

## NEWS CAPSULE

### Coal scam

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: The "delay" by top investigating agency CBI in completing the probe in the coal block allocation case, which today drew the ire of the Supreme Court which observed it appeared that the investigation would "not come to an end". - PTI

### Mishap action

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha today said there would be unprecedented action against those found guilty in the inquiry report of the Kalanga Utkal Express train accident that killed 23 people and injured over 150 others. - PTI

### NEET probe

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: The Delhi High Court today sought the response of the Centre and the police on a plea seeking a court-monitored CBI/STF probe into the alleged illegalities in the NEET held in 2016 for admitting students in postgraduate medical courses. - PTI

### Crop insurance

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: Over 90 lakh farmers in the country have benefited from the crop insurance scheme during the kharif season last year and the rabi season in 2016-17, a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was told here today. - PTI

### Accused held

DIBRUGARH, Aug 21: Police today arrested Dilip Kumar Baruah, accused in the murder of Dimpy Neog of Tinsukia, from Nalapani here. The body of Dimpy, who was allegedly in a relation with Baruah, was found in a river near Tengakhat. - Staff Correspondent

### 5 join BPFI

KORRAJHAR, Aug 21: Five members of the Ranjan Daimary faction of NDFB today joined the Bodoland People's Front at a function in the Bodoland guest house here in the presence of senior BPFI leader and BTC EM Donewar Goyari. - Correspondent

### Cop killed

BAIHATA CHARIALI, Aug 21: Ratneswar, a police constable, died after falling from a road mishap at Ganjipara, North Guwahati when the vehicle on which he was returning home after duty hit a trailer parked on the roadside. - Correspondent

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

## State may not meet rice output target this year

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: The State is unlikely to meet the rice production target set for this year due to the flood fury, with the agriculture department estimating that the shortfall could be to the tune of 6 lakh metric tonnes.

Agriculture minister Atul Bora today said the target for rice production this year was 62 lakh metric tonnes, but as the floods have severely hit the *salt* paddy, the State is likely to suffer a shortfall of around 6 lakh metric tonnes.

In the year 2015-16, rice production of Assam was 53 lakh metric tonnes.

Bora said around 6.29 lakh farmer families in 4,717 villages have been hit in the flood this year so far. *Sali* paddy production in 1.73 lakh hectares has been affected in this year's deluge, besides vegetables in 10,692



A tubewell shows up amid receding floodwaters at Bordoloni in Dhemaji district on Monday. - UB Photos

hectares, jute in over 7,000 hectares, etc. A total of 3.08 lakh hectares of crop land have been affected so far in

the floods, he said. "Farmers cultivating *sali* paddy are unlikely to make any gains this

year. So we are laying stress on the *yubi* crops. We are giving more thrusts on crops like mustard, potato, on-

ion, pumpkin, gourd, etc," the minister said, adding the government will supply the seeds under various government schemes.

Bora said district agriculture officers have been asked to compile a list of farmers who have been affected by the floods. The government will pay a compensation through DBT (direct benefit transfer) system to the farmers and the money will be deposited in the bank accounts of the farmers.

The minister also said 6,615 hectares of crop land in the districts of Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Darrang, Golaghat, Majuli and Barpeta have been affected by severe siltation. Though the government had planned to clear the silt by allotting works under the MGNREGA, due to the severity of the problem other measures will have to be taken to deal with the problem.

SC verdict on 'triple talaq' today

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: The Supreme Court would tomorrow pronounce a historic judgement on the controversial issue of whether the practice of 'triple talaq' among Muslims is fundamental to the religion.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar had reserved its verdict on May 18 after a six-day marathon hearing during the summer vacation.

The minister also said 6,615 hectares of crop land in the districts of Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Darrang, Golaghat, Majuli and Barpeta have been affected by severe siltation. Though the government had planned to clear the silt by allotting works under the MGNREGA, due to the severity of the problem other measures will have to be taken to deal with the problem.

The minister also said 6,615 hectares of crop land in the districts of Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Darrang, Golaghat, Majuli and Barpeta have been affected by severe siltation. Though the government had planned to clear the silt by allotting works under the MGNREGA, due to the severity of the problem other measures will have to be taken to deal with the problem.

During the hearing, the apex court had clarified that it may not deliberate upon the issue of polygamy and said it would only examine whether triple talaq was part of an "enforceable" fundamental right to practice religion by the Muslims.

Besides CJ Khehar, the bench also included Justices Kurian Joseph, RF Nariman, UU Lalit and S Abdul Nazeer.

(See page 4)

Modi, Shah meet CMs of BJP-ruled states

SPL CORRESPONDENT

## Doklam standoff may continue for a while

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: The standoff between India and China in Doka-La (Doklam) may continue for a while despite the efforts to resolve the crisis through diplomatic and other channels as Chinese troops have set up tents near the standoff point and it seems they are ready to stay in the area for some time.

Highly placed security sources told *The Assam Tribune* that the situation in Doka-La is un-

der control as the Indian Army is also staying put in the area along with the Bhutanese army. The army personnel of India and Bhutan are staying in the area together to prevent the Chinese troops from intruding into the area, sources said.

On the activities of the Chinese troops, sources said no major movement of troops has been noticed in the other side. The Chinese troops have pitched tents about 200 to 300 metres away from the stand-off point. It will be wrong to

(See page 4)

## 26 breaches on embankments during current wave

## State to have flood warning system soon

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: State Water Resources Minister Keshab Mahanta today said that there had been 26 breaches of embankments in 15 districts during the recent floods, with the maximum number of ten breaches occurring in Majuli.

Mahanta, who was addressing the media, strongly hinted at a "conspiracy" over the much-talked-about breach of the Ha-

tura dyke in Nagaon district on August 12 that caused unprecedented devastation in Kokrajhar and Dhalakhandha areas and said that he had moved the Chief Minister for a high-level inquiry in addition to the probe already instituted.

Mahanta also revealed that a state-of-the-art flood and warning system would soon be put in place for effective flood forewarning in the State. The system would

have two control rooms – one at the Brahmaputra Board and the other at the water resources department.

The minister said a total of 70 vulnerable points on embankments had been identified across the State and those would be addressed soon. Five breaches that had occurred during the first wave of floods had already been repaired, he added.

On the allegations that a firm

(See page 4)

## Flood situation improving in State

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: The overall flood situation in the State has improved further with the heavy rainfall activities being confined only to isolated places over the NE region during the past several days. According to the Bongaigaon-based Regional Meteorology Centre (RMC) here this evening, Assam-Meghalaya Meteorology Sub-division is not likely to experience heavy rainfall activities for the next five days from today.

Today, floodwaters have receded in 13 districts and the number of the districts still under floodwaters has come down to 12, said the official flood bulletin of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

According to the bulletin, the death toll during the current wave of flood till August 10, has shot up to 70. With this, the total flood-related death toll this year has gone up to 154. During the current wave of flood, Morigaon so far recorded 14

flood-related cases of death, which is so far the highest number of flood-caused loss of human lives in the State during the second wave of flood.

This is followed by Kokrajhar and Dibrugarh, with each of them reporting 10 such cases, while Bongaigaon reported seven such cases and Dhemaji reported five such cases during the second wave.

Darrang reported four such cases, Nagaon reported three such cases and each of Biswanath, Naharil, Barpeta, South Salmora, Kamrup and Golaghat reported two such cases, while each of Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Baksa, Goalpara and Dibrugarh reported one such cases during the second wave of flood, said ASDMA flood bulletin.

## JOCOSERIOUS



We have been affected by both natural and ideological flood!

## Police conduct searches in APSC office

STAFF REPORTER

Police has requisitioned a

set of documents from the APSC through an official communication today.

Meanwhile as many as nine

complainant had alleged

Paul even a *cash-for-jobs* scam

in the case where Chief Minister had agreed to provide

charging huge amount of

money for providing the job

of Agricultural Development Officer.

Meanwhile as many as nine

bail applications were filed on behalf of Naba Kanta Pathi, Basanta Kumar Doley, Samedit Kalman, Abhass Ali Ahmed, Syed Musarrif, Mamud Ali Choudhury and

Das came up for hearing in the Gauhati High Court.

While most of the bail

applications were claimed in

pursuance of the recent order

passed by the Supreme Court vis-a-vis Rakesh Paul who

the latter was granted default bail, a couple of accused

demanded bail on merit.

The court also said it cannot deny the relief to him merely because "sentiments of community was against him".

Six people were killed in a bomb blast on September 29, 2008, at Malegaon, a communally-sensitive textile town in Nasik district of north Maharashtra.

The apex court said there were "material contradictions" in the charge sheets filed by the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), Mumbai and the National Investigating Agency (NIA), which are required to be tested at the time of trial, and it cannot pick or choose one version over the other.



A bench of Justices RK

Agrawal and Abhay Mohan

Wagle, while taking note of

the contradictions in the charge sheets filed by the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), Mumbai and NIA, said that fresh

## Malegaon blast case

## SC grants bail to Lt Col Purohit

National Investigating Agency

(NIA), which are required to be

tested at the relevant time,

he was an Intelligence officer of the Indian Army.

It said Purohit has refuted the claim of conspiracy on the ground that he had informed his senior officers about the intelligence inputs of meetings attended by him at the Abhinav Bharat, a right-wing Hindu extremist outfit, and alleged role of ATS officials in the planting of RDX explosive substance at the residence of a co-accused.

Keeping in view that NIA

submitted a supplementary

charge sheet which is "at variance" with the one filed by the ATS, the trial was likely to take a long time and the appellant

(See page 4)

**brikolite AAC Block**  
(Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Block)



**NEW AGE BRICK FOR YOUR DREAM CONSTRUCTION**

- HIGHER STRENGTH • FIRE RESISTANT • HIGH THERMAL INSULATION • LIGHT WEIGHT
- COST EFFECTIVE • HIGH SOUND INSULATION • PEST RESISTANT • ECO FRIENDLY

For more information give us a Missed Call on : **888 0 726 726**

info@brikolite.com  
www.brikolite.com 0170860 32222

Socialize with us on : [www.facebook.com/brikolite](http://www.facebook.com/brikolite)

**SITUATION VACANT**

Medical Representative 100% job guaranteed training for 15 days. API, Guwahati Club. Ph. 98540-13922, 70026-58410. SV/PI/15838/23

Required Beautician (Female). Phone: 9435106722. SV/PI/A3508/

Urgently required Training Consultant & Financial Advisors (retired & housewife) for a Financial Organization. 9508993830. SV/PI/A138/16

**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR 20 NOS. MARKETING EXECUTIVE, TELECALLER & RECEPTIONIST FOR EDUCATIONAL COACHING CENTRE.** 7004048955. SV/PI/A3607/3

**LEADING COMPANY HIRING SALES MANAGER TEAM LEADER, SALES CONSULTANT ROMATO MICO INDIA LTD/BDR SR. ACCOUNTANT PRO, GRAPHIC DESIGNER, SR. HR PURCHASE MANAGER, #9085078288. SV/PI/A3543/5**

**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU COLLEGE, BOKO ADVERTISEMENT**  
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for one post of RA one SRF and one post for DBT Sponsored Advanced level Biotech Hub at J.N. College, Boko. For details please visit [www.jnccollegeboko.com](http://www.jnccollegeboko.com).  
Sd/- Principal

CD/S/2290/1

No Registration Fees. Govt. Register Company recruits 75 (MF) below 28. Earning: AM-12000, BM - 30,000 and other post - 50000/10000. Free Lodging + Fooding + bonus. Contact: Christianbasti, 8876126428, 881203893. SV/PI/A5807/

New Opening - At Guwahati/32 Dist. of Assam/North East for ISO Certified Co. offers permanent job for freshers M/F below 24. Matri to Graduate. Earning: Manager 32,000, Asst. Manager 12,000, other post 5000 to 10,000 + lodging + fooding + Bonus + Insurance facilities. Panbari, Guwahati. 9401807530, 7031009904. SV/PI/A5763/

Urgent required housewife, Postl. Agent retired. Self employed & Instance Agent for a reputed company. Ph. 970266133. SV/PI/2262/

Applications are invited for the following positions: 1) TGT Social Studies: Master degree with Economics and B.Ed. 2) Physical Education Teacher: B.Ed. Salary negotiable. Apply within 7 days. To: Principal, Manas Valley Academy, Jakhimpur, P.O. Simlung, Dist. Baksa (BTAD), Assam-781313. e - m a i l : manasvalleyacademy@yahoo.com. Principal. SV/2289/1

Urgent required - Minimum H.S. Pass. Field jobs part time work commission as per target basis from their own hometown and Electrician on contractual basis from their own hometown. Contact: 88769-55703, 88761-53966. SV/2285/1

Army Public School, Jorhat required following staff: 1. TGT (Sans): Graduate with B.Ed. 2. PRT: Graduate with B.Ed. 3. Computer Laboratory Trainer/BFSI Commerce graduate with teaching experience in Accounting, Trainer-Healthcare-Nursing graduate or diploma holder. Trainer-IT & MIS- Degree Diploma in Computer Applications, capable of managing district level MIS and conduct IT training. Trainer: Personality development- Graduate with teaching experience at middle school level in English, Salary no bar for suitable candidate. Fluent English, Hindi and local language is must. Send CV's to nationalrecruitment@333@gmail.com. SV/2284/1

Wanted Computer Operators (Male). Salary : 5000/- per month. Contact: 99575-71914. SV/PI/A586/1

Requirement in Multinational Company Health Sector 10+2 & Graduate. Selection on 26 August '17. Last date for submission of application 30 Aug, 2017. Details available in School website No. [www.apsjorhat.org](http://www.apsjorhat.org/). Sd/- Principal, APSJ, Jorhat. SV/PI/16367/1

Hiring new candidates part time/ full time work. Room from home, flexible timings. 97066-89224. SV/PI/16368/1

Direct posting : Showroom, BPO, Banking, Packaging, Hotel, Assistant, Peon, Security, 70862-54153. SV/PI/A3670/1

Direct Joining : Call Centre, Receptionist, Back Office, Banking, Showroom, Security, Packaging, Delivery, 84029-63824. SV/PI/A3671/1

Required Manufacturing Industry Engineers (B.E/E) 1) Electrical 2) Instrumentation 3) Civil, Salary : Negotiable. 90850-16261. SV/PI/A3672/1

Direct Joining: Mechanical Helper, Call Centre, Security Guard, Courier Service, Showroom, Salary starts from 9000/- 99574-25158. SV/PI/A3673/3

Required Collection field executive & Telecaller (Guwahati) for a reputed Telecom Company. 98648-99887, 97060-47544. SV/PI/16363/21

Required : Nos. fresh Telecom Engineer, 3 Nos. Accountant #1359-9513. SV/PI/A3683/1

M/s. NEHHDC invites applications from Indian Nationals who are eligible Graduates in the post of Asst. Marketing Officers & Accountants on contract basis possessing 1-2 years of experience. For details please log on to: [www.nehhdc.com](http://www.nehhdc.com). SV/PI/3679/1

Walk in Interview for the Post of PGT (Chemistry) Requisite Qualification M.Sc preferably B.Ed (Salary, Rs. 18000/- Interview Date: 25th August 2017. Till - 10 am to 1.00 pm. Interested Candidates may report to the Director Secretariat Academy, Pathashala, Contact No 94355-97521, 94765-18250. SV/PI/KP23/1

Join us as Medical Representative (MR). 100% job guaranteed. Visit: (IPC), Silukhuri, Ph. 76360-22024. SV/PI/KP16/3

Wanted experienced Chemistry & Biology (Botany) faculty for Itanagar. Qualifications: M.Sc., Salary: Negotiable plus accommodation. Contact: 09436291919/436046767. Interested candidates should submit resume at [nimbusitorial@gmail.com](mailto:nimbusitorial@gmail.com).

Wanted a MBBS Medical Officer having registration number of Indian Medical Council for our Estate Hospital. Preference will be given to tea garden experience candidate. Interested candidates can apply with CV and testimonials within 10 days to the following address: Sr. Manager, Dhalua Tea Estate P.O. Pabhipuri, PIN - 784174 Dist - Biswanath (Assam). SV/2282/2

**SAI VIKASH URGENTLY REQUIRED Vice Principal for Concept School (Qual.- PG with B.Ed., & Physics Jr. Lecturer for College (Qual.- M.Sc.)**

**9207090915**

CD/SV/225/1

Applications are invited in standard form from Eligible Candidates (G.I) of below 3 years of age on 01-01-2017 for filling up vacant post of Lecturer of Anthropology having B.Ed. from recognised University. Applications must reach the undersigned within ten days of advertisement with all documents from H.S.L.C. and onwards in support of candidature. Date of walk in interview is 10th Sept, 2017 at 11.00 am. No fee will be issued. Principal, Bezares Anechali Senior Secondary School, Bezares, Kamrup(R), Assam. SV/PI/2293/1

Skill Development Institute seeking applications for following full time posts for centers in Lakhimpur and Karimganj-Center. Manager: Graduate, 4-5 years experience in managerial position etc. Contact Advisor Tree Consultants (P) Ltd. 970185970, 8103523345, 8800177647. Edu/P/1610/45

Maria's Montessori Teacher's Training (1 month Spec) Classes from 04/09/2017 M.V.Tl, Zoo Tiniaili. 98464502491. Edu/P/1636/10

Admissions in top colleges across India and Abroad for Medical, Engineering, Management etc. Contact Advisor Tree Consultants (P) Ltd. 970185970, 8103523345, 8800177647. Edu/P/1610/45

Maria's Montessori Teacher's Training (1 month Spec) Classes from 04/09/2017 M.V.Tl, Zoo Tiniaili. 98464502491. Edu/P/1636/10

Asso'n No.1 Institute, offers 2 yrs./Post Graduate Computer Engineering & Com. Eligibility : Min. 10+2 appeared

**CCE** Computer Engineering & Com.

**Avail SUMMER DISCOUNT\***

DCA, PGCA | Hardware Engg.

Fashion | Interior | Mass Comm.

Beidhan | Spoken Eng. & more

Learn Spoken English

LEARN TALLY, ERP9 (GST)

E-TAXATION, ACCA, C+, JAVA, BCA, CCA, RTS (PANBAZAR/MALIGAON/CHANDMARI).

98640-93327.

Edu/P/1347/8

Best Coaching for Bank PO/Clerk, SSC-CGL, Railway, CLAT, Career Plan (Chandmari), Pan bazar/Al Mala gao n.

7670046646, Edu/P/3146/8

Sarada Girls Host. Rehaburi MN

Road, Bengal. Food, Running water, Aqua, Inverter, Fridge secured. Mob: 9435746800. Hoste/P/3494/8

Seats available for girls & working women at Umabarz with homely food & environment. Contact: 8402095237, 9864200750. PGP/P/1362/2/1

Safe accommodation: Girls (Hogon) & Boys (Ganeshug). Single room/attached Bath/AC-Aqua-Inverter. Parking. # 9954029888. PGP/P/1362/1

HOSTEL

Sarada Girls Host. Rehaburi MN

Road, Bengal. Food, Running water, Aqua, Inverter, Fridge secured. Mob: 9435746800. Hoste/P/3494/8

Seats available for girls & working women at Umabarz with homely food & environment. Contact: 8402095237, 9864200750. PGP/P/1362/1

Commercial Office, Showroom Space available. Rent-starting from Rs. 19, Belota Tiniaili/Main Road, Guwahati-781028. Contact: 8486353235, 7035378390. OS/P/1635/27

Commercial Office, Showroom Space available. Rent-starting from Rs. 19, Belota Tiniaili/Main Road, Guwahati-781028. Contact: 8486353235, 7035378390. OS/P/1635/27

Safe accommodation: Girls (Hogon) & Boys (Ganeshug). Single room/attached Bath/AC-Aqua-Inverter. Parking. # 9954029888. PGP/P/1362/1

Franchise/P/KP12/15

HR, Administrator, Tender Executive, Accountant-20,000/-, Mechanical/Electrical/Civil/Instrumentation/Computer Science (Fresh/experience) 15,000-40,000/- Telecom & Power Sector/Transformer, Alliance 97077-32977, 95084-14464. SV/PI/A3670/1

Direct Exam: HS (XI Appeared/Discontinued): HSLC (VIII/IX appeared/discontinued); NCICB, 98640-33525. (M). Edu/P/1636/8

Admission open D. Ed., B. Ed., B.A, M. Com., BBA, M. Tech., LLB, BCA, MCA, MSW, from NCTE & UGC recognised Govt. University, IITF, Guwahati. (Mr. Istrali Ali), Secretary, Goalpara English School Bhalukdubi, Goalpara M.No. 98543-40616. Edu/P/1636/1

Required Collection field executive & Telecaller (Guwahati) for a reputed Telecom Company. 98648-99887, 97060-47544. SV/PI/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

Coaching for SSC, IBPS, PO/Clerk/Railways, Insurance, Assam Govt. examination. Contact : Institute of Banking Training (IBT), Guwahati-94015-69909, Nahar: 99547-00406. Edu/P/1636/21

## NATIONAL

Shiv Sena hails bail to Purohit, calls him a hero  
PANAJI, Aug 21: The Shiv Sena today welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to grant bail to Lt Col Shrikant Prasad Purohit the 2008 Malegaon blast case and termed him as a "hero" who fought against terrorists.

The party alleged Purohit, who has been in jail for the last nine years, was falsely implicated in the terror case by the UPA government.

"Lt Col Shrikant Purohit is a hero of the nation. He fought against terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir without bothering about his life," Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut told reporters here when asked about the SC ruling.

The Rajya Sabha MP said Purohit is also a "hero" for the youth due to his services rendered in the militancy-affected areas in Jammu and Kashmir.

Purohit was falsely implicated in the terrorism case by the Congress-led UPA government, Raut said.

The apex court imposed certain conditions on Purohit while granting bail. Purohit had on August 17 told the apex court that he had been caught in the "political crossfire" and languishing in jail for nine years. He had moved the SC challenging the Bombay High Court's order dismissing his bail plea. — PTI

# Purohit to be attached to Army unit, remain under suspension

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: Lt Col Shrikant Prasad Purohit, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case who was granted bail by the Supreme Court, will be attached to an Army unit but will remain under suspension from service, informed sources said on Monday.

The SC earlier on Monday granted bail to Purohit, who spent nine years in prison. The Malegaon blast killed seven people.

Purohit was suspended from service on January 20, 2009, after his arrest.

The sources said he continues to be under suspension, but since he has now been ordered to be released on bail, he has to be attached to an Army unit.

## Govt protecting RSS-linked accused, says Cong

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: The Congress today accused the BJP government of "protecting" all the accused "connected to the RSS" after the Supreme Court granted bail to 2008 Malegaon serial blasts case accused Lt Col Shrikant Prasad Purohit.

The opposition party also raised questions over National Investigation Agency (NIA) chief Sharad Kumar getting two extensions and hoped that justice would be done in the Malegaon serial

blasts case "without fear or favour".

"Col Purohit gets Bail. It is expected as the present BJP Govt is protecting all the accused connected with RSS in all Bomai Blast cases (sic)," Congress leader Digvijaya Singh wrote on Twitter.

In another tweet, he said, "NIA chief has given two extensions to ensure their acquittal. He may now ensure further rewarded for a suitable post retirement position (sic)." — PTI

**Purohit was suspended from service on January 20, 2009, after his arrest. He is likely to report back to the unit from where he was arrested.**

the sources said.

On Monday, Supreme Court Justices RK Agrawal and Abhay Manohar Sapre granted bail to Purohit after telling him not to tamper with evidence.

The suspended Army officer had challenged the April 25 Bombay High Court order that granted bail to co-accused Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur but rejected his bail plea.

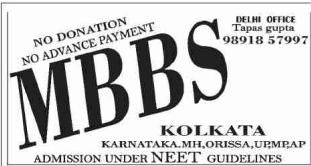
Seven persons were killed in the explosion in Malegaon in Nashik district in Maharashtra on September 29, 2008.

The investigating agencies had earlier attributed the blast to right-wing group Abhinav Bharat. — IANS

## ISRO looking at cooperation with Israel in space tech

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: India is looking at cooperation from Israel in the field of optical communication technique and electric propulsion system of space technology, ISRO chairman said. The electric propulsion system is important for sending heavy-weight satellites in the orbit while the optical communication technology transmits data, using light, from satellite to the earth station.

Kiran Kumar said ISRO is also working with international agencies for a collaborative work and share resources. — PTI



## HOTEL FOR SALE

AN UNDER CONSTRUCTION COMMERCIAL BUILDING 6 STOREYED (BASEMENT+GROUND+4) 42000 SQFT SUITABLE FOR HOTEL,SHOPPING MALL,SHOWROOMS, OFFICES ETC WILL BE SOLD NEAR GUWAHATI AIRPORT.POSSESSION IN 2 YEARS. GENUINE BUYERS/INVESTORS PLEASE CONTACT BARUAH CONSTRUCTION: 9706002971, 9435147443

www.collegeplus.com WhatsApp App 8124122444

**MY ADMISSION GUIDANCE**  
A Unit of Suhov Edu. Service Pvt. Ltd.

**SPOT ADMISSION** Till 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 2017

► Free Counseling      ► Spot Registration      ► Direct Admission

**IUG Courses**  
**DURATION**  
4 years & months + 1 year Internship || 4 years + 1 year Internship

**MBBS - Medical & Allied Health Sciences || BDS - Bachelor in Dental Surgery**  
**Biochemistry - Community Medicine - Physiology - Radiology - Pharmacology**  
**Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) - Orthopedics - Forensic Medicine - Dermatology**

**ELEGIBILITY**  
As per Medical Council of India norms.

**SPECIAL FEATURES**

- Sri Lakshmi Narayana Institute of Medical Sciences
- ACIS Medical College
- Sri Balaji Medical College
- Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences
- Mahatma Gandhi Medical College
- Savitribai Medical College
- Dr. Narsee Monjee Medical College
- MVJ Medical College

**GUWAHATI : ASSAM** Call Us  
2nd Floor (Room No. 202), Orion Tower, Christian Basti, G.S Road | 8787476637

**MUTUAL FUNDS**  
*Sahi Hai*

**FRANKLIN TEMPLETON INVESTMENTS**

**THE MORE A GOOD EMI INCREASES, THE BETTER IT COULD GET.**

Just like you choose an EMI for today's big expenses, choose an SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) to fulfil tomorrow's dreams. So start your Good EMI today, with as little as ₹ 500 a month. You also have the flexibility to increase your SIP amount at your convenience.

For more information contact your Mutual Fund Distributor or visit [www.thegoodemi.com](http://www.thegoodemi.com)

**SIP. It's like a Good EMI.**

A man and a woman are shown smiling and looking at a stack of coins on a reflective surface, symbolizing financial growth.

An investor education and awareness initiative by Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund. Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.



CHASING RAINBOWS: A woman and her children in a rickshaw during heavy rains in Chandigarh on Monday. — UNI

## Akhilesh to attend Lalu's rally

LUCKNOW, Aug 21: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav will attend RJD's "BJP Bhago, Desh Bachao" rally in Patna on Sunday, but participated in the BSP supremo Mayawati appears uncertain as on today.

"Party president Akhilesh will be visiting Patna on August 27 and attend the rally organised by Lalu Prasad," SP spokesman Rajendra Chowdhury said here.

He issued a clarification seen as an attempt to forge a larger alliance of like-minded parties to counter the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Both SP and Bahujan Samaj Party have been invited by RJD chief Lalu Prasad on August 27 and attend the rally organised by Lalu Prasad," SP spokesman Rajendra Chowdhury said here.

Gandhi. It also carried pictures of some Dalit icons and the BSP logo. The poster also carried a message, "Samajik maya ke samarthan mein vishabd ek ho" (Oppression must unite in the support of social justice)."

Mayawati said, "The party does not have Twitter account. Therefore, reports appearing in media based on a poster released on it are totally wrong." — PTI

## PIL challenges 'no outside food' rule at cineplexes

MUMBAI, Aug 21: A city-based film director has approached the Bombay High Court against the prohibition on carrying outside food in movie theatres and multiplexes.

Jainendra Baxi, who has filed the PIL, claimed that there was "no legal or statutory provision that prohibits one from carrying personal food articles or water inside movie theatres".

In fact, the petition said, the Maharashtra Cinemas (Regulation) Rules prohibit hawkers and selling food inside the theatres and auditoriums. "This rule is openly flaunted by the cinema halls which have several stalls selling food and beverages," it added. The restrictions on bringing outside food to the theatres particularly affected the senior citizens and those who could not eat for medical reasons. "The junk food that the food stalls in the theatres sell," the petition said.

The moviegoer must be allowed to carry eatables inside the auditoriums and disallowing this violated their "constitutional right to life", it added, while seeking a direction to the State government to clarify its position in this regard. — PTI

**GiMS** ব উদ্বোগত  
বাণিজক প্রতিষ্ঠান  
**THE ASSAM DEBATE 2017**  
বাণিজক প্রতিষ্ঠান  
তর্ক প্রতিযোগিতা  
বিষয়:  
সদনৰ মতে-জি এছ টিয়ে দেশৰ ক্ষেত্ৰ-বিক্ৰেতক সহায় কৰাৰ লাগতে অৰ্থনৈতিক বিকাশত অৰিহনা যোগাৰ।  
Sub :  
According to the motion-GST will help the buyers and sellers of India and also develop the Economy of the Country.  
**প্ৰক্ৰিয়া**  
প্ৰথম শ্ৰেষ্ঠ দল : ₹ 3,00,00,00  
প্ৰথম শ্ৰেষ্ঠ তাৰিক : ₹ 25,00,00,00  
দ্বিতীয় শ্ৰেষ্ঠ দল : ₹ 15,00,00,00  
দ্বিতীয় শ্ৰেষ্ঠ তাৰিক : ₹ 20,00,00,00  
তৃতীয় শ্ৰেষ্ঠ দল : ₹ 15,00,00,00  
তৃতীয় শ্ৰেষ্ঠ তাৰিক : ₹ 20,00,00,00  
চৰকাৰ  
জিজি ওৱাৰাটি জিলা প্ৰিমিটিভ প্ৰেক্ষণ  
তাৰিখ : ২৪ আগস্ট ২০১৭  
যোগাযোগৰ ঠিকনা  
**JAZZY**  
Chandmari, Guwahati-03  
Ph. No. 9957165170/ 9954475055 email: jazzyassam@gmail.com

## INTERNATIONAL

# Supporting Trump a suicidal act, N Korea tells Australia

PYONGYANG, Aug 21: North Korea has warned Australia that it has committed a "suicidal act" by committing its troops to help the US in any conflict over Pyongyang's nuclear programme and by joining military exercises with US and South Korean forces.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull earlier this month vowed that his country's military would fight alongside the US if the latter was attacked by North Korea. He said last week that Aus-

tralia and the US were joined at the hip on defence matters.

Citing an unnamed official from the North Korean Foreign Ministry, KCNA said Turnbull's show of support for Washington, coupled with Australia's participation in the military drills, had left the country open to unspecified "counter-measures of justice" by North Korea.

"This is a suicidal act of in-viting disaster, as it is an illustration of political immaturity, unaware of the seriousness of the current situation," KCNA

was cited as saying by the Guardian.

In response to the warning from North Korea, Turnbull hit back on Monday, saying: "North Korea has shown it has no regard for the welfare of its own population, no regard for the security and good relations with its neighbours and no regard for international law."

Turnbull said Australia called on all countries to "re-double their efforts, including through implementation of agreed UN Security Council

resolutions, to bring North Korea to its senses and end its reckless and dangerous threats to the peace of our region and the world".

This is the first time that Pyongyang singled out the Australian government for criticism.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry official accused Turnbull of abandoning his opposition to Donald Trump's confrontational stance towards Pyongyang, and reminded him that Australia had paid a high price

for its involvement in previous US wars, according to KCNA.

"Australia followed the US to the Korean war, the Vietnamese was and the 'war on terrorism', but heavy loss of lives and assets were all that it got in return," it said.

"The Australian government had better devote time and energy to maintaining peace of its own country, instead of forgetting the lessons learned in the past and joining the US in the moves for nuclear war." — IANS

## Prosecutors seek 12 years in jail for Samsung scion

SEOUL, Aug 21: South Korea's Prosecutor's Office on Monday sought a 12-year prison sentence for the vice chair of the Samsung Group over charges that include bribing the former President as part of a massive corruption scandal that has rocked the country.

The prosecution's petition was filed during the last session of the trial of Lee Jae-yong – the eldest child and only son of Samsung's Chairman – that began early March in Seoul's Central District Court, Efe news reported.

The prosecution also sought 10-year prison sentences for three other Samsung senior executives, Yonhap news agency reported.

Lee, 49, the "de facto" chief and heir of one of Asia's largest conglomerates, is accused of transferring 43 billion won (\$37.3 million) to foundations that were controlled by Choi Soon-sil, dubbed the "South Korean Rasputin" for her close friendship with then President Park Geun-hye.

The payments were allegedly made to secure approval from a public pension fund in 2015 for the merger of two Samsung subsidiaries (one of which was part of the same fund) that reinforced total control of the Lee clan on the company.

Lee, who took over the control of the Samsung Group in 2014 after his father, Lee Kun-hee, was left incapacitated following a heart attack, also faces charges of embezzlement and concealment of foreign assets and has been detained since mid-February.

The verdict in this high-profile case is expected to be made public by the end of this month. — IANS

## State to have...

(Contd from page 1) owned by one of his close relatives was responsible for shoddy repair work on the Hatimura dyke for which he was given a contract worth crores of rupees, the minister said that the two firms in question were given a contract with only Rs 14.99 lakh for surface work across a length of 3.6 km on the dyke and not for repair or strengthening of the dyke.

A total of 63 contractors were given a combined contract of Rs 6 crore for similar "patchwork" atop the entire length of the dyke.

"The dyke had developed weat and tear on its surface but it did not need strengthening. The contract was for some patchwork only. We strongly feel that the breach on August 12 was a conspiracy by vested interest circles. I have urged the Chief Minister to institute a probe. I will quit if I am found to be involved in any unethical work concerning the dyke or to have betrayed the people of Kaliabor. I have been fighting for the interests of Kaliabor for the past 36 years," he said.

Mahanta claimed that flood relief work had been going on in full swing and that the Chief Minister, ministers and MLAs, and Deputy Commissioners were working in close coordination.



US President Donald Trump along with wife Melania and son Barron walk from Marine One to board Air Force One in Morristown, New Jersey, US, on his way back to Washington on Sunday. — UNI

## Nepal to hold general, provincial elections on Nov 26

KATHMANDU, Aug 21: Nepali will hold parliamentary and provincial elections on November 26, the government announced today, a key step towards cementing democracy in the politically unstable country. The decision was taken during a Cabinet meeting held this morning here, according to officials.

"The government took the decision to conduct the elections after holding consulta-

tions with the Election Commission (EC)," Minister for Information Mohan Bahadur Banskoti told reporters.

The EC will work out the details of the elections.

As per the constitutional provision, the Nepalese Parliament will have 275 members.

While voters will directly vote for 165 lawmakers,

110 members of Parliament will be nominated through proportional representation.

Earlier, the EC had urged the government to conduct elections in two phases, saying that it would be difficult to conduct both the elections at once due to time constraint, lack of laws and human resources as well as logistic.

The announcement for holding the polls came nearly two months after Nepal conducted the second round of local-level polls across the country.

The EC had been preparing to hold federal and provincial elections in 31 mountainous and hilly districts.

Millions of Nepalese voted

in the first two phases of local-level polls held in almost two decades as the Himalayan nation takes a key step towards cementing democracy.

Nepal has witnessed political instability. The country has been in a political crisis since a decade-long Maoist conflict ended in 2006 and the monarchy was abolished. Some Madhesi-centric parties opposed the polls demanding the demands of the people.

The announcement for holding the polls came nearly two months after Nepal conducted the second round of local-level polls across the country.

The EC had been preparing to hold federal and provincial elections in 31 mountainous and hilly districts.

Millions of Nepalese voted

## Microsoft's speech recognition system achieves new milestone

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 21: Microsoft's conversational speech recognition system designed to accurately recognise the words in a conversation like humans do – has reached a 5.1 per cent error rate, its lowest so far. This milestone means that, for the first time, a computer can recognise the words in a conversation as well as a person would.

"Our research team reached that 5.1 per cent error rate with our speech recognition system, a new industry milestone, substantially surpassing the accuracy we achieved last year," said Xuedong Huang, Technical Fellow, Microsoft. – IANS

(Contd from page 1)

schemes in the States and development works being done there. The BJP president's blueprint of winning 350-plus seats in the 2019 general election also featured in the meeting. Shah had asked party leaders to focus on about 120 winnable seats which the BJP lost in the 2014 elections so that the party can take it tally beyond 350 seats in the next Lok Sabha elections.

## SC verdict on...

(Contd from page 1)

The bench, made up of judges from different religious communities – Sikh, Christian, Parsi, Hindu and Muslim – had heard seven pleas, including five separate petitions filed by Muslim women challenging the prevalent practice of "triple talak" in the community.

The petitioners had claimed that the practice of "triple talak" was unconstitutional.

The Muslim women, who had filed the petitions, have challenged the practice of "triple talak" in which the husband pronounces "talaq" thrice in one go, sometimes even by phone or a text message, to get a divorce.

During the hearing, the apex court had observed that the practice of "triple talak" was the "worst" and "not a desirable" form of dissolution of marriage among Muslims, even though there were schools of thought which claimed it "legal".

Several lawyers, including noted jurist Ram Jethmalani, had attacked the practice on various constitutional grounds, including the right to equality and termed it "abhorrent". – PTI

## SC grants bail...

(Contd from page 1)

has been in prison for about eight years and eight months. "We are of the considered view that the appellant has made out a prima facie case for release on bail and we deem it appropriate to enlarge the appellant herein in bail," the bench said.

Holding that the "grant or denial is regulated to a large extent, by the facts and circumstances of each particular case", it said that the "right to bail is not to be denied merely because of the sentiments of the community being against the accused".

"Liberty of a citizen is undoubtedly important but this is to balance with the security of the community. A balance is required to be maintained between the personal liberty of the accused and the investigational rights of the agency. It must result in minimum interference with the personal liberty of the accused and the right of the agency to investigate the case," the bench said. – PTI

## Pro-democracy leaders' jailing sparks protest in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Aug 21:

Thousands of people took to the streets of Hong Kong protesting the jailing of three pro-democracy leaders for their involvement in the 2014 anti-government occupation known as the umbrella movement, the media reported.

Last week a Hong Kong court sentenced Joshua Wong, Nathan Law and Alex Chow – three young organisers of the protests that rocked Hong Kong – to jail terms ranging from 6 to 8 months, reports CNN.

They were convicted of unlawful assembly after they stormed government property in June 2014, leading to the 79-day sit-in of major roads in the heart of the city's financial district.

On Sunday, demonstrators walked from the Wan Chai district to the Court of Final Appeal, where the three activists are expected to lodge an appeal against their sentences on Monday.

Police told CNN the number of protesters during the peak period was about 22,000. While the protest organisers did not provide their own count, activist Agnes Chow said it was the biggest protest since the 2014 Occupy Movement.

"We were surprised that there were so many people coming out," she told CNN on Monday. – IANS

## Big Ben falls silent for 4-yr-long repairs

LONDON, Aug 21: London's iconic Big Ben silent today until 2021 for a whopping 29-million-pound repair to the consternation of politicians, including the Prime Minister, who have raised concerns over the plan to silence the bell for four years.

The midday bongs today afternoon were the last regular chimes from the famous bell within the Elizabeth Tower until the repair programme ends in 2021, with final 12 bongs, plus the iconic bell falling silent on the site complete.

The bell set within the UK's Palace of Westminster fell silent for essential repairs until 2021, but will still be used for special occasions such as New Year's Eve and Remembrance Sunday.

There had been considerable debate among senior political leaders, including British Prime Minister Theresa May and several MPs, about the iconic bell falling silent for as long as four years.

May has said, "It can't be right" that the famous bongs will not be heard again until 2021 and has asked for the proposals to be reviewed.

A small group of MPs gathered by the members' entrance to the Houses of Parliament today to mark the occasion of the London landmark's final chiming.

"This is a desperately sad moment and you don't know what you've got till it's gone," said Labour MP Stephen Pound. – PTI

(Contd from page 1)

Sealed tenders affording court fee stamps of worth Rs 8.25 (Rupees Eight and twenty five paise) only on each tender are invited for sale of some Timber Lots kept in different Locations within Nagpur South Division, Hojai. Details of lots etc. other terms and conditions shall be available in the Sale Notice which can be procured from the office of the undersigned during office hours of any working day on payment of Rs. 80.00 (Rupees Fifty) only for copy of Sale Notice.

Moreover, intending tenderers shall have to pay Rs.8.00 (Rupees Five Only) for every copy of Tender Form to submit their tenders.

The date of receiving tenders has been fixed on 21/09/2017 up to 3.00 P.M. (I.S.T.) in the office of the undersigned.

If the Office remains closed on that day the tender will be received next working day.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2017

No. PTE/TG/1/2017/2

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Directorate of Secondary Education Assam invites Proposal from the intending parties for operation and management of Secondary Schools under PPP mode in Tea-Garden areas of Assam during 2017-18.

The details of proposal can be read and downloaded from the <https://assamtenders.gov.in>. The last date of submission of bids is 23-Sep-2017.

Sd/- Director of Secondary Education, Assam, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

No. MCH/2017/16780

## NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender for Outsource of Dietary Services for admitted patients of Assam Medical College Hospital, Dibrugarh which was published in the newspapers "Assam Tribune" and "Dainik Janashambhu" on 14.07.2017 is hereby cancelled/rejected. Floating of the re-tender for the same will be put shortly.

Sd/- Superintendent Assam Medical College Hospital Dibrugarh  
Janasanyog/C2677/17

## CANCELLATION OF TENDER

No. AAC/16/2017/P/III Applications are invited in prescribed form published in the official website of Assam www.eproc.assam.gov.in for engagement on contractual basis for the post of Project Manager-Finance & Accounts under Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM).

1. How to Apply: Interested persons who are willing to apply for the above mentioned post may apply online through the website [www.eproc.assam.gov.in](http://www.eproc.assam.gov.in). Application submitted other than the prescribed form will not be considered. Last date of submission of application is 11/09/2017 till 11:00 AM.

Sd/- Mission Director Assam Skill Development Mission Assam, Guwahati

## ADVERTISEMENT

21.08.2017

No. ASD/16/2017/P/III Applications are invited in prescribed form published in the official website of Assam www.eproc.assam.gov.in for engagement on contractual basis for the post of Project Manager-Finance & Accounts under Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM).

1. How to Apply: Interested persons who are willing to apply for the above mentioned post may apply online through the website [www.eproc.assam.gov.in](http://www.eproc.assam.gov.in). Application submitted other than the prescribed form will not be considered. Last date of submission of application is 11/09/2017 till 11:00 AM.

Sd/- Mission Director Assam Skill Development Mission Assam, Guwahati

## CANCELLATION OF ADVERTISEMENT

Due to some technical error, the advertisement published under District Election Officer, Kamrup Metro, Guwahati and Amalgamated Establishment of Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup Metro, Guwahati, in pursuance of Govt. Letter No. ELE-142008/Part-II/1-A dated 04.01.2016 and No. GAG (B) 84/2014/38 dated 03.08.2017, stands cancelled.

However, fresh Advertisements for the same Posts will be published shortly.

Sd/- Addl. Deputy Commissioner Kamrup Metropolitan District, Guwahati

## SALE NOTICE NO. 3 OF 2017-18 FOR SALE OF TIMBER LOTS

Sealed tenders affording court fee stamps of worth Rs 8.25 (Rupees Eight and twenty five paise) only on each tender are invited for sale of some Timber Lots kept in different Locations within Nagpur South Division, Hojai. Details of lots etc. other terms and conditions shall be available in the Sale Notice which can be procured from the office of the undersigned during office hours of any working day on payment of Rs. 80.00 (Rupees Fifty) only for copy of Sale Notice.

Moreover, intending tenderers shall have to pay Rs.8.00 (Rupees Five Only) for every copy of Tender Form to submit their tenders.

The date of receiving tenders has been fixed on 21/09/2017 up to 3.00 P.M. (I.S.T.) in the office of the undersigned.

If the Office remains closed on that day the tender will be received next working day.

Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Nagpur South Division, Hojai

## CONTINUATION OF PASSENGER SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN GUWAHATI AND DIBRUGARH

It has been decided to continue the service of presently running Passenger Special Train between Guwahati and Dibrugarh from 22-08-2017 to 28-08-2017 (Daily) as per existing schedule, timings and composition.

Train No. DEP. 0509  
Guwahati - Dibrugarh Passenger Special

ARR. 20.00 ↓  
Guwahati 07.00 ---  
Dibrugarh 20.00 ---

Other Commercial Stoppages: Chaparmukh, Lumding, Diphu, Dimapur, Marigaon & Dibrugarh.

COMPOSITION: First AC cum 2nd AC (One), AC-2 Tier (One), AC-3 Tier (One), Sleeper Class (Ten), General Second Class (Four) and SLR (Two) = 19 Coaches.

General Manager (Operations)  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

No. BND/MDM/LPG/15/2017/11 Date: Borgapara the 19th August 2017

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

In continuation with earlier Tender of this office vide No. BND/MDM/LPG/11/2017/10 Dt. 29/06/2017 Sealed tender offering non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only on each tender are invited for supply of Gas Stove and Suraksha rubber hose as per Govt. Approved rate of Rs. 156/- (One thousand five hundred and sixty three) only per unit i.e. (Gas Stove and Suraksha rubber hose). The interested firms may collect the tender documents from the office of the undersigned on payment of Rs. 200/- (Rupees two hundred) only. (Non Refundable) vide demand draft/Banker's cheque in favour of Deputy Commissioner, Borgapara. Tenders/documents will be issued on 19th August 2017, starting from 10.00 A.M. to 12.00 P.M. in office hours.

The tender documents will be received between 10.00 A.M. to 12.00 P.M. on the same day. If the last day of submissions/opening of tender document is a holiday the next working day will be treated as submission/opening day.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner Cum DNO, MDMS, Borgapara.

## F. No. NEC/IPR/344/2012 Government of India

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
North Eastern Council  
Nongrim Hills, Shillong-793003 (Meghalaya)

## Corrigendum

Tender documents for a) Typesetting, Design and Production of a Newsletter for NEC, and b) Provision/procurement of high quality colour photographs of NEC's Completed Projects, Events, Success Stories, Ongoing Projects etc. from time to time for which advertisement was published in newspapers of North Eastern Region in the 1st week of August, 2017 has been revised. Interested agencies may see NEC website <http://necouncil.gov.in> and submit the tenders by 3:00 PM on 22.08.2017

Sd/- M.R. Mahapatra

Director, Information & PR

date: 11/04/11/00191718

**WEATHER  
GUWAHATI**

**LOCAL FORECAST:** Partly cloudy sky becoming more cloudy. Rain/thunderstorm likely to occur in some areas. Maximum temperature is most likely to be 35°C on Tuesday.

**TEMPERATURE:**  
Max 35.5°C  
Min 26.6°C

**'Bees can boost agri output'**

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: Bee-keeping is useful in pollination of crops and in increasing income of the farmers or beekeepers by way of increasing crop yield and providing honey and other bee-bee products like royal jelly, bee pollen, propolis and bees wax, etc. Mowsam Hazarika, former editor of *Bijoyan Jeeti* and a senior agricultural department official, stated this while attending a daylong awareness meeting organised by the Rural Development Society at Panbari here on Saturday.

Speaking as a resource person, he said bee-keeping is recognised as one of the important inputs for sustainable development of agriculture and horticulture. Honey is a good antioxidant and contains phenols, enzymes, flavonoids and organic acids, all of which play a crucial role as major health benefits of the product, he added.

Noted educationist Dr Palmitra Barua chaired the meeting.— Staff Reporter

# High vegetable prices hit consumers hard

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: The unprecedented rise in vegetable prices has created a crisis situation for both the consumers and petty traders with the markets feeling the direct heat of the phenomenon.

Those who are ready to pay for fresh vegetables are also not getting a fair deal of their choice as the floods and disrupted rail link have put a limit to their option of choosing from the fresh green veggies, specially those coming from West Bengal and Bihar by train.

"It is a situation far graver than the usual price rise during the late summer period. Not just the consumers, even the small traders like us are in trouble as not all can afford to buy tomatoes at Rs 80-Rs 90 a kilogram and French bean at Rs 100. We are bringing lesser quantities from the bulk traders as the sale is unpredictable," said Manik Robha, a vegetable vendor-on-bicycle who sells his stuff in Lachit Nagar-Bhenggaria area.

Rabita's basket, otherwise vibrant with the colourful veggies, bunches of green leaves and potato-onion,

## Aftermath of devastating floods



A vegetable market in Guwahati on Monday. — UB Photos

now looks lifeless and the bag containing additional supplies is also missing. Similar is the case with many of his ikk.

Although vegetable rates generally show an upward trend during this time of the year, this time the rise in prices has been unprecedented due to the devastating floods and the situation aftermath.

From Rs 40 per kg nearly 15 days back, the price of lady's finger has shot up to Rs 70 in the retail market. Similarly, ridged gourd is being sold

for the price scenario to normalise as all the three vegetables have crossed Rs 100, capsicum being the costliest at Rs 120-Rs 130 per kg.

Cauliflower, which is now in the market to break the monotony of summer season veggies, is being sold at Rs 150-Rs 190 per kg.

Vegetable supply at the Fancy Bazar wholesale market has also been affected due to the ongoing situation.

The wholesale rate of lady finger in Guwahati is Rs 40, that of pointed gourd is Rs 45, ridged gourd is Rs 35 and that of carrot is Rs 45-Rs 55. Cauliflower is selling for Rs 70-Rs 80 per kg in the wholesale market, while string bean is selling for Rs 30-Rs 35, brinjal for Rs 25-Rs 30 and tomato is selling for Rs 55 per kg.

At Rs 20 per kg, the humble potato is now selling at double the price it was selling nearly a month back. After showing an upward curve, onions are now available at Rs 40-Rs 45 per kg.

There are some other vegetables securing their position in the premium category with their rate per kilogram hitting a ton. Those loving a generous helping of shredded carrots, bean and capsicum will have to wait

## Enough stock of essential items in city, assures KCC

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: Urging the people not to resort to panic buying fearing scarcity of essential commodities, the Kamrup Chamber of Commerce today said that there was sufficient stock of the essential items in Guwahati.

The trade body added that though the situation is not as grim as being projected in some quarters,

rail link of the Northeast from the rest of the country, the road link has been restored and truckloads of essential items, including foodgrains are reaching the city continuously.

The trade body, in a meeting with the district administration and the railway authorities, sought the cooperation of the administration and the Railways for monitoring the

market condition and pre-loading of railway rakes respectively.

"The stock available with the wholesalers, semi-retailers and retailers currently would last for another 15-20 days and even more. Hopefully, the rail link would be restored much earlier," chamber president MP Jain said adding the situation is not as grim as being projected in some quarters.

"We are a consumer State and the vehicles bringing the

consignments always return empty. So, we also have to pay them the return fares, which increases our costs. If huge consignments are brought and the rail link is restored in the mean time, we will have to suffer huge losses," a wholesale trader of Guwahati said.

The traders, however, said that the situation in some other north-eastern states, compared to Assam, is graver.

## Contractual hotel staff to drag Govt to court

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: Contractual employees of the Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok today resorted to a sit-in demonstration near Dighalipukhuri protesting the decision of the State government to convert the iconic hotel into a State Guest House, a move that will see over 100 employees lose their jobs.

The demonstration passed peacefully, but the protesters rued that despite being informed, no one from the Assam Tourism Development Corporation, which took over the hotel on July 1 last, came to hear their grievances.

A couple of Congress leaders visited the protesters during the programme.

## Birthday tribute to oriental scholar Prof BP Chaliha

STAFF REPORTER

world that were slumbering in the darkness of ignorance of superstition.

The sages of the Upnishads had said mankind had a pre-designed goal to attain divinity in the course of one's mortal existence on earth. Dr Biswas pointed out. The Upnishads elaborated on how from the state of savagery mankind advanced to the state of intellectual illumination and spiritual sublimation in his voyage towards divinity.

Chakravarty, in his presidential address, said that India could be proud of coining first the words 'humanity' and 'humanism' when Europe was submerged in ignorance and savagery. India scaled the heights of moral and spiritual excellence, sublimating life of the entire na-

tion, he added.

Referring to the illustrious career of scholar Chaliha, he said that the oriental scholar who has over 50 publications to his credit, had established himself as an ideal teacher and an accomplished writer.

Dr Banikanta Sarma, Eli Ahmed and Mirudha Sabaria paid tributes to Chaliha and hoped he would continue to wield his pen relentlessly.

Srimanta Sankar Mission of Nagpur was awarded Rs 50,000 for its services by the Chaliha Trust, Lambadar Hazarika and Kamalika Prasad Chaliha received the donation on behalf of the Mission. Earlier, Kamalika Bora welcomed the guests. Nandita Chaliha, wife of Chaliha, offered the vote of thanks.

## AASU unit's organisational workshop

JORABAT, Aug 21: An organisational workshop was organised by the Dimoria unit of All Assam Students' Union on Sunday for all its branches and sub-branches of Dimoria region.

Around 200 members attended the programme where the problems faced by the branches were discussed. Office-bearers of AASU's Dimoria unit gave advice to the branches on the best ways to run the organisation and motivated the members to work for society.

Dibyajyoti Medhi, chief adviser to the Dimoria AASU unit said this type of workshops helps the organisation to manage units and boost motivation among the members to work for society. AASU has always worked in favour of the students and society. This has in turn has earned people's faith in AASU, he added.

**GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

## Don't wait for the last date

**Attention Taxpayers !**

Return filing deadline relaxed for July, 2017. Last dates for filing returns (GSTR-3B, GSTR-1, GSTR-2 & GSTR-3) and making tax payments for July, 2017 are given below:

Form	For July, 2017
GSTR-3B	Taxpayers who do not want to avail transitional credit in this month in FORM GST TRAN-1:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last date for making payment and filing return is 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2017</li> </ul> For taxpayers wanting to avail transitional credit in this month in FORM GST TRAN-1:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last date for making payment is 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2017</li> <li>• Last date for filing return is 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2017</li> </ul>
GSTR-1	1 <sup>st</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> September
GSTR-2	6 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> September
GSTR-3	11 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> September

Do not worry if you are not able to avail of the transitional credit this month, you can utilize it later also because it will get credited in your electronic ledger, provided you file FORM GST TRAN-1 on or before 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.

**Salient Features of FORM GSTR-3B**

- FORM GSTR-3B to be filed mandatorily by all normal registered taxpayers.
- NIL returns to be filed in case of no business.
- Summary of information about sale and purchase, available Input Tax Credit (ITC), tax payable, and tax paid is to be furnished.
- All input tax credits availed and utilized will be posted in ITC Ledger.
- Unutilized ITC can be used in subsequent months.
- While filing up FORM GSTR-3B, don't forget to save partially filled form by clicking SAVE GSTR-3B button.
- After SUBMIT no modification is possible; therefore, fill the details carefully before pressing SUBMIT.
- If FORM GST TRAN-1 is submitted, click CHECK BALANCE button to view the balance available for credit under Integrated Tax, Central Tax, State Tax and Cess (this includes transitional credit also).

**Who should not file FORM GSTR-3B?**

Not to be filed by Input Service Distributor (ISD), a Non-Resident Person, Tax Collector at Source (TCS), Tax Deductor at Source (TDS) & Composition Dealers.

Payment of tax through any NEFT/RTGS takes time to get reflected in cash ledger. Without payment getting reflected in cash ledger, return can't be filed. Hence do not wait for last minute payment & return filing.

In case of queries, please contact: helpdesk@gst.gov.in & Phone no: 0120-4888999

GST - A Good & Simple Tax

Central Board of Excise and Customs & Commercial Taxes Departments of States/Union Territories

www.cbec.gov.in, www.cbec-gst.gov.in

## Workshop on framing legislation for inland water transport in Assam

CORRESPONDENT

among the various departments of the Government of Assam is the prerequisite along with capacity-building and awareness programmes for training and skill development of stakeholders, the researchers felt.

The research team from National Law University and Judicial Academy elucidated on the salient features of the existing legislations which need to be taken into consideration and incorporated into the draft legislation for regulation of inland water transport in Assam.

The session ended with valuable suggestions from the officials of the Inland Water Transport Department as regards the training of the crew members and the regulation of vessels for personal use.

The workshop was attended by State Chief Secretary Vinod Kumar Piperseian; Ashutosh Agnihotri, Commissioner and Secretary to the Transport Department, Government of Assam; Bharat Bhushan Dev Choudhury, Director of the Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society; Dr Srinivas Chokkakula, Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi and Dr JS Patil, Vice Chancellor, National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam.

The consultative workshop began with various inputs provided by the gathering as a curtain raiser to the technical sessions of the workshop.

## MESSAGE FOR TODAY

*A man who won't die for something is not fit to live.*

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## The Assam Tribune

### Train accident

The derailment of the Puri-Hardwar Kalanga Utkal Express, in which over 20 passengers lost their lives, has again brought to fore the issues of railway safety. Over a dozen coaches of the Utkal Express derailed at Khatauli near Muzaffarnagar in western Uttar Pradesh on Saturday evening. Coaches of the train ran off the tracks and at least two of the coaches crashed into a residential area hitting a house and a school building, as per media reports from the site of the accident. Many people have alleged that human error may have caused the accident. The Centre has ordered an inquiry. The Railways has started investigation to find out if there was any likelihood of foul play in the accident. The Central Government, besides the State governments of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, has announced compensation to the families of those killed in the accident and of the injured passengers. However, mere compensation is not enough. This is not the first major accident involving trains in India during recent period. Only last year in November, the Indore-Patna Express had derailed near Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. That accident has resulted in the deaths of over 100 persons and more than 200 had been injured. Before that, in March 2015, the Dehradun-Varanasi Janata Express had derailed in Rae Bareli district of Uttar Pradesh resulting in the death of 58 passengers and injuring over 150. Minor accidents occur almost on a monthly basis. As per official data, during last five years there have been as many as 586 train accidents in India and nearly 53% of the accidents were due to derailment.

The safety issue is very important. Unfortunately in India, safety concerns have never been paramount among our decision makers. This is not only true with regards to the railways but also in other sectors. After Saturday's accident involving the Utkal Express, officials have claimed that the Railway Ministry has taken various steps like inducing modern coaches, creating a safety fund as well as incorporating new technology to try and see that accidents due to derailments do not take place. Linke Hofman Busch (LHB) coaches, having anti-climbing features and provision of superior braking and lesser chances of uncoupling of coaches in case of accidents, have been introduced. Yet, despite all efforts, accidents continue to happen. There is a need to increase the use of ultrasonic system to detect track defects, Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) and the Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) and other modern technology. There is also a need to fix the system and bring in an element of accountability. Railways being the lifeline of India, all efforts must be made to ensure that accidents do not take place.

### Right moves

The reality that in any war there are no winners and losers has time and again been revealed to humanity at diverse times. However, there is another simultaneous reality – to be unprepared is to tempt the enemy, while strength in defence by itself is a deterrent to attacks by hostile forces. This was the reason why the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the army and ordnance factories tabled in Parliament in June this year pointing out to certain inadequacies in India's defence preparedness had caused such consternation. One had to place the conclusions in that report in the context of recent developments with our two hostile neighbours, China and Pakistan. Currently the two armies of India and China are at eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation at the border in Doka La area in the India-Bhutan-China trijunction. At the same time, relationship between India and Pakistan is at the lowest ebb, and possibilities of escalation of conflict relating to Kashmir can never be ruled out. The Indian Government is apparently aware of our shortcomings and has been slowly, almost unobtrusively, attempting to make up for them and empower our armed forces with latest, state-of-the-art weaponry. The recent shifts in foreign policy have been designed towards this objective. For instance, the NDA Government's unambiguous embrace of Israel at the expense of Palestine is primarily because Israel possesses such weaponry!

The Government is making the right moves in strengthening India's defences. For instance, there has been an essay at upgrading the INVAR laser-guided missile system of the T-90 battle tanks, the mainstay of our army. The army too had been installing modular engines in some of the T-90s to enhance their strike capability at high-altitude battlefield in consideration of the terrain in which our *jawans* confront Chinese and Pakistani forces. Sometime back the Government had placed an order for 22 Apache attack helicopters with the US to be used by our air force. The Indian army, currently operating only non-armed helicopters like the Cheetah and Chetak, had requested that it be given some of these since it occasionally required them on urgent basis. Currently, the practice is for the army to requisition such armed helicopters from the air force whenever it requires them. The air force, fearing that its role would be diluted and there would be many 'mini air forces' operating within the armed forces, had objected to the request. It is commendable that the Indian Government had allowed pragmatism to determine its decision and has cleared a proposal to purchase an additional six Apache attack helicopters at a cost of Rs 4,168 crore for the exclusive use of the army. With similar moves to empower the Navy, the Government is taking things in the right direction, though the reality remains that we are still way behind the Chinese.

# Banking in India: some concerns

■ Mukti Agarwala

**I**ndian banking is facing constraints in profitability primarily because of stress assets; even the operating profits of banks are going down, mainly of nationalized banks. The number of corporate defaulters is mounting. Banks as their business prudence are bound to lend. But lending to small business houses and farmers has not made a single bank sick. For instance, the Rs 60,000-crore loan waiver for farmers in 2008 announced by the UPA Government did not make the nationalized banks sick.

Indian banking was nationalized in 1969 by a historic decision of the then Prime Minister of India. On July 19, 1969, 14 Indian banks were nationalized and six others in 1980. The nationalized banks made India achieve Green Revolution and White Revolution by financing the common people.

Prior to the nationalization of the private sector banks, the Imperial Bank of India was nationalized on July 1, 1955 (named State Bank of India) and in 1959, seven associate banks of State Bank of India and regional rural banks were also nationalized in 1975, further expanding the public sector banking. Thus, the public sector banks became the main engine of growth and development of our economy constituting 90% of the total banking system in India. The achievements and contributions of the public sector banks (PSB) have been phenomenal and unprecedented and today, the bank-

become the backbone of our economy and unmindful of the experience that our PSBs were the shield that protected our economy from the global financial turmoil that swept almost every continent. The Government has been pursuing their agenda of banking reforms and liberalization policies. The Government is hell-bent on pursuing through their reforms agenda of privatization and consolidation of our banks with a view to hand over these

move of the Government is to create three-four global-sized banks and reduce the number of state-owned lenders to about 12 from the existing 21. In the last consolidation drive, five associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) became part of SBI on April 1, 2017, catapulting the country's largest lender to among the top 50 banks in the world.

The only main challenge our banks are facing today is the alarmingly high bad loans, deceptively called by them NIPAs. It has crossed all acceptable proportions and has reached a dangerous level threatening the very sustainability and viability of our banks. Bad loans are today eating into the vitality and credibility of our banking system. But known to everyone is that the main share of burden of this

are taking our banks for a ride.

great financial institutions back to private vested interests. Today one can see the orchestrated attempts to starve the banks of adequate capital thereby forcing them to go private. The Government is also weakening the PSBs by allowing free entry of private corporate and business houses to start their own banks, licences to open payment banks, small banks, etc. The whole idea is to de-integrate PSBs and encourage private sector banking. In a developing country like ours, weakening the PSBs and focusing on private banks will be disastrous and suicidal. The consolidation

danger goes to the corporate debtors who are taking our banks for a ride. Nearly 90,000 wilful defaulters owe about Rs 92,376 crore to PSBs, a jump of 20.4%. At the same time there is an increase of 10% in the number of wilful defaulters. The level of NPA in the financial year 2016-17 has increased to Rs 92,376 crore from Rs 76,658 crore a year ago. Banks are earning very good operating profits but are bleeding with net loss due to adjustment for bad loans (NIPAs). PSBs are made to bear the cross for the sins of the private corporate defaulters like the li-

uor baron Vijay Mallya. To cover up these losses, customers and banking clients are made scapegoat by hike in all types of service charges, fees and penalties. Particularly after the demonetization last year, banks have imposed heavy service charges and penalties on almost all types of banking transactions, making the common man to suffer.

Written-off loans accounted for 11-16% of overall bad loans of the banks in each of those years. Since 2011, banks started lending heavily to large corporates and, according to analysts, the problem suddenly became a lot bigger as the 'corporate leverage' built up. The traditional tools of recovery like debt recovery tribunals and Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Sarfaesi) Act, 2002 have become blunt in the face of such huge bad loans from large corporate accounts. Newer mechanisms are needed to deal with these big loans and they have to be dealt with on a going-concern basis.

Credit growth is vital for the growth of the economy and today it may be the single most important factor that could inhibit sustained growth. An important contributing element to this situation is the high level of stressed assets in the banks combined with little bank capital that can provide for losses on these assets. In response, bank management can roll over the bad loans with the hope that the loan will eventually be paid back, or recognize the bad loans, take a hit to capital, and shrink the balance sheet.

## Cultural relationship between Tibet and Assam

■ Dr Pradip Sarma

**W**hen the Tibetan king Tsanpo Trisong Detsan ruled in the second half of the eighth century, Tibet witnessed the heyday of Buddhism and monasteries spread far and wide in this country. But this fast conversion developed a feeling of counter-revolution among the conservative Bonists who, in no time, started rebellion by attacking the Buddhist monasteries and destroying all sorts of establishments. The revolutionists killed the king and crowned his elder brother Lang Darma.

The chaotic situation in Tibet during this period endangered the life of the Mahaguru Padmasambhava, and his close disciples planned to decamp him in a secret flight. It is said that he was led through unknown territories southward and crossing the mountainous border, he was taken to the kingdom of Kamarpa. But the whereabouts of the monk and his disciples accompanying him are not recorded anywhere after this entry.

That this Buddhist apostle trekked down by the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh is authenticated by a rock inscription lying about 20 km north of Tawang

monastery which this writer had a chance to visit. Written in Tibetan script, the epigraph records the presence of this holy man in this plateau (at an elevation of 5,185 metres) without visible woodland all around it. Incidentally, Tawang is linked to the Tezpur town of Assam on the bank of the Brahmaputra in its south.

There is a popular tradition in Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan that Gautama Buddha's death occurred in Kamarpa. The existence of this hearsey is affirmed by historian LF Waddell after his explorative studies in these countries during the late 19th century. As Buddha's *magha-parinirvana* was conclusively recorded in the findings of archaeological evidences at Kushinagar in the India-Nepal border, this legend must have originated from some similar incident as speculated by some historians. A section of scholars and chroniclers are of the opinion that the temple town of Hajo on the north bank of the Brahmaputra is the place where saint Padmasambhava with the disciples who accompanied him set up his monastic establishment and ultimately had his *nirvana*. The ardent Tibetan and Bhutanese followers of this great

saint did not forget his everlasting sermons and continued their pilgrimage to his place of death. However, as time passed on, they identified Padmasambhava with Gautama Buddha himself and started believing former's *somadhi* on the Matukuta Parvat as the stupa of the Buddha, over which the Hayagriva-Madhuva temple was built in the subsequent period.

That Hajo is intimately associated with a Buddhist sanctuary from the remote past can be understood from some other sanctimonious objects scattered in this area which the Buddhist pilgrims used to visit and pay homage. Of particular mention is an inscription incised on a huge rock in Tibetan script which had been deciphered as *om mani padme hum*. According to a section of epigraphists, these words are indicative of a Buddhist expression where *mani* means Buddha and *padma* indicates Padmasambhava.

The history of Tibet reveals that the traditions of theocracy was introduced here since the 15th century CE and the process started

since when the contiguous Mongolian started taking interest in the affairs of Tibet. When Sonam Gyasto, the third Dalai Lama, served as an abbot of a monastery, the Mongolian ruler Altan Khan invited him to

deliver sermons on Buddhism in his kingdom. This mission was so successful that it received high royal appreciation and triggered spread of the faith far and wide in Mongolia. In fact, Khan conferred on Sonam Gyasto the title 'Dala Lama, the All Knowing' in 1558 which stood well to the test of time and was extended to two of his successors. Nevertheless, up to this point of time, the Dalai Lamas were recognized only as the abbots of the central Buddhist institute in Tibet.

The theocratic status of Tibet came into being since when the 5th Dalai Lama Lobsang Gyatso (CE 1642-1682) came to power. The credit of introduction of rulership for the abbot goes to the Mongol prince Goshir Khan who had initiated suppressing religious rivals and helped the Lamas to unify the whole Tibet and merge the state with the church. Once these two dissimilar spheres of activities amalgamated in this way, the theocratic rule started functioning in Tibet unabated to mid-20th century when it was annexed by China.

See the irony of fate for the kingdom of Tibet! What had happened to a selfless preacher of the universal tenets of Buddhism 1200 years back has again befall to a noble pontiff who had to flee like an oil-fender to escape confinement. It is well known that the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso was consecrated to manage the affairs of the theocratic rule of Tibet in 1940 which continued peacefully for 10 years when in 1950 China led a coup and annexed this kingdom. As the intention of this article is to discuss Tibet as a Buddhist country and its fraternal relationship with Assam, one considers this territory as a sacred land where Buddhist subjects enjoy an ideal idyllic life. As such, one desires that the Dalai Lama should head this country once again without any outside political interference so that it becomes the most peaceful state and the inhabitants happy and contented with their god-fearing lifestyle.

A thought often comes to mind as why the world communities did not raise a bold and fearless voice against China for occupying Tibet in a bloodless coup which compelled the Dalai Lama to leave his peaceful country. This sort of medieval heliocentrism which endangers world peace should not go, one believes, without counteraction. On the other hand, we from Assam as the successor of a glorious fraternal relation with Tibet should reiterate to reinstate this saintly ruler in this holy land of beauty and splendour.

**Letters to the EDITOR**

Sir, — Since a couple of weeks, there have been reports about the APSC intending to bring about drastic changes in the syllabus of their CC exams. Changes are good but are best fulfilled to tempt the enemy, while strength in defence by itself is a deterrent to attacks by hostile forces. This was the reason why the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the army and ordnance factories tabled in Parliament in June this year pointing out to certain inadequacies in India's defence preparedness had caused such consternation. One had to place the conclusions in that report in the context of recent developments with our two hostile neighbours, China and Pakistan. Currently the two armies of India and China are at eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation at the border in Doka La area in the India-Bhutan-China trijunction. At the same time, relationship between India and Pakistan is at the lowest ebb, and possibilities of escalation of conflict relating to Kashmir can never be ruled out. The Indian Government is apparently aware of our shortcomings and has been slowly, almost unobtrusively, attempting to make up for them and empower our armed forces with latest, state-of-the-art weaponry. The recent shifts in foreign policy have been designed towards this objective. For instance, the NDA Government's unambiguous embrace of Israel at the expense of Palestine is primarily because Israel possesses such weaponry!

The Government is making the right moves in strengthening India's defences. For instance, there has been an essay at upgrading the INVAR laser-guided missile system of the T-90 battle tanks, the mainstay of our army. The army too had been installing modular engines in some of the T-90s to enhance their strike capability at high-altitude battlefield in consideration of the terrain in which our *jawans* confront Chinese and Pakistani forces. Sometime back the Government had placed an order for 22 Apache attack helicopters with the US to be used by our air force. The Indian army, currently operating only non-armed helicopters like the Cheetah and Chetak, had requested that it be given some of these since it occasionally required them on urgent basis. Currently, the practice is for the army to requisition such armed helicopters from the air force whenever it requires them. The air force, fearing that its role would be diluted and there would be many 'mini air forces' operating within the armed forces, had objected to the request. It is commendable that the Indian Government had allowed pragmatism to determine its decision and has cleared a proposal to purchase an additional six Apache attack helicopters at a cost of Rs 4,168 crore for the exclusive use of the army. With similar moves to empower the Navy, the Government is taking things in the right direction, though the reality remains that we are still way behind the Chinese.

## APSC intention to change CCE syllabus

**Screening test a must**

Sir, — With reference to the APSC advertisement No. 05/2017 for lecturers and assistant professors in the polytechnics and engineering colleges, many people have expressed their opinion in this column for conducting only vivisection for these posts. But, I strongly believe that conducting only vivisection is not the proper method of selection for such a vital and responsible post. A few minutes' interview cannot determine the quality of a candidate. A proper screening test is important to evaluate the basic knowledge of a candidate on their respective subjects. Moreover, if the APSC shortlists the candidates based upon marks secured in the qualifying examination, many deserving candidates will be deprived of getting a single SMS from various State Government departments regarding exams. Therefore, through this column, I request the Government to take necessary actions for sending SMS alerts in connection with job-related examinations. Yours etc., S. SEKHAR KHATIBWARA, Jamurhat.

**Untrained teachers**

Sir, — The move to train up the untrained teachers in the Government-aided and private schools is a very good initiative of the Government of India. In this connection, the Government of Assam has already published a notification in the local newspapers early this month. The untrained elementary school teachers, who do not have the minimum qualification mandated under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, would not be allowed to continue in service after April 1, 2019. According to the School and Mass Education Department, the process for dismissal will be initiated against such teachers. Stating that this will

be the last chance to acquire the requisite minimum professional qualification, a department official maintained that it is mandatory for all in-service untrained teachers to undertake the Diploma in Elementary Education (D.E.E.D) programme only through open and distance learning (ODL) from the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The untrained teachers of the unaided private schools, which have got recognition/no objection certificate (NOC) from the competent authority for the posts, can also register for the NIOS. All the untrained teacher of the private schools should take the matter seriously. Yours etc., PARTHA PRATIM MAZUMDER, Nahar.

**Deendayal issue**

Sir, — In a press conference few days ago, the incumbent State Education Minister questioned the credibility of Assam's intellectuals regarding their knowledge about Deendayal Upadhyaya. He also went on to question the silence of the State's intellectuals when the Orang National Park was rechristened as the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park. The comparison is totally illogical as Rajiv Gandhi was a former Prime Minister of India and the intellectuals also opined

that they had no objection had the 22-odd colleges been named after Atal Behari Vajpayee or even after Narendra Modi. The minister should make a habit of thinking over an issue before making such illogical comments before the media. Yours etc., A CONCERNED CITIZEN, Jorhat.

**Dhemaji roads**

Sir, — The NH 15 at the Chamarajan area of Dhemaji district is still in a deplorable state. Though the road broadening and reconstruction activities started in that area years back, the same has not been completed till now. Similarly, the construction activities of the Gogamukh-Dhemakuanha road via Ghilamara are also in slow progress. Again, because of the pitiable condition of the Dhakukhana-Majuli road, tourists from various corners of the globe face difficulties to reach and enjoy the rich cultural heritage of the Majuli Island. We hope the State Government will take prompt steps and adopt appropriate policies to complete the road construction activities as early as possible. Yours etc., RONJIB CHUTIA, Sissiborgaon, Dhemaji.

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.



**World Honey Bee Day** celebrated at Nalbari

**CORRESPONDENT**

NALBARI, Aug 21: The World Honey Bee Day was celebrated by KVK, Nalbari, under Assam Agricultural University at Chengnoli village here recently.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Mridul Deka, programme coordinator of KVK, Nalbari. Speaking to the gathering, Dr Deka urged the bee-keepers to take up bee-keeping on a commercial basis to uplift their economic condition and to increase production of different crops. He said that bees play a crucial role in pollination of cross-pollinated crops.

Another speaker, Sonomita Bhuyan, subject matter specialist of the KVK also delivered a lecture on importance of bee keeping in farming system. The programme was attended by more than 100 bee-keepers and interested farmers of the district.

### Flood relief distributed at Kaliabor

**ANN Service**

KALIABOR, Aug 21: Though the overall flood situation at Kaliabor has improved, some of the affected people taking shelter in relief camps since August 12 have not gone back to their homes due to various reasons. Meanwhile, relief has been distributed by the authorities and a few private organisations.

It may be mentioned that a vast area of *sali* cropland of Dalgao, Rourmari, Barpeta Dolon, Barailagon, Hatiogaon, Darigoi, Majagon, Bamun is under floodwater and if it continues, the entire crop is likely to get damaged. The Jakhalsabandha PHC has started serving patients from August 17. A medical team of Marwari Sanstha has provided service while the Mobile Medical Unit has been engaged under Jakhalsabandha PHC.

### Driving training prog

**CORRESPONDENT**

SILCHAR, Aug 21: In a bid to ensure safe driving on roads and to prevent road accidents, a driving training programme (for both LMV & HMV categories) for youths was conducted at Driving Training Institute (DTI) of National Automotive Testing and R and D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP), Silchar Centre located at Japirbandh.

In a statement issued here, Bikramjot Das Gupta, engineer at NATRIP informed that as many as 961 candidates, including 22 youth from the Reang community of Haikalan district have undergone various training schedules at the centre. The statement added that that the Placement Cell of NATRIP, Silchar Centre is providing assistance to the unemployed trained candidates for getting employment opportunities.

### Faizara Begum (Queen): a tribute



My amma Faizara Begum popularly known as Queen who passed away on June 15 last was born on June 16, 1943 in Dibrugarh, Assam to Late Fazilahammam (Konwar) and Late Paribar Begum (Moti). She had her schooling in Graham Bazaar High School, Dibrugarh. After her marriage with Md Inamul Haque Choudhury (Dadabhai), s/o Late Abdulla Nurul Haque (advocate) of Lakhtokia, Guwahati, she shifted to Guwahati. She was a very pious lady and was associated with many social organisations. She was the member of Assam Pradesh Mahila Samiti, Guwahati and the Gauhati Ladies Club, Ambari, Guwahati in the 1970's.

I remember her as a lady who was ever ready to help others at her own risk and was popularly known among the relatives and her friends for her courageous nature and outspoken quality.

She left behind her husband, two daughters, son-in-law and grandson. Today on her chaliya, I pray to Allah to grant her eternal peace.

—Dr Monalisa Choudhury

She was also involved with the Anjuman Khawatein Islam, a Muslim women organisation of Guwahati. She was an active member of Maima Parijat of Uzanbar, Guwahati in the 1970's. She took active part in the Assam Agitation during the 1980's. She was the founder president of the Hatiogaon Mihila Unnayan Samiti, Friends Path, Hatiogaon, Guwahati.

The meet was held from August 10-12. A total of 160 stakeholders of the tourism industry along with delegates representing 15 foreign countries participated in the fair. The fair was inaugurated by the Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism, Bangladesh Resident Khan Meenon. The Vice-Chairman of ATDC Ltd, Navadeep Kalita speaking at the inaugural function gave a glimpse of the myriad tourism destinations of Assam which can turn into a potential tourism hub for the South-East Asian countries as well as for the tourists from all over the world. The delegates who participated in the fair were invited to visit the Assam Tourism Stall to have a detailed discussion/interaction with the As-

sam Tourism Officials. The team of Assam Tourism comprised Moitye Das and Manas Pratin Thakur, Tourist Information Officers and Hiranta Kumar Saikia, Assistant Tourism Information Officer. The team under the leadership of Navadeep Kalita had discussions with the officials from Bangladesh regarding inflow of tourists to the State. This was stated in a press release.

They also had a three-day discussion with the members

of the Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB) to enable the tourists to have easy access to the State. The president of TOAB, Touqiq Uddin Ahmed raised the issues on restrictions of travel by road especially through Tamabil, Dawki entry points as well as multiple entry and exit points to this part of the country. Kalita and his team apprised the matter to the First Secretary of the Indian Embassy to Bangladesh and

requested him to take appropriate action regarding the matter. The First Secretary assured to look into the issue and taking it on priority basis.

The foreign delegates of different South-East Asian countries like Mauritius, Myanmar, Thailand, Bhutan etc., showed their interest in sending tourists to the State specially to the largest-inhabited riverine island Majuli, the World Heritage Site Kaziranga and Manas National Park, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

hati, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Mayong, Kaziranga and Manas National Park, Hajo, Sualkuchi, Madan Kamdev etc. The team will be led by renowned chef Tony Khan and will comprise famous award winning film director and ad guru Amitabh Reza, well-known film actress Rumana Akhtar Mukti. To promote culinary tourism, it was proposed to hold an ethnic Food festival of the local delicacies of Assam and Bangladesh. Amitabh Reza offered to present his award winning film *Aina Bazi* in the food festival. Montaj Begum, Member of Parliament as well as folk singer of Bangladesh proposed to enthrall the crowd during the food festival with melodious songs. Amitabh Reza also expressed his wish to endorse Assam as a promising film tourism destination by shooting at some of the mesmerising places of Awesome Assam as well as shoot at some destinations for commercial advertisements.

Navadeep Kalita expressed his pleasure and informed them that the Government encourages promoting Assam as a potential Film Tourism, Medical Tourism, Cultural Tourism and Educational Tourism destination and assured that it would make all efforts to support the venture.



Keshab Mahanta, State Water Resources Minister, Special Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, Amarjit Singh along with other dignitaries inspecting the Hatimura embankment, at Kaliabor on Sunday. — UB Photos

## Death toll rises to 10 in Dhubri dist

**CORRESPONDENT**

DHUBRI, Aug 21: Although water levels of all the rivers in Dhubri district are receding at a steady rate, the death toll in the devastating flood that hit the district in the second phase has risen to 10, according to sources in the district administration.

The second wave of flood that affected 16,32,262 people living in 682 villages of the district has been one of the most devastating flood the district has witnessed in the recent times. According to reports of the administration, people who died in the second wave of flood include — Sahida Khatun (6), Saleha Bewa (45), Kholidor Rahim (17), Jadul Rabu Das (45), Ila Bose (65), Umesh Ch Ray (30), Khadija Khatun (8).

families who have lost their kin in the flood, but we are trying to release the ex-gratia amount of Rs 4 lakh as soon as possible."

It was also informed that four families have already been distributed, while two other families will get the payment by Tuesday. The district administration will distribute the ex-gratia payments to the rest of the families after the administration receives the police reports.

Meanwhile, the water level of Brahmaputra has drastically receded and is flowing only a little above the danger level. The rivers Champamati, Gaurang, Gangadhar and Tipkai were flowing below their danger levels on Monday.

### Second wave of flood in State

Assistant Commissioner and also the Nodal Officer for flood management in the district, said that utmost care is being taken to check the losses caused by the flood. "Although we can't in any manner make up the loss of

## Demand for appointment of PRO in Goalpara district

**CORRESPONDENT**

GOALPARA, Aug 21: At a time when the present State Government is fully focusing on development of all the backward regions of the State, yet the Goalpara district deserves to be given a PRO from the department, which at present is being managed by an in-charge officer.

Relations (DIPRO), Guwahati seems to have overlooked the matter and kept a stoic silence in spite of receiving several reminders and requests from the district office for a PRO from the department, which at present is being managed by an in-charge officer.

It may be mentioned here that the post of PRO is very sensitive considering the nature of his work for protecting the interest of the district administration. At times mediapersons have to deal with various government activities.

On the other hand, the office of the Director of Public

from government officials while collecting news and sensitive information, mainly when access to sources of information becomes difficult.

Meanwhile, the secretary of Goalpara District Journalist Association (GDJA) Residul Hussein said that since there is no permanent professional authority in the district to deal with inquiries from the press and to serve as a spokesperson for the district administration, the GDJA has demanded immediate appointment of a PRO in the district.

## Foundation day of Aaideo Talkies observed

**CORRESPONDENT**

MANGALDAI, Aug 21: The Aaideo Talkies, a voluntary cultural organisation which has been working in the field of reviving the glory of Assamese films through its display in mobile set up across the State observed its fifth foundation day on Sunday at Prafulla Nag.

The day-long celebration organised in association with Mangaldoi Citizen Forum and Prafulla Nag United Youth Forum began with the hoisting of the organisational flag by its chief Ratna Das, followed by the *smriti tarpan* pro-

gramme by its deputy chief Pappu Kabir.

In the afternoon, rich tributes were paid to the doyen of Assamese cinema, Rupkomwar Jyoti-prasad Agarwalla and actress in the lead character of the film *Jognati*, Asisika Hanifque. Man Pratim Das, president of the Darrang district branch of Aaideo Talkies lit the lamps before their portraits while cultural activist Sekhar Hazarika offered garlands to their portraits.

The celebration also featured public felicitation to Tulashri Saikia, a veteran theatre artiste and a colourful cultural evening with the participation of local young and guest artists from Guwahati.

Gurujioti Das, while attending the inaugural function of the cultural evening as the chief guest, observed that Assamese culture cannot survive without Assamese films.

Ratna Das, chief of Aaideo Talkies, in his address, gave a brief account of the activities of the organisation and claimed to create 70,000 new viewers of Assamese films through their mobile cinema display campaign over the years. Earlier, Mianur Rahman, a young promising entrepreneur, inaugurated the event.

## 'Flawless dossier will help get Majuli World Heritage Site status'

**STAFF REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, Aug 21:

"For Majuli to get the UNESCO World Heritage Site status, it is imperative to carefully evaluate whether the river island fulfils all the necessary criteria to get a place in the list. A flawless dossier, prepared with the help of technical experts would go a long way in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Majuli."

The Guwahati Association, one of the active associations of UNESCO celebrated the completion of its 20 years with a programme organised at the Don Bosco School, Panbari.

The Guwahati association

also achieved a special consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the UNESCO.

Further to promote Bihu ideology, the Guwahati Association has established UNESCO library corners in 16 locations of the State including the District Library, Gauhati University and the Administrative Staff College, Kharaspur.

Two more such library corners have been established in Shillong and Tura, said Aswini Sarma, Regional Coordinator of the UNESCO Association.

ATDC team visits Bangladesh International Tourism Fair



GUWAHATI, Aug 21: A 16-member team from Bangladesh has confirmed its visit to the State on Saturday next with the objective of promoting and having a mutual understanding of the diverse culture, religion, land and the people of Bangladesh and Assam. This was decided in the Bangladesh International Tourism Fair (BITF), the biggest tourism fair in Bangladesh, in which a delegation of Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) Ltd also took part.

The meet was held from August 10-12. A total of 160 stakeholders of the tourism industry along with delegates representing 15 foreign countries participated in the fair. The fair was inaugurated by the Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism, Bangladesh Resident Khan Meenon. The Vice-Chairman of ATDC Ltd, Navadeep Kalita speaking at the inaugural function gave a glimpse of the myriad tourism destinations of Assam which can turn into a potential tourism hub for the South-East Asian countries as well as for the tourists from all over the world. The delegates who participated in the fair were invited to visit the Assam Tourism Stall to have a detailed discussion/interaction with the Assam Tourism Officials. The team of Assam Tourism comprised Moitye Das and Manas Pratin Thakur, Tourist Information Officers and Hiranta Kumar Saikia, Assistant Tourism Information Officer. The team under the leadership of Navadeep Kalita had discussions with the officials from Bangladesh regarding inflow of tourists to the State. This was stated in a press release.

They also had a three-day discussion with the members

of the Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB) to enable the tourists to have easy access to the State. The president of TOAB, Touqiq Uddin Ahmed raised the issues on restrictions of travel by road especially through Tamabil, Dawki entry points as well as multiple entry and exit points to this part of the country. Kalita and his team apprised the matter to the First Secretary of the Indian Embassy to Bangladesh and

requested him to take appropriate action regarding the matter. The First Secretary assured to look into the issue and taking it on priority basis.

The foreign delegates of different South-East Asian countries like Mauritius, Myanmar, Thailand, Bhutan etc., showed their interest in sending tourists to the State specially to the largest-inhabited riverine island Majuli, the World Heritage Site Kaziranga and Manas National Park, Hajo, Sualkuchi, Madan Kamdev etc. The team will be led by renowned chef Tony Khan and will comprise famous award winning film director and ad guru Amitabh Reza, well-known film actress Rumana Akhtar Mukti. To promote culinary tourism, it was proposed to hold an ethnic Food festival of the local delicacies of Assam and Bangladesh. Amitabh Reza offered to present his award winning film *Aina Bazi* in the food festival. Montaj Begum, Member of Parliament as well as folk singer of Bangladesh proposed to enthrall the crowd during the food festival with melodious songs. Amitabh Reza also expressed his wish to endorse Assam as a promising film tourism destination by shooting at some of the mesmerising places of Awesome Assam as well as shoot at some destinations for commercial advertisements.

Navadeep Kalita expressed his pleasure and informed them that the Government encourages promoting Assam as a potential Film Tourism, Medical Tourism, Cultural Tourism and Educational Tourism destination and assured that it would make all efforts to support the venture.

## Flood relief distributed, free health camp held

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: Apollo Hospitals Guwahati unit: International Hospital conducted a flood relief camp recently along with free health check up at Patidoya village in Morigaon district, a press release received here stated.

## Round Table India team distributes flood relief

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: Round Table India (RTI) distributed flood relief material among 1,200 families in the flood-affected areas of Jorhat and Dibrugarh district yesterday, a press release received here stated.

The Guwahati Round Table 239 (GCRT 239) and Jorhat Round Table 261 (JRT 261) together took up the task once again as in 2016 and distributed relief material worth approximately Rs 15 lakh among the needy. The fund for

approximately 450 patients were screened, including men, women and children and free medicines were distributed.

Apart from this, relief material like food items, bleaching powder, candles, packaged drinking water, mosquito re-



Members of Assam State NREGA Labour Union stage a sit-in demonstration demanding fulfilment of their various demands, in Golaghat on Monday. — UB Photos

## Carcass disposal plant coming up at Dhing

SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, Aug 21: Animal carcass, which is often considered a civic nuisance, could soon emerge as a new source of revenue for Assam!

If things go as per plan, the State Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department would soon link a carcass disposal plant to the flourishing bone-China crockery market in India and across the globe.

Official sources informed that the department is preparing an action plan to link the carcass disposal plant being set up at Dhing in Nagaon district and very soon it would seek expressions of interest from those involved in the bone-China crockery market.

As per an estimate, the work of the carcass disposal plant, a first of its kind initiative, will start functioning by the end of this year.

Sources further stated that animal carcass lying unaddressed

has slowly but surely led to several health and civic issues, which was why the plan was conceived.

"The problem has aggravated largely due to the diminishing population of natural scavengers and an ardent need was felt to find a permanent solution to the issue," sources pointed out, adding that several nodal collection counters could work as collection centres of such animal carcasses.

"The history of bone-China dates back to several decades. It is still a flourishing market both in India and abroad. The department plans to use the carcasses of live stock in a productive manner, which would only benefit us," a source in the department told this reporter.

In the beginning, it was exclusively produced in the United Kingdom. However, later, owing to the increase in demand, many factories were set up in Japan, China, Iran, Bangladesh and even India.

## Health camp at Mayong STAFF REPORTER


**WEATHER  
NORTHEAST**

For North-Eastern States it is typical to rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at many places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura and light to moderate rainfall is also very likely to occur at a large number of Assam & Meghalaya and light rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh.

**Warning:** Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on August 22 and 23.

**Temperatures :**

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	34.3	26.6
Tinsukia	32.9	25.6
Silchar	34.9	24.8
Dhubri	33.4	27.7
Jorhat	35.6	24.8
N Lakhimpur	35.1	25.5
Sibsinghar	34.7	24.4
Imphal	31.8	22.4
Itanagar	35.8	23.7
Aizawl	30.2	12.5
Agartala	34.0	27.0
Kohima	27.7	18.6
Passighat	34.5	26.0
Cherrapunji	25.3	18.8

**Relief distribution begins in Garo Hills**

**CORRESPONDENT**

TURA, Aug 21: Distribution of relief to victims of the recent floods in the plain belt of West Garo Hills (WGH) began today in earnest.

"We had a delay due to floods in Dhubri from where the relief materials were due. However, we have received the relief materials and distribution has already begun," said WGH deputy commissioner, Pravakshi.

The MLAs of the affected constituencies, AT Monda (Phulbari), Ashahel D Shira (Rajabala), Clement Marai (Selsella) and Michael Singma (Tikirkilla) met at Phulbari today to review the situation and take stock of damages.

A total of 19 lakh residents from 140 villages of the four constituencies have been affected by the current deluge. The State Government has provided 14 days of Gratutious Relief (GR) to victims of the flood.

Meanwhile, the water levels in all places have come down and most families are returning to their homes.

**One held for molestation**

**CORRESPONDENT**

DIMAPUR, Aug 21: A 30-year-old man was apprehended at Chekhi village here on charges of molesting and attempting to kidnap, rape and murder a minor girl yesterday. According to police, the incident took place at around 7.30 am when the 13-year-old girl was returning home after attending the Sunday school service.

The accused identified as Tuhota of 5th Mile Model village was apprehended by the villagers and handed over to the police. Police said that the victim's father filed a complaint at Dimapur urban police station against the accused soon after the incident.

The accused identified as one Tuhota had come in a vehicle and allegedly tried to take the girl away while she was returning from Sunday school service. But the girl's cry for help alerted residents during which he got away.

He later returned to the spot with a friend in a bike reportedly looking for his mobile phone and was identified by the girl.

# NORTH EAST

## Modi has transformed India into a fast growing economy: Vardhan



Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan delivering a lecture during "Naya Bharat Manthan" programme in Itanagar on Monday. - UB Photos

ITANAGAR, Aug 21: The NDA Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed India into a fast growing economy of the world within a short period of time, Union Minister Harsh Vardhan claimed here today.

"In order to provide transparency and accountability in governance, the NDA Government at the Centre has so far enacted over 100 laws and reduced corruption which was open during the previous re-

gime," he said while delivering a special lecture on the vision of Modi for a "Naya Bharat Manthan - Sankalp se Siddhi" to celebrate 75 years of Quit India Movement.

Taking a dig at the Congress, the Union Science and Technology Minister alleged that the party is "synonymous" with scams and corruptions like Commonwealth Games, 2G and Coal scam.

"The laws enacted during the Congress regime which en-

couraged corruption were thrown out by the dustbin and the NDA Government enacted more prudent laws to provide accountability and transparency in governance without zero scope for corruption," he said.

Vardhan said, the Prime Minister during his Independence Day speech addressed the people of the country to prepare a vision for a New India in tune with the 75 years of the Quit India Movement started in August 9, 1942, for a developed

ic body election in February this year. The Cabinet further decided to ask the Judicial Inquiry Committee to expedite its inquiry and submit the report at the earliest.

Holding of civic body elections with 33 per cent reservation for women in the State in February last triggered a huge public uproar that forced Chief Minister TR Zeling to vacate his seat. Two youths had died in clashes with police in Dimapur while several others were injured during bandhs called by tribal bodies opposing the ur-

ban local body elections with reservation for women.

Violence erupted in State capital Kohima with those opposing the elections to vandalise the State Election Commission and Deputy Commissioner's office and setting on fire the Kohima Municipal Council building besides damaging other government offices.

The Naga civil societies vehemently opposed the civic body elections with 33 per cent reservation for women contending that it is against Naga customary laws and practices.

The report was made public but it has not happened yet. The people of the State are still in dark regarding who were responsible for the protest on the fatal day of August 23, 2016.

On being asked about the outcome of the 11-day blockade of National Highway and railway at Barnum's Khamthangbari area, the veteran tribal leader said Governor Tatagha Roy had taken up the issue with the Centre. "Let's see what happens to our Twipraland demand", he said.

"The decision to change the venue from Agartala to Khumawang was made in a meeting of party's executive committee held on August 14, he said.

"We wanted to organise the

IPFT to organise rally on Twipraland Diwas

**CORRESPONDENT**

AGARTALA, Aug 21: With the Assembly elections in mind, the indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) has decided to organise a rally at Khumawang in West Tripura district on August 23.

The rally, which would be held by indigenous people, will be held to mark the tenth Twipraland Diwas. Manish Tamang, the convenor of National Federation of New States, Raja Bundela, another leader of

the organisation and secretary of All Bodo Students' Union Promod Bora have been invited to the programme but are yet to confirm their participation, said IPFT president NC Debnam.

The decision to change the

venue from Agartala to

IPFT to organise rally on Twipraland Diwas

**CORRESPONDENT**

ty reason", he said at a press conference at Agartala Press Club here on Monday.

He said there was unrest in the capital concerning IPFT's rally for Twipraland demand on August 23, 2016 leaving several people injured. "The government had organised a Magistrate level inquiry into the incident and the DM had submitted its report on January 12, this year. Unfortunately, the report was not made public yet," he said.

The IPFT leader continued, "It would have been better if

the report was made public but it has not happened yet. The people of the State are still in

dark regarding who were

responsible for the protest on

the fatal day of August 23, 2016."

On being asked about the

outcome of the 11-day

blockade of National Highway and railway at Barnum's Khamthangbari area, the veteran tribal leader said Governor Tatagha Roy had taken up the issue with the Centre. "Let's see what happens to our Twipraland demand", he said.



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma presenting an all-season drumstick sapling to Education Minister Deborah Marak at Songsak of East Garo Hills district in Meghalaya on Monday. - UB Photos

## Mizoram Minister resigns following pressure from NGOs

**CORRESPONDENT**

AIKAWL, Aug 21: Mizoram Minister of State for Fisheries Buddha Chakma today tendered his resignation to Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla, even as Mizoram NGOs Coordination Committee stepped up its demand for his removal from the Council of Ministers.

In his resignation letter, Chakma said that four Chakma students who qualified for MBBS seats under the State quota were denied admission in medical colleges in the country. Two of the students belonged to his

constituency.

Chakma said, State Higher & Technical Education Minister R Romawia's press statement clearly stated that the MBBS quota of Mizoram would be reserved exclusively for Zo ethnic people of Mizoram. "It is clear that he is not giving MBBS seat to any non-Zo ethnic student, which is a clear denial of seats to the four meritorious Chakma students, which is not acceptable to me," he said.

"My presence as the Minister of State in your esteemed Ministry may create uneasiness to maintain the glory of democracy of our State where all

Committees has threatened to launch an agitation for the removal of BD Chakma from the Lal Thanhawla Ministry. An ultimatum to this effect had been submitted to the Chief Minister on July 27.

"We will wait till August 25 and if nothing happens, the Committee will meet again on August 27 to chalk out the next course of action," Lalibzuala, leader of the NGO's Coordination Committee said.

The coordination committee comprises of major civil societies in Mizoram and students' organisations.

The coordination committee al-

### 3 NSCN cadres apprehended CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, Aug 21: Assam Rifles troops on Sunday apprehended two hardcore cadres of NSCN-IM. They also nabbed one cadre and an underground worker (OGW) of NSCN (K), besides busting an NSCN(R) hideout in Arunachal Pradesh, a Press release said.

Stating that the rich culture and heritage of the country was being recognised globally, the Minister said that he should feel fortunate to be a part of a great democracy.

"The life we are enjoying today is because of the supreme sacrifices made by our great leaders for independence," he added.

While lauding the Arunachalees for their Hindu oratory skill, the Union Minister said that the Centre is committed for development of North East with Prime Minister himself taking keen interest with a concrete vision for the region.

"Modi is a unique person who attaches priority to all the regions being neglected earlier and became a symbol of expectations of all Indians," the Minister added.

Vardhan who reached the State capital in the afternoon on a two-day visit to the State, would take part in a cleanliness drive at Rama Krishna Mission Hospital here tomorrow. - PTI

### 3 Bangladeshi arrested in Tripura

BELONIA, (Tripura), Aug 21: Three Bangladeshi nationals were arrested from the Indo-Bangla border at Puerat Rajbari area near here, a police officer said today.

They were arrested by police during patrolling in the international border area at Puerat Rajbari on Saturday last.

They were produced before the Sub-divisional Judicial Magistrate court here.

During the court hearing, one Hossain Miah managed to escape, Officer-in-charge of Belonia police station, Firoz Miah said. SP of South Tripura, Ipler Monchak has ordered an inquiry into the incident. - PTI

**Man from Manipur drowns in Delhi**

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: A 22-year-old man from Manipur today drowned in the lake at the deer park in Hauz Khas, the police said.

The police are probing if it was a case of suicide.

Around 6 am, Horthan, along with two of his friends, had gone to the deer park for morning walk, the police said.

While walking, Horthan suddenly ran towards the lake, they added. His friends told the police that on reaching the lake, Horthan took off his shirt and slipped into it. The two friends called Horthan to the banks of the lake but when they did not get any response, they told the police.

The police and the fire department personnel subsequently arrived at the spot and launched a rescue operation. After about a couple of hours, Horthan's body was fished out of the lake, the police said, adding that it was sent for post-mortem.

Horthan had come to Delhi on July 27 in search of a job. He was staying at his sister's place at Maharan Bagh. The friends of the deceased told the police that they had consumed liquor the previous night and that Horthan might have been under the influence of alcohol. - PTI

leged that BD Chakma had instigated a protest among Chakma community against the construction of Zofate Chawlbuk (a rest house) at Boparansup, a village under Chakma Autonomous District Council in southern Mizoram by Mizoram apex students' body Mizo Zirbul Pawl (MZIP) in 2014. This led to the arrest of many Mizo students' leaders by police without any reason.

It is also alleged that Chakma later played a key role, even though he was a Minister who has taken oath under the Constitution of India, in boycotting elections in Chakma ADC.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2017

### No BB 253/94/199 NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender calling Court fee stamp of Rs. 8/25 only are invited from bonafide Restaurants, eateries of repute for supply of light refreshment as and when called for, to Finance (Budget) department in Assam Secretariat (Civil), Dispur, Guwahati-6. The tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 2 PM on 09-09-2017 and will be opened at 3.30 PM on the same date in presence of the tenders or their authorized agents if they desire to be present. The tenders should be submitted by the tenders themselves. The tenders should be sealed in a cover with the name of the concerned authority. The tenders should contain only relevant documents along with the specification (Superscribed as Technical Bid on the envelope). The other should contain only quoted rates against each of the schedule categories superscribed as Financial Bid. Both envelopes should be sealed separately and put together in a covering envelope superscribed as "Quotation for supply of Light Refreshment".

Deadline for payment of tender money is 09-09-2017. The undersigned reserves the right to reject all or any tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and also does not bind him to accept the lowest rate.

Sd/- Under Secretary to the Govt of Assam, Finance (Budget) Department  
Jananayogi/C/2685/17

No. S(E)/71/2014/163

### ADVERTISEMENT

Online application can be made by the intending eligible candidates who are citizens of India having registration no. in employment exchange in the state of Assam for filling up of the vacancies as indicated below in the cadre of Junior Administrative Assistant in the Assam Secretariat (Now Janata Bhawan) under Assam Secretariat Subordinate Service Rules, 1963 (as amended) in the scale of pay of P.P-2 Rs.14,000-Rs.49,000 p.m + Grade Pay Rs.8700 p.m. plus other allowances as admissible under Rules.

### Vacancies – 174 nos.

#### Reservation of posts :

- 1. UR - 100 Nos.
- 2. ST (P) - 17 Nos.
- 3. ST (H) - 05 Nos.
- 4. SC - 06 Nos.
- 5. OBC/MOBC - 44 Nos.

6. Person with Disability - 02 Nos.

7. Reservation for women - 30%

] In all categories as per

8. Reservation for Ex-servicemen - 2% existing provision.

#### Application Fee :

- 1. For General candidate – Re.250/- (Rupees two hundred fifty) only.
- 2. For SC/T/ST/OBC - Rs.150/- (Rupees one hundred fifty) only.
- 3. Candidates having BPL certificate - Nil

Fee should be deposited only through Treasury Challan in the Head of Account "0770-Other Administrative Services-60-Other Services-800-Other Receipts".

#### Age :

The candidate should not be less than 18 years and more than 45 years of age as on 01.01.2017. The upper age limit is relaxable by 5 years for SC/ST candidates. In case of Ex-servicemen, age limit is relaxable by two years. The age limit of the candidates will be calculated on the basis of the Matriculation/ HSLC Admit Card/Certificate issued by a recognized Board/Council. No other document shall be accepted in lieu thereof for the purpose.

#### Education Qualification :

The applicants must be Graduate in any discipline from a recognized University with minimum 45% marks, 40% for SC/ST candidates in their degree examination.

The candidates must possess a minimum 6 (six) months Diploma/Certificate in computer proficiency from a recognized institution. The candidates should have working knowledge of one productive software tool (independence of any operating system, i.e. MS Windows, Linux, MAC etc.) such as Word Processor, Spread Sheet, presentation graphics, concept of database, internet and email.

The decision of the Secretariat Administration (Est.) Department as to the eligibility or otherwise of a candidate for admission to the examination shall be final.

#### Mode of Selection :

Phase-I: The candidates whose applications are accepted will be required to appear in an objective type written test to be held in the District Head Quarters of Assam on a date to be notified later on. The syllabus of the objective Type Written Test will be as follows :

Sl. No.	Subject	Total Marks
1	General Engineering, General Knowledge and Quantitative Aptitude	150
2	Knowledge of Computer/theory	50
3	Language Skills Test in Assamese/Bengali/ Bodoland / Alternative English	50

**Total 250**

Phase-II: Against each vacancy, three candidates will be shortlisted on the basis of the marks obtained in the written test. After the written test, the short listed candidates will have to appear in Computer Practical and Precise Writing test to be held in the examination hall. Total marks for Computer Practical Test will be 50 Marks and Precise Writing Test will be 50 Marks.

They will have to bring all the original testimonials i.e. Age proof Certificate, Caste Certificate, Educational Qualification Certificate, Computer Proficiency Certificate etc along with Original Treasury Challan document verification.

#### How to Apply :

- All applications are required to apply in prescribed form through online mode only NO OTHER MODE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS ALLOWED.

→ THOSE WHO APPLIED IN 2014 W.R.T. THE ADVERTISEMENT NO.S(E)/71/2014/54, DATED 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2014 MAY ALSO APPLY ONLINE.

→ Instructions for filling up prescribed online form will be available on the website [www.sadassam.gov.in](http://www.sadassam.gov.in).

→ Before applying online, candidates are advised to carefully go through the instructions provided in the above website. Candidates are required to upload a latest passport size photograph, photocopy of the Admit Card/Certificate of H-SLC examination, Graduation Certificate, Scanned Signature, Employment Certificate, Caste Certificate, Case Certificate (in case of reserved category candidates), Disability Certificate (in case of Pwd) issued by competent authority, Discharge Book No. & Date of issue (in respect of Ex-Servicemen) and Original copy of Treasury Challan and copy of BPL Certificate in case of holders of BPL families. No other documents or hand copies of the online application form registration slip etc. are required to be sent to the Secretariat Administration (Est.) Deptt.

→ Since the application are submitted online, the question of submission of applications through proper channel in case of the candidates already employed becomes redundant. However such candidate shall intimate their appropriate appointing authorities about submission of application in writing.

→ The candidates already employed should note that the prerogative for according permission to appear in Written Examination is given by the concerned administrative service being run by the S.E. Department.

→ The candidates who are not in service or not in the S.E. Department shall intimate their appropriate appointing authorities about submission of application in writing.

→ ONLINE FORM MAY BE FILLED-UP W.E.F. 26-08-2017 TO MIDNIGHT OF 24-09-2017 ONLY. NO APPLICATION WILL BE FILLED UP AFTER EXPIRY OF THE GIVEN TIME AS THE LINK WILL BE DISABLED.

CANVASSING DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SHALL DISQUALIFY A CANDIDATE. NO MANUAL APPLICATION FORM WILL BE ACCEPTED.

No TAD/A is admissible for appearing in the Written Test/Computer Practical Test.

Sd/- Ahmed Hussain, IAS,  
Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam  
Secretariat Administration Department  
Jananayogi/C/2725/17

## Govt records Rs 42,000-cr tax collection so far

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: As much as Rs 42,000 crore has already come in as taxes so far in the first monthly filing under the new goods and services tax (GST) regime and the revenues are expected to swell further as the filing cycle closes this later this week.

A senior official said that about Rs 15,000 crore has come in as Integrated-GST, which is levied on inter-state movement of goods, and another Rs 5,000 crore by way of cess on demerit goods like cars and tobacco.

The remaining Rs 22,000 crore has come in as Central GST and State GST, which would be split equally between the Union and state government.

"Tax deposited till this morning was Rs 42,000 crore," the official said.

So far, 10 lakh taxpayers have filed returns and another 20 lakh have logged in and saved return forms.

"We are seeing good compliance and our estimation is that 90-95 per cent of the assesses will file returns and pay taxes," he said.

### CAPSULE

#### Yamaha Fazer 25

MUMBAI, Aug 21: Japanese two-wheeler maker Yamaha today launched its 250cc motorcycle, Fazer 25, priced at Rs 1.28 lakh (ex-showroom Mumbai) in India, which will hit the road next month. India Yamaha Motor aims to achieve 15 per cent sales growth in this fiscal, besides expanding dealership network to 700 outlets, a senior company executive said after the launch. —PTI

#### Bluestar bags orders

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: Home-care major Bluestar today said it has received orders worth over Rs 500 crore from various realty players across the country. The company said it has received an MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) order of Rs 145 crore for Sails Infiniti IT park project in Kochi Smart City. A Rs 160-crore MEP order from My Home Group in Hyderabad was awarded to the company. Bluestar said in a BSE filing. —PTI

#### HCL Infosystems

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: HCL Infosystems today said it will distribute Apple products, including iPhone 7, in the Indian market. The company had said in July that it was in discussions with the US-based giant to distribute its products in India. In a regulatory filing, HCL Infosystems said it has signed an agreement for "distribution of iPhone and other Apple products with Apple India, a confirmation of which it received today." —PTI

#### Honda Motorcycle

CHENNAI, Aug 21: Japanese two-wheeler major Honda, backed by additional capacity at its Bangalore factory, has set aside Rs 500 million in the current fiscal year, an official said today. The country's second largest two-wheeler sold about 50.08 lakh units during the corresponding period last year. Early this month, the company ramped up production at the Narsapura factory in Karnataka by adding 0.6 million units. Honda Motorcycle and Scooter, Senior Vice-President, Sales and Marketing, Avadhivender Singh Guleria said. —PTI

#### TTK Prestige

BENGALURU, Aug 21: Kitchen appliances firm TTK Prestige today announced the launch of its first international brand 'Jupiter' in India.

The new brand, which is part of the TTK Prestige-owned Horwood Homewares, will offer the SEC B and C demographic across tier-3, 4 and 5 cities in India with quality kitchen solutions at lower price points, the company official said. —PTI

#### Dena Bank

MUMBAI, Aug 21: Following its bigger peers state-run Dena Bank also reduced interest rates on savings bank account by 0.5 per cent to 3.50 per cent on balance up to Rs 25 lakh. For deposits above Rs 25 lakh, the interest rates has been left unchanged at 4 percent, the bank said. —PTI

#### Indian Hotels

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: Tata Group hospitality arm Indian Hotels Company today said its board has approved borrowing up to Rs 1,500 crore through a rights issue. Funds are being raised to "meet the company's long-term financing needs for capital expenditure, growth plans and debt repayment", Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) said in a filing to the BSE. —PTI

Under the GST regime, which was implemented from July 1, businesses are expected to file the monthly tax return.

The first month is to be filed by an extended deadline of August 25. The deadline was extended as the tax return filing website snapped just a day before the due date ended on August 20.

GST unifies more than a dozen central and state levies including excise duty, service tax and VAT, and the rate is split equally between the Centre and states.

In July last year, Rs 31,782 crore of excise duty was collected and Rs 19,600 crore of service tax.

Estimate for the combined sales tax or VAT collection by states was available.

While 72 lakh assesses of the old indirect tax regime have migrated to the GST Network portal, nearly 50 lakh have completed the migration process. Besides, of the 15 lakh fresh registrations that have happened, as many as 10 lakh are expected to file returns for July. —PTI

#### First filing under GST



Minister of State for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines (Ind Charge) Piyush Goyal addressing the 8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress, in New Delhi on Monday. —PIB

## Essar Oil completes sale of India assets to Rosneft

MUMBAI, Aug 21: The Ruia-run Essar Oil today announced the completion of its India assets to the Russian government-controlled Rosneft-led consortium for \$1.2 billion.

The deal comes more than 10 months after it was announced on October 15 last year on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Goa. The transaction got delayed after the lenders wanted their debt worth over Rs 45,000 crore to be cleared.

The Essar-Oil-Rosneft deal is the largest foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country till date and also the largest outbound investment from Russia.

The deal includes the Russian company-led consortium, including Oil Bidco and a fund led by Trafigura-UCP.

The deals includes sale of its 20 million tonne refinery at Vadinar

in Gujarat and a captive power plant and captive port as well as over 3,500 petrol pumps.

The company director, Prashant Ruia, said the firm will pay back as much as Rs 70,000 crore to lenders, including SBI, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, IDBI Bank and Stan-

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

"During the first quarter of 2017-18, all companies slowed down to 8.7 per cent in the three months ended June 2017, after registering a growth of 9.5 per cent in the same period year-ago.

Besides, net sales of companies

slowed down to 8.7 per cent in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

## GST pulls down India Inc net by 15.7% in Q1: Report

MUMBAI, Aug 21: India Inc profits dipped by 15.7 per cent to Rs 87,475 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal, largely owing to destocking of goods by companies before execution of GST regime from July 1, said a report today.

According to an analysis of 2,108 companies by credit rating agency Care Ratings, the corporate net profits stood at about Rs 1.04 lakh crore in the first quarter of period of 2016-17.

Besides, net sales of companies slowed down to 8.7 per cent in the three months ended June 2017, after registering a growth of 9.5 per cent in the same period year-ago.

"During the first quarter of 2017-18, all companies slowed down to 8.7 per cent in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

Meanwhile, asserting that only commercial considerations were the sole driving factor behind the \$12.9-billion acquisition of Essar Oil, Rosneft, the new owners of the country's second largest oil refinery, said they have a non-compete pact under which the Ruias will never be able to re-enter the oil refining and retailing sector in

the country.

"The core of the deal the way it ended up is based on commercial valuations. They [new owners] are looking to make commercial returns, they want this to be commercially successful," Tony Fountain, the newly-appointed Chair-

man of Essar Oil told reporters at a separate presser which was held after the Essar Group announced the conclusion

of the deal earlier in the day.

The deal involves a non-compete clause in the agreement, as per which the Ruias will not be able to enter any part of the oil refining and retailing in the country.

Chart, among others.

This will bring down the group's debt by over 60 per cent.

## Google search helps police nab 'Super Burglar'

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: A Google search helped the city police to arrest a burglar, dubbed "Super Burglar" by them, who had committed thefts at the houses of high-profile people including a former MP and several government officials here, police said on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Ishwari Singh said Siddharth Mehrotra was arrested in Pitampura area of west Delhi, where he lived, on August 15 and around 18 cases have been solved with the arrest.

The 27-year-old, who led a lavish lifestyle, owned a Chevrolet Cruze car, a sports bike worth Rs 8 lakh and vacationed in exotic places, police said. He is married with an eight-year-old son.

Policeman also arrested Jitender Yadav, 29, who used to buy stolen articles from Mehrotra and an accomplice, Anurag Singh, 24, who had accompanied Mehrotra multiple times.

According to police, Mehrotra had been committing burglaries in Vasant Kunj area of south Delhi for the past eight months. "Though we had CCTV footage of many of the burglaries, we were not able to identify him," Singh said.

Police then turned to Google-

for help and after 1000 odd searches, a keyword "officer's son arrested" led them to an old media report of the accused being arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police in Noida.

"He used to come well dressed in a Chevrolet Cruze car for all his burglaries.

This triggered our officers' thought process and they came up with the search keyword 'officer's son arrested' and it worked," Singh said.

Once his name was known,

the police looked for his profile on Facebook and found out the registration number of a car he used while vacating in a hill station which led to his arrest.

Police said once the "Super Burglar" spotted a house with no lights turned on, he would ring the doorbell to confirm that there was indeed no one in the house.

"He then used a crow bar to break grills of the window to break into the house," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Chinmay Biswas said.

The Cruze car, a 42-inch TV, a laptop, a Sony Play Station and a Tissot watch were among the many articles recovered from him. During interrogation, Mehrotra said he "selected only politicians, bureaucrats and officers," police said. — IANS

## Is Rs 2,000 cap on cash donation realistic? Panel

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: Will the new electoral bond safeguard privacy of donors and is the Rs 2,000 cap on individual cash donation to political parties realistic? A parliamentary panel

in the source of funding to political parties, the Finance Bill, 2017 proposed to amend the provisions of the Income Tax Act to stop individual cash donation above Rs 2,000.

The Election Commission had been pushing for the Rs-2,000 cap for a long time. A group of former Chief Election Commissioners had recently welcomed the move to put a cap on cash donation to parties, but said the provisions should be made more stringent as parties could still find ways to bypass laws aimed at cleansing the electoral system of black money.

Under the existing provisions, there is no restriction on cash donation received by a political party. However, to avail tax exemption, the political parties are required to submit a report to the Commission furnishing details of contributions above Rs 20,000 from any person. — PTI

## Centre to lay stress on quality education in govt schools

KOCHI, Aug 21: The Centre is working on improving the learning outcome of the government schools in states which have now become the mid-day meal schools as the practice of "aana, khana, jaana" is prevailing there, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said today.

"The primary aim of the Narendra Modi government is to provide quality education to all," he said while launching the Swastha Bachche, Swastha Bharat physical health and fitness programme at Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan at nearby Aluva.

Lamenting that the quality of education in the local government schools has deteriorated in many ways in many states, Javadekar said, "So, now we are trying to improve the quality. We are determined to improve the quality of education in government schools at all levels. Then only the common man gets justice."

The HRD minister, however, said that

education in Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Schools in the country was best in the country.

Splashing out the steps taken by the HRD Ministry to build a healthy system in government schools across the country, he said the government has taken steps to take the "learning outcome"—what students get from schooling—in all schools in the country this year.

In September, all teachers will get a learning handbook which will help them to improve students' competency.

"What the students get from the school...that must be the scoring point," Javadekar said, adding that through the learning outcomes, teachers and parents can understand a student's minimum competency, his/her achievements.

The government wants to make everybody, including teachers, students and parents accountable through the learning outcome, he said.

"Unfortunately in many states, government schools have become mid-day meal schools...aana, khana, jaana". That is how it used to happen, but now things are improving and now we are determined to improve things through this learning outcome," he said.

He said the government has launched an ambitious course Diploma in Elementary Education (DEIE) for teachers to make them the best in their field.

"We have given two year time for doing this course. We have started registration on August 15 and September 15 is the last date for registration," he said.

If a teacher is without DEIE after two years, he will not be continuing in the job, Javadekar said, adding that steps have been taken to provide them training online and offline. After the launch, the Minister also interacted with students at the school and advised them to do a lot of exercise and eat nutritious food. — PTI



President Ram Nath Kovind presenting the President's Colours to Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre and all five battalions on his median two-day visit to the Himalayan region of Ladakh on Monday. — UNI

## President Kovind in Leh, dedicates visit to soldiers

LEH, Aug 21: President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday presented the President's Colours award to the Ladakh Scouts on his first visit outside Delhi after taking charge.

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sovereignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.

"Stationed in one of the most extreme

climatic conditions, your bravery is bigger than your numbers," he said.

"We have pledged to protect the sover-

eignty of our nation in all situations, I am sure we will fulfil this pledge and uphold the pride and honour of the country," he said. — IANS

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

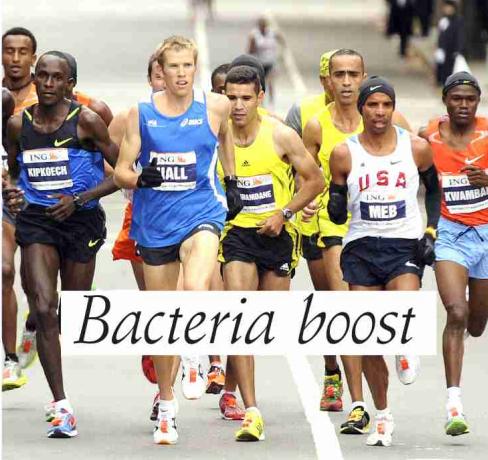
Speaking at the event, also attended by Army chief General Bipin Rawat, the President said his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was dedicated to the armed forces.

"This is my first trip outside Delhi

after taking charge as the President. I chose this beautiful Leh in Jammu and Kashmir for my first visit and I am very happy to be amidst our soldiers."

Being the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, this visit is dedicated to the soldiers, "Kovind told the Scouts in Hindi. Lauding the Ladakh Scouts, the President recalled their bravery in the conflict of 1947-48, the war with

China in 1962, the Pakistan war of 1971 and the Kargil conflict in 1999.



## Bacteria boost

Scientists identify bacteria in digestive tract that may boost athletic performance

**T**apping into the microbiome of runners and rowers, scientists have identified a bacteria that inhabits their digestive tracts and may aid in athletic performance, a finding that can help develop probiotic bacteria for applications in performance recovery.

The results showed that the bacteria that inhabits the digestive tracts of the athletes may help develop probiotic supplements that could help them, and even amateur fitness enthusiasts, recover from a tough workout or more efficiently convert nutrients to energy.

"We are more bacteria than we are human."

The bugs in our gut affect our energy metabolism, making it easier to break down carbohydrates, protein and fibre," said Jonathan Scheiman, post-doctoral student at Harvard Medical School.

"They are also involved in inflammation and neurological functions. So perhaps the microbiome could be relevant for applications in endurance, recovery and maybe even mental toughness," Scheiman added.

For the study, presented at the 254th National Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in Washington, the

team collected fecal samples on a daily basis from 20 athletes training for the 2015 Boston Marathon, to capture how the microbiome changes between performance and recovery.

When they compared the pre-race and post-race samples, the researchers found a sudden spike in the population of one particular type of bacteria after the marathon.

This bug's natural function is to break down lactic acid," Scheiman said.

During intense exercise, the body produces more lactic acid than usual, which can lead to muscle fatigue and soreness. This bacteria could potentially help with that.

The researchers are now feeding the bacteria to mice to measure its effects on lactic acid levels and fatigue.

In another experiment, the researchers compared the bacteria from ultra-marathoners to those found in rowers training for the Olympics.

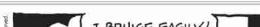
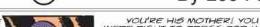
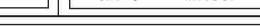
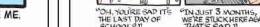
They found a type of bacteria in ultra-marathoners that can help break down carbohydrates and fibre – which is key during a 100-mile run – that was not present in the rowers, suggesting that different sports may foster niche microbiomes. – IANS

### Kids



### Entertainment

### Movies





The US Navy guided-missile destroyer USS John S McCain is seen after a collision, in Singapore waters on Monday. – UNI

## US warship, tanker collide off Singapore, 10 missing

SINGAPORE, Aug 21: A rescue operation is under way for 10 sailors missing after a US destroyer collided with a tanker east of Singapore today, in the second accident involving an American warship in two months.

Guided-missile destroyer USS John S McCain collided with the merchant vessel Alnic MC east of Singapore and near the Straits of Malacca in the early hours, the US Navy said a statement.

"Initial reports indicate John S McCain sustained damage to her port side," it said.

"There are currently 10 sailors missing and five injured... Search and rescue efforts are underway in coordination with local authorities."

"The extent of damage and personnel injuries is being determined. The incident will be investigated."

The navy added that the ship was sail-

ing under its own power and heading to port.

US Senator John McCain tweeted that he and his wife "are keeping America's sailors aboard the USS John S McCain in our prayers tonight – appreciate the work of search & rescue crews".

The rescue operation involves tug boats, a helicopter and a police coast guard vessel, and US aircraft were also responding, the navy said.

The collision was reported at 5:24 am (2124 GMT Sunday) while the ship was heading for a routine port visit in Singapore, it said.

The ship involved in the accident is a Liberian-flagged tanker used for transporting oil and chemicals and weighing over 30,000 tonnes, according to industry website Marine Traffic.

It was the second collision in recent times involving a US warship. – AFP

## B'desh SC clears way for Zia's trial in 2007 graft case

DHAKA, Aug 21:

Bangladesh's Supreme Court today rejected former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's plea to stop the trial proceedings against her in a 2007 corruption case that reportedly caused the exchequer more than USD 120 million.

Zia, 72, has been accused of awarding a contract to Global Agro Trade Pvt Company Ltd (Gatco) for container management at inland depots in Dhaka and Chittagong during her tenure as the prime minister from 2001-2006.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) alleges that the contract was awarded in violation of government rules and



caused a loss of nearly USD 124 million to the country.

The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader had pleaded the Supreme Court to stay the trial in the case in a lower court, but the apex court rejected her appeal.

"Dismissed," pronounced a

four-member bench of the apex court's Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the graft case against Zia, her younger son Arafat Rahman, who died in 2015, and 11 others on September 2, 2007, saying the deal allegedly cost the exchequer over Tk 1,000 crore (USD 124 million).

The two-time former prime minister has said that all the cases against her were politically motivated.

Zia was arrested the same day. A year after her arrest, Zia secured a bail from the High Court. – PTI

## Myanmar for preserving fresh water lake

NAY PYI TAW, Aug 21: Myanmar authorities on Monday called for the preservation of the country's largest fresh water lake Indawgyi lake in Kachin state in order to promote ecotourism.

Indawgyi Lake, which is also the third largest fresh water lake in Southeast Asia, is home to more than 160 bird species including globally threatened rare water birds, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to the Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary, more than 450 bird species, including 20,000 migratory birds, call the lake home between October and April and 20 of those are considered rare or endangered. – IANS



Fireworks explode over Danube river during celebrations of Saint Stephen's Day in Budapest on Sunday. Picture taken with long exposure time. – UNI

## China to run world's fastest bullet train from Sept 21

BEIJING, Aug 21: China will run the world's fastest bullet train between Beijing and Shanghai at 350 km per hour, covering the 1,250-km-long distance in just 4.5 hours from September 21, officials said today.

Currently, it takes six hours to travel from the Chinese capital to the country's business hub.

The new generation bullet train – the Fuxing – will cover the distance (equal to that between Jammu to Bhopal) in 4.5 hours from September 21.

It will be the world's fastest commercially-used bullet train, China Railway Corporation said.

China began running its first 350 km per hour high speed train between Beijing and Tianjin in August 2008 and opened at least three more such high-speed lines nationwide in the following years.

But it reduced the speed between 250 to 300 km per hour after a major accident in July 2011.



Forty people were killed and over 190 injured when two high-speed trains travelling on the Yongtaiwan railway line collided on a viaduct in the suburbs of Wenzhou, Zhejiang province in July 2011.

The Fuxing trains were unveiled in June and are capable to clock top speeds of 400 kmh, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

July 27, the Fuxing trains were tested for safety and reliability at maximum speed, it said.

From September 21, these trains will make seven round trips each day.

The trains are entirely designed and manufactured in China, led by the China Railway Corporation. China holds complete intellectual property rights on the trains.

China has the world's longest high-speed rail network of over 22,000 kilometres, about 60 per cent of the world's total, the report said. – PTI

## INTERNATIONAL

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2017

# 'China won't share hydrological data until India withdraws from Doklam'

BEIJING, Aug 21: China will not share hydrological data with India until it withdraws its troops from Doklam, an expert at a Chinese think-tank has said.

Hu Zhiyong, a research fellow at the Institute of International Relations of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, said China cannot be expected to fulfil its obligation when India has no regards for its neighbour's sovereignty.

China will not agree to carry out normal cooperation on hydrological data with India unless it agrees to withdraw troops from Doklam, the

*Global Times* quoted him as saying.

The two sides have been engaged in a three-month military stand-off at Doklam in the Sikkim section of the India-China border.

"Although China is a responsible country, we can't fulfil our obligations to India when it shows no respect to our sovereignty," Hu said.

India on Friday said China had not shared the water related data so far this year.



"There is an existing mechanism named India-China Expert-Level Mechanism which was started in 2006 to share hydrological data during the flood season for Brahmaputra and Satluj rivers," India's Ministry of External Affairs Spokesper-

son Raveesh Kumar had said.

"Under the MoUs signed in 2013 and 2015, the hydrological data is to be shared between May 15 to October 15 every year, but from May 15 till now, we have no data from China. The last meeting of the mechanism was held in April 2016," he said, but held that linking the sharing of hydrological data with heavy floods in the northeast would be premature.

The upper reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo (the upper stream of the Brahmaputra) are in Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, so

China agreed to share hydrological data with India to help prevent hydrological disasters such as flooding and drought, and carry out cooperation on the development and utilization of hydrological resources, Zhao Gancheng, director of the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, told the *Global Times*.

Zhao said India has always voiced concerns over China's development of the river, and tried to hype these projects "in order to incite their people's anti-China sentiment". – IANS

## RJP-Nepal to contest third phase of local polls

KATHMANDU, Aug 21:

The Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal, a coalition of six Madhesi-based groups who had boycotted the first two phases of the local-level polls, will participate in the final phase next month, according to the chief election commissioner (CEC).

Madhesi parties have long been demanding an amendment to the Constitution promulgated in 2015 to accommodate their main demands: more political representation for the inhabitants of the southern plains and redrawing the provincial boundaries.

They had boycotted the first two phases of the polls – being held for the first time in about two decades – over the demands.

CEC Ayodhi Prasad Yadav told reporters in Janakpur, a centre for cultural tourism about 200 km from Kathmandu, that RJP-Nepal will contest the polls scheduled on September 18 in Province 2, as per the deal reached with the government and their opposition CPN-UML of former prime minister KP Sharma Oli.

RJP-Nepal leader Rajendra Mahato last week, however, indicated the party might contest the third phase, saying the ruling alliance of Nepali Congress and CPN-Maoist Centre have assured them they would endorse the Constitution amendment bill tabled in the parliament. – PTI

The other suspects have been killed by police or detained following last week's attacks in Barcelona and the seaside resort of Cambrils. The ISIS claimed responsibility for the assaults, believed to be its first in Spain.

## Sonic attacks in Cuba hit more US, Canadian envoys

WASHINGTON, Aug 21:

A higher number of US and Canadian diplomats along with their families are believed to have been attacked by a mystery sonic weapon in Havana, Cuba, than initially believed, the media reported.

More than 10 US diplomats and family members have received treatment after months of harassing attacks, which began in November 2016 and stopped earlier this year, US government officials familiar with the matter told CNN on Sunday.

Two US diplomats who were treated in the US suffered long-term injuries in

cluding hearing loss as a result of the attacks and were unable to return to Cuba.

Additional diplomats opted to leave their assignments in Cuba early, as a result of the harassment, the officials said.

In June, five Canadian diplomats reported experiencing symptoms consistent with the attacks, the officials said.

Some of the diplomats were attacked by the mystery weapon late at night in their homes while they were asleep, the officials added.

The sophistication of the attack has led US officials to suspect a third country's involvement, CNN reported. – IANS



## Comedy legend Jerry Lewis dead

LOS ANGELES, Aug 21: Legendary comic artist Jerry Lewis, who was known for his brash slapstick humour, has died at the age of 91.

Lewis's agent confirmed that the actor died at his Las Vegas home at around 9.15 am Sunday morning, reported Variety.

He was one of Hollywood's most entertaining comedians, whose career spanned for more than six decades and he went on to become an auteur filmmaker of comedic classics such as "The Nutty Professor" and "The Bellboy".

Lewis was born as Joseph Levitch on March 16, 1926 in New Jersey's Newark to parents, who were in showbiz. He made his debut at a Borscht Belt hotel singing "Brother, can you spare a dime?" at the age of five.

At 15, he started pantomiming operatic and popular songs and was booked into a burlesque house in Buffalo. In 1942, his comic pantomime gig at Brown's Hotel in up-state New York, where he was also working the summer as a bellboy, made him cross paths with comic Irving Kaye. – PTI

## Barcelona attack fugitive dangerous, warn police

BARCELONA, Aug 21:

Spanish police warned today that the suspected driver of a van that mowed down pedestrians in Barcelona was dangerous and likely armed, as a manhunt for the Moroccan national widened across Europe.

Police in Catalonia launched an appeal for information about the fugitive Younes Abouyaaqoub, 22, believed to be the last remaining member of a 12-man cell.

The other suspects have been killed by police or detained following last week's attacks in Barcelona and the seaside resort of Cambrils. The ISIS claimed responsibility for the assaults, believed to be its first in Spain.

Authorities today raised the death toll of the attacks to 15, confirming that Pau Perez, a 34-year-old man found stabbed dead in a Ford Focus outside Barcelona on Friday, was killed by Abouyaaqoub.

The police had fired at the car as it forced the checkpoint shortly after the Barcelona carnage, and later found Perez stabbed dead in the vehicle.

Investigators believe the victim was the owner of the car, which was hijacked by Abouyaaqoub to make his getaway after the Barcelona assault. – AFP

stop, causing one fatality.

The incident comes as police across Europe search for the driver of a van that mowed down pedestrians in Barcelona last week, killing 13.

Several European cities, including London, Berlin and Stockholm, have been targeted in a wave of attacks by Islamist radicals using vehicles to run down people.

Terrorism experts have warned that the intense media coverage of the attacks could spur copycat attacks by people with mental health problems that include a propensity for violence.

Julen Rovira, mayor of the 11th and 12th districts, told the BFM TV news channel that the victim in the Marseille incident was a woman in her 40s who was waiting alone for a bus.

A police source, who asked not to be identified by name, said the driver was in his mid-30s and was not from Marseille. – AFP

## One dead after van hits people at Marseille bus stop

MARSEILLE, Aug 21:

One person was killed and another seriously injured in the southern French city of Marseille today after a van ploughed into people at two different bus stops, police sources, adding that the suspected driver had been arrested.

Marseille's prosecutor Xavier Tarabeux said that investigators had no "element pointing to a terrorist attack" and that the driver was believed to suffer from "psychiatric" problems.

"He was found with a letter from a psychiatric clinic and we are leaning towards treating it as a mental health case," Tarabeux told AFP.

The vehicle first drove at a bus stop in the city's northern 13th district at around 9.00 AM (1230 IST), leaving one person severely hurt.

The driver then continued onto the eastern 11th district, where he drove at another bus

stop, causing one fatality.

The incident comes as police across Europe search for the driver of a van that mowed down pedestrians in Barcelona last week, killing 13.

Several European cities, including London, Berlin and Stockholm, have been targeted in a wave of attacks by Islamist radicals using vehicles to run down people.

Police sources, who asked not to be identified by name, said the driver was in his mid-30s and was not from Marseille. – AFP

stop, causing one fatality.

The incident comes as police across Europe search for the driver of a van that mowed down pedestrians in Barcelona last week, killing 13.

Several European cities, including London, Berlin and Stockholm, have been targeted in a wave of attacks by Islamist radicals using vehicles to run down people.

## Real Madrid cruise to win at Deportivo la Coruna

MADRID, Aug 21: Real Madrid's winning streak shows no signs of abating as the European champions began their defence of La Liga with a comfortable 3-0 win at Deportivo la Coruna.

Gareth Bale, Casemiro and Toni Kroos were on target for the visitors, but Madrid's night at La Riazor ended on a sour note when captain Sergio Ramos was shown the 23rd red card of his

real career.

Deportivo were left to rue the big chances missed by Florin Andone in the first 10 minutes, whilst the Romanian international also saw a late penalty saved by Keylor Navas.

Real boss Zinedine Zidane made four changes from the side that completed a 5-1 aggregate hammering of Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup

on Wednesday.

Victory in midweek sealed a fifth trophy for Zidane's men in the past four months after lifting La Liga, the Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and Spanish Super Cup.

However, far from their invisible form of late, Real were lucky to escape unpunished from a slow start. Navas flew to his left to turn Andone's first effort from

a narrow angle to safety, but should have been beaten when the forward fired straight at the Costa Rican when clean through moments later.

There was no way back for Deportivo once Madrid took the lead on 20 minutes as Bale pounced on Karim Benzema's scuffed shot to fire into an unguarded net for his first goal of the season. A wonderfully worked team goal followed six minutes later as Real moved the ball all over the pitch before Marcelo's low cross was turned home by Casemiro.

Bale turned provider for Real's third just after the hour mark as Kroos' deflected effort from the edge of the box found the top corner.

Ramos was then lucky to avoid a straight red card when he slapped Fabian Schär.

Andone missed another chance for a consolation when his poorly hit kick was easily turned behind by Navas two minutes from time. However, Real were denied a trouble free night when Ramos was finally dismissed for a second yellow card in stoppage time. - AFP



Toni Kroos (L) of Real Madrid celebrates with Gareth Bale after scoring their team's third goal during the La Liga match against Deportivo la Coruna, on Sunday.

**I'll fight to change colour of medal at World C'ship'**

GLASGOW, Aug 21: Spearheading India's challenge at the World Championships, Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu says she is in good form and vowed to better the colour of her past two bronze medals.



"I think it has been two months since Australia Open, so I got enough time to practice. Form wise, I am perfectly alright, so I hope I can give my best and do well," Sindhu told reporters here.

"I am definitely looking for a medal here and hopefully, better one the bronze this time. I also want to change the colour, so will fight for that," added the 22-year-old from Hyderabad, who got a bye in the first round.

Much before the Olympics high and the titles at 2016 China Open and 2017 India Open, Sindhu had created ripples in the international circuit when she won bronze medals in the 2013 and 2014 editions of World Championships.

Sindhu will open her campaign against either Korea's Kim Hyo Min or Egypt's Hadiya Hosny in the second round.

At the Olympics, Sindhu had lost to Spain's Carolina Marin in the final, but the Indian had her revenge at the India Open final this year in April. - PTI

## International cricket returns to Pakistan with WI, SL tours

KARACHI, Aug 21: International cricket is set for a comeback in strife-torn Pakistan with the West Indies, following in the footsteps of Sri Lanka, agreeing to play T20 matches in Lahore in November.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) today confirmed tours by Sri Lankan and West Indies teams from September onwards besides a series of T20 matches against a World XI side in Lahore.

"My mission statement is to bring back international cricket so that the tour will be subject to the full World XI side in next two to three days," PCB chairman Naimat Sethi told a news conference.

The World XI series has been in discussions ever since the PSL final was held in Lahore in November," said a statement released by the PCB.

This will be the first time in nine years that Pakistan cricket fans will get to witness a season of international

al cricket in their country. No Test nation has toured the country since the 2009 terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team bus.

The statement further added that the tour will be subject to the full World XI side in Lahore.

"The team will be led by Andy Flower as coach and also includes South Africans Hashim Amla, Faf du Plessis, Morne Morkel and Imran Tahir.

Sethi said two Australian players had also confirmed their participation in the World XI side.

"Rest of the players are from West Indies, England, Sri Lanka and New Zealand," he said, adding, "The Indian board had no clear guarantee for any Indian player to be in the World XI side."

Since 2009, only Zimbabwe visited the country in 2015 to play in a limited over series.

Sethi said the return of international cricket to Pakistan was a gradual process. - PTI

be a 15-man squad comprising players from all top Test-playing countries.

The team will be led by Andy Flower as coach and also includes South Africans Hashim Amla, Faf du Plessis, Morne Morkel and Imran Tahir.

"My mission statement is to bring back international cricket so that the tour will be subject to the full World XI side in next two to three days," PCB chairman Naimat Sethi told a news conference.

The World XI series has been in discussions ever since the PSL final was held in Lahore in March this year.

The government has promised presidential-level security for the week-long tour by the World XI side, which will

be a 15-man squad comprising players from all top Test-playing countries.

The team will be led by Andy Flower as coach and also includes South Africans Hashim Amla, Faf du Plessis, Morne Morkel and Imran Tahir.

"My mission statement is to bring back international cricket so that the tour will be subject to the full World XI side in Lahore.

"The team will be led by Andy Flower as coach and also includes South Africans Hashim Amla, Faf du Plessis, Morne Morkel and Imran Tahir.

"Rest of the players are from West Indies, England, Sri Lanka and New Zealand," he said, adding, "The Indian board had no clear guarantee for any Indian player to be in the World XI side."

Since 2009, only Zimbabwe visited the country in 2015 to play in a limited over series.

Sethi said the return of international cricket to Pakistan was a gradual process. - PTI

## Dimitrov downs Kyrgios to win Cincinnati Open

CINCINNATI, Aug 21: Grigor Dimitrov captured his seventh and biggest career title on Sunday, defeating Australia's Nick Kyrgios 6-3, 7-5 to win the ATP Cincinnati Masters and boost his confidence for the US Open.

The 11th-ranked Bulgarian never dropped a set in taking the top prize of \$954,225 and his first Masters title, a perfect stepping stone into the year's last Grand Slam event that begins a week from Monday.

A break in each set was enough for the seventh seed to claim his third title of the year and seventh of his career.

"I'm just happy. There's nothing else I can honestly," the 26-year-old told reporters.

"I'm just happy and I'm humbled to have that trophy in my hands,

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

"I always like this tournament. I have played it quite a few times

and always thought this can be maybe one of the first ones, and it is the first one."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all

