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NEWS CAPSULE

Assamese subject

GUWAHATI, May 21: The government will make Assamese subject compulsory in all schools up to class X from next academic year. "It BTAD and Barak valley, the students may opt for Bodo or Bengali... A Bill will be tabled in the Assembly," Himanta Biswa Sarma said today. – Staff Reporter

Nuclear group

GUWAHATI, May 21: The most primary section of the Nuclear Suppliers Group is likely to be held in Swiss capital Bern in June, but the chances of any breakthrough on India's entry into the elite group still look slim given China's stand. – PTI

Poll funding

NEW DELHI, May 21: The Election Commission has told a parliamentary committee that it does not support state funding of elections but instead seeks 'radical' reforms in the way funds are spent by political parties. – PTI

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State's revenue collection up by 21 pc in one year: Sonowal

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

issue of expansion of the ministry.

TALKING to *The Assam Tribune*, days become completion of one year in office, the Chief Minister said that the revenue collection in the State increased by 21.6 per cent in the past one year, which is the highest among all the states of the country. He said that the State managed to achieve the growth because of several measures taken to

boost the State's economy, which includes closing down of the illegal check gates, framing of new excise revenue collection rules and efforts to root out corruption from all levels of administration. He expressed the view that the financial health of the State would improve further after the GST comes into effect.

Sonowal said that the State is also receiving financial and other help

from the Government of India and an additional amount of Rs 7,772 crore would be received by the State as oil royalty over a period of three years. Out of it, the State has already received an amount of Rs 2,400 crore.

The Chief Minister said that efforts are on to bring down the expenditures and "I personally tried to set an example by bringing down

the number of vehicles in my convoy and very often travel economy class in the airlines." He said that orders have been issued to avoid holding of meetings in five star hotels. He also pointed out that he did not go on any foreign trip due to huge cost to public exchequer in the first year in office.

The Chief Minister refused to
(See page 7)

Compartmental HSLC exams set to return

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 21: If the pass percentage in this year's HSLC examination drops by more than 10 per cent, a provision for compartmental examination will be introduced in which a candidate failing to score qualifying marks will be given another chance to clear the subject within two months.

This was announced by Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here today while releasing the report of the four-member committee of vice chancellors, constituted

Govt accepts suggestions of VC's panel on grace marks

by the government to recommend on the moderation procedure to be adopted in HSLC examination.

"In any case, irrespective of the pass percentage, the provision of compartmental examinations will be introduced from the next academic year," the minister told newsmen.

The HSLC compartmental examinations were discontinued in 2007.

The four-member committee has suggested that the moderation policy in HSLC examination be carried out through established procedure based on rigorous statistical analyses. It also recommended that the award of 'grace marks' be restricted only for those students who fail to score minimum qualifying marks by marginal points of score

(See page 7)



Participants at an anti-tobacco rally in Guwahati on Sunday. – UB Photos

4 militants killed, 3 soldiers martyred

SRINAGAR, May 21: Four militants were killed in a fierce encounter that began along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Naagan sector in north Kashmir yesterday in which three Army jawans also lost their lives.

The gun battle had ensued when alert Army jawans had foiled an infiltration bid by the militants.

"Two more terrorists were killed today while another soldier attained martyrdom," an Army official said.

Overall, the number of militants killed in the encounter had risen to four, while three soldiers attained martyrdom in the operation, he said.

Encounter in Kashmir

"The sanitisation operation is on along the LoC," the official said adding that four weapons and other war-like stores had been recovered from the encounter site. Two militants were killed and two

soldiers had lost their lives yesterday in the encounter.

Meanwhile, at Pelling in Sikkim Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said that the Modi government will find a 'permanent solution' to the Kashmir problem.

"Kashmir is ours, Kashmiris are ours and Kashmiriyat is also ours," he said accusing Pakistan of trying to 'destabilise' India by fomenting trouble in Kashmir.

(See page 7)

Ready to bring in law to stop triple talaq: Centre

BENGALURU, May 21: The Centre today said it would bring in a legislation to stop the triple talaq, if necessary, "but after allowing the Muslim community to reach a positive conclusion following internal deliberations."

"The government has made the stand very clear saying that we want this (triple talaq) to end. If necessary, the (Central) government will bring in a legislation, but after allowing the community to reach a positive conclusion after internal deliberations," Union Minister for Urban Development M Venkiah Naidu told reporters after inaugurating the statue of Dr MS Ramaiah here.

Dr Ramaiah was an industrialist and philanthropist, who in 1962 founded the Gokula Education Foundation here, which, in turn, established numerous institutes of higher learning including the MS Ramaiah Medical College. – PTI

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China cripples CIA operations, kills informants: report

WASHINGTON, May 21: The Chinese government "systematically dismantled" CIA spying operations in China starting in late 2010 and killed or imprisoned at least a dozen CIA sources over the next two years, according to a media report.

The *New York Times* in its report cited 10 current and former US officials, who described the intelligence breach as one of the worst in decades. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

The report said US intelligence and law enforcement agencies scrambled to stem the damage, but were bitterly divided over the cause of the breach. Some investigators were convinced there was a mole within the CIA, while others believed the Chinese had hacked the covert system the CIA used to communicate with its foreign sources. The debate remains unresolved, the paper said.

The CIA, which declined to comment to the *Times*, also declined to comment yesterday to the Associated Press.

The number of CIA assets lost in China rivaled those lost in the Soviet Union and Russia as a result of the betrayals by both CIA officer Aldrich Ames and FBI agent Robert Hanssen, who were arrested in 1994 and 2001, respectively, the report said.

As many as 20 CIA sources were killed or imprisoned in China over a two-year period, the *Times* cited, citing two former senior US officials.

Investigators suspected a former CIA operative of being a mole, but failed to gather enough evidence to arrest him and he is now living in another Asian country, the report said.

Those who rejected the mole theory attributed the losses to sloppy American tradecraft in China. By 2013, the FBI and CIA concluded that China no longer had the ability to identify American agents, the *Times* said. — AP

Around the WORLD

Rambo remake

LOS ANGELES, May 21: Hollywood action icon Sylvester Stallone is confident that *Tiger Shroff* will do a good job in a Hindi remake of his popular film *Rambo*.

The 70-year-old actor, who earlier expressed his concern over the remake news, saying "hope they don't wreck it," today shared the first look of *Tiger* from the



film and gave his best wishes to him.

"I actually get excited in my heart whenever young artists get an rare opportunity like this! Eye of the Tiger! I am sure he will do a great job and soul into it," Stallone wrote alongside the poster.

In another post he wrote, "Some people like to read words and twist them... Good luck Tiger, go fight the good fight, keep punching oh , for the record , I love it when young artists get an opportunity to go for their dreams!"

Tiger who is currently attending Cannes where the news of the Indian remake of *Rambo* has been making rounds, says he only has ONE "eye of the tiger" for us cubs. You rule the jungle! Thank you so much sir! @TheStallone." The actor also shared a photo from the film carnival on his Twitter and simply captioned it: "#Cannes2017 #RAMBO" — PTI

From riches to rags

ISLAMABAD, May 21: A Pakistani actor, Shahid Naseeb, who has numerous television serials to his credit has been forced to become a house painter to make ends meet.

"I eat only once a day. I don't have a home here in Lahore so I sleep on the roads; my budget doesn't allow me the luxury of staying elsewhere," he said.

Naseeb went from riches to rags and forced to become a painter because he was not getting enough roles. He has worked in serials such as Dulari, Jab Usse Mujh Se Mohabbat Hui and Ittaya.

"Things are extremely tough for me right now but I know that there are many others in Hollywood and Bollywood who have faced such adversities before making it big," Naseeb was quoted as saying by The Express Tribune.

Naseeb who is now getting Rs 20,000 a month, is looking for new opportunities in the music industry. "I have been trying to save some cash so I can release a song of my own name."

He added,

"I've met with some musicians in Lahore who are asking for Rs 100,000 to help me compose the track and my mission is to collect that much." — PTI



Belarusian cadets dance with women during the opening ceremony of the 8th International Exhibition of Arms and Military Machinery MILEX 2017 in Minsk, Belarus on Saturday. — UNI

N Korea fires ballistic missile: Seoul

SEOUL, May 21: North Korea today test-fired a ballistic missile which travelled some 500 km, just a week after a previous launch sparked international condemnation and threats of tougher UN sanctions.

South Korea's new President Moon Jae-in called a National Security Council meeting in response to the latest launch, Yonhap news agency reported.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it could not yet identify the type of missile fired from Pukchang in South Pyongan province but it travelled about 500 km (311 miles).

"Our military is closely monitoring signs for additional provocation by the North Korean military and we are keeping a full military readiness," a statement said.

The Hwasong-12 intermediate-range missile fired on May 14 flew some 700 km – further than any previous North Korean ballistic missile – and according to Pyongyang could carry a nuclear warhead.

Analysts said it represented a significant step forward in the North's weapons capabilities as it accelerates efforts to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of delivering a nu-

clear warhead to the continental United States.

The launches, and a threatened sixth nuclear test have fuelled tension with the administration of US President Donald Trump, who has vowed that such an ICBM launch "won't happen".

North Korea has long had missiles that can reach targets across the South and Japan.

With an assumed range of 4,500 kilometres the Hwasong-12 also puts US bases on the Pacific island of Guam within reach.

The UN Security Council met behind closed doors last Tuesday to

discuss tightening sanctions on North Korea after its May 14 launch.

US Ambassador Nikki Haley said the United States was working with China, Pyongyang's main ally, on a new sanctions resolution and warned that all countries must step up action against North Korea or face measures themselves.

"We all have to send a sign to North Korea, and that is: 'No more. This is not play time. This is serious. These threats are not welcome,'" Haley told reporters ahead of the meeting. "If you are a country that is supplying or supporting North Korea, we will call you out on it."

Haley said North Korea needs missiles and nuclear weapons to deter any attack by the United States. State newspaper Minju Jonson Sunday threatened more launches.

"If the US persists in confrontation with the DPRK (North Korea), the latter will show how the crime-woven history of the U.S. Is put to an end," it said.

"Many more 'Juche' weapons capable of striking the US will be launched from this land. This is the DPRK's answer to the Trump administration," it said, referring to the national philosophy of "Juche" or self-reliance. — AFP

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kilometres the Hwasong-12 also

puts US bases on the Pacific island of Guam within reach.

The UN Security Council met

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UK varsity removes Muslim prayer space ahead of Ramadan

LONDON, May 21: Ahead of Ramadan, a top UK university has decided to remove prayer space available on campus for Muslims, citing "lack of space" during exam season.

The only daily prayer space available on campus of the University of East Anglia (UEA) is to be permanently removed and replaced with a corridor to the university Library, *Independent* reported.

Muslim students at the university were told that their Friday prayer space was to be taken away due to a "lack of space" during exam season, the paper said.

Students yesterday took part in a public prayer session in the main university square in peaceful protest against the move.

A spokesperson from the UEA Islamic Society said:

"We are shocked and appalled that the University, who re-located us... on the condition that they would investigate a permanent solution which they have failed to produce, would take away our only prayer spaces during exam period and before Ramadan".

Over the past few years, Muslim students at the university have used a lecture theatre for prayer and worship. The larger Friday worship sessions take place at a separate location by the Blackdale student residences.

Both arrangements were set up as a temporary solution while the university discussed plans for a permanent prayer space.

From Sunday, however, the Muslim student community are to be left with no designated prayer space, a move students say they had not been invited to discuss. — PTI

German and Afghan guard killed in Kabul guest house attack

KABUL, May 21: A German aid worker and an Afghan guard were killed as gunmen stormed an international guest house in central Kabul, officials said today as emergency services in the war-torn country.

A Finnish woman was also kidnapped from the guest house run by Swedish charity Operation Mercy, with no group so far claiming responsibility for the attack late Saturday.

In a further sign of violence roiling the country, 20 Afghan policemen were killed early Sunday when Taliban fighters stormed their outposts in the southern province of Zabul, as the insurgents escalate their annual spring offensive.

The country's interior ministry confirmed the brazen Kabul attack, the latest in a series of assaults on aid workers in Afghanistan.

"A Finnish lady was kidnapped from police district (three) last night at 11.30. A German lady and an Afghan guard were killed," interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said on Twitter.

The foreign ministry in Stockholm confirmed that a Finnish citizen has been kidnapped, adding that they were investigating the incident in coordination with their counterparts in Kabul. "At the moment, the identity of the kidnappers is not known. Finland urges immediate release of the kidnapped person," the Foreign ministry said in a statement.

Operation Mercy's director Scott Breslin told local news agency TT that he was holding a crisis meeting over the incident. "We know that she's missing, we will send out a press release later," Breslin said in a brief statement. — AFP

Station (ISS) and named it *Solibacillus kalamii* to honour the late president, who was a renowned aerospace scientist.

Kalam had his early training at NASA in 1963 before he set up India's first rocket-launching facility in the fishing village of Thumba in Kerala.

"The name of the bacterium is *Solibacillus kalamii*, the species name is after Dr Abdul Kalam and genus name is *Solibacillus* which is a spore forming bacteria," said Dr Kasturi Venkateswaran, senior research scientist, Biotechnology and Plan-

etary Protection Group at JPL.

The filter on which the new bug was found was removed from the ISS for 40 months. Called a high-efficiency particulate arrestance filter or HEPA filter, this part is the routine housekeeping and cleaning system on board the international space station.

This filter was later analysed at JPL and only this year did Venkateswaran publish his

New tablet device to assist heart failure patients

LONDON, May 21: Scientists have developed a novel tablet device to help heart failure patients manage their disease by monitoring symptoms and drug dosage.

Researchers from Linkoping University in Sweden developed OPTILOGG, a programmed tablet attached to a weighing scale that provides heart failure education, registers body weight and symptoms and manages diuretic dosage.

If weight gain is above a predetermined range patients should contact the heart failure clinic, researchers said. Patients can use OPTILOGG as required without pushing any buttons and it takes less than 30 seconds a day.

Researchers studied about 32 patients from four primary care heart failure clinics. Participants were 65 years old on average and 31 per cent were female. — PTI

Taliban raid kills 20 policemen in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, May 21: At least 20 Afghan policemen were killed early today when Taliban fighters stormed multiple security outposts in the volatile southern province of Zabul, officials said, as the insurgents escalate their annual spring offensive.

Local officials made desperate calls to Afghan television stations to seek attention as they were unable to get hold of senior authorities for help, highlighting the disarray in security ranks.

The coordinated attack is another stinging blow to NATO-backed Afghan forces. It comes just a month after the Taliban killed at least 135 security forces in northern Balkh province, in the deadliest insurgent attack on an Afghan military base.

"This morning, a group of Taliban fighters armed with heavy and light weapons launched coordinated attacks on several police checkpoints in Shah Joy district of Zabul province, killing 20 policemen," provincial governor Bismillah Afghan told AFP. A district official told AFP that at least 15 others were wounded in the fighting.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on their website. The raid, the latest in a series of brazen Taliban assaults, underscores the insurgents' growing strength more than 15 years since they were ousted from power by the US invasion of 2001.

Taliban militants launched their annual "spring offensive" in late April, heralding a surge in fighting as the US tries to craft a "new Afghanistan" and NATO considers sending more troops to break the stalemate against the resurgent militants.

The offensive normally marks the start of the fighting season, though this winter the Taliban continued to battle government forces.

US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis last month warned of "another tough year" for security forces in Afghanistan.

His comments came after Taliban fighters dressed in army uniforms and armed with suicide vests attacked a military base outside the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif last month, killing at least 135 policemen and soldiers.

The brazen attack prompted fury in Afghanistan, leading to the resignations of defence minister Abdullah Habibi and army chief Qadim Shah Shahem.

The US State Department denounced the "barbaric, unconscionable" attack, but stressed that America has no intention of giving up on the country despite more than 15 years of brutal war. — AFP

Teen spits on Muslim classmate; tries to yank off her hijab

NEW YORK, May 21: A 16-year-old Muslim girl was spat upon and abused by her classmate who even tried to pull her hijab off in a city school in the US.

The 15-year-old boy was on an elevator with the victim inside the High School for Law Enforcement and Public Safety in Jamaica in the New York City when he called her a "Muslim b—h" and spit on her, police said.

He then tugged on her hijab in an attempt to rip it off her head, they said. The girl then told school officials, who reported the incident to police.

Police questioned the teen and charged him with aggravated harassment and disorderly conduct, *New York Daily News* reported. He will be charged as a juvenile and so his name was not released. The victim was rattled but not physically harmed, police said.

"This incident is troubling, and this type of behaviour has no place in our schools," Department of Education spokeswoman Toya Holness said.

"We are providing the school with additional support to ensure appropriate follow-up action is taken," Holness added. The incident comes amid growing incidents of hate and assaults on hijab-wearing girls and women across the US. — PTI

In tribute to Kalam, NASA names new species after him

LOS ANGELES, May 21: In great news for India, scientists at NASA have named a new organism discovered by them after the much-loved A P J Abdul Kalam.

Till date, the new organism – a form of a bacteria – has been found only on the International Space Station (ISS) and has not been found on earth!

Researchers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the foremost lab of NASA for work on inter-planetary travel, discovered the new bacteria on the filters of the International Space

station (ISS) and named it *Solibacillus kalamii* to honour the late president, who was a renowned aerospace scientist.

Kalam had his early training at NASA in 1963 before he set up India's first rocket-launching facility in the fishing village of Thumba in Kerala.

"The name of the bacterium is *Solibacillus kalamii*, the species name is after Dr Abdul Kalam and genus name is *Solibacillus* which is a spore forming bacteria," said Dr Kasturi Venkateswaran, senior research scientist, Biotechnology and Plan-

etary Protection Group at JPL.

The filter on which the new bug was found was removed from the ISS for 40 months. Called a high-efficiency particulate arrestance filter or HEPA filter, this part is the routine housekeeping and cleaning system on board the international space station.

This filter was later analysed at JPL and only this year did Venkateswaran publish his

discovery in the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology.

According to Venkateswaran, even as it orbits the earth some 400 kilometres above, the ISS is home to many types of bacteria and fungi which co-inhabit the station with the astronauts who live and work on the station. Venkateswaran said even though *Solibacillus kalamii* has never been found on earth till date, it is really not an extra-terrestrial life form or ET.

"I am reasonably sure it has hitched to the space station on board some cargo and then survived the hostile conditions of space," explained Venkateswaran. Naming the new microbe after Kalam was natural to Venkateswaran and his team.

"Being a fellow Tamilian, I am aware of the huge contributions by Dr. Kalam," he said.

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it.

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON

The Assam Tribune

NE Industrial Policy

The sluggish industrialization process in the North-east took a further beating after the North-east Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP) was suspended by the Centre from December 1, 2014 to November 22, 2016. During this long period, almost all new investments were put on hold, adversely affecting the region's industrial scenario. Much later when the Centre reintroduced the policy, many of the incentives existing in the earlier policy were withdrawn, throwing a question over the Centre's sincerity in acknowledging the special needs of the region's industrialization. Now, a new industrial policy for the North-east is on the anvil and one hopes that it does not remain blind to the peculiar concerns of the region that urgently needs a dose of industrialization. Given the decades of neglect and poor infrastructure development in the region, the situation definitely warrants special provisions in the industrial policy. The reason cited for withdrawal of the special benefits under the previous policy – concerning mainly transport subsidy and excise duty exemption – was that unscrupulous elements were taking undue advantage of the situation. While this might be true, a more prudent move should have been in plugging the loopholes and ensuring that only the deserving industrial units got the benefits. It is to be noted that similar incentives are very much in place in Jammu & Kashmir. It should also be borne in mind that industrialization and infrastructure development are two sides of the same coin. Unless the perennial drawbacks such as lack of adequate power and surface connectivity which deter prospective investors from investing in the region are addressed, industrialization will remain a mirage in the North-east.

Notwithstanding government rhetoric, the fact is that private investment continues to come only in trinkets to the State, while a majority of the abysmally-run government enterprises have faced closure. It would be appropriate, therefore, that the State Government concentrates more on creating an ideal ambience for industrialization than feeding the people with half-truths about thousands of industries coming to the State in the past one year. For industry to thrive, we need solid industrial infrastructure and a conducive environment. Regrettably, even the basic pre-requisites like reliable power supply and motorable roads still remain a stumbling block in the path of industrialization. Things can improve when the State Government does a realistic assessment of the problem areas and addresses those as a matter of priority. While meeting of the primary requirements is a must, thrust should be on setting up modern industrial estates in every district. This can facilitate growth of industrial clusters, which are also essential for creating the much-needed ambience for sustainable industrial growth. For a biodiversity-rich region like the North-east, the tourism industry can be an accelerator of growth by empowering local communities and without polluting the environment. For boosting development in the region, the Government must think and act on these lines.

Empowering Rouhani

The Presidential election in Iran has witnessed a determined effort by a majority of Iranian voters to empower Hassan Rouhani to more effectively carry out his pro-reform agenda. The moderate Rouhani has emphatically won a second term, defeating his hardline challenger Ebrahim Rasi by 57% to 38% of the votes cast. It is ironical that even as nationalism and populism have strengthened in the US, UK and the EU, Iran, the land of the fiery Ayatollah Khomeini and his treacherous Revolutionary Guards, has opted for moderation and changes to economy. The defeat of his opponent, a Khomeini protege and advocate of the policies of the once powerful hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, signals the broader desire of the people of Iran to put an end to their isolation amongst the international community, especially the West. During his first term the elected President had burst out into the global arena by striking a deal with world powers to stop Iran's nuclear programme in lieu of lifting of crippling economic sanctions. It had taken Rouhani a great deal of tightrope walking to get the acceptance of Iran's Supreme Governing Council to the deal; had there been no palpable sense that the people in general had given support, perhaps Rouhani might have been forced to scuttle it. One of his moderate predecessors, President Mohammad Khatami, had come a cropper while trying to implement reforms.

Apart from the nuclear deal, the pace of reforms in other areas, especially economy, had been slow during Rouhani's earlier tenure. This is because of the peculiar manner in which Iranian democracy is structured, with the President's powers being limited and the unelected Supreme Leader having the authority to veto any decisions made by him. However because of the popular mandate, Rouhani's hands have been strengthened and it would make challenges to his reformist agenda more difficult for the hardliners. After all, those now at the helm of Iranian politics had attained their position through a revolution and can be de-throned by people's power expressed through a counter-revolution! One certainly hopes that the "free world" reciprocates with steps that match the Iranian people's desire for an end to isolation and greater foreign direct investment, something which will further empower the President. The fly in the ointment, obviously, is the US President Donald Trump, and the danger that he will stay true to his anti-Iran campaign rhetoric by scrapping the nuclear deal and imposing fresh sanctions on Iran. That Trump has chosen to visit Saudi Arabia, the sworn enemy of Iran, on his first trip abroad bodes ill. As it is, Rouhani has very little room to manoeuvre within Iran itself despite the popular mandate. It would be a pity if the unpredictable Trump adds to his difficulties in his attempt to dilute the power of the hardliners.

A new development paradigm

■ Tanuj Goswami

With the grant-in-aid provided by the 14th Finance Commission (FC), a new development paradigm has been brought to the fore in order to ensure an efficient and effective 'participatory planning mechanism' for basic service requirement of rural people at the lowest level of Governance, i.e., the *gaon panchayat*, so that the villagers can get familiarized with development methodology identifying/selecting their own needs and setting priorities for themselves, eventually fulfilling their basic service requirements intervening directly in a democratic and participative way. The Commission has exclusively primed the local bodies/*panchayats* for financial avails with a view to strengthening the fundamental necessities of village people and to meet the gaps left unattended.

This novel idea is impregnated with some core values of democratic devolution of power and decision making that gets pronounced while taking up the process of Gaon Parachayat Development Plan (GPDp), the quintessence being the '*Aamar Gaon Aamor Achoni'* in Assam.

The GPDp is essentially an intensive development plan of the *gaon panchayat* that interpolates with specific issues and problems with vulnerable groups of person who have always been at the receiving end of the development process are also held.

Essentially the situation analysis is an attempt to conduct a comprehensive survey to bridge the gap between the existing development status of the *gaon panchayat* and the smouldering deficiencies and disparities in basic services needs where-

To begin with, for any villager

in an intervention is required. Following a series of discussions, the working groups finally prepare the sector-wise draft status report as per the given format and place before the *gaon panchayat* for its approval. Every care and precaution has to be taken by the *gaon panchayat* in active consultation with the committee members and the line officials to reflect the wishes and perception of people in the DSR along with feasibility of projects.

The GPDp has enough scope for getting wide institutional and public support and it's a primary tool of rural development for ensuring good governance at local level where development in real sense should prevail which needs to be propped up and vested on the people themselves.

Prior to placing of DSR before the *gaon sabha*, an extensive arrangement is made by the *panchayat* for wide public participation and here, prioritization of works based on critical importance like drinking water, connectivity, sanitation, etc., are worked out for incorporating in the first annual plan.

After due modification of the DSR as suggested in the *gaon sabha*, a final draft report is prepared wherein segregation of works un-

der different resource envelopes like the 14th Finance Commission, MNREGA, NRLM, NSAP, SBM, OSB, etc., are taken up. One redeeming feature of devotion of power is that as soon as the GPDp is finalized at the *gaon panchayat*, the technical committee constituted at each development block will accord sanction for necessary implementation of projects.

The spirit of democratization and the deliberative process as envisaged in the '*Aamar Gaon Aamor Achoni'* for the sake of participative development gets reflected in the formation of thematic working groups, collection of both primary and secondary data, selection of resource persons from the *gaon panchayat* area, draft plan preparation, prioritization of need areas and host of other activities rolled out – all to be debated and dialogued for ratification at the *panchayat* and *gaon sabha* – which is seen as a wonderful synchronization of local collective intervention and wisdom for undertaking public works keeping in mind the need of people's participation for good governance.

The Department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Government of Assam, has already set in place a very well thought out mechanism so that people can get a touch, feel and a glimpse of developmental works with their own active participation. But the fundamental question doing the round is how to make the most of the

The GPDp has enough scope for getting wide institutional and public support and it's a primary tool of rural development for ensuring good governance at local level where development in real sense should prevail which needs to be propped up and vested on the people themselves.

The GPDp has enough scope for getting wide institutional and public support and it's a primary tool of rural development for ensuring good governance at local level where development in real sense should prevail which needs to be propped up and vested on the people themselves. It is a bounden as well as constitutional duty of the Government to strengthen the organizational support base of the *panchayat* infusing young blood and new concept of rural development in sync with high-tech and people-friendly mechanisms.

A new ray of hope beckons as the governments both at the Centre and in the State is setting the stage for highly tech-induced transparent and accountable governance with a slew of positive measures.

A troubled legacy

■ Anirban Choudhury

Unfortunately or otherwise (at least to some), the north-eastern region, along with some other parts of the country, has inherited a troubled legacy, a bitter past where much blood has been spilled. But sadly, while other areas seemed to have overcome their turbulent past, made peace and moved on, the north-easterners seem to have been caught in some kind of a time warp with old wounds still festering. And what makes it more tragic is that some are doggedly determined in passing on this troubled legacy gleefully to the posterity.

The plethora of ills plaguing the region like the foreigners' issue, the tribal-versus-non-tribal problem or the inter-State border disputes, etc., can all be traced to the tumultuous and bloody past. And 70 years after the country's independence, the region is still groping in the dark seeking its solution.

The reason is, however, not too hard to seek. The biggest stumbling block to resolution of the myriad of woes haunting the region apparently lies in lack of application of a sound

mind backed by sound wisdom ironically on the part of those on the vanguard. This is best manifest in their tendency to steadfastly cling on to the past, instead of focusing on the future based on pragmatism on every major issue. Of course, they have their own constituencies to cater to and please. That explains their ever eagerness to dig their heels deep and keep the pot boiling. There's a clear lack of intent to resolve the raging issues, and for obvious reasons.

Consider the foreigners' issue dogging Assam for the past so many years, and which has claimed many lives. With new organizations now joining the cavalcade and each putting forth their own sets of formulae with their own arguments to resolve the vexed issue, no end seems to be sight in the melee – if only it's not getting more complicated by the day.

Following the signing of the Assam Accord in 1985, March 24, 1971 was accepted as the cut-off date for detection and deportation of foreigners from the State. With the Accord laying the ground rules,

it was expected that the foreigners' issue will be finally solved once and for all. No wonder, the people of the State too hailed the Accord with much ado and accorded it the status of a gospel (well, almost). In fact, one ran the risk of being branded a heretic if she dared to take a critical view on any of the provisions of the Accord. Student leaders on the forefront of the six-year anti-foreigners' movement found themelves suddenly catapulted to the seat of government (twice) and became heroes overnight, courtesy of the Accord.

Of course, that was till the other day. Now, after much water has flowed down the Brahmaputra, it has dawned on some individuals and groups to question the legal validity of 1971 as the cut-off year, if not the Accord itself. Instead, they have now demanded 1951 as the new baseline. While some are now busy trying to create a public opinion in favour of the new date by issuing statements, a few have even approached the court of law.

With the organizations now updating the ante in support of the new cut-off year, those considered 'soft' towards 'illegal migrants' (read

Bangladeshis) have indicated that they too are unlikely to give up without a fight. A political party has already indicated that it won't accept the new base year suggested nor give in to the new demand without a fight, thus holding ominous portends for the State's future. And so, if new base lines are drawn, it is highly unlikely that the jinx will be resold any time soon – with the next generation too likely having to live with the troubled legacy handed down to them by their fathers, who in turn inherited it from their fathers – a classic case of going round in circles.

Further, considering the time taken by the courts of the land to decide on cases, it would be futile to expect a judgement from the Supreme Court on the matter any time soon. And even if it is conceded that the apex court verdict comes before long, what is the guarantee that there won't be any review petitions filed by either camp if the judgement doesn't go in their favour, or that it would be implemented in letter and spirit? Thus the saga of endless litigations would continue. And so, while the world will have surged ahead in

terms of socio-economic progress in the days to come, the people of the State will still be wrangling to determine who's a foreigner.

Thus, at the risk of ruffling those at the forefront leading such arguments, will it be wrong to ask whether it wouldn't have been prudent on the part of all groups who are party to the case all these years to sit across the table to sort out their differences and arrive at a consensus, before building up a public opinion to settle the vexed issue once and for all? How many generations will continue to pay the price for the ineptitude of their previous generations?

And the same logic holds true not just for Assam, but for other States of the region too. Time has come for the north-easterners to make a choice whether they want to hold on to their tumultuous past stubbornly and shy away from resolution of issues and even allow blood to be spilled, or shed their troubled legacies for the sake of posterity and move ahead – be it the inter-State boundary disputes, ethnic rivalries or 'outsider-insider' impasse, etc. Let the future remain a hostage to the troubled past. Thus far and no farther.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, — The recent worldwide WannaCry cyber attack, which has its origin reportedly in North Korea to destabilize the web world internationally, claiming hefty amounts from infected computers of private users and governments across world, was a serious threat to our banking and other government and private sectors. Many Indian States have been badly affected due to the WannaCry malware. But, till now, the Indian banking industry has not been affected by this. Hackers were demanding a huge amount of Bitcoins (e-money or virtual money, which is valued at more than the UK pound or the US dollar). Many government agencies of different States like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have been badly affected by the malware and many computers as well as servers have been damaged, though the recovery process is going on. Thanks to the British and Indian IT experts who have been able to stop the virus from continuous unabated attack. Our Government should remain alert to avoid such cyber attacks. We should increase the number of ethical hackers just to strike back

WannaCry attack and need of alert

promptly in case of such exigencies. Yours etc., ASHIM KUMAR CHAKRABORTY, Pandu, Guwahati.

Online shaming

Sir, — Very recently, it was in the news that the Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal, has directed the State Chief Secretary VK Pipersen and the DG of Police Meenal Sabay to take strict action against the use of social media to defame someone. This is welcome as the use of appropriate law against such cases has become an absolute necessity. In today's modern age of high speed internet, it's not a surprise that our generation is forever hooked to the mobile-computer screens. And social media is one of the addictions. A side effect of the internet that construct both lives and livelihoods is online shaming which has become a recent viral trend. At its worst, it's a weapon of mass reputation destruction, capable of amplifying slander, bullying, and casual idiocy on a scale which was never before possible.

The internet being a fast place, it leaves limited time for judgement and careful thoughts to check facts, analyse testimony or consider context. Just because one has freedom of speech, it is unacceptable to use that freedom to attack

someone's image hiding behind the computer screens. The harmful effects of this dangerous trend have resulted in cases like depression and even suicide.

People should think twice before maligning someone's image on social media as it can create havoc in someone's life and strict actions should be taken against such offenders who seek entertainment from such acts. Yours etc., PLABITA BARUAH, Tezpur.

Jal Jeevan Hai

Sir, — Most of the farmers of Assam face the problem of water shortage during winter. It is laudable that the NABARD project on water conservation currently under way in the State (AT, May 14) has reached 3,000 villages of Assam under the national campaign on conservation and efficient use of water in agriculture. The nationwide campaign 'Jal Jeevan Hai' is under implementation in 10 districts of the State involving over three lakh members of the rural communities. These people are being trained extensively on water conservation, efficient use of water in agriculture, enhancement of traditional water conservation methods, etc. We hope, this project will help in dealing with the farmers' problem of water shortage and will boost the

agriculture as well as the economic sector of the State. Yours etc., TRAILOKYA BARUAH, Panbari, Guwahati.

Age limit

Sir, — I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Higher Education, Assam regarding the recent advertisement for college/ model college teachers through The Assam Tribune. Recently, the age bar for assistant professor was eliminated for UGC, NIT, IIT, etc. But the advertisements published by the Assam Government have mentioned 43 years as the upper age limit. Assam has been a troubled State for a long time and is recovering slowly. The Assam agitation, misrule, insurgency problem, annual floods, etc., have plagued the State's economy. The recruitment bar for 15 years has just been over only a few years back. In such a situation, many candidates seeking government jobs have suffered due to their age. Therefore, the age bar of 43 years is not justifiable, as it is not a criterion of the UGC. Yours etc., DR DEEP SARMAH, Nagaland.

Pollution control

Sir, — Through your esteemed daily, I would like to highlight something that has been going unnoticed for a long time. The display boards, installed by the

Pollution Control Board, Assam in various sampling points across the State for recording the status for water, air, noise, etc., have remained blank for many years. These have never been filled up with the recorded data. Without serving any purpose, these display boards are only occupying space and are of no use. So, I would like to request the authorities concerned to either remove the display boards or keep them updated regularly. Yours etc., JEETUMONI BARMAN, Ganeshpani, Guwahati.

Exam date clash

Sir, — As per the notice of the APSC's quarterly tentative schedule published in this esteemed daily (April 4, 2017), the dates of exams of Inspector of Legal Metrology (SL 27) and Assistant Engineer under Water Resource Department (SL 28) have merged on the same date, i.e., July 30, 2017. In this respect, the authority concerned should take proper steps so that the candidates who have applied for both the posts can sit for the exams. Yours etc., MANAS GOGOI, Hatiagon, 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@assamtribune.com.

Open varsity starts new courses at city commerce college

GUWAHATI, May 21: The Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU) has initiated BCom, BBA and PGDCA courses at the Gauhati Commerce College through a study centre, with the beginning of the new academic session of 2017-18.

Both the institutions have in the meantime signed an MoU for the collaboration. Admission or the courses will commence immediately after the KKHSOU releases the advertisement regarding the admission forms.

The university has appointed Dr Purushottam Bhattacharyya, vice principal of the Gauhati Commerce College, as coordinator of the new study centre. — Staff Reporter

100 years of architects' body

GUWAHATI, May 21: The Indian Institute of Architects (IIA), Assam chapter, recently celebrated its completion of 100 years here. The IIA is a national body of architects in the country and has more than 20,000 members.

The IIA plays a major role in promoting the profession of architecture by organising and uniting the architects of India to promote aesthetic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession both in practice and in education, a press release stated. — Staff Reporter

Freight traffic revenue helps NF Railway register growth

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, May 21: Substantial increase in transport of coal, foodgrains and fertilisers from the region under the Maligaon-headquartered Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) helped the zone register a small growth in its year-on-year cumulative revenue earnings from freight traffic during 2016-17.

NFR's revenue earnings from freight traffic on an originating basis stood at Rs 1,182.08 crore in 2016-17 compared to Rs 1,149.85 crore in previous financial year of 2015-16, resulting in an annual increase of 2.8 per cent.

During the period under review, the commodity-wise freight traffic on an originating basis went up marginally year-on-year to 9.59 million tonnes from 9.52 million tonnes in 2014-15.

"In the previous fiscal, there was a substantial fall in earnings

from freight. However, this year, products like coal and foodgrains have shown better results. The low base has also helped in taking the numbers higher. In addition, the expansion of the rail network in recent years is finally starting to show the impact with regard to freight traffic during 2016-17.

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"In the previous fiscal, there was a substantial fall in earnings

from freight traffic during 2016-17.

In 2016-17, the NFR transported 0.62 million tonnes of

foodgrains earning Rs 139 crore, as against 0.64 million tonnes of oil and lubricants. In 2015-16, the figures from mineral oil had stood at Rs 469.22 crore and 3.01 million tonnes.

Besides, it also earned Rs 142.02 crore from 1.26 million tonnes of raw materials for steel plants, Rs 63.64 crore from 0.66

crore," said an official.

The NFR earned Rs 164.13 crore from transportation of 0.83 million tonnes of coal in 2016-17, as against 0.87 crore in 2015-16, resulting in a dip of over four per cent on an annual basis.

Experts believe that freight traffic and earnings can get a

boost with expansion of the rail network to interior parts of the Northeast.

"Railway network is being expanded to remote areas of the Northeast. Faster completion of double-tracking work, along with timely completion of other projects, will provide further fillip to freight traffic in the region as well as helping the local economy of the Northeast," said an official.

Coal continues to be a ma-

jor source of earning from freight traffic for the NFR. Besides coal, mineral oil, foodgrains and raw materials for steel plants formed the biggest component of freight traffic of the NFR zone.

In 2016-17, the NFR transported 0.62 million tonnes of

cement, Rs 21.11 crore from transpor-

tation of 0.31 million tonnes of fertilisers, Rs 32.19 crore from 0.09 million tonnes of container service and Rs 169.56 crore from 2.75 million tonnes of other goods in the period between April 2016 to March 2017.

Overall, in the 2016-17 fiscal,

the Indian Railways' cumulative

revenue earnings from freight

traffic touched Rs 1,04,474

crore, a dip of over four per cent on an annual basis.

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Training at IIE to create e-commerce awareness

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, May 21: A training programme on 'Amazon Trained E-Commerce Specialist (ATES)' was conducted by the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) in association with Amazon India on May 18 and 19 at the IIE campus here.

It may be mentioned that

Amazon has signed an MoU with

IIE for creating e-

commerce awareness

amongst entrepreneurs of the

North East and to increase their

market reach globally.

The training programme was

conducted by Amazon officials

from Bengaluru, Manoj

Sudan and Javeed Mohammad

Maaz.

The two-day training was held with an objective to create awareness about the e-commerce platform as a marketing tool for entrepreneurs of the North East. It was a specialised pro-

gramme to elaborate on the ATES platform offered by

Amazon to incorporate

sellers and entrepreneurs

into the Amazon umbrella

and guide them with a

smooth marketing experien-

ce for their products.

At the inaugural pro-

gramme IIE Director Manoj

Kumar Das touched upon

the importance of e-

commerce in today's world

and how it has revolution-

ised the shopping experi-

ence of people. He also

mentioned the importance

of this training from the

seller-entrepreneur

perspective.

Upal Banerjee

director of the programme,

spoke on the objective of

the programme. About 35

individuals underwent

training.



Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurating the Nemcare Heart Institute and Research Centre and Super Speciality Hospital, in Guwahati on Sunday. — UB Photos

State's revenue ...

(Contd from page 1)

give a direct answer as to when the ministry would be expanded and said that the State's expenditures came down because the government is run by a small ministry. However, at the same time, he said that the BJP is a national party and a Chief Minister does not always take decisions unilaterally.

Replying to a question on the failure among the ruling alliance partners to come up with a common programme even after almost one year in office, Sonowal said that all the major decisions are taken in consultation with the alliance partners. "In fact, most major decisions are taken in the Cabinet and we have members of the alliance partners in the Cabinet," he added.

On the poor condition of the roads in most parts of the State, Sonowal said that the responsibility of maintaining most of the National Highways has been given to the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and he recently held discussions with senior officers of the Corporation. "Though the organisation is not under the State Government, I have asked them to take effective measures to improve the condition of the National Highways," he added. He also said that in its more than 60-year rule, the Congress managed to construct only 317 km of highways in the Barak Valley and now the government has sanctioned construction on 293 km of new highways in the valley. He also said that the Public Works Department has been given Rs 5 crore per Assembly constituency to repair the damaged roads. However, he admitted that it is difficult to work on the roads during the rainy season.

On the failure of the Water Resources Department to meet the deadline given by him for repairing the embankments by April 30, Sonowal said that he is constantly monitoring the situation and for the first time, the repairing of the embankments started in the month of January. He said that the government has sanctioned Rs 550 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund, of which Rs 400 crore was sanctioned for repairing of the embankments. The deputy commissioners have been given funds in advance and they have been directed to make the ex-gratia payments within 24 hours from the death of a person in natural calamities.

On the investment scenario, Sonowal said that because of the overall improvement of the State's scenario, the government could attract investments amounting to Rs 6,500 crore within a year, which would generate employment opportunities for around 40,000 people.

Compartmental HSLC ...

(Contd from page 1)

"Facility of grace marks should be limited to a maximum of three subjects for a student and there should not be any confidentiality with regard to moderation and award of grace marks," the committee headed by Prof Mridul Hazarika stated in its report.

The committee also pointed out that the Board of Secondary Education, Assam (SEBA) did not adhere to the established principle of moderation of marks for students appearing in the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) examination as is done in many countries.

Sarma also quoted the findings of the report, which stated that there has been a striking rise in the pass percentage of the students over the last 15 years or so, and that there is an urgent requirement to review the assessment process and the procedure of the HSLC examination in preparation of the result which has wide-ranging educational, economic and societal implications.

The committee further suggested that proper human resources be developed at SEBA with experts from reputed national and international institutes for enabling proper understanding of the nuances of the moderation process with the skill for rigorous statistical analyses of the marks from a huge amount of data.

However, for the year 2017, in order to compensate the difficulties experienced by candidates in understanding or solving questions in a specified time, SEBA should adopt the policy based on the sample data analysed.

Stating that recommendations of the committee have been accepted by the government, the minister added that an independent study would be done encompassing the academic growth of students who have passed the HSLC examinations in the last five years. He said that the government is also exploring an idea under which the answer scripts of the candidates would be handed over to the respective guardians after the results are out.

4 militants killed ...

(Contd from page 1)

The Home Minister's assertion came amid continued unrest in the Kashmir valley. Kashmir is in a vice-like grip of violence since the killing of militant commander Burhan Wani in an encounter with security forces in July last year. Though there was a brief lull, violence erupted again on April 9 this year when the hypothesis of the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat was held. Nor malcy has eluded the State since. — PTI

Film Tumi Ahibaane promises to bring whiff of fresh air

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 21: Bringing a whiff of fresh air to the Assamese film industry with a musical romantic treat this season, *Tumi Ahibaane* – the directorial debut of Prerna Barbarooh – promises to be a retreat from chaos and turbulence all around. At the music launch of the film today, the cast and crew celebrated the first-ever launch of the music of an Assamese film in 250 years.

Starring Ravi Sarma and Barsha Rani Bishayi as the lead pair, Gunjan Bharadwaj, Moonmi Phukan in supporting roles, the film also has veterans like Nipon Goswami and Arun Nath.

In *Tumi*'s music direction, the film has a multifarious background score and also the voice of Zubeen Garg in two

songs. Other songs have been composed by Tarali Sarma and Minal Baishnav. The film has an Assamese rap song, too, by a new talent, Akku.

"The movie, in its essence, is a sensitive love story, an old school romantic film that is more expressive and musical rather than an overt show of affection. Tarali's background score is one of the best people have heard so far," director Prerna Barbarooh told *The Assam Tribune*.

The film is scheduled to release on September 22 and the music is available now on all the music apps and websites.

At the music launch event

onboard a cruise on the Brahmaputra, the stars of the flick recreated some scenes. "It was a delight to work with the like-minded, positive thinking team. Hope people would like the effort and it would strike the chord with the audience," said Ravi Sarma.

"The film has a soothng effect, a welcome retreat from the action-packed, high-decibel films," the female lead Barsha Rani Bishayi said.

The film is a debutante for a full-length commercial film, Prerna and I have done many projects together till date. With a great thrust on creativity and vigour, it has the potential to attract people to the theatre. Along with a dash of folk music, there is a lot of flute, piano and guitar for the soft romantic compositions," Tarali Sarma said.

Often, Sood displays saplings in front of his outlet for trees

has a story behind it.

"A few years back, the Forest department had planted

some saplings along GS Road. One was planted right in front of my outlet at Christian Basti. However, a vehicle, while being parked near the place, almost crushed the sapling.

But I was successful in saving the plant and nurtured it into a full-grown tree. Once, when I touched it, I got a unique feeling. It stirred my emotions. Since then I have been donating saplings."

Sood told this newspaper.

He has donated some 4,000

saplings to Jadav Payeng's

project in Nagpur, besides

several other such plantation

programmes across the State,

including defence canton-

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Members of the Baksa Mid Day Meal Workers Union staging a protest to fulfill their long-pending demands, on the NH 31 at Baksa, on Saturday. — UB Photos

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Guwahati unit meet held

GUWAHATI, May 21: The first meeting of the reconstituted Guwahati Kendra Committee of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan was held on May 18 at the conference hall of the Raj Bhawan here in the presence of Governor Banupriyo Purohit, a press release stated.

The meeting was chaired by Ranjit Sekhar Moosahary, former Governor of Meghalaya. The meeting commenced with a condolence prayer to mourn the sad demise of Subrata Barua, the donor of the Guwahati campus of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and one of the most prominent members of the Guwa-

hati Kendra Committee.

In his opening address, the Governor spoke about the eminence of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and the way the organisation has consistently worked to extol the excellence of Indian culture throughout the country and abroad for the last 80 years. Purohit expressed his satisfaction on the mix of talent and eminence of the newly-appointed members of the Guwahati Kendra Committee and assured that it will stand strongly behind the Guwahati Kendra to ensure that it achieves excellence similar to the other 80 centres of Bhava-

n around the country.

While outlining the work priority for Guwahati Kendra, Purohit stressed the need for establishing a Bhavan's School, a centre for Indian Classical Music & Dance and lastly a Library and Sales counter of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan publications. In his brief address to the members of the Committee, Moosahary, the Chairman of Guwahati Kendra of Bhavan immensely thanked the Assam Governor for his words of advice and assurance of support. He promised that all the members will work hand in hand to make the Guwahati centre an example of

success. He also assured that the Guwahati Kendra will make sure that various socially-relevant activities are started at the earliest.

Moosahary emphasised that the Guwahati Kendra will work for achieving the Bhavan's motto of "Let noble thoughts come to us from every side." The other members present in the meeting were vice-chairman Dr DP Tod, Advocate General of Meghalaya, hon secretary Romen Chakraborty, treasurer RS Lakhotia, associate secy Romen Das and member Aasha Bora of the Aasha Bora Foundation, the release added.

Rangiya rly. junction 7th in cleanliness

RANGIYA, May 21: Rangiya Railway Junction under NFR Zone has been ranked the seventh best in terms of cleanliness among 322 different category A stations in India as part of the Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat campaign launched by the Ministry of Railways, Government of India.

The declaration came after Union Railway Minister, Suresh Prabhu, released the third party audit report on station cleanliness. — Correspondent

Parampara Dance and Music fest

GUWAHATI, May 21: Abhinaya Society in collaboration with the Directorate of Cultural Affairs is organising a two-day national level dance and music festival on May 22-23 at the Rabindra Bhawan here from 6 pm daily, a press release stated. This is the seventh edition of Parampara Dance and Music festival. Some of the most well-known names of the dance and music world like Padma Shri awardee Vijayanthi Kashi, Prajeksha Kashi (Kuchipudi), Vidha Lal (Kathak) and Bidushi Mandira Lahiri (Vocal) are going to perform. Entry is free for the festival.

Five injured

DEBRUGARH, May 21: A patient and four of his attendants were injured after their ambulance (AS21 C3047) skidded off the road and turned turtle near BCPL township in Borboroghat.

All the injured were brought to the AMCH here. — Staff Correspondent

Dr Ranen Sinha: a tribute



Dr Ranen Sinha, retired district veterinary officer, AH & Veterinary

Department, Government of Assam passed away at 1:30 pm on May 12. Halflong due to kidney-related ailment.

Born in 1953 at Durlasara in Karimganj district to Late Ram Gopal Sinha and Late Nilima Sinha, Dr Ranen Sinha did his schooling from Haiborgao High School, Nagaon. After completion of his pre-university course from Nowrang College, Siva got admission in BVSc & AH programme at College of Veterinary Science

in 1971, from where he successfully completed his degree in 1975. He later did his MVS in Physiology.

Sinha was first appointed as a veterinary assistant surgeon at Mangaldoi. He retired as the District Veterinary Officer (DVO), NC Hills (Dima Hasao) by the Government of India.

Sinha was actively involved in music and sports during his college days. Later, he composed songs for many Assamese modern song albums, namely, *Uromiya Mon, Tunuk Nekhki*, among others.

A recipient of Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award in 2009 and Excellent Professional Award from Indian Society of Medi-

— Santanu Hazarika

cal Science in 2016, Sinha also served as the general secretary of Assam Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Service Association during 1990-92.

After his retirement, he was appointed as Deputy Project Director, ATMA in NC Hills (Dima Hasao) by the Government of India.

Sinha was actively involved in music and sports during his college days. Later, he composed songs for many Assamese modern song albums, namely, *Uromiya Mon, Tunuk Nekhki*, among others.

On the day of his *adavshradha* today, I pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of his soul.

— Santanu Hazarika

BJP neglecting State's problems: Kumar Deepak Das

CORRESPONDENT

BARPETA, May 21: That the AGP is having an unhappy relationship with the BJP came to the fore when the vice-president of the party and a former MP of the Upper House, Kumar Dipak Das accused the BJP of violating the basics of the understanding between the two parties.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of a central party workers' convention on

Saturday afternoon, Das alleged that the BJP-led Central Government had totally neglected the basic problems of Assam like its predecessor Congress. "The AGP expected that the long-standing burning problems of the State such as flood and erosion and such illegal migrants' issues will be solved for ever. But instead of solutions, they have begun to fuel it and as a result the problems are getting aggravated day by day" he said.

Das informed that every MP from the State was sanctioned an amount of Rs five crore during the Manmohan Singh regime to construct a Guria Milan Kshetra. But the present Modi Government has revoked it and even the sanctioned amount was not released citing that the decision was adopted by the Congress. But the same Government was in a hurry in implementing the land deal with Bangladesh which was also a decision of the Congress.

Referring to the organisation set up of his party, the veteran leader claimed that the AGP has made significant inroads in the minority belt and it is also stronger in the mainstream Assamese areas than earlier. He expressed the hope that the AGP will very soon emerge as the only regional alternative for the people of Assam and it will be proved during the ensuing panchayat elections which the party will contest on its own.

Land protection panel visits Karimganj

ANN Service

NILAMBAZAR, May 21: A high-powered committee of land protection for indigenous people of Assam led by the former Election Commissioner Harkishan Brahma visited Karimganj recently.

The committee met the leading citizens, political parties and the members of various linguistic and social organisations at the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner, Karimganj. Addressing the meeting, Brahma said that the definition of the indigenous people of Assam is to be defined by the Government. "We are visiting each and every

district of the State and observing the problems of the land. The committee will submit its recommendations for amendment of the Land and Revenue Regulation Act and land policy of the Government as per the suggestions of the people," he said. He said that there were different categories of land in Assam like *elam, khasa, dosaa*, permanent settled area, forest reserve and *patta* land etc. He assured the people present that there is no conspiracy against any person born and brought up in Assam. The Barak Banga submitted its written suggestions to the high-powered committee regarding the land policy for indigenous people of the State. Retired IAS officers and members of the high-powered committee Rajesh Prasad, Dr Romesh Borpatraghauan, Rohini Kumar Barua, Anil Bhattacharjee were present the meeting. Pradip Kumar Talukdar, DC Karimganj, ex-minister Abdul Muktaidur Choudhury, MLA Kamalakanta Dey Purkashayata, veteran social worker Rithundra Bhattacharjee, Satu Roy Biswanath Majumdar, Lopamudra Choudhury, ADC SKNK Singh, D B Deb, N Bhattacharjee, DFO KZ Zinnal were also present among others.

SIVASAGAR, May 21: Waterlogging and garbage dumping by the roadside at Moran are two very common sights for hundreds of commuters every day. There has not been any significant improvement in the scenario even though there has been a change of guard at the political front and the people there elected a representative from the BJP which blew the clarion call for change.

After every shower, the NH 37 gets submerged near the Moran Police Station and near the Nursing Home. But the Town Development Committee remains a mute observer as to the people's plight as if Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Swachh Bharat has not yet reached Moran.

The drains dug along the sides of the road do not have the required gradient and can't carry away the rain water. The garbage collected in front of the market and the ASTC are not removed everyday which pollutes the entire town.

Mouthpiece released

ANN Service

BAIHATA CHARIALI, May 21: "Along with other factors, positive writing can also push a society on the path of development. Good writing can be a sharp weapon against superstitions, narrow mindedness and other anti-social activities which retard our collective development," said Dr Nripendra Nath Talukdar, Head of the Department of Chemistry, Pub-Kamrup College while releasing the first issue of *Adarsh* the magazine of 'Adarsha Abhilasha' a non-governmental welfare and developmental organisation of the locality recently.

In the function, Gautam Kumar Deka, founder secretary of the All Assam BED Trained Unemployed Association, Bhupen Bhagawati, journalist and Traikoley Deka, president of Karara gaon panchayat were present and they appreciated the works of the organisation in their speeches.

AASU celebrates Bohagi samaroh at Gauripur

CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, May 21: Unidentified miscreants yesterday looted cash worth Rs 4.5 lakh from Ranu Ali, who is an employee of a Hero Honda.

According to information, Ali went to a bank branch to deposit the amount. The miscreants were hiding near the bank premises and reportedly looted the cash and fled away from the scene. A case has been registered in this connection.

Further, the Minister informed that the Government

led by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal is taking special steps to start a full-fledged Agricultural university in the presence of Minister of Water Resources Keshab Maiti, Deputy Speaker of Assam Assembly and Silchar MLA Dilip Kumar Paul and other MLAs of Barak Valley.

The farmers get the power tillers through the direct benefit transfer facility, informed Zakir Hussain Charchia, the

lowed by *smriti tarpan* and tree plantation. An attractive crop competition based on Swachh Bharat Mission was held. Competitions on the Bihu Main and Bihu Pare were organised in memory of Dr Shubhendu Narayan Barua and Sanjib Kumar Biswas, by the unit was conferred on Baby Sharma Barua, director of the film *Sonar Pankhi* for the year 2017 by Prabin Kumar Barua, a social activist of the area.

A large number of competitors took part in the Bihu Konwari competition held in memory of Bandhru Bhuyan. The second day's programme included a folk song competition in memory of Madhusudan Ray. Prize distribution, felicitation and cultural evening was inaugurated by Saray Bhattacharya, secretary, Dhubri district unit of All Assam Students' Union, in which a large number of local and invited singers took part.



AGP president Atul Bora, along with other senior leaders of the party at a workers' meet at Silchar, on Saturday. — UB Photos

Submergence tolerant rice varieties provide ray of hope for Morigaon farmers

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, May 21: The success of submergence tolerant rice varieties in flood-prone Morigaon district observed last year during the 'On Farm Testing' conducted by the Krishniganga KVRD (KVK), Morigaon has enthused the farmers of the district so much that many more have come up to procure the seeds in the coming season.

Last year floods affected 43,602.28 hectares of land in the district. The total population affected was 3,65,142 and the number of villages hit was 341. Paddy grown during the 'kharif' season is very uncertain due to floods and the farmers know it very well. But still they went for it because there was lack of suitable paddy varieties which could withstand submergence during floods. Sometimes flash floods also damaged the crop just after transplantation at the tilling stage. Hence farmers used to go for 'bora' paddy from November to May/June as summer paddy in most of the low-lying areas

of the district.

The KVK, Morigaon after analysing the situation decided to go for farm testing (OFT) of submergence tolerant rice varieties *Ranij Sub I* and *Bahadur Sub I* compared to the local variety *Swarnamashuri*. The initial work on producing the seeds was done by IRRI, Philippines and later scientists from the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Titabor, AAU did the field testing. Thereafter, KVK, Morigaon planned to conduct the OFT in five bigha (0.65 hectare) in three locations of the district. Planting materials were brought from RARS, Lakhimpur and distributed among four farmers in Monoha and Borsola areas. Out of the total area, 0.13 hectare under *Ranij Sub I* and the rest 0.42 hectares under *Bahadur Sub I*. All technical guidance, fertilisers and training was provided to the farmers.

Heavy rains started in the third week of July 2016 and all the paddy fields including those under OFT were flooded. At Monoha, the farmer, Kameswar Deori, a retired army personnel, was just ready to transplant his seedlings when the floods came. All the seedlings were under water for 12 days at a stretch and apart from that water hyacinth had covered his nursery bed, as the KVK scientists had observed. A helpless Deori, who had invested a lot of money, however did not lose heart as he believed in the new technology. After the floods receded, he again prepared the plot and transplanted the already damaged seedlings.

At Borsola, transplanting had been completed and the crop was at tillering stage when floods came. The crop was submerged for 12 days at a stretch when KVK scientists visited the farms on August 10, 2016. The three farmers Jatin Bora, Chandra Gupta Deka and Balbir Deka, who had so much faith in the new technology, were disheartened but the KVK scientists repeatedly assured that these crops would come up again as they had the submergence gene within them.

All the varieties revived even after

submergence and the produce was above expectation. The yield achieved in *Ranij Sub I* was 5.6 tons/hectare (747 kg from 0.13 hectare) whereas it was 5.4 tons/hectare (720 kg from 0.13 hectare) in case of *Bahadur Sub I*. The yield of the local variety could not be estimated as the crop was damaged due to submergence by flood water.

KVK scientists say that this technology will be beneficial throughout Assam in flood-affected areas. The farmers of neighbouring areas also observed the result and have already procured seeds for the coming 'kharif' season. The farmers have realised that more production from these rice varieties inspite of severe climatic problems like flood during crop growth period would help them more economically compared to the local varieties which cannot resist flood submergence. The seeds procured by the farmers would cover around 73 hectare area in the coming 'kharif' season. KVK, Morigaon has also popularised these technologies through various trainings, exhibitions in the district.

How Mizoram lost Rs 11,000-plus cr in lottery

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, May 21: Mizoram's main Opposition party Mizoram Front has vowed to intensify its demand for a CBI probe into the State lottery scam in which the Mizoram Government lost Rs 11,808.77 crores, which is much more than the State's annual Budget.

The people of Mizoram are closely watching the Congress Government's reaction to our demand for a CBI probe. If the Congress Government does not take any next course of action, which may be a bandh or picketing," MNF president Zoramthanga said.

It may be recalled that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its report tabled in the State Assembly on December last detected a host of anomalies in the way the Mizoram Gov-

ernment handled the State lotteries that eventually resulted in a staggering loss of Rs 11,808.77 crores.

According to the CAG report, the Mizoram Government allowed the distributors to evade income tax by using a loophole. The Income Tax Act 1961 demands that 10 percent commission payable to the distributors be deducted as income tax at source by the State Government. But this was never done because the State never collected the sales proceeds. The distributors kept the money and instead deposited a minimum guaranteed revenue "to the State," which means the State never had to pay the distributors' commissions.

Besides the distributors' commissions, the Mizoram's Institutional Finance and State Lotteries director is supposed to deduct 30 percent from prize amounts above Rs 10,000 as in-

come tax before disbursing it to the winners. The CAG, however, found that all the lottery schemes were proposed by the distributors and the State approved all of them without any alterations.

Except for tickets sold in West Bengal and Keno games, none of the top prizes in any of the schemes exceeded Rs 10,000. This means that IT never had to be paid by the lottery winners. The tax-evasion loophole, however, was employed too in West Bengal. Although lottery tickets were sold in bundles, prizes were distributed individually. The individual distribution of prizes means that despite the possibility of an entire bunch being the winner, the winner could still avoid paying income tax. The Government was unable to deduct 30 percent from prize amounts above Rs 10,000 as income tax because there was no system by which an individual won a prize

above Rs 10,000.

According to CAG findings, the lottery distributors employed by the Mizoram Government failed to submit audited accounts to the State IF&SL, as a result of which the State could not find out if there were any unclaimed prizes. It was only the audit that discovered this – that the distributors deposited Rs 1.35 crores to the State's Treasury, saying that they were unclaimed prizes during 2012-16. The CAG questioned the accuracy of this as there were no audited accounts submitted by the distributors in the first place.

It was also found that the Mizoram Government did not keep proper records of the number of tickets printed because the distributors did not submit accounts. The Mizoram IF&SL director told the CAG that all printed tickets were presumed to be sold, and the

distributors received the printed ticks directly from the printers, instead of being routed through the State Government.

But when the audit cross-checked the Mumbai-based distributor named Pooja Marketing, it found the company had itself claimed prizes worth Rs 1.08 crores in just three months. Even though the CAG did not specify just how much the distributors gained from claiming prizes from unsold tickets, it was apparently a rampant practice since the State never asked for unsold tickets, and the distributors never submitted them.

"The State Government said proceeds from the lottery sales would be used to augment the State's revenue for the purpose of healthcare, education, public sanitation and other sector services, but the Government had no separate Budget allocation towards the specified purposes out of revenue earned from lottery business during any year of the audited period," the CAG said.

the entire prizes disbursed. The remaining 99.75 percent of the prizes (Rs 9,500 crores) were handled by the distributors themselves.

The CAG also found that the State Government never audited the IF&SL despite the State's chief comptroller of accounts and treasuries being tasked with the responsibility of doing so. Further, the IF&SL neither conducted a systems audit of various online lottery schemes.

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Arunachal Pradesh remembers Rajiv Gandhi

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, May 21: The Arunachal Pradesh Youth Congress (APYC) today observed the 26th death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi by organising a motorcycle rally under the theme 'Hum Mein Hai Rajiv'.

Flagged off by Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Takan Sanjoi, the motorcycle rally commenced from Nyikun Niya Hall at Nirjuli and culminated at the Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan in Itanagar.

Senior Congress leaders, including APCC chief Sanjoi, APYC president Jikke Tako and APCC chief organiser Kipa Kaham remembered the former Prime Minister and

paid floral tributes to his portrait. It was followed by a gathering of a meeting attended by party workers and office bearers of APCC and its frontal organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjoi recalled the sacrifices made by the Congress leaders, most importantly, Rajiv Gandhi and the 'Iron Lady' Indira Gandhi.

While making a mention that the Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister's Universal Health Insurance Scheme launched by previous Congress Chief Minister Nabam Tuki for the benefit of the public which was upheld by the present BJP Government, the APCC president also demanded continuation of the CM's flagship programme on skill development

and employment generation, which was also initiated by the Congress regime for the cause of the unemployed youths.

Earlier, APCC general secretary Tanyong Tatak welcomed the gathering while APYC secretary-cum-ally organising committee chairman Kipa Roko offered the vote of thanks with a concluding slogan 'Amar Rahein Rajiv Gandhi; Hum Mein Hain Rajiv Gandhi'.

In a separate event, the Arunachal Pradesh Congress Seva Dal (APCSD) today observed Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi's martyrdom day as 'Sadbhawana Dais' and offered 'sradhanjali' to the former Prime Minister at Indira Gandhi Bhawan at Naharlagun. The programme was attended by office-bearers of the CM's flagship programme on skill development



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh after laying the foundation stone of the SSB's 36th Battalion headquarters at Gaying in western Sikkim, on Sunday. — PIB

Bickerings within Meghalaya Cong may prove costly!

RAJU DAS

SHILLONG, May 21: With indication of several MLAs and Ministers deserting it, the Congress' internal fight in Meghalaya may prove costly for the party ahead of next year's Assembly election.

NPP already has a strong base in Garo Hills and is working hard in the Khasi-Jaintia Hills. New and 'prominent' people's induction into the party would be announced on Tuesday, the party informed.

On the other hand, former Home Minister Robert G Lyngdoh, who was from the Congress party, commenting on the internal fight within the party, said such internal squabbles ahead of elections does not augur well as the party prepares for the elections.

"Sangma's leadership seems to be the cause of friction within the Congress," Lyngdoh said. The former Congress leader termed Sangma's pet project, i.e., the Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme, as a white-elephant. The Congress has so denied the allegations against Sangma. "These are allegations of certain people from other parties," Zein Sangma, Youth and Sports Affairs Minister and younger brother of the CM said.

Sources said that a Congress Minister has approached the BJP and sought over ten seats, where he could nominate candidates of his choice fighting on BJP ticket.

The BJP on the other hand has kept its cards close to its chest so far. Some of the Con-

Yechury mocks BJP's three-year anniversary

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, May 21: Coming down heavily on the BJP-led NDA Government, CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury today alleged that the Modi Government has brought 'shining' for rich people and 'miseries' for the poor people.

In the 2014 general elections, Narendra Modi, BJP's prime ministerial candidate has promised to bring 'Aaccche Din' for the country, but everybody knows what the state of affairs of the country is, he told the media at the party headquarters here.

"Modi promised to create two crore jobs every year, but what is happening? Only 1.35 lakh jobs were created during 2015, while 2.30 lakh jobs were created the following year and in 2017, job creation will be badly affected due to demonetisation," he said.

Zooming in on the grim picture of IT sector, Yechury said around 56,000 jobs have been laid off in three major IT companies in the country, including Infosys and Wipro.

"What is the celebration all about of Modi's three years in office? Around 12,000 farmers died due to debt burden. Wealth of the rich people has been increased during

the Modi regime," he said.

Poking at the BJP Government's appeasement policy towards corporate houses, Yechury said loans taken by the corporate houses has crossed Rs 11 lakh crore. He said, "Of the total loan taken from various banks, corporate houses' share stands at 37 percent."

He said the 2018 Assembly elections in Tripura will be important not only for Tripura,

Shirui Lily Festival concludes in Manipur

SOBHPATI SAMOM

ous threat to its water supply because of forest destruction in the Shirui range and so the task at hand is huge, she added.

The Governor also briefly dwelt on the history of how the flower was discovered by British Frank Kingdon Ward in 1946 and how he named it after his wife.

She also pointed out that deforestation and jhum cultivation have had an adverse impact on the climatic condition at Ukhral and Shirui with the forest cover at Shirui Kashong (mountain decreasing rapidly). This has adversely impacted the water supply to Ukhral town from Shirui Kashong, she added.

Manipur has huge tourism potential and the festival will not only create awareness about the need for protection of environment, but can also attract tourists, which will not only improve the wellbeing of the local population, but also bring advanced knowledge and expertise to improve the environment, she added.

Expressing concern on the economic backwardness of the State, she said that tourism can be the key to economic development with better connectivity.

tripura will be important not only for Tripura, but also for the country. "The BJP has already declared war to unseat the Leftist Government. Of course, there will be battle for all the 60 Assembly constituencies in the 2018 election and we are determined to win it," he said.

On being asked about the consensus on the Presidential election, Yechury said there was a tradition of initiating a

discussion by the ruling party. "So far, we have not seen any such move, but there is a party (Opposition parties) have begun consultation on the issue. We are not against Pranab Mukherjee's second term as President, but there must be consensus," he said.

On the use of EVMs, he said, "We are

going to meet convened by the Election Commission on June 3, where the party

will stick to its demand for paper trial".

Nagaland varsity gets new VC

DIMAPUR, May 21: Professor Pardesi Lal assumed office as the new Vice Chancellor of Nagaland University (Central University) on May 18.

Pardesi Lal is a Professor of Zoology, Nagaland University, according to an official release issued today.

It is for the first time in the history of the university that a professor of the university was recruited to the post of the Vice Chancellor.

Prof. Pardesi Lal was recruited as Professor of Zoology in 1997. Prior to his appointment as the Vice Chancellor, he had served in different capacities such as Head of Department (HoD), Professor In-Charge in Lumi Campus during transit headquarters in Kohima, Dean of School of Sciences, Controller of Examinations and Pro Vice Chancellor of the university.

Per UGC guidelines, a person should have served as a professor for 10 years to be appointed as the Vice Chancellor. The tenure of office is for five years or till the age of 70, whichever is earlier. A person cannot be appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the same university for a second term. — Correspondent

All roads in Senapati district lead to Barak Spring Festival

NEWMAY NEWS

'Reclaiming Responsibilities' organised by the Naga People's Organisation (NPO).

According to the organising committee of the festival, the festival will rejuvenate and revive the cultural heritage and values of the people and also instill the spirit of cultural tolerance and respect for each other's culture, particularly in the minds and hearts of the youth. It will also celebrate the manifold blessings of the benevolent river and generate awareness for conservation and protection of the environment of the river valley and the district as a whole.

"Barak, the gift of God has been a source of great blessing to the people of Tuhimba (Senapati) district since time immemorial. Besides irrigating crops and increasing productivity and pros-

perity, it has provided cleansing drainage over the ages and touched the lands along its flow

with charm and scenic beauty and transformed it into an eco-tourism paradise. Under the banner

of this benevolent river, the different tribes of the district found a vital platform to promote fra-

ternity, mutual respect and cooperation towards building a common future," the organising committee stated.

The Barak Festival has come to be celebrated during December 11-13 every year as a district-level event under the aegis of the Naga People's Organisation (NPO), the apex civil society organisation of the district. In 2016, due to unfavourable situation obtaining at that time, it was decided to organise a car rally from Senapati district headquarters to Liyai, the Barak source village on December 11, 2016 to uphold the sanctity of the festival calendar and to follow up with the other festival activities in the Barak Spring of 2017. Thus, after a series of consultations, it was decided that the remaining festivities of 2016

would be organised on May 22 and 23, 2017 under the nomenclature 'Barak (Spring) Festival' to differentiate it from the annual festival calendar, the organising committee stated. "The Spring festival will showcase the rich traditions and culture of the various tribes who have been nurtured by the Barak", it added.

The inaugural function of the festival will be held at the Senapati Mini Stadium, the main venue of the festival. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh will grace the inaugural function as chief guest and will be accompanied by N Kayisis, Minister of Tribal Affairs, Hills and Fisheries and L Dikho, Minister of PHED, Printing & Stationery as the chief and chief celebrant respectively, according to official sources.



Volunteers giving final touches at the Barak Spring Festival venue at Senapati headquarters, on Sunday.

GST to cut inflation by 2%, create buoyancy in economy: Adhia

GULMARG, May 21: Inflation will fall by 2 per cent on implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) and create buoyancy in the economy, Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia has said.

With the stage set for the biggest overhaul of India's tax system since Independence, the government will launch a massive awareness campaign to educate consumers about GST so that they are not fleeced by traders in the name of the new tax regime.

In an interview to PTI, he said the all-powerful GST Council will meet next week to decide on tax rates of contentious items like gold, *bidi* and biscuits, just in time for its rollout from July 1.

The Council over two days last week

assigned tax rates to more than 500 services and 1,200 goods by setting them in five broad brackets of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent.

Adhia and his team visited this picture-hill station near Srinagar for a short break before heading back to Delhi.

The rates, he said, have been so fixed that incidence of taxation comes in many and remained at the same level as now in most of the remaining goods and services.

"I don't think inflation will at all go up because of GST. We have taken special care to ensure inflation does not go up. Our internal estimate is that after the rates are decided, inflation should come down by 2 per cent," he said.

While the current indirect tax regime suffers from significant cascading, which leads to higher cost of goods and services, a free flow of credits across transactions under the GST framework will bring down the tax cost for GST implementation.

The Revenue Secretary said GST will create buoyancy in the economy through better compliance and ease of doing business.

"I wouldn't say anything is pending, but I would say the government has to reach out to the trade and industry and also the machinery of explaining the GST procedures in townhall meetings. We need to accelerate this," he said on the task ahead.

Most importantly, consumer education campaign has to be taken up, he added. - PTI

keep our inflation basket under control," Adhia said, promising to fix any compliance issues that may crop up during GST implementation.

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Most importantly, consumer education campaign has to be taken up, he added. - PTI

Over 7,000 steps taken to improve business climate, says Nirmala

NEW DELHI, May 21: Over 7,000 steps, big and small, have been taken by the government so far to improve the ease of doing business in the country. Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

She also said that the Commerce Ministry is working with all States to improve the business climate further.

"Roughly about 7,000 big, small, medium and nano measures have been taken on the ease of doing business. As a result of which, we feel that States have realised that ease of doing business is a major agenda and they also see the benefit on going on that route," she told PTI.

Steps taken to improve ease of doing business include fixing a timeline for clearance of applications, de-licensing the manufacturing of many defence products, introduction of e-biz project for single-window clearance, reduction in number of documents required for export and import, and mandatory filing of all returns through a unified form.

In the World Bank's latest Doing Business 2017 report, India's place remained unchanged from last year's original ranking of 130 among the 190 economies that were assessed on various parameters. Last year's ranking was revised however to 131 from

which the country has improved its place by one spot.

India has expressed disappointment at its rank remaining low, stating that efforts and reforms undertaken by the Centre and States have not been adequately captured in the ranking.

These ranks are based on ten parameters such as starting a business, construction permits and getting credit.

The government is also making efforts to further improve the ease of doing business and aims to bring the country within top 50 economies.

Improving business climate helps attract both domestic and foreign investments. - PTI

CAPSULE

Bajaj Auto

NEW DELHI, May 21:

Bajaj Auto is hoping to put up an improved sales show in 2017-18 on the back of recoveries in both domestic and export markets after a rough ride last fiscal. With an aim to increase its overseas shipments, the company plans to enter at least five new markets this fiscal. Bajaj Auto saw its total sales decline by 8.5 per cent in 2016-17 at 36,65,950 units as against 39,581 units in 2015-16. - PTI

Himalaya target

MUMBAI, May 21:

Betting big on the male grooming segment, Himalaya Herbals Ltd, a unit of the Business Head Consumer Products, Rajesh Krishnamurthy told PTI.

Roca plans

CHENNAI, May 21:

Span-based sanitary products firm Roca has planned to introduce high-end tiles over the next six to eight months eyeing Rs 100-crore revenue, a top company official said. "We are planning to launch high-end tiles... May be in six to eight months it will happen... It will be in the super-premium segment," Roca Bathroom Products India Managing Director K Ranganathan told PTI here.

Exim Bank

KOLKATA, May 21:

Exim Bank (Export Import Bank of India) is planning to raise over 10,000 crore from the current level both from domestic and overseas markets. "We are looking to borrow \$3.5 billion from overseas markets and Rs 8,000 crore from domestic sources this financial year," Exim Bank Deputy Managing Director Debasish Mallick said. - PTI

Canara HBC

NEW DELHI, May 21:

Private life insurer Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance is focusing on increasing insurance penetration in small cities, towns and rural areas where the coverage needs is increasing. The penetration is more required in semi-urban, rural, tier-II and III cities and that has been our new focus for us now," Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance Chief Executive Officer Arun Mathur told PTI.

Gitanjali Gems, Titan, PC Jeweller among world's top 50

NEW DELHI, May 21: Three Indian companies – Gitanjali Gems, Titan and PC Jeweller – have been named in the list of top 50 luxury goods firms globally that was topped by Louis Vuitton.

Gitanjali Gems Ltd was placed in the 30th rank, followed by Titan Company (31st) and PC Jeweller (44th) in the fourth annual Global Powers of Luxury Goods report.

Among the top 10 companies globally three are luxury conglomerates participating in multiple sectors – the luxury good market.

The top three companies are LVMH Moet Hennessy-Louis Vuit-

Spices Board move to export top quality products

KOCHI, May 21: The Spices Board has taken steps to ensure export of high quality spices from India to world markets including Japan and the United States, a top official has said.

The statement by Spices Board Chairman Jayathilak assumes significance in the wake of reports that certain Indian spices were found harmful by lab in countries including Japan and America recently.

About the steps taken by the Spices Board to ensure export of quality spices, he said the Board was always vigilant and takes quick action with respect to alerts received from importing countries.

"The Board has been striving hard to ensure the export of

high quality, clean and hygienic

spices from India," Jayathilak, a senior IAS officer, told PTI.

He said the Board remained updated on issues causing rapid alerts and modified the sampling tests as per the requirement of the food import laws of different countries.

"The Board has made it mandatory that exports of whole and ground form (excluding oils and oleoresins) of chilli, cumin, turmeric, black pepper, fenugreek and small cardamom from India to Japan shall be based on the cleared analytical reports on pesticide residues issued by the Spices Board, in addition to cleared analytical reports required for Sudan dye and aflatoxin," Jayathilak said. - PTI

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Mishra says not leaving party, starts 'Let's clean AAP' campaign

NEW DELHI, May 21: Suspended AAP leader Kapil Mishra on Sunday launched a campaign to rid the ruling party of a "few corrupt people", but stated he would not leave the Aam Aadmi Party.

Mishra, who was first sacked as Delhi Water Minister and then suspended from the party, urged party workers and former members of the India Against Corruption to come together and join his "Let's clean AAP" campaign.

"My request to all those who left the party and party workers - we don't have to leave this party; we have to snatch it back from the corrupt people... I am launching a campaign called 'Let's clean AAP'. I urge all party workers to come together and clean the party," said Mishra.

"We had started the 'India Against Corruption' campaign. We have made this party. It is not the time to leave the party; it is time to snatch it back. Give a missed call at 7863037300 to fight against

corruption with me," he said.

"Connect with this campaign... Whoever wants 'Corruption free Delhi' and 'Kejriwal free India', can join us," he added.

Just because some people are corrupt, that does not mean AAP's revolution should end, he said. "I won't leave or form another party. It's time to weed out the corrupt people," he said. Mishra alleged that Sanjay Singh, Ashish Tawar, Vibha Kumar, Durgesh Pathak, Dilip Panday have "hijacked" the party.

He apologised to former AAP leaders and Swaraj India founders, Prashant Bhushan and Yogendra Yadav, and said the party should have paid heed to their views when they had raised concerns.

"I apologise to everyone, including Prashant Bhushan and Yogendra Yadav, who I may have offended when I stood by (Chief Minister) Arvind Kejriwal," Mishra said.

During a press conference,

Mishra alleged that the Russia tour of AAP leaders Sanjay Singh and Ashutosh was funded by businessman Sheetal Prasad Singh, a person related to a company which is facing probe in a Rs 400-crore scam.

Mishra alleged that Singh was linked to several companies involved in the scam relating to high security number plates, and the Anti-Corruption Board was probing the issue. He also claimed that when the AAP first came to power, a committee was set up to investigate the scam but it was later disbanded in 2015.

Mishra asked Kejriwal whether he knew about the source of the tour's funding, and why no action was taken against the company after the AAP returned to power. "I have posed nine questions to Arvind Kejriwal as I got details about one foreign tour of Sanjay Singh and Ashutosh. When will you make details of all foreign tours of AAP leaders public?" he asked. - IANS

BJP yet to decide on President candidate, says Shah

NEW DELHI, May 21: The BJP is yet to take a decision on its candidate for the upcoming Presidential poll, even as the party virtually rejected Shri Sena's proposal for RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to be the riling combine's nominee.

Replying to a question on the BJP-led NDA's candidate for the Presidential polls in July as the opposition was already working on putting up a joint candidate, BJP President Amit Shah told an Aaj Tak event in an interview that a decision is yet to be taken.

"Even if I have a name on my mind, it has to be discussed within the party first," he said.

He also rejected the Shiv Sena's proposal regarding Bhagwat, saying the RSS has itself ruled out any such idea.

To questions on Kashmir, Shah said there was no need for even an "iota of concern" over the situation in the state which has witnessed months of unrest, and asserted that the Narendra Modi-led government will control it soon.

"There is a big gap between the reality and the projection" of the Kashmir situation and the trouble was confined to "three and half districts", he said.

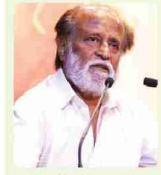
The government was keeping a sharp vigil over the situation and the Valley has witnessed many spells of such unrest in the past, before the situation has normalised, he said.

In a democracy "the best certificate is the people's verdict" and the masses have time and again underscored their support for the BJP-led NDA government, he said in a reference to the BJP's win in several state polls.

The Modi government has been able to rid the country of the politics of casteism, family rule and appeasement, and turned the focus on the politics of performance, he claimed.

While the UP government was accused of scams running into Rs 12 lakh crore, even rivals of the NDA government have not levied a single charge of corruption against it, Shah claimed. - PTI

People should look up to the crime data to find out if cases of violence have increased under the BJP government, he said.



Rajinikanth will only float his own party: TNCC chief

CHENNAI, May 21: Tamil Nadu Congress Committee President Su Thiruvarukkavarai today said that he believes Tamil "Superstar" Rajinikanth will not join any national or regional political party but will only float his own party.

"As a friend who has known him for 35-40 years what I think is he will not join any national or regional party. He will only float a new party," the TNCC chief said.

His remarks come amid strong signals from the actor over his possible political plunge, besides BJP's efforts to woo him to join the national party.

Speaking to reporters after participating in the 26th death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, he said if Rajinikanth floated a new party, it will be upto him to decide on alliance. The actor had earlier this week made statements about politics and the system being rotten.

He had asked his fans to be prepared for a "war", saying in olden days kings seldom maintained massive standing armies but the men will always turn up when a battle ensued.

He had noted that though he was not interested in politics he would nevertheless show "money-minded people" the door if it took the plunge.

The statements by Rajinikanth had sparked off a series of debates about his possible political entry, reminding of the similar hysteria in 1996 when he openly defied the then Chief Minister, late Jayalalithaa, asking people to vote against her government.

He had also backed the DMK-TMC (Tamil Maanila Congress) combine which swept the elections then. - PTI

NSG likely to meet next month, poor chance of India's entry

NEW DELHI, May 21: The next plenary session of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is likely to be held in Swiss capital Bern next month, but the chances of any breakthrough on India's entry into the elite group still look poor, given China's persistent opposition to it.

India had officially applied for membership of the grouping which controls export of nuclear materials, equipment and technology in May last year.

The matter came up for discussion at the Seoul plenary session of the NSG in June last year, but yielded little result with Beijing scuttling India's bid on the ground that it was not a signatory to the non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

Ahead of the next NSG plenary session, official sources say, India has renewed its efforts to become a member of the 48-nation group by engaging with all member countries, but resistance from China still

remains despite the pro-India push from other key players such as the US, the UK, France and Russia.

China has been pressing for a two-step process which includes setting up criteria – a standard for admission – for the inclusion of countries that are not signatories to the NPT. Beijing also equates India's case with Pakistan, which, too, has applied for the NSG membership.

The issue of India's membership is expected to be discussed at the Bern meet, but the "status quo" still remains, a senior official says.

Indicating that there was no change in China's position towards India's NSG bid, Chinese Ambassador here Luo Chaozhai at an event last month had said, "On the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) issue, we do not oppose any country's membership, believing that a standard for admission should be agreed upon first."

India has repeatedly said that China is the "one country" which

has been blocking its bid.

The two sides conducted two rounds of talks between China's nuclear negotiator Wang Qun and India's then secretary for disarmament Ananddeep Singh Gill on September 13 and October 31 last year.

The NSG consultative group's meeting in November last year also ended like the Seoul plenary session. It remained inconclusive on India's application as China continued to oppose the entry of non-NPT nations and called for a two-step "non-discriminatory" solution for admission of such countries into the grouping.

Over the last one year, India has tried to get more support for its NSG bid, but not all its efforts have proved to be successful. For instance, Turkey has agreed to support India's bid to the group, but it also favours Pakistan's bid. New Zealand has also not given any concrete assurance on supporting India's bid. - PTI

Navy personnel scale Everest

NEW DELHI, May 21: A group of Indian Navy personnel today conquered Mount Everest, 50 years after the world's highest peak was first scaled by Navy climbers.

The feat by the Navy team comes a day after B M Sharma, popularly known as Breeze Sharma, became the first Defence Civilian of the Indian Navy to scale the peak.

In preparing the climbers for the expedition, the Navy has conducted expeditions to various peaks in the country over the past two years.

Breeze Sharma's dreams to climb Mount Everest had run into rough weather when he got trapped in an earthquake-induced avalanche that buried the Everest base camp in 2013.

Despite being buried under heavy snow, Sharma managed to get out, and even helped local authorities in the rescue operations.

The Nepal government had extended Sharma a permit to scale the peak for 2 years and yesterday the climber became the first Indian Navy Defence Civilian to summit Mt Everest, the Navy official said. - PTI

Mahila Cong launches campaign for passage of women's quota bill

NEW DELHI, May 21: The Congress's women wing, Mahila Congress, on Sunday launched a signature campaign seeking early passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament.

The campaign was launched by Congress President Sonia Gandhi on the occasion of the 26th death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at his memorial Veer Bhoomi here. Her son and party Vice President Rahul Gandhi and daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also endorsed the campaign by putting their signatures.

The nationwide signature campaign, aimed at pressuring the Narendra Modi government for passage of the bill – which envisages 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and all state legislative assemblies, will continue till August 10.

"On August 20, the birth of Rajiv Gandhi ji, the signatures collected from across the country will be handed over to the President," said Mahila Congress President Shobha Oza. - IANS

Jamshedpur remains tense after violence over lynching

RANCHI/JAMSHEDPUR, May 21: The situation in Jamshedpur was tense but under control on Sunday, a day after it saw large-scale protests over the lynching of seven persons, including four Muslims, suspected of being child-lifters.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 have been imposed in two areas of Jamshedpur, while additional security force personnel have been deployed, authorities said.

"The situation is under control. Section 144 has been imposed in two areas of Jamshedpur. The Rapid Action Force and additional forces have been deployed," Asish Batra, IG

Jamshedpur Police, who is camping in Jamshedpur said.

Rumours of 'bacha-cho' or child lifters has claimed several lives in the state over the past fortnight, with maximum number of deaths being reported from Jamshedpur region followed by Bokaro and Dhanbad districts.

The community members, protesting the killing of four of their community members, staged agitations at several places in Jamshedpur on Saturday. The protest turned violent in which several policemen were injured. Police had to resort to lathi-charge, and used tear shells and fired in the air.

In the last two months, irate village mobs attacked men on the suspicion of being child lifters, in which several persons lost their lives while many others sustained serious injuries.

On Thursday, separate incidents of violence in Raj Nagar village of Seraikela-Kharasa district and Bagbera Police Station area of East Singhbhum districts claimed the lives of seven persons suspected of being child lifters. One man was also killed in Bokaro.

The Jharkhand government has already announced compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of each of the victims. - IANS



Voters in a queue up to cast their votes during the Nagar Nikay election in Bodhgaya on Sunday. - UNI

Transgenders must raise their voice, demand their rights: India's first transgender principal

NEW DELHI, May 21: Their identity in society is largely limited to being termed "hijras" (eunuchs), they are often ridiculed for their appearance, their profession has been reduced to begging and their rights are routinely suppressed.

But Manobi Bandopadhyay, India's first transgender principal, believes that their status can only improve when the third gender itself raises its voice and demands their rights.

"In most of the cases, they remain ignorant of their rights because of lack of education. A transgender can only be recognized when an individual raises her voice and comes into the lime-

light," Manobi Bandopadhyay told IANS in a telephone interview from West Bengal. The Supreme Court in 2014 may have given third gender status to the transgenders, but Bandopadhyay sees little hope for their betterment.

"When the government cannot protect women, how can we expect more for our better future? We cannot expect the government to take the initiative and add rights to the community. Better status can only be achieved after we become more vocal," the 53-year-old maintained.

Bandopadhyay is currently the Vice Chairperson of the West Bengal Transgender Development Board under the state government and executive council member of Kalyani University.

She recently released a candid biography, "A Gift of Goddess Lakshmi" (Penguin, Rs 399, pp 187), written by Jhilmil Mukherjee Pandey. The biography compresses her journey from being Sonmata to Manobi, her struggle – from winning a war of self-identity within family and society to her becoming of India's first transgender principal.

The writing in the book is bold, raw, bare-faced and brings to fore the darker side of child sexual abuse, of which Manobi too was a victim. "Sharing my personal life can



MIT researchers develop a self-ventilating workout suit that can keep the body cool and dry in the gym

Breathable workout suit!

If sweating is your problem with workout, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) researchers have a new solution to offer. They have designed a breathable workout suit that can keep the body cool and dry in the gym.

The workout suit has ventilating flaps that open and close in response to the body's heat and sweat, and can make one feel like, in the words of one of the researchers, wearing an "air-conditioner" on the back.

Powered by harmless microbes built into the fabric, these flaps range from thumb-nail to finger-sized, shrink and expand in response to changes in humidity.

"This work is an example of harnessing the power of biology to design new materials and devices and achieve new functions," said Xuanhe Zhao, Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and study co-author.

The microbial cells act as tiny sensors and actuators, driving the flaps to open when an athlete works up a sweat, and pulling them closed when the body has cooled off, the researchers discovered in a paper published in the journal *Science Advances*.

The paper also describes a running shoe with an inner layer of similar cell-lined flaps to air out and wick away moisture.

In trials to test the running suit, study participants donned the garment and worked out on exercise treadmills and bicycles while researchers monitored their temperature and humidity using

small sensors positioned across their backs.

After five minutes of exercise, the suit's flaps started opening up, right around the time when participants reported feeling warm and sweaty.

According to sensor readings, the flaps effectively removed sweat from the body and lowered skin temperature, more so than when participants wore a similar running suit with no "air-conditioner" on the back.

But why use live cells in responsive fabrics? Because moisture-sensitive cells require no additional elements to sense and respond to humidity, the researchers said.

What is more, with new genetic engineering tools available today, cells can be prepared quickly and in vast quantities, to express multiple functionalities in addition to moisture response.

To demonstrate this last point, the researchers engineered moisture-sensitive cells to not only pull flaps open but also light up in response to humid conditions.

"We can combine our cells with genetic tools to introduce other functionalities into these living cells," said Wang, the paper's lead author and a former research scientist in MIT's Media Lab and Department of Chemical Engineering.

"We use fluorescence as an example, and this can let people know you are running in the dark. In the future we can combine odour-releasing functionalities through genetic engineering. So maybe after going to the gym, the shirt can release a nice-smelling odour," Wang said. — IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, May 22, 2017.

This year you will get what you want—especially if you remain focused. During the first six months of your birthday year, you might feel lucker and more content than in the months that follow. Curb a tendency to overindulge. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone before fall who could be significant to your life's history. You are capable of forming a strong bond with one or even several people; the cat is yours. If you are attached, the two of you experience a lot of fun and togetherness. Let go of daily issues and enjoy what lies between you. ARIES can be pushy, but he or she really does care about you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-

Positive; 3-Average; 2-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Your fiery behavior seems temporarily tamed by a softer, more caring attitude. When you encounter a power play you take a stand and speak your mind. You say what you think in a forceful way, perhaps more so than you realize. Tonight: Call calls and catch up on emails.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You're Taurus with a brain of steel! You could feel uncomfortable with someone at a distance or with an associate who opens up a new perspective that might seem strange. Use caution with your spending, as you easily could make a mistake or go overboard. Tonight: Do for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

If you suddenly begin controlling. Know that you can ignore what this person is doing. Avoid a power play, and you'll come out on top. A child or loved one will top you tonight. Tonight: Spend time with a friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Don't Cancer directly even if you are concerned by his or her attitude. You don't need to challenge this person, but you can ask questions. You could be swallowing your anger more and more in the next few weeks, if you are not careful. Tonight: A family member adores you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

It's time to take an overview. You might not agree with someone's perspective. Try to identify with this person's thinking in order to understand where he or she is coming from. A conversation might be less effective once you reach an understanding. Tonight: Ever playful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You gain greater clarity about where they are coming from. Be open to new possibilities, which could come up indirectly in an argument or a conversation. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer that sounds too good to be true.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

It's time to offer help in order to have the time to get some personal work done. Your caring attitude comes through to a partner, and it will put a smile on his or her face. A change to your home or how you structure your life could be a lot different. Tonight: Go for a change of pace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Understand what is going on around you. You could believe that someone is being inordinately difficult. Could this person be reflecting some of your energy? You can be very powerful, sarcastic and/or demanding at times. Tonight: Make sure you get some exercise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your creativity emerges, especially if you run into a financial hassle. Others admire your resilience and direction. This person often has many ideas. Refuse to go into a rut tonight. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You might not be tapping into your usual self-discipline, and as a result, you could have a hard time seeing beyond the obvious. Rather than tame a wayward mind, deal with what might be distracting you. A domestic situation may be the cause of your woes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Communication flourishes if you flow with the moment. As a result, you could have a hard time seeing beyond the obvious. Rather than tame a wayward mind, deal with what might be distracting you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You know that there are costs associated with heading in an offbeat or unexpected direction. Recognize what is going on with you and another person. A situation takes a twist that you might not have anticipated. Try not to react; instead, take a step back. Tonight: Count your charge.

*** *

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

— MARK TWAIN

Kids

CN
FASHION NETWORK

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 13:00 Rotti No. 21 | 19:00 Woh Ranta Kya Kehata Hai | 18:00 Se Re Ga Ma Puhi!Champs |
| 14:00 Best 10 Omaverse | 18:30 Bih Kuch Kaha | 18:30 Setali |
| 15:00 Best 10 Omaverse | 19:30 Love Ki Hazaar | 19:30 Dheewang.. |
| 15:30 Horni Henry | 20:00 Zindagi Ki Mahak | 20:00 Zindagi Ki Mahak |
| 16:00 We Bare Bears | 20:30 Pya Abela | 20:30 Pya Abela |
| 16:30 Land of Stories | 21:00 Pya Abela | 21:30 EK Tha Raja Ek Tha Rani |
| 17:30 Team Titans Go | 21:30 Time To Time | 21:30 Time To Time |
| 18:00 Land of Stories | 21:30 Scandal | 22:00 Zindagi Ki Mahak |
| 18:30 Land of Stories | 21:30 Scandal | 22:30 Zindagi Ki Mahak |
| 19:00 Kids on Mission Doss | 21:30 Scandal | 23:00 Se Re Ga Ma Puhi!Champs |
| 19:30 Kids on Mission Doss | 21:30 Scandal | 23:30 Pya Abela |
| 20:00 Best 10 Omaverse | 21:30 Scandal | |
| 21:00 Team Titans Go | 21:30 Scandal | |
| 21:30 Land of Stories | 21:30 Scandal | |
| 22:00 Dragon Ball Z | 21:30 Scandal | |
| 22:30 Telephoning | 21:30 Scandal | |
| 23:00 | 21:30 Scandal | |

Entertainment

SONY
ENTERTAINMENT

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 13:00 The Kathi Drama Show | 19:30 Zindagi Ki Mahak | 18:00 colors |
| 13:30 Yeh Mohi Mohi Ke Chhage | 19:30 Love Ki Hazaar | 18:30 colors |
| 14:00 Pehchaan | 20:00 Zindagi Ki Mahak | 19:00 colors |
| 14:30 Jaati Ki Jhaga | 20:30 Pya Abela | 19:30 colors |
| 15:00 Bhayad | 21:00 Pya Abela | 20:00 colors |
| 15:30 Baal Akash | 21:30 Pya Abela | 21:00 colors |
| 16:00 Scandal | 21:30 Pya Abela | 21:30 colors |
| 16:30 Castiel and Half Men | 21:30 Pya Abela | 22:00 colors |
| 17:00 Pya Abela | 21:30 Pya Abela | 22:30 colors |
| 17:30 Castiel and Half Men | 21:30 Pya Abela | 23:00 colors |
| 18:00 Pya Abela | 21:30 Pya Abela | |
| 18:30 Pya Abela | 21:30 Pya Abela | |
| 19:00 Pya Abela | 21:30 Pya Abela | |
| 19:30 Pya Abela | 21:30 Pya Abela | |
| 20:00 Pya Abela | 21:30 Pya Abela | |
| 21:00 Pya Abela | 21:30 Pya Abela | |
| 21:30 Pya Abela | 21:30 Pya Abela | |
| 22:00 Pya Abela | 21:30 Pya Abela | |
| 23:00 Pya Abela | 21:30 Pya Abela | |

Movies

HBO
MOVIES

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 21:30 Vai Ranta Kya Kehata Hai | 18:00 Se Re Ga Ma Puhi!Champs | 18:30 Kung Fu Panda |
| 21:30 Ishqpa | 18:30 Setali | 18:30 Kung Fu Panda |
| 22:00 Love Ki Hazaar | 19:00 Dheewang.. | 18:30 Kung Fu Panda |
| 22:30 Dhaal Ki Prema | 19:30 Zindagi Ki Mahak | 18:30 Kung Fu Panda |
| 23:00 | 20:00 Zindagi Ki Mahak | 18:30 Kung Fu Panda |



| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 14:30 The Departed | 18:00 Bunraku | 18:30 Star Plus |
| 18:00 Bunraku | 18:30 Star Plus | 18:30 Star Plus |
| 18:30 Bunraku | 18:30 Star Plus | 18:30 Star Plus |
| 19:00 Bunraku | 18:30 Star Plus | 18:30 Star Plus |
| 19:30 Bunraku | 18:30 Star Plus | 18:30 Star Plus |

14:30 The Departed

18:00 Bunraku

18:30 Star Plus

18:3



Indian man arrested in Pak for not carrying travel papers'

ISLAMABAD, May 21: An Indian national was today arrested here for not carrying travel documents, according to a media report. The Indian man, who has not been identified, was arrested from F-8 area of Islamabad for not having complete travel documents, Samaa TV reported.

An official of the Indian High Commission, however, said that the mission does not have any information about the arrest so far. A case has been filed against him and he has been sent to jail on judicial remand, the report said.

The arrest came days after the International Court of Justice stayed the execution of Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, who was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of "involvement in espionage and sabotage activities" against the country.

Pakistan claims its security forces arrested him from its restive Balochistan province on March 3 last year after he reportedly entered from Iran.

However, India maintains that it was kidnapped from Iran where he had business interests after returning from the Navy.

Jadhav's case is the latest flash-point in the tensions between Pakistan and India. - PTI

Trump, in address to Muslims, urges fight against terror

Riyadh, May 21: Even as his administration fights for its travel ban from several Muslim-majority countries, President Donald Trump is using the nation that is home to Islam's holiest site as a backdrop to call for Muslim unity in the fight against terrorism.

Trump's speech, the centerpiece of his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, will address the leaders of 50 Muslim-majority countries to cast the challenge of extremism as a "battle between good and evil" and urge Arab leaders to "drive out the terrorists from your places of worship," according to a draft of the speech obtained by The Associated Press.

Trump, whose campaign was frequently punctuated by bouts of anti-Islamic rhetoric, is poised to soften some of his language about Islam. Though during the campaign he repeatedly stressed the need to say the words "radical Islamic terrorism" and criticized his opponent, Hillary Clin-



Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa meets with US President Donald Trump in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Sunday. - UNI

ton, for not doing so that phrase is not included in the draft.

The speech comes amid a renewed courtship of the United States' Arab allies as Trump is set to have individual meetings with leaders of several nations, including Egypt and Qatar, before their participating in a roundtable

with the Gulf Cooperation Council and joining Saudi King Salman in opening Riyadh's new anti-terrorism center.

The address also notably refrains from mentioning democracy and human rights as "topics Arab leaders often bring up as US moralising in favor of the more limited goals of peace and sta-

bility. "We are not here to lecture tell other peoples how to live, what to do or who to be. We are here instead to offer partnership in building a better future for us all," according to the copy of his speech.

Two different sources provided the AP with copies of the draft of his remarks, billed as a marquee speech of the trip. The White House confirmed the draft was authentic, but cautioned the president had not yet signed off on the final product and that changes could be made. Trump may seem an unlikely messenger to deliver an olive branch to the Muslim world.

During his campaign, he mused, "I think Islam hates us." And only a week after taking office, he signed an executive order to ban immigrants from seven countries: Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen from entering the United States, a decision that sparked widespread protests at the nation's airports and demonstrations outside the White House. - AP

Former Miss India finalist among 6 evacuated from Mt Everest

KATHMANDU, May 21: At least six persons, including a former Miss India finalist, were today evacuated from the higher camps of Mount Everest after they suffered from high-altitude sicknesses while attempting to climb the world's highest peak.

According to the expedition organisers, 52-year-old Sangeeta S Bahl, who hails from Jammu and Kashmir, Argentine climbers Andres Esteban Pariz and Ricardo Dario Birn were airlifted from Camp II.

Phurba Tamang, a Nepali climber, were also brought to Kathmandu for treatment. Damber Parajuli, chairman of the Expedition Operators Association Nepal was quoted as saying by *The Himalayan Times*.

Officials said that the climbers are receiving treatment at different hospitals in Kathmandu.



They are said to be out of danger," he added.

Bahl, the Miss India 1985 pageant finalist and a former model, is undergoing treatment at a hospital, according to an official at the Himalayan Guides, a local partner of the Madan Mountaineering.

"Bahl's condition is out of danger," the official said.

A Chinese climber of Pioneer Adventure Treks and another Slovakian mountaineer were also evacuated from the higher camps after they suffered from high altitude sicknesses, according to the base camp officials.

Most of the evacuated climbers were af-

fected by snow blindness and frostbite when

they prepared for final summit pushes from the higher camps on the 8,848 meters tall Mount Everest, the report said. - PTI

Indian climber goes missing on Mt Everest

KATHMANDU, May 21: An Indian climber has gone missing on Mount Everest after successfully scaling the world's highest peak, officials in Nepal said today.

Ravi Kumar, a climber from Moradabad of Uttar Pradesh, had gone out of contact with the balcony area, the final resting spot before climbers ascend the south summit of the mountain, after he was descending to lower camps.

Chhewang Sherpa, Managing Director at Arun Treks, said

Kumar successfully climbed the 8,848 meters tall Mount Everest at 12:28 pm yesterday.

The Himalayan Times reported.

His climbing guide Lakpa Wongya Sherpa has also been

found unconscious after suffering from frostbite at Camp IV,

Sherpa said. - PTI

LONDON, May 21: Scientists have developed a new, ground-breaking software that allows deaf and blind people to enjoy television content in real time without any intermediaries.

The software, PervasiveSUB, compiles all the subtitles of television channels and sends them to a central server which forwards them to smartphones or tablets.

They are sent to the Braille line of the deaf-blind person using an app that is compatible with different Braille lines and makes it possible to control the speed of the subtitles that are captured directly from the TV broadcast in perfect synchronisation.

The software, developed by researchers from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M) and Federation of Deaf-Blind Persons Associations (FASOCIDE) in Spain, was tested by a group of deaf-blind users.

Users highlighted the advantage of being able to access information they previously could not, in real time and without inter-

2 Indian peacekeepers to be honored posthumously with UN medal

UNITED NATIONS, May 21: Two Indian peacekeepers will be among 117 military, police and civilian personnel to be honored with a prestigious UN medal awarded posthumously for their courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.

Rifleman Brijesh Thapa who served with the UN Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and Private Ravi Kumar who was deployed with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) will be honoured with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers to be observed on May 24.

India is the largest cumulative troop contributor, having provided almost 200,000 troops in nearly 50 of the 71 peacekeeping missions mandated over the past six decades, including 13 of the current 16 missions.

So far, about 168 Indian troops have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty under the UN Flag.

India currently deploys more than 7,600 military and police personnel to UN peace operations in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Lebanon, Liberia, the Middle East, South Sudan, Sudan and the Western Sahara.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will lay a wreath at the Peacekeepers Memorial at the world body's headquarters to honour all fallen peacekeepers. Later, he will preside over a ceremony during which the Dag Hammarskjöld Medals will be awarded to 117 peacekeepers who lost their lives while serving in peacekeeping operations last year. - PTI

New tech allows deaf-blind to 'watch' TV

mediaries.

They have also praised its ability to transmit to Braille lines and the ability to adjust the reading and viewing speed.

Deaf-blind persons suffer a combined deterioration of sight and hearing, which impedes their access to information, communication and mobility in a way seriously affects everyday abilities necessary for a minimally independent life.

This is why they require specialised services, personnel trained specifically to for them and special methods of communication.

To interact with their surroundings, they need the constant presence of an interpreter through whom any visual or auditory stimuli must pass.

The technology has already been implemented on various Spanish channels in Madrid, and it will soon be available in the other autonomous regions of Spain.

Researchers are now providing the service free of charge to anyone who needs it. - PTI

নির্মাণে সবল করে উন্নয়নৰ ভেটি

অসম চৰকাৰৰ গড়কাঞ্চনি বিভাগৰ এবছৰীয়া সাফল্যৰ খতিয়ান

আমাৰলক্ষ্যঃ

- ২০১৯ চনৰ ভিতৰত ২৫০০ ৰ অধিক জনসংখ্যাযুক্ত প্রতিখন গাঁওক পকীপথেৰে সংযোগ।
- পৰিৱেশ উপযোগী পথ, দলং আৰু সেউজ গৃহ নিৰ্মাণ কাৰ্যৰ ওপৰত বিশেষ গুৰুত্ব।
- স্থানীয় উদামী যুৱ ঠিকাদাৰ/প্ৰতিষ্ঠানৰ দক্ষতা আৰু সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিৰ বাবে বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ।
- গড়কাঞ্চনি বিভাগত ২০১৯ চনৰ ভিতৰত সম্পূৰ্ণ কাগজবিহীন সেৱা।

যোৱা ৩৬৫ দিনৰ অগ্ৰগতিঃ

- ২৫০০ কিঃ মিঃ পথৰ কাম সম্পূৰ্ণ আৰু ৮০০০ কিঃ মিঃ পথ নিৰ্মাণৰ বিভিন্ন পৰ্যায়ত।
- ২৩১ খন পকী দলওৰ কাম সম্পূৰ্ণ আৰু ৭০০ খন দলং নিৰ্মাণৰ বিভিন্ন পৰ্যায়ত।
- ২৭০০ কোটি টকা পথ নিৰ্মাণৰ বাবে কেন্দ্ৰীয় পুঁজিৰ অনুমোদন যি বিগত চৰকাৰৰ অতিম বৰ্ষৰ পাঁচ গুণৰ অধিক।
- ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ ওপৰত ৫ খন নতুন দলং নিৰ্মাণৰ প্ৰস্তাৱৰ অনুমোদন।
- ১৬ খন নতুন উৰুবীয়া সেতুৰ প্ৰস্তাৱৰ অনুমোদন।
- নতুনকৈ ৩০০০ কিঃ মিঃ পথ বাইৰীয়া ঘাইপথৰ সূচীট অন্তৰ্ভুক্তকৰণ।
- ২৫০ ৰ অধিক জনসংখ্যাযুক্ত গাঁও সমূহ সংযোগীকৰণৰ বাবে প্ৰয়োজনীয় প্ৰায় ৫০০০ কিঃ মিঃ পথৰ নিৰ্মাণৰ প্ৰাককলনত ভাৰত চৰকাৰে অনুমোদন জনাইছে আৰু ৩০০০ কিঃ মিঃ অনুমোদনৰ পথত।
- ৩ খন চিকিৎসা মহাবিদ্যালয় নিৰ্মাণৰ শুভাৰম্ভ।
- ভাৰতৰ দীৰ্ঘতম দলং ৯.১৫ কিঃ মিঃ দৈৰ্ঘ্যৰ ধলা শদিয়া দলং আৰু শৰাইঘাটৰ দ্বিতীয় দলং সম্পূৰ্ণ কৰাত সক্ৰিয় ভূমিকা।



PRODIGY/GHY/2017

Bayern lift title, Dortmund defend third place in Bundesliga

BERLIN, May 21: Bayern Munich crushed Freiburg 4-1 in Philipp Lahm's and Xabi Alonso's farewell game while Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang helped Dortmund beat Werder Bremen 4-3 in the last round of the Bundesliga season.

The "Bavarians", bid farewell to the retiring Philipp Lahm and Xabi Alonso as part of its Bundesliga title celebrations on Saturday, dousing both in beer to get the party underway.

Lahm, who won the World Cup with Germany, and Alonso, who did likewise with Spain, played their last competitive game in the 4-1 Bundesliga victory at home over Freiburg.

Bayern had already sealed their 27th Bundesliga title on April 29.

Freiburg were still in the race for a berth in the Europa League but Bayern destroyed the hopes with an early goal as retiring Alonso passed into the path of Arjen Robben, who overcame goalkeeper Alexander Schwolow into the far corner of the net with four minutes played.

Bayern controlled the proceedings on the pitch but lacked in penetration to extend the lead before the break.

Freiburg almost punished the hosts before the break but Janik Haberer failed to slot home from a promising position.

The German record champions continued powerful play after the restart. They yet had to wait until the 73rd minute before Arturo Vidal capitalised on Robben's square pass to tap home the 2-0 lead.

Anshu Jamsenpa climbs Everest twice in five days

KATHMANDU, May 21: Indian climber Anshu Jamsenpa created mountain climbing history on Sunday when she summited Mount Everest twice in a span of five days.

Anshu unfurled the Indian Tricolour on the mountain's crest at 16,000 ft and completed thefeat for a second time at 7,45 am, on Sunday.

She thus climbed the world's highest mountain twice in 118 hours and 15 minutes and set the record for a double ascent in a single season.

Anshu also became the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest five times in a record time.

Everest Summerit Association (ESA) General Secretary Laksha Rangdu Sherga made the official announcement from the Everest Base Camp on Sunday morning. - IANS

Amir Khan's SBL ties up with PBOI

NEW DELHI, May 21: The Amir Khan-backed Super Boxing League has entered into an agreement with the Professional Boxing Organisation of India, which will provide officials for the event starting July 7.

The SBL, featuring eight franchises with bouts conducted on weekends, will be supervised by PBOI as per the agreement.

PBOI is recognised by the Asian Boxing Council and the World Boxing Council.

The eight franchises in the SBL will comprise six players (five men and one woman) with six back-up players per team.

The competition will be in six different weight categories with bouts of four rounds each for three minutes each.

Former world champion and Olympic medalist Amir Khan will be the face of the league in India and would be significantly involved in its running. - PTI



Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with logic, reason and logic. - Fill the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.



Bayern Munich celebrate with the Bundesliga title after the match against Freiburg in Munich, on Saturday. Bayern Munich won 4-1.

Djokovic crushes Thiem to secure Zverev Rome final

ROME, May 21: Novak Djokovic overcame having to play twice in a day before cruising into the final of the Rome Masters with a ruthless 6-1, 6-0 win over Dominic Thiem.

The former four-time champion, was forced to finish his quarterfinal over Juan Martin del Potro earlier in the day after their match was rained off late on Friday. But the setback seemed only to inspire the 30-year-old Ser-

bian second seed, as he set up what is expected to be a mouthwatering final, and first meeting, with Germany's Alexander Zverev.

"It was my best performance of the year," said Djokovic yesterday after his 59-minute win over Thiem who had knocked out Rafael Nadal in the quarterfinals.

Zverev, 20, became the youngest player in a decade to reach a Masters

final when he clinched a gutsy 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-1 win over big-serving American John Isner.

Djokovic was the previous youngest Masters finalist, going all the way to the title in Miami as a 19-year-old in 2007.

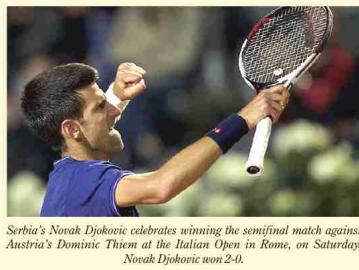
Zverev will climb to a new career high in the rankings at number 14 by reaching the final and would break into the top 10 with the title.

"I don't look at these kind of stats, who is the youngest player to have a Masters 1000 title or things like this. I try to play match by match and try to improve," said Zverev, who fired 12 aces and 41 winners past the 32-year-old Ser.

Thiem, beaten in the Madrid Masters by Nadal last week, avenged his loss by downing Spain's former seven-time Rome champion out in the quarters on Friday.

But the Austrian's dream run was quickly brought to an end by a clinical Djokovic on Saturday as the Serbian took his record to 5-0 against the 23-year-old.

In the WTA event, French Open champion Garbine Muguruza was forced to retire due to a neck injury from her semifinal against Ukraine's



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates winning the semifinal match against Austria's Dominic Thiem at the Italian Open in Rome, on Saturday. Novak Djokovic won 2-0.

Coaches depose before BFI panel on Vikas' Asian forfeiture

NEW DELHI, May 21: The disciplinary hearing into boxer Vikas Krishan's forfeiture of his Asian Championship semi-final continued today with the national coaches deposing before the inquiry committee.

A day after Vikas gave his version, chief coach Singh and SR Singh, along with assistant coach Narendra Rana, gave their account of the circumstances leading to the forfeiture in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The disciplinary panel, which is headed by veteran administrator Asit Banerjee, will now meet on May 30 and 31 for depositions from officials.

"The coaches presented their versions and perspective on the incident. Now the panel will meet on May 30 and 31 and record statements of the officials who were with the team," Banerjee told PTI.

It is learnt that the boxer, who had a World Series of Boxing

again if the panel finds conflicting versions of what happened.

The middleweight boxer, who was the top seed in the Asian meet, had given a walkover in the semifinal against Ko-

peite in the WSBP but either.

The team officials, who will appear before the committee include Boxing Federation of India secretary Jay Kothi and team doctor Nirmlak Singh among others. A BFI source told PTI that the entire incident seems to be a result of "communication gap" and "lack of technical know-

edge".

"The boxer and the officials should have handled it better, there was definitely a communication gap," he said.

When asked about the incident, Banerjee, on his part, said, "This has never happened and should not happen again. I cannot say as of now who is to be blamed." - PTI



Rean Dongyun earlier this month. The reasons for his decision have not yet been officially revealed.

It is learnt that the boxer, who had a World Series of Boxing

not on May 11 in Paris, got caught up in a confusion over his travel plans, which led to his decision to forfeit the Asian Championship bout. Subsequently, he was not allowed to compete in the WSBP but either.

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Sakshi and I benefit by practising with each other, says Vinesh

NEW DELHI, May 21: One went on to make history while the other missed out on much deserved success but there is no hint of jealousy in the equation between Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat and they continue to benefit from each other by training together.

Sakshi scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win an Olympic medal when she bagged a bronze at the Rio Games last year, but Vinesh was unfortunate to bow out of the mega-event with a freak knee injury. However, Vinesh feels the success at the Olympics has not gone to Sakshi's head at all and she still prefers to practice with her.

"Sakshi has not changed at all after the Olympic medal. She remains the same and so is our equation. We have known each other from our cadet days. Our bonds is very strong. She still looks

forward to practising with me. I am grateful to Sakshi for her support and encouragement. She is a great role model for me," said Vinesh.

Post Olympics, when I was recovering from my injury, Sakshi would keep asking me when I would return to full fitness and start practising with her," said



Sakshi Malik fights in the 53kg category, while Vinesh's weight category is 48kg.

Vinesh, Sakshi fights in the 53kg category, while Vinesh's weight category is 48kg.

Elaborating on how the two

wrestlers, with a difference of 10kg between them, benefit by

their training together, Vinesh

said, "We have been practice-

rs for a long time now. Our

difference in weight helps us,

"As Sakshi has higher weight,

I try to match her strength and that helps me in increasing my power and stamina. On the other hand, my agility helps her improve her speed. Both of us

motivate each other all the time," explained the 22-year-old.

After a nine-month injury lay-off, Vinesh, one of the Phogat sisters, made a comeback to the mat with a bang and clinched a silver medal at the recently-concluded Asian Championship, the heaviest weight division she has ever

competed in at any tournament, because her doctors and coach Kuldeep Malik had advised her not to lose too much weight post her recovery as that could have weakened her muscles. - PTI

Bomb-blast victim Bartra back in Dortmund team

BERLIN, May 21: Defender Marc Bartra played his first game yesterday since fracturing his wrist in a bomb attack on the Borussia Dortmund team bus on April 11.

The 26-year-old Spaniard started Dortmund's final Bundesliga game of the season at home to Werder Bremen.

It was his first appearance since surgery after fracturing his right wrist when three bombs hit Dortmund's bus on the way to their Champions League quarterfinal at home to Monaco last month.

With Bartra in hospital, Dortmund played the first leg less than 24 hours after the attack, losing 3-2 to Monaco eventually losing 6-3 on aggregate to the French league side.

Bartra was released from hospital four days after the bomb blast.

The same day, his teammates held his number five shirt aloft as they celebrated in front of their home fans after their 3-1 win against Eintracht Frankfurt on April 15.

A German-Russian, identified only as 28-year-old Sergei W, has been charged with the attack and prosecutors have said the motive was financial and not terror-related.

He has been charged with attempted murder, setting off explosions and causing serious physical injury. - AFP

Harikrishna wins in Moscow Grand Prix

MOSCOW, May 21: Indian Grand Master Pentala Harikrishna beat Russian GM Ian Nepomniachchi in his eighth round tie in the Moscow FIDE Grand Prix here.

The World No. 16 Indian, playing with black pieces, was pushed on to his backfoot in the initial stages of the game but capitalised on his opponent's mistake to restore balance in the game held yesterday.

"It was a very complicated game. White was better after the opening, but then I made a mistake and gave me an opportunity to equalise positions," Harikrishna said.

With time running out due to time control, Harikrishna remained patient as the Russian kept him under pressure as he went all out for the win.

The Hyderabad bated his opponent and rolled him in as soon as he committed a mistake to take the game away from him. - PTI



Roma, Napoli keep title hopes alive

VERONA, May 21: Two goals each from Stephan El Shaarawy and Mohamed Salah kept Roma's Serie A title hopes alive on Saturday as they twice came from behind to win 5-3 at Chievo Verona, while Napoli also stayed in the running with a 4-1 home win over Fiorentina.

Luciano Spalletti's side are second but Juventus will win the league if they beat relegation-threatened Crotone on Sunday.

Roma survived a scare though as they twice fell behind in the first half.

A Chievo victory would have handed the title to Juventus and Lucas Castro made it 1-0 when he converted from close range, but Stephan El Shaarawy levelled from the edge of the box after 28 minutes.

Roberto Soriano restored Chievo's lead when he headed past Wojciech Szczesny eight minutes before the break.

But Mohamed Salah equalised again to make it 2-2 at the break before El Shaarawy put Roma ahead for the first

time after 58 minutes.

Salah fired into the bottom corner for 4-2 and Edin Dzeko scored his 28th league goal of the season with seven minutes left when he drilled in from outside the box to put Roma in control.

Ingelse then scored with three minutes left to pull a goal back for Chievo, who are set to finish in mid-table. Napoli still have an outside chance of claiming the Serie A title, however slim, after a 4-1 win over Fiorentina.

They are two points behind Juve following victory – thanks to two goals from Dries Mertens and strikes from Kalidou Koulibaly and Lorenzo Insigne – and one defeat of Roma with avoidance of the Champions League play-off round state.

But defeat dented Fiorentina's European League hopes as they failed to make up ground on AC Milan and sit seventh having played a game more.

Koulibaly opened the scoring after eight minutes, bundling in from close range, and Napoli almost doubled their lead when Mertens hit the post after 26 minutes.

They did make it 2-0 nine minutes

before the break when Insigne converted Mertens' pass and Mertens scored himself 12 minutes after the re-start, stabbing in after Ciprian Tatarusanu fumbled Insigne's effort.

Josip Ilicic did pull a goal back for the visitors but Mertens wrapped up victory with a fourth when he embarrassed Gonzalo Rodriguez and tapped in after Insigne's shot was saved. - Agencies

Sachin holds special screening of his film for armed forces

NEW DELHI, May 21: Battlegod Sachin Tendulkar conducted a special screening of the much-awaited film on his life, 'Sachin A Billion Dreams' for the Indian Armed Forces personnel at the Indian Air Force Auditorium, here.

At the special screening held yesterday, Honorary Group Captain Sachin Tendulkar was joined by Air Chief Marshal Dhanoo along with personnel and families from Indian

Air Force, Indian Army and Indian Navy.

The batting maestro's wife Anjali Tendulkar was also present at the screening. The movie was received with a standing ovation followed by chants 'Sachin Sachin' from the personnel present.

Tendulkar was presented a memento by Air Chief Marshal Dhanoo on the occasion.

Tendulkar also met and greeted many as May 26 was also

Armed Forces present for the screening.

Appreciating the film on Tendulkar's life, Air Chief Marshal Dhanoo said, "It was a wonderful film. Having joined the Indian Air Force before Sachin started playing cricket, I have seen his whole career and it is really very inspiring."

The Air Chief Marshal also told Tendulkar that the movie was releasing on a very significant day, as May 26 was also

the day on which Air Operations commenced during the Kargil Conflict.

He recalled that he was stationed in Srinagar during the conflict when India beat Pakistan in the World Cup match at Old Trafford, England, and how upbeat they had all felt.

The 1999 match in the Super Sixes was probably the first time that the two countries played against each other when the two nations were engaged in a war like situation at the same time.

It was India's third consecutive World Cup win over Pakistan.

Thanking the Indian Armed Forces personnel and their families for attending the screening of the biographical drama based on his life, Tendulkar said, "It was on this very same podium that I was made a Honorary Group Captain of the Indian Air Force.

"When I finally agreed to the film after a lot of convincing from my producer, I was clear in my mind that if I do this movie the first viewing has to be for the Indian Armed Forces."

He thanked the Indian Armed Forces for protecting the nation from adversity and allowing him to fulfil his dream of holding the World Cup in his hands.

"I am standing in front of you on behalf of a billion plus people of this country to thank you for your contribution for keeping the country safe. You are the real heroes," Tendulkar said. - PTI

Podium finish for Mahaveer

CHENNAI, May 21: India's Mahaveer Rajguru clinched his third consecutive podium finish in the BOSS GP 2017 championship (an FIA accredited series, formerly known as Auto GP) in the Netherlands on Saturday.

Chennai-based Mahaveer finished second in Race 1 at Zandvoort circuit in the Netherlands, according to a press note here.

The 18-year-old, who represents Italian team Coloni Motor-sport and drives a Lola Gibson Tech 3.4 V8 car in the Formula class, is currently second in the championship standings. - PTI

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ADMISSION NOTICE (2017)

Admission forms are available for XI (Science, Commerce & Arts) from 22-25 May.

Last date of Submission is 29 May.

Admission on First Come First Serve.

Admission fee is Rs. 9500.

FREE FOR 9.8 - 10 CGPA (CBSE)/90% above (SEBA)

Bus facility available.

For Information Contact: 8822841498.

Monaco round off title winning campaign with a win

MONACO, May 21:

Champions Monaco rounded off their season with a 30th victory of the campaign in Remes - with several players sporting red and white dyed hair for the Ligue 1 curtain call.

Leonardo Jardim's side won their first title in 17 years in midweek and showed there was no hangover - even if a number of their players had dyed their hair for the occasion - as they defeated Remes 3-2.

Fabinho, who is likely to be among those attracting interest this summer, was on target along with fellow Brazilians Jemerson and Jorge.

Jardim named a strong side despite having already

wrapped up the title as Kylian Mbappe was included, though the likes of Radamel Falcao and Bernardo Silva started among the replacements.

They led through Fabinho's 43rd-minute strike, the defender applying the finish after Valere Germain's attempt had been cleared. Jemerson added a second early in the second half with a near-post header from a corner before Remes pulled one back through Adama Diakhaby's penalty.

Jorge restored Monaco's two-goal lead by sweeping in Djibril Sidibe's cross for their 107th league goal of the season, meaning Diakhaby's second in

the final minute was only a consolation. The victory ensured Monaco ended the season with 12 Ligue 1 wins on the trot amid a 20-game unbeaten streak.

The principality club clinched the championship with a game to spare, beating St Etienne 2-0 at the Stade Louis II on Wednesday through goals from Mbappe and Valerie Gervais.

Jardim's side have enjoyed a stellar campaign having also reached the semifinals of the Champions League, but it remains to be seen whether this talented group of players will be broken up during the summer. - Agencies

Inter school cricket

GUWAHATI, May 21: South Point School and Happy Montessori School registered convincing victories in their respective matches of the 13th All Assam Inter School Prize Money Cricket Tournament for the Dhan Sena Sinha Trophy at the Latasil playground here today.

In the first match of the day, South Point boys thrashed LOH Hindi High School by nine wickets. Electing to bat, LOG batsmen put up a total of 173 runs for the loss of five wickets in their stipulated 20 overs. Ankit Singh top scored with an unbroken 63 while Akash Sharma chipped in with a run of 25.

In reply, NOS boys could only manage 125 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their stipulated overs. Priyanshu Choudhury scored 35 runs while Kamakhyta Singh scalped four wickets.

In the second match of the day, Happy Montessori School 125 vs Ramkrishna Barua School 125

at the Lohit Singh Stadium were only batsman to reach the double figure mark. Himjyoti Barua was the pick of the bowlers with four wickets for 17 runs while Ray Sharma scalped three wickets conceding 17 runs.

Chasing the target, South Point boys put up 46 runs for the loss of one wicket in six overs. Dhruvraaj Barua remained unbeaten with 21 runs while Sanjay Ray took the lone wicket to fall.

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