed Madison Keys. "We all knew it was inevitable she would be back in majors and playing. I'm sure this first round is going to be interesting. Everyone knew it was a possibility something like this would happen."

Five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova was banned after testing positive for the blood boosting drug meldonium at the 2016 Australian Open.

She was not offered a wildcard into the French Open and many players were unhappy she had wildcards into other events starting in April.

While Sharapova is 6-0 against Halep, she has played only one tuneup match due to a forearm injury which followed a thigh injury that kept her out of Wimbledon.

"It's once again something really tricky to answer, because I guess when someone has been banned or out of competition, I think you have to work for a little bit to go and play your tournaments and not help that much sometimes," Wimbledon champion Simona Halep said.

"It's a good story for the tournament that she's back and having this what she's having for her first round. I think it's going to be a very good match," Halep said.

"She's very professional all of the things she's doing on the court and off the court with the media. Definitely she's really good at that... I think for the people always it's amazing when she's playing."

Defending champion Angelique Kerber is only for the Grand Slam spotlight.

"We will see," Kerber said. "She's back and I think she practiced good the last few weeks and she's ready to be back."

And fifth-ranked Dane Caroline Wozniacki was really worrying about Sharapova, who wouldn't cross her path until the semifinals.

"I don't really have much of an opinion," Wozniacki said. "She's a player like everyone else in the draw. I'm just doing my thing." – AFP

Stokes gets ICC reprimand for Windies outburst

LEEDS (UK), Aug 27: England's Ben Stokes has received an official reprimand for using "obscene, offensive or insulting" language during the ongoing second Test against the West Indies at Headingley on Sunday.

The 26-year-old all-rounder fell foul of the ICC's code of conduct during Saturday's second day when, in the 101st over of the West Indies' first innings, he "reacted in frustration" after being edged by Shai Hope for a boundary making an inappropriate comment which was clearly audible through the stump mic and also heard by the match officials," according to an ICC statement.

Stokes admitted he had used "obscene" language and accepted the sanction proposed by ICC match referee David Boon, the former Australia batsman. – AFP

## Nadal, Federer set to pounce at injury-hit US Open

NEW YORK, Aug 27: Their rivalry has stretched 13 years and 37 matches but Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer have never met at the US Open, an anomaly which seems certain to be corrected after a host of rivals limped out of contention.

Nadal, back on top of the world rankings for the first time in three years, is a two-time winner in New York, his 2010 and 2013 titles forming part of his 15-Slam portfolio which was embellished by a record 10th French Open in June.

Federer, the five-time US champion from 2004-2008, is bidding for a 20th major and third of the year after capturing the Australian Open and Wimbledon titles.

Victory in the men's final on September 10 would also make the 36-year-old the oldest US Open champion of the modern era and oldest overall 10th French Open in June.

The path to the title for Nadal and Federer has been eased.

World number two Andy Murray, the 2012 champion, withdrew on Saturday after failing to recover from a hip injury.

Two-time winner Novak Djokovic has already shut down his season to recover from an elbow injury while defending champion Stan Wawrinka faces knee surgery.

With Kei Nishikori, the 2014 runner-up, and Milos Raonic also injured, five of the current world top 11 will be missing when the tournament starts on Monday.

However, for tennis romantics, Murray's withdrawal came after the draw was made leaving top seed Nadal and third-seeded Federer in the same half, thereby ruling out a collision in the final.

Nadal, 31, heads to New York on the back of a quarterfinal loss to Nick Kyrgios in Cincinnati and a Montreal last-16 defeat to Canadian teenager Denis Shapovalov.

The Spaniard said he would rather not have Federer in his semifinal path, should they get that far.

"It would be fun for everybody in-

volved. We have no work cut out there. But, you know, I'd love to play Rafael here in New York," said Federer, who missed the 2016 US Open to rest a knee injury.

Federer starts his bid for a sixth title against US teenager Frances Tiafoe, the world number 71 who shocked Zverev in Cincinnati.

With Murray, Djokovic, Wawrinka – with 18 Slams between them – Nishikori and Raonic all missing, the tournament should also present the perfect opportunity for the widely-touted NextGen to step up. Zverev, the world number six, downed Federer for the Montreal title but slipped first time out in Cincinnati to Tiafoe.

Zverev has never got beyond the fourth round of a Slam and was a second-round loser in New York in 2016.

Kyrgios, the runner-up in Cincinnati, made the quarterfinals at the Australian Open in 2015 and Wimbledon in 2014 but has US Open best is a run to the third round. – AFP

## SU DO KU

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7		1	9	2

### Solution of last problem

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3	10	2	7	1	4	9
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5	6	8	10	5	2	7
6	7	11	12	3	1	11
7	12	1	9	13	8	6
8	11	4	5	14	15	3
9	13	8	6	12	1	10
10	14	9	15	1	16	7
11	15	16	1	2	3	4
12	16	1	3	4	5	6
13	1	2	6	7	8	9
14	2	3	7	8	9	10
15	3	4	8	9	10	11
16	4	5	9	10	11	12

# Bumrah's five-wicket haul helps India limit SL to 217/9

PALLEKELE, Aug 27: Pacer Jasprit Bumrah took his maiden five-wicket haul, enabling India to restrict a struggling Sri Lanka to 217 for nine in the third ODI of the five-match series today.

Bumrah was brilliant both upfront and in the death overs to end with figures of five for 27, surpassing his previous best of four for 22.

Sri Lanka, trailing 0-2 in the series, once again put up an ordinary show with the bat, baring a gritty 80 off 105 balls from Lahiru Thirimanne.

His 72-run stand for the third wicket alongside Dinesh Chandimal (36) was the lone bright spot in the innings after stand-in-captain Chamara Kapugedera opted to bat.

The hosts made two changes with Thirimanne and Chandimal coming in place of the injured Danushka Gunatissa and suspended Upul Tharanga. India, unexpectedly, didn't make any changes.

After winning the toss for the first time in the series, Lanka surprisingly went in to bat, opening with Niroshan Dickwella (13).

The former had only opened twice in his ODI career before, back in 2012 against New Zealand, and he watchfully added 18 runs for the opening wicket.

Dickwella survived an LBW by 10 runs in the fourth over, but four balls later

Bumrah got his man in the same manner, LBW via DRS again.

Due to Dickwella's dismissal, Lanka didn't make a flying start and were reduced to 28 for two in the eighth over, with Kusal Mendis (1) caught at second slip. Rohit Sharma took a great diving catch to his right, plucking his 100th catch in international cricket.

Chandimal and Thirimanne then calmed things down and put on a solid partnership in the middle overs for a change. They didn't score quickly though, as Lanka only reached 37 for two in the first ten overs.

Later they brought up their 50-stand with 72 balls as Sri Lanka crossed the 100-mark in the 26th over. Chandimal was on his right thumb finding a short delivery off Hardik Pandya (1/42) in the 17th over, and that incident partly hampered his ability to shift gears.

Looking for some attacking shots, Chandimal then holed out in the deep of Pandya in the 26th over itself.

Pandya had a poor day in the field with a lot of dropped catches during Rohit's attempt; they looked far from a great fielding unit.

Thirimanne used this to his advantage and added to his 17th ODI half-century off 69 balls, inclusive of four fours. In total, he collected five fours and a six.

He put on 38 runs for the fourth wicket with Angelo Mathews (11), as they looked to up the scoring rate against the spinners with Axar Patel (1/35) bowling a tight spell.

Kedar Jadhav (1/12) then got the breakthrough, tapping Mathews LBW in the 35th over. The big blow came when five overs later Thirimanne was caught at midwicket of Bumrah off a slower ball.

Sri Lankans were reduced to 181 for six in the 44th over with Patel bowling Kagudera (14) as the lower order failed to kick on again.

It was a familiar story with Akila Dananjay (2) and Milinda Siriwardana (29) following him to the pavilion shortly thereafter, both bowled by Bumrah on either side of a short rain break.

**SCORECARD**

**Sri Lanka:** Niroshan Dickwella lbw b Bumrah 13, Dinesh Chandimal c Bumrah b Hardik Pandya 36, Kusal Mendis c Rohit b Bumrah 1, Lahiru Thirimanne c Kedar Patel b Bumrah 20, Angelo Mathews c Patel b Kedar Patel 11, Chamara Kapugedera b Axar 14, Milinda Siriwardana c Bumrah 29, Akila Dananjaya c Bumrah 2, Dushmantha Chameera run out (Dhoni/Brathwaite) 6, Vishwanath Fernando not out 5, Lasith Malinga c Patel b Axar 1, Mahela Jayawardene not out 4, Jayawardene c Patel b Axar 10-2 27-5. **Yuvraj Singh:** 10-49-0, Hardik Pandya 8-42-1, Axar Patel 10-1-35-1, Kedar Jadhav 3-0-12-1. —PTI

LONDON, Aug 27: Substitute Marcus Rashford and Manchester United scored as Romelu Lukaku early in the second half, but the hosts' pressure told in the last 20 minutes. Huddersfield Town's 0-0 draw with Southampton meant United won two points clear

at the summit, although West Bromwich Albion will join them on nine points if they beat Stoke City on Sunday.

"I think we played very well," United manager Jose Mourinho told BT Sport. "The result was open at 0-0."

The 'blue wall' was very well organised and I always give credit for that. They defended very well.

"If I have to choose a word to describe my team, I would have to say 'solid'."

Earlier, Raheem Sterling scored a dramatic 97th-minute winner to earn Manchester City a 2-1 victory at Bournemouth, but was then sent off after receiving a second yellow card for over-celebrating.

In keeping with their opening 4-0 wins over West Ham United and Swansea City, United dominated the first half against Leicester at Old Trafford, with Juan Mata seeing a goal ruled out for a narrow offside.

Schmeichel, son of United goalkeeping great Peter pushed aside Lukaku's 33rd-minute penalty after Danny Simpson had been penalised for handball.

Mourinho turned to Rashford and three minutes after coming on the 19-year-old broke the deadlock in the 70th minute, volleying in Henrikh Mkhitaryan's corner. —APP



Marcus Rashford of Manchester United celebrates with his teammates after scoring against Leicester City during the Premier League match at the Old Trafford on Saturday.

## India lift SAFF Under-15 Championship

KATHMANDU, Aug 27: Lakroima and Vikram struck in the second half to guide India to SAFF Under-15 Championship title win as the visitors edged past hosts Nepal 2-1 in the final, here today.

The India team, which had players from AIFA's Regional Academy, trailed by a goal at the interval but Lakroima and Vikram's timely strikes saved the day for India.

Ravi came close to scoring in the 14th minute while Harpreet's header missed the target narrowly soon after. Ravi shot it straight into the keeper's hands as India launched one attack after another.

India looked like the team more likely to score but Nepal earned a penalty against the run of play in the 40th minute. The penalty was converted and the hosts headed to the dressing room leading 1-0 at the interval.

India could have equalised right at the beginning of the second half but the players could not finish off their chances. Given's free-kick struck the cross bar in the 56th minute as luck continued to elude the boys.

Finally, Lakroima struck in the 58th minute to draw parity. The goal infused life into the game as India roared in search of their second goal.

Sailo's effort was saved while Vikram hit it just wide as India bombarded the Nepali goalpost. But the Nepali defence stone walled every effort until captain Vikram netted the ball in the 74th minute to put India into the lead. —PTI

**Real Madrid's Twitter account hacked**

MADRID, Aug 27: The official Twitter account of Real Madrid was hacked by OurLined to announce the signing of the capital football club's eternal rival FC Barcelona's star Lionel Messi, according to reports.

The post, which was accompanied by a video of Messi scoring for Barcelona against Real Madrid, was put up on Real's Twitter account and said: "Buenaventura Messi! Welcome Messi! Bienvenue Messi! #Messi", as reported by The Independent on Saturday.

The Messi signing post had more than 2,800 likes and 3,100 retweets. The tweet remained public for around 90 minutes before they disappeared from the club's Spanish and English language feeds.

The incident occurred after the same group of hackers took charge of Barcelona's account and announced the signing of Paris Saint-Germain winger Angel Di Maria. —IANS

## Manoj, Kavinder continue India's good run at Boxing Worlds

HAMBURG, Aug 27: Manoj Kumar drew from his huge reservoir of experience, while Kavinder Singh relied on sheer tenacity for hard-fought opening victories on another good day for India at the 19th World Boxing Championship here.

Manoj defeated Moldovan Vasilei Belous 3-2 in an exhausting welterweight (69kg) contest, Kavinder, on the other hand, edged past Japan's Ryusei Baba in a similarly draining heavyweight (52kg) bout, which ended 3-2 in his favour.

However, there was slight disappointment too as Asian Games bronze-medallist Satish Kumar (+91kg) bowed out of the competition after losing his opening con-

tent to Azerbaijan's two-time world champion Mahammadrasul Majidov 5-0.

The Indian was slightly under the weather going into the contest, having suffered a bout of viral fever before coming here.

Kavinder was the first to take the ring for the country, which had all its bouts in the evening session for the second day in a row.

The Asian Championships quarterfinalist started rather cautiously and spent the opening three minutes getting a measure of his opponent. However, Kavinder's approach allowed Baba to land some clear blows, giving him the early advantage.

Kavinder, however, made a quick recovery and became the aggressor in the second round. His right hooks connected quite well and disturbed Baba's rhythm. Kavinder upped the ante further in the final three minutes to get the decisive win from the judges in his favour.

Kavinder will next be up against third-seeded Algerian Mohamed Fissi. Fissi is a two-time World Championships medalist, having bagged a silver in 2013 followed by a bronze in the 2015 edition.

Manoj was the next man in and incomplete contrast to Kavinder, he gave it his all in the first two rounds. The 31-year-old former Commonwealth Games gold-med-

alist was in his elements from the day and even though he had to go against Belous.

The faltering Moldovan had little or no response to offer in the first two rounds and resorted to throwing wild swings at the Indian. The burst did tire out Manoj in the last round and Besoul tried to grab the advantage at this stage.

However, Manoj had done the job by then to ensure that the final verdict went in his favour.

"Both Manoj and Kavinder had tough bouts in a very different way. But they knew how to manoeuvre and they did just that," India's Swedish coach Santiago Nieva told PTI after the two bouts.

"The results have been good so far but there is a long way to go," he added.

Awaiting Manoj in the second round is fourth-seeded Venezuelan Gabriel Maestre Perez. Perez had won a bronze in the 2013 World Championships and he is also a Pan-American Games gold-medallist.

Satish contested the last bout of the day and even though he gave a good account of himself, the judges ruled overwhelmingly in favour of his more decorated rival.

Earlier, Amit Phangal (49kg) and Gaurav Bidhuri (56kg) had won their respective bouts to enter the second round of the marquee boxing event. —PTI

## Mohammedan Sporting annex Naroram Barman football title

### CORRESPONDENT

TIIHUL, Aug 27: Mohammedan Sporting Club of Kolkata annexed the 40th Naroram Barman Football Championship title defeating ASEB of Guwahati 2-1 in the final at the Chamata Anchal Krira Sangha's own stadium in the presence of 10,000 spectators.



Mohammedan Sporting Club players pose after winning the 40th Naroram Barman Football Championship title on Sunday.

match while Majam Mil Khan walked away with the best player of the tournament trophy. The prize distribution ceremony was attended by Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, Assam Football Association (AFA) president He-

mendrai Sourkar Dutta, Director of Sports and Youth Welfare Babita Ram Khound, Narbari SP Hemanta Kumar Bhattacharya, Nalbari MLA Ashok Sarma, Barkhetri MLA Narayan Deka, among others,

refusing to comment ever since the matter landed in a Swiss court, which has for the time being, ordered status quo in the AIBA.

"The Executive Committee is respectfully requesting copies of agreements that you have signed. Since the Executive Committee has never seen these agreements which have been seriously negatively affecting the finance conditions of our organisation, we demand your immediate rectification by sending them to all EC members by September 1," the rebel EC faction said in a letter to Wu.

The faction, comprising 11 of the 18 Executive Committee members, met here on the sidelines of the ongoing 19th World Championships and "requested" Wu to provide copies of the financial agreements, which they claim, have been marred by corruption. They have demanded that the meeting take place in Dubai.

Wu, on his part, has consistently rejected the allegations and downplayed the rebellion,

and investment agreements with the Kazakhstan Boxing Federation and Chinese company AliSports.

"We plan to investigate them and discuss among members in order to find any possible way to have AIBA avoid facing some dire situations in the future. We expect absolute transparency in the matter," the letter to Wu stated.

The AIBA is scheduled to conduct an Extraordinary Congress in November in Dubai, while the Swiss court will rule on who will win the show in the world body next month.

Wu has been AIBA's President since 2006 and on the opening day of the ongoing championship, he refused to take questions regarding repayment of USD 10 million lent by it to AIBA.

After an emotional demonstration lap by Mick Schumacher, 18, to mark the 25th anniversary of his father Michael's maiden victory at the 1992 Belgian race, there was a keen sense of anticipation ahead of the start.

In perfect, if humid conditions, with an air temperature of 22 degrees and the track at 23, and in front of an estimated 125,000 crowd including an orange army of 80,000, Hamilton pulled away from his receding rival into his position to lead into La Source and resisted Vettel's attack at Eau Rouge.

Hamilton built up an early head of speed.

By lap 10, Hamilton was 1.7 seconds clear of Vettel but behind the luckless Max Verstappen, in the second Red Bull, had been forced to retire with another power failure, his sixth early departure in 12 outings.

There was an almost audible sigh of despair from the massed Dutch fans all around the circuit. —APP

## Blackwood, Holder bolster Windies after Anderson double

### LEEDS, UK, Aug 27: Jermaine

Blackwood and Jason Holder helped the West Indies a sizeable first-innings lead in the second Test against England at Headingley after James Anderson struck twice at the start of Sunday's third day.

Windies were bowled out for 272, after a lead of 169 runs, in reply to England's 258, after lunch had been delayed by 30 minutes with the tourists nine wickets down.

It was a remarkable turnaround given that the West Indies had lost 19 wickets inside a day while being dismissed for just 168 and 137 during last week's innings and 209-run defeat at Edgbaston in the first of a three-Test series.

After Anderson's double strike, Blackwood (49) and West Indies captain Holder (49) put on 75 for the eighth wicket.

Anderson, now three away from becoming the first England bowler to take 500 Test wickets, led the attack with five for 26 in 29 overs.

West Indies responded on 329 for five, a lead of 71.

The next over saw Blackwood, still

on his overnight 21, mistime a drive off Stuart Broad only for Moeen Ali to drop a routine catch at mid-on.

The diminutive Blackwood and the towering Holder bolstered their side's position with several excellent shots.

Holder pulled Broad resoundingly for four to extend the lead beyond 100.

It was the first of the all-rounders' three fours in as many balls off the paceman, Holder following up with a well-timed shot through point before unfurling a textbook front-foot drive between cover and mid-off.



Jason Holder of West Indies plays one through the off side during day three of the 2nd Test against England at Headingley, on Sunday.

### England 1st Innings 298

West Indies 1st Innings (overnight 329-5):

K Brathwaite b Broad 13, K Powell c Cook b Anderson 5, D Bishoo c Barstow b Anderson 3, K Hope c Rovio b Anderson 3, S Stokes c Cook b Anderson 5, J Blackwell run out (Stokes 11), S Downich b Rovio b Anderson 4, O Holder c Ali b Walker 43, K Roach not out 6, S Gadd b Rovio b Anderson 1, J Ball c Ali b Walker 12, D Bishoo c Cook b Anderson 17, S Chander b Strokes 5-78, S Downich b Rovio b Anderson 5-27.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-12, 31-35, 4-281, 5-

296, 6-329, 7-329, 8-404, 9-406, 10-427, Bowlers: Broad 7-204, Tait 6-128, Anderson 5-176, Stokes 5-100, Ball 5-103, Walker 3-81, Ali 2-51, Strokes 2-78, Ball 2-71, Stokes 25-63-2, Ali 24-44-4, Westley 4-12-0, Afridi 1-