



# The Assam Tribune

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## NEWS CAPSULE

### Danger level

GUWAHATI, June 5: The Barak and Brahmaputra rivers flowing above the danger level at Neasmanghat in Jorhat district, while the Kosi is flowing above its danger level at Kamrup in Nagaon district. The Barak and Koshiyara are also flowing above danger levels at Badarpurhat and Karimganj respectively. — Staff Reporter

### China defence

BEIJING, June 5: China today defended PLA helicopters hovering over Barabati region of Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, saying India and China have a long-standing section of their boundary and the Chinese military carry out regular patrolling in the relevant areas. — PTI

### India stand

NHAI MkIII, June 5: Indian Army's DGMO Lt Gen AK Bhatt today told his Pakistani counterpart that any attempt by the Pakistan military to resort to unprovoked firing along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir and abet infiltrators would be met with "appropriate retaliatory actions". — PTI

### Kashmir issue

NEW DELHI, June 5: India today said Pakistan cannot take Kashmir to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and asserted that the issue must be resolved bilaterally. India wants to settle disputes with Pakistan through dialogue. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said. — PTI

### Warmest winter

NEW DELHI, June 5: The winter in January-February this year in India was the hottest in history, with 2.95 degrees Celsius more than the baseline, said a study by the Centre for Science and Environment, released today. — IANS

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

India scripts history

## Jumbo rocket places GSAT-19 in orbit

SRIHARIKOTA (Andhra Pradesh), June 5: India today scripted history as it successfully launched its most powerful and heaviest geostationary rocket carrying advanced communication satellite GSAT-19 from the commercial launch market.



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientists broke into thunderous applause as the complex mission was declared a success, brightening chances of India increasing its share in the commercial launch market.

GSLV MkIII can orbit payloads or satellites weighing up to 4,000 kg into the GTO and 10,000 kg into Low Earth Orbit.

A beaming ISRO Chairman Dr Kiran Kumar termed it as "a historic day" and said the GSLV MkIII-D-1 has successfully demonstrated its capabilities with the injection of GSAT-19 into the desired orbit.

"It is a great success in the maiden attempt and GSLV MkIII has successfully put in orbit GSAT-19 which is a next generation satellite."

"I wish to congratulate the entire team which has relentlessly worked each day for today's launch from 2002," he said.

President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress President Sonia Gandhi hailed the successful launch of GSLV MkIII-D1 and GSAT-19. — PTI

## CBI searches Pranoy Roy's home

NEW DELHI, June 5: The CBI today carried out searches at the residence of NDTV founder Pranoy Roy for allegedly concealing a share transaction from the SEBI and causing a loss to a private bank, a move

### 'Witch-hunt': NDTV

The CBI has alleged that RPR Holdings had allegedly taken a loan of Rs 500 crore from India Bulls Private Limited to purchase 20 per cent shares of NDTV from the public.

The promoters of NDTV

pledged their entire shareholding in NDTV as a collateral to

RRPR Holdings for this loan, it alleged.

This pledging of shares was not reported to the SEBI, stock exchanges and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, according to the CBI.

Such concealment

was allegedly done as a creation of more than 61 per cent voting capital which was in violation of section 19(2) of the Banking Regulation Act. It should not be more than 30 per cent, the agency said.

An interest waiver of 10 per cent was given by ICICI.

(See page 4)

## Lachit statue installed at Dinjan military base

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, June 5: The Indian Army of the DAO Division today installed a seven-foot-tall statue of the legendary Ahom General Lachit Borphukan at its campus in Dinjan Military Station, in Dibrugarh district, 35 km from here.

The statue made of fibre, was unveiled during a special function by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in the presence of General Officer Commanding of Spear Corps Lt General Arun Chauhan and General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Dao Division Major General Ananta Bhuyan.

The programme was also attended by Dr Alak Buragohain, Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University and Dr Kamal Malla Biju Barua, Vice Chancellor of Assam Agriculture University, Dibrugarh MP Rameswar Teli and Lakhimpur MP Pradip Barua, besides MLAs from Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.

Major General Ananta Bhuyan said the objective behind the installation of the statue was to highlight the contribution of the legend in protecting the country among the youths of the State. "The new generation must know that Bir Lachit Borphukan defeated his enemy at the battle of Saraighat using tac-

## Police summons 19 ACS, APS officers

STAFF REPORTER

tigating team.

The officers have been summoned based on statements given by arrested APSC assistant controller of examinations Pabitra Kabaria and forensic tests of answer scripts conducted by the investigators.

Police have so far arrested

Paul himself, a fact that has been corroborated by forensic experts.

Some of the answer scripts were not printed in the Government Press and instead were reprinted in the printing press owned by Rakesh Paul's brother Rajesh Paul, who is still absconding.

Three ACS officers were arrested last month in connection with the case. More officers, who allegedly got jobs in lieu of cash, are also under scanner, police said.

It may be mentioned that the cash-for-job scam involving the APSC has created a widespread sensation in the State. While the main kingpin of the scam Rakesh Paul, the disgraced former APSC chairman, is behind the bars, it is expected that more arrests will be made in this regard.

## 4 terrorists killed

## Attack on CRPF camp in J-K foiled

SRINAGAR, June 5: Four heavily armed terrorists

tried to storm a CRPF camp in a pre-dawn 'suicide' attack in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir, but were killed in retaliatory fire by security forces.

The terrorists attempted to enter the camp of the CRPF's 45th battalion at Sumbal in Bandipora at around 4.10 am by opening fire at the sentry post, a police official said.

The terrorist fire was repelled by the guards while reinforcement from Jammu and Kashmir Police was rushed to the scene of gun-

battle, he said.

"Four terrorists were killed in the retaliatory fire and the suicide attack was foiled," the official said.

He said four AK rifles, one underbarrel grenade launcher (UBGL) and substantial quantity of ammunition were recovered from the slain militants.

In Delhi, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said the terrorists had intended a prolonged siege since they were carrying dry ration that could have lasted several days.

Giving the details of the incident, he said the terrorists, who were prepared to carry out a 'Babaeen' (suicide) attack, were carrying automatic rifles, grenades and incendiary material such as petrol and had intended a prolonged siege to cause extensive damage, he said in a statement.

The Home Minister said the terrorists attempted to enter the camp by cutting the wire fencing and started fire at the sentry post. — PTI

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## APSC scam

## Police summons 19 ACS, APS officers

STAFF REPORTER

Chargesheet in Silapathar case filed  
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 5: Dhemaji police has filed the chargesheet in connection with the Silapathar incident in which the local office of the All Assam Students Union (AASU) was attacked and provocative statements were made, naming all the 55 arrested persons as accused.

The chargesheet was filed with the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Dhemaji on June 3. Among those who have been named in the chargesheet include Nikhil Bharat Bangali Udbastu Samannay Samiti president Subodh Biswas and his close aide Subhash Biswas.

Several sections, including non-bailable sections of the Indian Penal Code like 153A, 353 and 307 and Section 3 of the Damage to Public Property Act besides Section 25 of the Arms Act have been attributed to the case.

Meanwhile, following stiff opposition from special public prosecutor Bijon Kumar Majahani, the Gauhati High Court today rejected the bail petition of Dilip Debnath, an accused in the Silapathar incident.

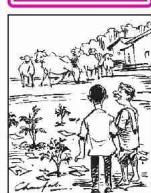
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## JOCOSERIOUS



Perhaps it comes to their notice that the environment day was observed here!



## Sonia congratulates ISRO on GSLV launch

NEW DELHI, June 5: Congress president Sonia Gandhi today congratulated the ISRO for the successful launch of GSLV MKIII-D1, saying it was another significant achievement which has made the nation proud.

In a message, Gandhi said the ISRO had kept up the tradition of excellence in space sciences.

Congratulating ISRO chairman AS Kiran Kumar, she said his team has made the nation proud once again today. - PTI

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### SPOT ADMISSION GOING ON

Prof Umesh Chandra Sarma, retired Professor of Guwahati Commerce College is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of H.S. Commerce Management.

# NATIONAL 24 charred to death, 14 suffer burns as bus catches fire

BAREILLY (UP), June 5: At least 24 passengers were charred to death and 14 suffered burns when a State-run bus burst into flames after crashing into a lorry on the national highway here early today.

The Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation bus, carrying 41 passengers from Delhi, was on its way to Gonda in eastern Uttar Pradesh when the accident took place near Bada bypass on NH 24, over 250 km from the national capital.

The bodies were so badly charred that doctors found it difficult to determine the gender of the victims. DNA tests would be conducted to identify the victims.

The death toll has risen to

24. Besides, 14 others are suffering from serious burns injuries," senior Uttar Pradesh Minister Rajesh Agarwal told reporters here.

Initially the number of those injured was placed at 15, but the name of one more passenger was added to the list taking the number to 16, of whom two died during treatment.

Three passengers escaped with minor injuries.

Senior Superintendent of Police Jagendra Kumar said, "The accident involving a bus of UPSRTC and a truck occurred between 1.00 am and 1.30 am," he said.

Kumar said six critically injured passengers have been hospitalised. According to eyewitnesses, the diesel tank of the bus burst after the collision which led to the fire.

"Around 5.45 am, we received 22 bodies from the ac-

cident site. The bodies are charred beyond recognition. It is difficult to even determine the gender of the people," said Dr Shailesh Ranjan of the Bareilly district hospital.

The number of male and female passengers who died in the accident would be clear only after the post-mortem, Chief Medical Officer, Bareilly, Dr Vijay Yadav, said.

Agarwal, who flew in here from Lucknow in a helicopter on the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to supervise relief operations, said, "A DNA test will be performed on all bodies."

He was accompanied by two of his ministerial colleagues Swatantray Singh and Brishesh Pathak.

The driver of the bus is also among the deceased, while the conductor received serious injuries.

The driver of the truck (UP- 25 BT-5337), which was coming from Shahjahanpur, was later arrested.

"The truck driver Saqeeb has been arrested. The truck has been impounded and legal proceedings are under way," UP Police spokesperson said in Lucknow, adding a case has been registered under various sections of IPC.

"The truck and the bus both caught fire after the collision. Fire engines reached as soon as possible but the flames were so high that it took us a lot of effort to actually douse the flames and reach inside," said senior police officer SK Bhagat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condole the loss of lives and sanctioned Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of those killed. He also announced Rs 50,000 for each of those injured. - PTI

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World Anchor: White Ring Woods

W

## 3 London attack ultras identified: May

LONDON, June 5: British Prime Minister Theresa May today said the three terrorists responsible for the London attack have been identified and their names would be revealed soon, even as police conducted fresh raids in two more places.

All seven men and five women aged between 19 and 60 were arrested under the Terrorist Act in Barking yesterday.

A 55-year-old man was later released without charge.

"All the three terrorists responsible for the Saturday night's terror attack at London Bridge have been identified and their names will be released by police as soon as operationally possible."

"May said, answering questions after her address at the Royal United Services Institute.

According to the Scotland Yard, one of the terrorists carried Indian identity card.

Seven people died and 48 others injured, 21 of them seriously, in the terror attack, the police said.

"A number of people have been detained," police said in a statement after two early morning raids in east London.

London police chief Cressida Dick told BBC TV that they have seized "a huge amount of forensic material" after going through the van used in the attack "very carefully".

"A very high priority for us is to try to understand whether they were working with anybody else," she said.

The first victim of the attack has been named as Canadian national Christine Archibald who worked in a homeless shelter until she moved to Europe to be with her fiance. - PTI

## Police kill hostage-taker in Australia, free woman

MELBOURNE, June 5: A possible terror incident today left two men dead and three Australian police officers and a woman hostage injured in an apartment building here.

Police stormed the building and shot the gunman dead after discovering the body of another man in the foyer in the service apartment in Brighton, 11 km southeast of

Melbourne's central business district.

The Seven Network reported that the gunman called the organisation saying: "This is for IS (Islamic State)." This is for al-Qaeda."

Victoria Police said it was investigating whether the incident was "terrorism related".

According to reports, the police operation was launched at the Bay Street apartment in Brighton following reports of an explosion at 4 pm (local time).

A woman was held hostage by a suspect who was later shot dead by police in a volley of gunfire in the apartment block.

"A man has been shot dead by police in the Bay Street

apartment complex shortly before 6.00 pm (local time). Police have safely rescued a woman who was being held against her will in the apartment block," the police said.

Dozens of gunshots rang out just after 6 pm in Bay Street with crowds of people fleeing and taking refuge in a nearby supermarket.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017

said police had not yet identified either of the dead men. The woman was injured, but her injuries are believed to be non-critical.

The siege has now ended but a major police presence, including specialist tactical officers, remains at the scene.

The motive behind the incident is not yet clear, report said. - PTI

## Beijing slams US, Japan's remarks on S China Sea

BEIJING, June 5: China has blamed the "irresponsible remarks" made by top US and Japanese officials on the South China Sea in accordance with international law.

China's construction projects on the Nansha Islands are aimed at improving working and living conditions of staff there while better fulfilling its international obligations, Hua said.

The situation in the South China Sea has improved and shown positive development momentum, the spokesperson said, citing the success of the first meeting of the China-Philippines bilateral consultation mechanism, and the agreement between Beijing and ASEAN

countries on the framework for the Code of Conduct in the disputed region.

"China is firmly determined to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights," Hua said, adding that the country's patrol and law-enforcement activities will continue.

Talking about the Taiwan issue, Hua stressed China's position has been "clear and coherent".

China urged the US to stop selling arms to Taiwan and terminate any official exchanges so as to guarantee the development of bilateral relations. - IANS

## Myanmar police arrest scribes over satirical story

YANGON (Myanmar), June 5: Police in Myanmar have arrested a newspaper's chief editor and a columnist for allegedly defaming the military by publishing an article mocking its role in the country's efforts to reach a peace agreement with fractious minority groups.

A lawyer for The Voice Daily editor Kyaw Min Swe said to-day that the two were not released after being called in for questioning on Friday over a lawsuit filed by the military under the country's Telecommunications Law.

A broady defined offence under the law sets a prison term of up to three years for material judged defamatory that is transmitted over any telecommunications network, including online. Free speech advocates have criticised the law.

The lawyer, Khin Maung Myint, said the trial of the editor and columnist Ko Ko Maung would begin on Thursday. - AP

## NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. SIDC/CD/FP/PSI/1805/2013-14/2943 Date: 05-06-2017

ASIDC Ltd., Bamunimaidam, Guwahati - 21 invites bids (in single bid system) from reputed and financially sound parties for operation and maintenance of a 2500 MT Atmospheric Cold Storage with a warehouse (floor area of 478.8 m<sup>2</sup>) at Food Processing Park, Chayagon in Kamrup (R) District on lease basis. Last date for submission of bids is 07-07-2017 up to 2.00 PM.

For details, kindly visit website <http://assamsidc.com> Parties like to submit offline may collect details of the bid from the office of the undersigned by paying Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred) only during office hours from 7-06-2017 to 07-07-2017 (upto 2.00 PM)

Sd/- Managing Director  
ASIDC Ltd.  
Janasanayog/620/17

## NOTICE

In continuation of this office notification vide No. EAA/SIU/110/2017/68 dated 31st, May, 2017, it is for information of all concerned that the Provisional Select List of Assistant Teacher of LP Schools will be published against DEE, Assam advertisement No. EAA/SIU/110/2017/25 Dated 30/03/2017 and Provisional Select List of Assistant Teacher, Science Teacher, Hindi Teacher and Arabic Teacher of UP Schools will be published against DEE, Assam advertisement No. EAA/SIU/110/2017/31 Dated 30/03/2017 in respect of following districts in the evening of the 6th June, 2017 in the website: [www.ipupteachers.com](http://www.ipupteachers.com):

1. Barpeta, 2. Darrang, 3. Jorhat, 4. Kamrup 5. Sivasagar  
The candidates who have applied for the regular vacant post of teacher in LP and UP Schools are requested to go through the website for their result.

Any specific query in respect of the Provisional Select List shall only be submitted through the website [www.ipupteachers.com](http://www.ipupteachers.com) only within 2 days from the date of publication of the Provisional Select List. After this period no query will be accepted.

Under no circumstances offline query will be accepted in this regard.

Sd/- Director,  
Elementary Education, Assam  
Janasanayog/3007/17  
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19 .

## NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

### ALPURDAR JUNCTION DIVISION

CMS/APRD's Notice No. Nef/lns/04 of 05-06-2017 Dated: 31-05-17

Chef Medical Superintendent N F Railway Alipurduar Jn. For and on behalf of President of India invites application for Engagement of Specialists Doctor at Divisional Railway Hospital Alipurduar Junction as Honorary Visiting Specialist (HVS) for the following specialties.

1 Name of Visiting Specialists  
• Obstetrician & Gynaecologist-1 (one)  
• Orthopaedic Surgeon-1 (one)  
• Orthopaedic Surgeon-1 (one)  
• Pediatrician-1 (one)  
• Psychiatrist-1 (one)

2 Commencement date of received application  
10-06-2017 from 10:00 Hrs.

3 Last date and Time of submission of Application  
10-07-2017 up to 12:00 Hrs.

4 Validity  
The application are invited for one (1) year, which may be extended by Railways if found suitable.

5 Age limit  
First time engagement is 30 yrs to 64 yrs.

6. Qualification and Experience: Super Specialist- Minimum Qualification will be post Doctoral qualification DMMCH or equivalent.

1. Specialist with Graduate degree in a recognized University, Minimum 20years experience in the professional work related to concerned Specialty after obtaining P.G. Degree.

2. Where suitable candidate with PG degree are not available, PG Diploma holders with 5 years experience in the professional work related to concerned Specialty after obtaining PG Diploma.

3. Age Profile: The preferred age is 30 years to 64 years. Upper age limit of continued is 65 years.

8. Tenure of working: Each time the offer is given, it is to be given for one (1) year only.

8. After Expiry of one (1) year extension can be given.

9. Honorarium to be paid as per following manner:

Hours of duty Specialist Super Specialist

2 Hours every day for 6 days /Week ₹22,000/-P.M ₹40,000/-P.M

2 Hours every day for 4 days /Week ₹20,000/-P.M ₹25,000/-P.M

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9. In addition they will have to come to hospital whenever called for emergency on any day, including Sunday and off day (for 4 days & 2 days) and will be entitled to pay the same as per the rate.

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10.1 The complimentary Railway Pass can be availed after 3 (three) months of engagement for the calendar year.

11. Daily rate of Deduction of remuneration:

They have allowed having 12 days leave every year. For any absence beyond 12 days leave will be deducted as per the following rate:

Number of Hours/Day/Week Specialist Super Specialist

2 Hours a day for 6 Days /Week ₹1360/-Per day ₹1700/-Per day

2 Hours a day for 4 Days /Week ₹1250/-Per day ₹1583/-Per day

2 Hours a day for 2 Days /Week ₹1250/-Per day ₹1583/-Per day

12. Termination of Contract: The contract may be terminated at any time, on one month notice on either side. The Administration reserves the right not to assign any reason for such termination.

13. Application for the above post with details will be obtained from the Office of the Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital Alipurduar Jn. N F Railway, PO Alipurduar Jn. Dist. Alipurduar, 736123 during office working hours on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Holiday w.e.f.10-06-17 from 10.00 Hrs. to 10-07-17 up to 12:00 hrs.

14. The detail document will also be available on North East Frontier Railway Website [www.nerfrailways.gov.in](http://www.nerfrailways.gov.in) during the above mentioned period and the same can be obtained by sending a fax or e-mail as document for submitting the offer. This facility is available free of cost.

15. Interested specialist may apply to Chief Medical Superintendent N F Railway Alipurduar Jn, 736123 indicating the Adv No. on the envelope.

The plain paper application should accompany by self attested copies of all relevant documents like age, identification, address, degree/diploma certificate, proof of permanent residence, passport size recent photograph. The envelope for application should be superscribed with Adv No. and also "Honorary Visiting Specialist of DRH/APDJ".

16. The railway administration will not be responsible for any delay/difficulties incurred in sending the application to the concerned facility/postal delays for any reason whatsoever if sent by post.

Chief Medical Superintendent, N.F. Railway, Alipurduar Jn.

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## Assam State Warehousing Corporation (A Govt. of Assam Undertaking)

### CHIEF ENGINEER REQUIRED

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Sl. No.	Category	Qualification and Experience	No. of post	Remuneration
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Mode of Employment: Purely on contractual basis

Last date of submission of application: 19-06-2017

Interested persons may offer their candidature/ willingness to the Managing Director, Assam State Warehousing Corporation, Amarpara Path, Christie Basti, Dispur, Guwahati-5. Janasanayog/459/17

Sd/- Managing Director

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

I am an employee of N.F. Ry. Medical Department. I have corrected my name from Demudu to Koli Demudu by affidavit before the Notary Public Kamrup (Metro) at Guwahati on 25.05.17. PN/P/11408/1

Bidyut Kr. Bora have to correct my father's name from Sachindra Bora to Shashindra Bora in my academic certificates and Elector Photo Identity Card CTII0164285 by an affidavit sworn Notary Public at Morigaon (29.05.17). PN/P/11410/1

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P.O.-Gopakaram, P. No-785334  
Dist-Dhubri, Assam  
CD/TN/P/11403/1



## Fire at city schools

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 5: Incidents of fire were reported at two educational institutions in the city late last night.

Miscreants burnt down two notice boards of Sonaram Higher Secondary School located adjacent to the Bhalumukh police station. The incident took place between 3 and 4 am on Monday.

Police suspect it could be a handwork of students who were unsuccessful in the recently held Board exams.

Another fire was reported at the Rashtreeya Bhava Shantiniketan Higher Secondary School located in the Railways Colony area of Barunimaidam. The damaged infrastructure and documents inside the Principal's room. It is suspected that drug peddlers were behind the incident as the institution had been vocal against them.

### OBITUARY

#### Utpal Kakoti

GUWAHATI, June 5: Utpal Kakoti (Poly), a resident of Oakland, Shillong, son of noted Assamese cine actress of yester year Jnanada Kakoti, died at Dispur Hospital here this morning. He was 64.

He leaves behind his mother and elder sister.

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HS 1st Yr (Sc & Arts)	13-06-2017	16-06-2017
B.Sc 1st Semester	13-06-2017	20-06-2017
B.A 1st Semester	13-06-2017	23-06-2017
B.Voc / BBA/BCA 1st Semester	13-06-2017	28-06-2017
M.Sc. in Biophysics	Forms will be issued 7 days after declaration of B.Sc. 6th Semester Examination (GU) results.	
• Application form for admission can be accessed from the College website ( <a href="http://www.pubkamrupcollege.co.in">www.pubkamrupcollege.co.in</a> ) by clicking on the "Online Application Form" link.		
• Online fee payment of Rs. 200/- for application can be made through BHIM App/ ATM-cum-Debit Card/ Credit Card or Net Banking.		
• Online application forms are available from 04/06/2017 (Sunday).		
• Candidates facing any difficulty in online submission may contact the college office during work hours in Ph. No. : 98649-38915, 98640-57202, 70022-59276		
• Admission will be strictly on the basis of merit.		

Sd/- Principal  
Pub Kamrup College.

## Events aimed at biodiversity conservation organised

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day, various organisations, institutions and offices today organised colourful events aimed at biodiversity conservation and raising people's awareness about the need to protect Mother Earth.

The Day was celebrated at NFR Railway headquarters with NFR General Manager Chahat Ram, along with other senior officers, planting saplings at the Railway Central Hospital, Maligaon. The GM and the officials visited the railway colony and laid stress on cleanliness as part of the 'Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat' mission of the Indian Railways.

A seminar was held at the NFR headquarters where discussions were held about using energy-efficient locomotives and use of bio-diesel for running locomotives.

### CSR activities in State

## Corporate houses lagging behind

STAFF REPORTER

pation for strengthening the child welfare and child education mechanism in the Northeast, Priyank Kanangoi, Member (Education) of the NCPCR, said that of Rs 11,000 crore spent on CSR in 2015 by top companies, the NE received a negligible share whereas Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, having manufacturing units of the corporate houses, had the highest CSR funding.

"Other studies by non-governmental bodies like NGO Box and Confederation of Indian Industries in 2015 and 2016 respectively also suggest that NE is lagging far behind in terms of fetching CSR," he added.

The convention was organized to sensitize the corporate houses about the scope and necessity of more CSR funding in the field of child welfare in NE and to create a roadmap for the same with the help of government agencies as well as the NGOs.

### Discussion on poetry

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Kamrup (Metro) district administration, in association with Help Earth, an NGO, launched the Green Home Awards aimed at promoting green homes in Guwahati and sensitize its citizens on the need to protect and preserve the natural environment.

Under the initiative, private households, apartments, government schools, offices and NGOs will have to register themselves with the website [greenhomeguwahati.com](http://greenhomeguwahati.com) and fill up a questionnaire.

Writer and critic Pradip Acharya will conduct the proceedings, which will be attended by Arindam Barkataki, Dr Pranjal Sarma Basistha, Neelima Kumar, Dr M Kamaluddin Ahmed, Kushal Dutta, Dr Nilima Thakurua Haque, Dr Kamal Kumar Tantri, Bijoy Sankar Barman, Saubhagy Saitia, Pranab Kumar Barman and Madan Haloi, a press release stated.

"There will be a survey of the property by our volunteers and a preliminary screening of the entries by a panel of experts. Five top houses will be selected from all entries and the houses will be open for public voting," Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamuthu said while launching

the award at a meeting held at Umananda Temple campus to mark the World Environment Day.

Earlier in the morning, Dr Angamuthu, with the help of journalists of print and electronic media and with some senior citizens planted 200 saplings on the Umananda Temple premises. He also formally opened a scientific preservation programme of the endangered golden langur in the same place in association with Help Earth.

The district administration has undertaken massive plantation drives in various parts of the district. Steps have been taken in collaboration with the forest department.

"There will be a survey of the property by our volunteers and a preliminary screening of the entries by a panel of experts. Five top houses will be selected from all entries and the houses will be open for public voting," Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamuthu said while launching

the award at a meeting held at Umananda Temple campus to mark the World Environment Day.

"The concerned departments have been requested to prepare their action plan and submit the plan before June 10 to Pulak Mahanta, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metro. Besides, all the concerned departments are to submit their respective SOPs to Kshitiash Chandra Pegu, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup Metro, within June 10 for proper compilation of an Ambubachi Master Plan," said an official.

At least five sheds are to be constructed from the foothill up to the Kamakhya Temple for the benefit of the pilgrims.

"All the concerned departments have been requested to complete the camps before June 18. The camp at the Sonaram field will be declared as a cultural venue where the inaugural ceremony of the Mela will be held," said the official.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metro Dr M Angamuthu has directed operationalization of a control room which is intended to coordinate between the different departments including the district administration, Health, Police, Tourism, Food Safety department and SDRF.

"The DC has directed all the concerned people not to distribute any food items on the roadside, except drinking water. He has also directed that the food items be served only at the designated camps for the purpose. Guwahati Municipal Corporation is to place adequate numbers of dustbins along with a team of sweepers at every 100-metre distance along the road starting from Bharalumukh to the Kamakhya temple," said the official.

Later, in the afternoon, a bulk tree plantation programme was arranged at Balaji Temple, Gorakhpur, where more than 100 new tree saplings were planted by PVSNL Murthy, Chief General Manager, and senior managers and other government officials.

Murthy said such bulk plantations should not be confined only to this day. Every citizen of the country should plant a tree in a month to protect the earth.

Aaranyak, a society for biodiversity conservation, celebrated the Day across Assam with various events. The programme included audio-visual awareness talk, environmental games, awareness on loss of Nature and natural resources due to negative behaviour of human being, etc.

In the city, a programme was held at Montfort School where Jayanta Kumar Pathak of Aaranyak conducted an interactive session and presentation on the importance of environment protection. About 2,200 students and 68 teachers attended the event. A plantation programme was also conducted within the school campus by Aaranyak members.

Voice of Environment (VOE) organised a workshop-cum-interactive session that saw participation of over 300 students at the Panbari Girls' HS School, Guwahati. The programme began with the adoption of a sapling by Principal Arati Dasnami Borah.

The interactive session was coordinated by Apala Sarma, a teacher. Dr Queen Sarma, senior member of VOE, gave the introductory speech. A questionnaire consisting of 15 questions related to the environment was distributed among the students to evaluate their knowledge and understanding about the environment. A pledge was conducted by the team VOE for protecting the environment, upgrading environment education, and 'saying no to plastic.'

The occasion was also observed by North East Wetland, an NGO, with a plantation drive at the office of the Chief Engineer, PWD (National Highways). A cleanliness drive was also conducted in the campus.

AsACE India, while observing the Day implored the citizens of Narengi and Satgaon to take forward the theme 'Connecting People to Nature' to protect and save Planet Earth. The event was marked by an awareness rally and planting and distribution of saplings. Addressing on the occasion in the LG Tower premises at Narengi, chief guest Archana Goswami, president of 'Matri', urged the gathering to protect the environment by planting trees and preventing deforestation.

### Winter seed production initiative

GUWAHATI, June 5: The Assam State Seed Certification Agency has taken up winter paddy seed production through Seed Village Programme 2016-17, revalidated for 2017-18, covering 4,920 hectares in 123 villages of 18 districts with a view to giving benefit to the farming community. Officials said a total of 952 quintals of Swarna sub-1, Naveen and Ranji Foundation seeds from government share have been supplied as crop calendar. The agency has organized training-cum-distribution and the operation will be completed by June 10. — Staff Reporter

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● The Admission Forms and Prospectus may be obtained from the College Office from 30-05-2017 onwards between 10.00 AM to 4.30 PM.

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## MESSAGE FOR TODAY

The more reasons you have for achieving your goal, the more determined you will become.

— BRIAN TRACY

## The Assam Tribune

### No end in sight

Various nations across the world have been witnessing terrorist assaults by home-grown militants using unsophisticated means. Britain itself has borne the brunt of three such assaults within three months, though the bomber in Manchester, Salman Abedi, did seem to have had Libyan connections and outside help. However, the earlier Westminster attack, as well as the latest one in London, in which seven persons have been killed and 48 injured, had been carried out by brainwashed psychopaths with no access to sophisticated techniques and who thus had to use low-tech means. Ever since the tragedy in July last year at Nice in France, where an Islamic fanatic had run a truck over innocent people celebrating Bastille Day, such a satanic, copycat method has been employed to slaughter innocents in other parts of the world. Moreover, while most of the terror-related incidents in the US involved the use of firearms because of their easy availability, in the UK and Europe, which have stricter gun regulations, the killers had to use, as in Bangladesh, knives to kill people. The unplanned, almost random and spontaneous nature of such attacks makes it so difficult for the law-enforcing agencies to foresee their occurrence and take measures to forestall them. Ironically, assaults using unsophisticated means are the offshoot of the success of intelligence agencies at detecting more sophisticated devices and foiling a large number of potentially deadly terrorist assaults.

While preventive actions based on intelligence assist in checking attacks of more lethal nature and jihadists from abroad can be monitored and planned assaults neutralized, it is almost impossible to stop home-grown terrorists who are not under the scanner. As acknowledged by the chief of Scotland Yard, terrorism has so stretched the inadequate resources of security agencies that they cannot constantly monitor each and every potential perpetrator. The phenomenon of remote radicalization is attacking at the very root of democratic societies by making imperative putting in place measures to curb freedom of speech and free thinking. The social network has emerged as the most potent weapon in the hands of a terror-outfit like the Islamic State which can use the reach it commands to preach messages of hatred and radicalize vulnerable individuals thousands of miles away. The obvious and pragmatic action in such a situation is to place restrictions on freedom of speech, liberal thinking and hold the social media enablers accountable for how it is being used – anathema to those who cherish democratic values! It may be noted that more authoritarian regimes such as China have been singularly successful in tackling home-grown terror precisely because of restrictions imposed on the social media. However unpalatable it might be to societies which cherish democratic norms, greater restrictions need to be placed on the social media or else there would be no end to home-grown terror.

### Environment Day

Indians are generally given more to making ritualistic celebrations of important occasions than using the significance of the occasion to put together something lasting or meaningful. The manner in which we reduce the observance of a significant occasion like the World Environment Day to rituals and rhetoric would testify to this hollow, purposeless agenda. Every year plantations are done across the State to mark the occasion but thanks to the absence of any follow-up, the upkeep of the saplings is largely neglected and very few of the saplings actually grow into trees. Given that deforestation is the biggest environmental concern today, it is baffling why we cannot use the World Environment Day to do some lasting plantation, especially in areas that are in urgent need of green cover. A huge number of trees were cut down a decade back for construction of the four-lane highway but the roadsides still remain bereft of shade-providing trees. Similarly, the hills of Guwahati are increasingly losing their greenery, and no afforestation drive is visible even as we bemoan rising mercury levels in the city. The Forest Department apart, NGOs that profess to uphold the cause of the natural environment can do a lot in this regard only if they want to. Unfortunately, a concerted effort towards building a green State is conspicuous by its absence. The water bodies of the city, including wetlands such as Deepor Beel, Silsila Beel, etc., have been reduced to shadows of their former selves in the face of mounting anthropogenic pressures but the government authorities mandated with their protection simply choose to look the other way.

All over the State, our natural environment continues to deteriorate at an unprecedented pace, with deforestation, encroachment and illegal logging denuding vast expanses of forests, including prime wildlife habitats. While we had been lucky in being blessed with nature's bounty, the management of such an invaluable asset has been appalling, to say the least. The obvious pressures from an exploding population and the needs of so-called development project, the nexus of greedy politicians, contractors and bureaucrats is wreaking havoc on the assets provided by nature. Destruction of forests and wetlands besides poaching of wildlife has reached an all-time high, causing irreparable damage to the environment. And the worst part is that all this has failed to arouse the conscience of our authorities. The past couple of decades has witnessed thousands of square kilometres of pristine forests being wiped out in the State. The fallouts of this environmental degradation are now manifesting in different forms, especially in the rising temperatures and the unpredictable and more damaging flood patterns. It is time the Government matched its Environment Day rhetoric with concrete action to save whatever little remains of our flora and fauna.

# Our crusade against corruption

## The Beaten TRACK

### DN Bezboruah

**T**he newly-elected BJP-led Government of Assam completed a year in office on May 24, 2017. A lot of people have asked me about my views on the performance of Sarbananda Sonowal's Government after a year in office. My first reaction has been that one year may not be time enough to judge the performance of the government, especially because it has chosen to make its crusade against corruption the most important objective on its agenda even to the extent of according somewhat lower priorities to development projects. At least, that is how things appear to be to a lot of observers. We have no reason to complain as long as the people as well as the Government have reasonably clear ideas about what is involved in a crusade against corruption and the fact that one cannot be expected to view such a crusade as being in the same category as development projects. After all, there are still many civilized countries in the world that have not had to tackle corruption because they have managed to keep the administration almost totally corruption-free. In other words, these countries have evinced their ability to implement and sustain what we choose to call 'zero tolerance of corruption'. Unfortunately our situation is very different. Over the years, we have had to cope with diverse forms of corruption within the government that has not left much room for any kind of clean conduct within the administration. Therefore, even though one can think of a crusade against corruption as the most vital item on the Government's

agenda, one cannot really place it in the same category as development projects that the government has envisaged and planned for. In my thinking, a crusade against corruption is a sort of measure directed at creating the right atmosphere for the Government. It is, in a sense, a sort of course correction that governments sometimes have to resort to in order to provide the right kind of climate for development projects to be efficiently and expeditiously carried out.

It is perfectly legitimate to emphasize that corruption is why Sonowal had to accord top priority to a crusade against corruption instead of choosing to give due importance to a whole lot of development projects that he has on his agenda. The answer to this is almost self-evident. Given the kind of corruption in all departments of the State Government that had led to the sabotage of all development work, the business of course correction and of ensuring the right kind of climate for the success of projects became the most vital objectives of the State Government. Like anyone else, Sonowal had seen what 15 years of a very corrupt administration could do to the entire government machinery. At the end of 15 years of the Congress rule that ushered in the BJP-led Government as an instrument of change, there was really very little left in the administration that could honestly be called a government. In 15 years of legitimized loot, government employees in most of the departments had virtually forgotten what it was for the people. Their principal concern had become the amount of Central devel-

opment funds that could be siphoned out for their own personal development. One has only to look at the highways built or repaired, the embankments built or housing complexes created for the lower income groups to assess how contractors were able to swindle the government and loot public money with standard work without the government agencies prosecuting a single engineer or contractor responsible for such rampant swindles.

We feel that the Government is duty bound to let people know who are at the very top of the list of corrupt persons – ministers and bureaucrats alike. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be happening.

weak people who succumb to corrupt practices with the rationalization that corrupt practices are the sine qua non of a corrupt society. Such rationalizations make it that much easier for people to identify the kind of individuals who are likely to support and practice corruption. Many of the corrupt people in government have forgotten how to work. They are now only suitable human material for sabotage. And this is perhaps the strongest reason why they will do everything in their power to sabotage every plan to change the present rotten system. It is their most cherished vested interest. And that is precisely why a government that has promised zero tolerance against corruption must be ruthless with the corrupt in order to succeed.

There is general appreciation for everything that

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has done to combat corruption. His officers including those in the Assam Police have done a remarkable job of identifying many of the most corrupt officers of the Assam Government. We had a woman officer who was able to amass Rs 59 crore in a matter of about four years through corrupt practices. We have others in the different government departments who have misappropriated or diverted or siphoned out hundreds of crores of rupees. The data is all there and thousands of incriminating files are under the scanner to unravel more evidence of corrupt practices. There is no need for any further proof of the extent of corruption that has been the undoing of the most corrupt State in the country. We even had a corrupt chairman of the Assam

Mountain after consultation with the Congress, Muslim League and Mahatma Gandhi decided to go for Partition as a permanent solution instead of grouping.

Thus, Gopinath Bordoloi played a decisive role in securing the future of Assam, which would have been included in East Pakistan otherwise.

It can be said that Gopinath Bordoloi was a divine gift to Assam to emerge as a leader in a very difficult time in the history of this subcontinent after years of slavery, discontent, poverty, socio-economic instability and large-scale communal disharmony consequent of Partition and mass migration. During his short period of power, he not only brought stability but also laid the foundation of future Assam. Gauhati University, Gauhati High Court, Assam Medical College, Assam Veterinary College are the few testimonies of his contributions towards building of modern Assam. He was a loyal Gandhian who led a simple and humble life. The award of Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1999 during the Governorship of late Lt Gen SK Sinha was a belated recognition to this great son of the soil.

(Published on the occasion of Bordoloi's birth anniversary today.)

## Gopinath Bordoloi: a leader in crisis

### ■ Maj Gen P Das (Retd)

**G**opinath Bordoloi emerged as a leader in a very difficult period in the history of our nation, particularly in this part of the country where the very future of Assam was at stake. He was the saviour of Assam from being a part of Pakistan. He was the architect of Assam as we know now.

My memory goes back to my pre-school days when I had the fortune of seeing this great personality in my native village bordering the Goalpara district. This isolated tiny village happened to be a meeting place of many activists of the freedom movement. My father was a Congressman and was very active in the movement and was jailed twice. Gopinath Bordoloi was a household name and greatly revered by the people of these villages.

Bordoloi visited these villages again in 1949 as a premier and spent a night in our home as a personal guest of my father. It is hard to believe these days that a person of his status would stay in a hut without any security and peace. The only persons he had were MM Choudhury (then Parliamentary

Secretary) and Lakhidhar Bora.

There was frenzy all around and people gathered in large numbers to see their popular leader. I had the opportunity of joining him along with other school children in a prayer meeting before a large gathering whom he addressed later.

The political life of Gopinath Bordoloi started when he joined the Indian National Congress in 1922. In

the same year he was arrested for his active participation in the non-cooperative movement and was jailed for the first time.

In 1935, when the Government of India Act was articulated with a view to form British India, the Congress participated in the regional Assembly election. Md Sadulla of the Muslim League formed the government and Gopinath Bordoloi was elected as the Leader of the Opposition parties. In 1938 the Sadulla Government fell and Bordoloi formed the Congress Government. The Assam Congress got recognition as a powerful political party by virtue of its political prowess untiring efforts and a patriotic personality.

The new government did not last long as the World War II began in

1939 and Gopinath Bordoloi's Cabinet resigned in 1940 following an appeal by Mahatma Gandhi. His contributions during that short period were mainly curtailment of land tax, disallowing land ownership to migrant Muslims and securing the right of the indigenous people. When the Quit India movement was launched, the Congress party was declared outlawed and all the leaders including Bordoloi were arrested and jailed.



In the meantime, Md Sadulla of the Muslim League formed the government with the promise to help the British in the World War II and indulged in communal activities. Gopinath Bordoloi was released from jail in 1944, and he straightforwardly started opposing the Government.

## Smart meters to benefit consumers

distribution losses. It was estimated that with the installation of about 15,000 smart meters, there will be a reduction of distribution losses to an extent of 2.63% in the Paltanbar area, 5.76% in Uhloor area and marginally in Nareng area. The smart grid project will also help in curbing power theft and other malpractices as the metering systems will be monitored online from the Smart Grid Control Centre and such malpractices can be detected remotely and timely action can be taken. There will be no negative impact from the roll-out of smart meters on consumers of the APDCL. Yours etc., JN KHANIKAR, PRO, APDCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Guwahati.

### UPSC results

Sir – Recently on May 31, the results of the Civil Services Examination conducted by the UPSC were declared and not surprisingly, the topper was yet again a woman, Namini KR of Karnataka, who topped the list of all the 180 candidates who made it to the prestigious and coveted Indian Administrative Services (out of a total of 1,099 candidates who cleared the Civil Services Mains examination this year), is

an inspiration for countless others, men and women. It is heartening to note that a handful of aspirants from Assam have also cracked the mother of all exams.

Such achievements are indicators of an increasing number of educated youths shifting their focus to the administrative services that are not only dignified but which also give them an opportunity to serve the nation in the best manner possible. Also, such accomplishments act as motivating factors for other educated youths to try their luck in this examination. Yours etc., DEBOLINA C BAKSHI, Dibrugarh.

### Unfair means

Sir – Recently the Class X and XII exam results were declared. It had been reported that some candidates used unfair means to score good marks in the examinations. In Bihar, the Class XII Humanities topper used unfair means to secure the top position in the exam. The root cause of resorting to such unfair means in exams in India is unemployment. There are very little work opportunities for the educated people. In Assam, thousands of

students graduate every year.

There is a race to acquire government jobs for a secure life and other benefits. Owing to this, some sections of the students use unfair means to obtain success in life. This cannot be stopped until and unless there is a mechanism to provide security in the other ways of livelihood. Yours etc., RUPRAM BORA, Panjapbari, Guwahati.

### Tobacco use

Sir – According to World Health Organization (WHO), smoking and other tobacco use kill more than seven million people each year. As such, it warns against tobacco use and the environmental impact of tobacco production, distribution and waste. Tobacco either in smoking or in smokeless forms is a dangerous health, economic, social and development hazard. So, the Government should take this matter seriously and take bold steps to ban the use of tobacco in workplace and indoor public spaces and outlaw marketing of tobacco products. It is laudable that WHO has conferred an award on Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda for his commitment to strengthening tobacco control in India. Yours etc., PUTUL SARMA, Biswanath Chariali.

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

## Letters to the EDITOR

### EDITOR

### Letters

### to the

### EDITOR



## Death anniversary of Loknath Baba observed

ANN Service

LUMDING, June 5: The death anniversary of Loknath Baba was celebrated here at the temple premises of South Hill Colony, Lumding in a befitting manner on Saturday.

The programme began with chanting from the *Bhagavad Gita* and *Naamkeertan*. This was followed by fetching water from ponds in the morning for the *adibusa* of Loknath. This was followed by worshipping of Baba Loknath in the temple by a large number of devotees with the help of the members of the committee of Loknath Temple. It was followed by puja with *bhog* at noon with *Naamkeertan* and religious songs. In the evening, *prasad* was distributed among thousands of people irrespective of caste, community and religion. The celebration ended at midnight. The day was also celebrated in the Loknath Temple near the Vivekananda Stadum, Lumding.

### One killed in mishap

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, June 5: One Satyendra Gowala alias Putul (35) of Longsowal was killed on the spot and his daughter Pori Gowala (3) sustained minor injuries when the bike (AS23R-1418) on which they were riding was hit by an unknown vehicle at Hansara along the NH-37 under Doomdooma PS at around 3.30 pm on Sunday. The deceased was returning home from his father-in-law's house at Rupai Siding near here.

### Bangladeshi couple arrested

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAL, June 5: The police team of Border branch under Dalgao Police Station in Darrang on Saturday evening apprehended two Bangladeshi nationals from a shelter at village Boruk. According to the police, the husband-wife duo identified as Mostafa Ali (46) and Morzina Begum (37), both residents of Jamiahati area in Sherrup district of Bangladesh illegally entered into Dhubri district through the India-Bangladesh international border with the help of a section of cattle-traders. The couple traders allegedly collected an amount of Rs 1,000 each from the intruders to help them sneak into Assam. A case has been registered in this regard under the Foreigners Act and the arrested couple produced before the court on Sunday, the police said.

### Birthday of Auniati Satradhikar

ANN Service

NORTH GUWAHATI, June 5: Amid much enthusiasm of the devotees and the common people, the 59th birthday of Satradhikar of the Auniati Satra, Pitambar Deva Goswami was celebrated at the afternoon of the Satra on June 2.

The learned author and exponent of Satra culture, Grawayani started his speech after felicitating 59 eminent persons on the occasion. He narrated how a human being came to the earthly abode after passing 84 lakh lives as non-humans through their parents and it is the Almighty God who is their real father.

### OBITUARY

### Bichitra Kumar Pathak

ANN Service

NORTH GUWAHATI, June 5: Bichitra Kumar Pathak, a widely respected popular singer, artiste, social activist and litterateur hailing from Abhoypur area here breathed his last on May 30 due to protracted ailments. He was 71.

Late Pathak was associated with various organisations like North Guwahati Sahitya Sabha (ex-secretary), Asom Kavi Samaj, North Guwahati Literary Circle, Abhoypur Yuval Milon Sangha, Rongali Bihu Samiti etc. He was also a poet.

He leaves behind his wife, a reputed singer, four sons and close relatives.

## Environment Day observed at Dhubri, Nagaon

CORRESPONDENTS

DHUBRI, June 5: The World Environment Day was observed throughout Dhubri district by various organisations, educational institutions, NGOs and the district administration.

Almost all the schools and colleges observed the day by planting trees in the premises of the students is a must."

A massive plantation drive was also organised by Chetna, a socio-cultural organisation and Friends Foundation, a non-profit organisation in various schools

adopting environment-friendly habits. In such a programme organised by the administration in the Dhubri Govt Girls' School auditorium, the Deputy Commissioner said, "The responsibility of saving Mother Nature is on the shoulder of every one of us. So imparting the knowledge of preserving the environment among the students is a must."

A plantation programme was also organised by the Bilsapuri civil administration in the presence of ADC Pallav Mazumder, Civil SDO MS Laxmipuri and various other dignitaries.

NAGAON: On the occasion of the World Environment Day, a number of functions were organised here under the auspices of various educational institutions and NGOs.

On the occasion, an art competition was arranged at Igra Academy. Students also planted trees

in the school premises.

In Nagaon Govt Boys' HS School, tree plantation, model-making competition were arranged. Sadou Asam Gramya Puthibharal Santha observed the day at Dr BR Ambedkar School with a day-long programme.

Ashutosh Motors planted trees in their compound at Senchua where retired principal JN Khound, retired teacher Subarna Goswami, proprietor of Ashutosh Motors, Bharat Chandra Goswami and others took part. They also arranged an art competition

among the children.

To mark the day Prakrta ULFA Okiya Mancha planted a number of trees at Dimou near the four-lane bypass. The tree plantation programme was formally inaugurated by Saleen Saikia, president of Nagaon Press Club, Former ULFA members Chintamani Hazaria, Sanu Phukan, Moon Kumar Bora and others took part in the plantation drive.

Later, former ULFA member Moon Kumar Bora informed that they will plant a number of trees on both sides of the four-lane.

## Biennial meet of Baksa scribes' body held

ANN Service

GORESWAR, June 5: The biennial conference of Baksa District Journalists Union was held at Goreswar recently.

On the opening day, the flag of the Goreswar Press Club was hoisted by Arabinda Deka, president, Goreswar Press Club followed by *smriti tarpan* programme performed by Dr Nabu Kumar Chakraborty of the Goreswar state dispensary.

The tree plantation programme was performed by Prasanta Singh, inspector, Goreswar CRPF camp, Ramananda Choudhury, a businessman, Khabiruddin Ahmed, retired teacher and Hemen Bhagawati, a businessman. A spot news writing competition among various school students was held at Goreswar Rainbow English School

which was inaugurated by Dr Prabha Patowary, Lecturer, Goreswar College. In the evening, the representative meeting was inaugurated by Maheswar Basumatary, EM, BTC which was chaired by Anil Chandra Kakati, president, Baksa District Journalists' Union. The new body of the union was formed with Kameswar Das and Nikunja Kalita as president and secretary respectively.

On the second day, the day of the union was hoisted by Anil Ch Kakati, a local journalist. A programme 'antara laap' was held at the Bengnhati community hall where Pankaj Gobinda Medhi, writer and poet, Ajit Talukdar, retired lecturer, Goreswar College and Naba Kumar Saraniya, MP, Kokrajhar Lok Sabha were present.



Heavy erosion by Suklai river at Niz Kuchula of Goreswar Revenue Circle on Sunday. - UB Photos

## Girls from TEs interact with Dibrugarh cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, June 5: Anita Kishan, an adolescent girl from Madhupur Tea Estate near OIL town Dibrugarh, so had the notion that cops armed with guns and batons couldponce on anyone as and when they desired. "I was never told that police were meant to enforce law, protect us or check civil disorder for the peaceful existence of the society. Growing within the confines of my tea garden with this belief, I was always scared of the police and other armed uniformed personnel," the adolescent girl told this correspondent after her educational tour to the Sardar PS here recently.

Similarly, Pallabi Guria, another teenager from Hatjan Tea Estate said she was not aware about the vast role of the police officers in the society. "I did not know that anybody can take the help of the police in checking all forms of crimes in society. Earlier, no one had introduced us to police stations. Now I know that in collaboration with the police, we can check illicit sale of liquor, trafficking, child marriage, abuse and exploitation, in our areas," said Guria.

Altogether, 180 adolescent girls from 18 different tea gardens were brought to the Sardar PS as part of the exposure visit organised by Assam Branch of Indian Tea Association (ABITA-1) with support from the UNICEF. Altogether, six such educational visits were organised at the police station by ABITA.

At the concluding exposure visit, some 30 adolescent girls were brought from Bijlibari, Madhupur and Hatjan tea estates.

Earlier, the programmes were organised on May 15, 16, 17, 22 and 23. The girls who benefitted from this visits belonged to Langharjan, Naharkatiya, Desam, Greenwood, Majan, Nahortoli, Sant, Madhupur, Jitbari, Rajah Ali, Baljan (H), Zalon, Chabua, Hati Ali, Sealkottee, Bijlibari, Madhupur and Hatjan tea estates.

Madhuriya Barooh, Secretary of ABITA-1 said that the objective of the exposure visit was to enhance the confidence and knowledge of adolescent girls on various laws and procedures to protect children and women.

"The purpose of the exposure visits was to train and guide the adolescent girls to identify cases of abuse, exploitation and violence against children within the local community and to monitor and report such cases to the local police station," the ABITA official said.

The visits were facilitated by police officers Mrinal Das and Rimphim Mahanta of the Sardar PS. The officers also interacted with the adolescent girls.

The concerned officers briefed the girls about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act, 2012 (POCSO), the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and Juvenile Justice Act, etc during the visit.

During the interaction, it was observed that the adolescent girls were interested after POCSCO Act 2012, how to lodge an FIR against abuse or trafficking of child, prevention of child labour, domestic violence and alcoholism at the community level. Superintendent of Police Gautam Bora and Sub Inspector Bora, Officer in Charge of the Sardar PS provided all necessary support for the exposure visits of the tea garden girls, Madhuriya Barooh said. It may be mentioned here that several crimes within the enclaves of plantations, particularly against women and children go unreported due to lack of literacy and awareness among the tea garden workers' community.

## 3 from Nagaon shine in UPSC exam

CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, June 5: Three youths from Nagaon, namely, Dibakar Nath, Seuz Kumar Saikia and Dipankar Gogoi have successfully cleared the 2016 UPSC examination. . They got 25th, 676th and 816th position respectively.

It may be mentioned here that 13 candidates from Assam cleared the UPSC examination this year and Dibakar Nath was in the top spot from Assam. Son of police officer Pradip Kumar Nath and Nirmiti Nath and a resident of Morkilong here cleared the examination in his 6th attempt this time. He passed his Higher Secondary examination from Cotton College and completed his B Tech course from IIT Roorkee in 2009. Later, he started a coaching centre in Delhi and

started preparing for IAS examination.

He is interested to work in Assam and will try to solve various problems of the State.

Seuz Kumar Saikia is a resident of Power House Tinali of Nagaon town. His father Om Prakash Saikia is a retired employee of ASEB and now an advocate. His mother Barathi Saikia is a retired teacher. Earlier, he had cleared the UPSC and got 1156th position. This time, he appeared to improve his position.

Seuz Kumar Saikia, who passed from NIT, Silchar, now is working as an assistant commissioner in Puducher. He would preferably work in the Income Tax department. He promised to fight corruption and is of the opinion that only 20% Indians are corrupt.

816th position holder Dipankar Gogoi is the son of Junior Engi-

neer of Irrigation Department Chemian Gogoi and Junu Gogoi and a resident of Ratnapur in Nagaon town.

An NIT graduate, Dipankar is now working as an Assistant Commissioner in Employees Provident Fund department. According to him, if somebody knows how to use the Internet properly, then it is not necessary for him to go to any coaching centre.

**Ajmal Group of Colleges** shire: There were 1300 students from Ajmal Group of Colleges in the State who had appeared in the last HS examination and everyone has passed. Out of all the students who appeared, 694 were placed in the 1st division, 45 in 2nd division and the rest in 3rd division.

A total of 109 students from Moriam Ajmal Women College

of Science and Technology, Hojai appeared in the examination and out of them 98 got first division and rest in 2nd division.

Eighty-two out of 99 students from Moriam Ajmal Arts College passed in 1st division. There is no 3rd division from this college also.

From Ajmal Ali College, 38 got 1st division, 20 in 2nd division and 28 in 3rd division.

There has been a hundred per cent result from other colleges under Ajmal Group situated at Kokrajhar, Gauripur, Kharupetia, Hatingshingi, Gossapaon etc.

**Drugs seized:** Nagaon police seized two bags of drugs from a Traveller vehicle (AS25 BC 0215) coming from Guwahati. Later, police apprehended Rafiqul Islam and Rakibul Haque. They are resident of Bengnati village, on the outskirts of the town.



Women taking part in a tug-of-war during Baikha Puja at Kurabasha in Goalpara district on Sunday. - UB Photos

## Meritorious students feted at Doomdooma

CORRESPONDENT

SMDC of the school, Abhijit Khatua attended the programme as guest. Both the guests and the president of the programme delighted the students with their inspirational words. Pallabi Chetia and Mahendra Gogoi, who passed the HSLC examination in the first division, also shared their feelings with the students and teachers of the school.

Addressing the gathering, Prakash Dutta, the headmaster of the school said that out of 63 successful students from the school, five secured first division, 25 secured second division and 33 secured third division. Among

the first division holders, Pallabi Chetia secured star marks. He also said that his school, which was newly-provincialised, had been suffering a lot due to insufficient classrooms, teachers, benches and desks etc.

One teacher has to teach a class of over 150 students, and in such a condition it is not possible to provide quality education, he lamented. He added that had these problems been redressed earlier, the result of the school would have been much better.

Later, the successful students were congratulated with a small gift

each. Three students of the school presented songs in the programme, which was anchored by Anup Kumar Bordoloi, a teacher of the school.

A similar programme was also organised at Dombosco School, Doomdooma on Saturday to felicitate students of the school who had passed the HSLC examination this year with distinctions and star marks.

Fr Tracius Topa, the principal of Dombosco Junior College, Doomdooma lit the ceremonial lamp and inaugurated the programme. Sanjay Thakur, a senior teacher of the

school delivered the welcome address. The students who secured distinction and star marks were felicitated with a *gamucha* and a memento each. Mayank Prasad, a former student of the school who secured 7th position in the Higher Secondary Final Examination (Science) this year from Salt Brook Academy, Dibrugarh, was also felicitated in the programme. A home-link bulletin published by the students of Class 9 was released in this function. The headmaster of the school, Fr Igness Hans offered the vote of thanks.

It may be mentioned here that out of 149 students who appeared in the HSLC examination, 2017 from Dombosco School, Doomdooma, 141 students passed out successfully. Of the successful students, 116 students secured first division and 25 students secured second division. Out the first division holders, 27 secured distinction and 39 secured star marks. Nibir Saikia and Pranav Kumar Pandey secured 100% marks in General Mathematics while Alisha Bhattacharya secured 100% marks in Social Science.

# Massive plantation drive undertaken in Kaziranga and other areas

## CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, June 5: As a part of World Environment Day, the Kaziranga National Park authority organised a massive plantation drive in Kaziranga today in association with WWF-India, Aaranyam, Bhumi, The Corbett Foundation and AEVP.

The programme was initiated at Geleki ME School premises where the plantation drive was carried out followed by a bicycle rally to Bagori High School, where around 100 naturalists and others participated to create awareness for conservation and protection of wild life, environment and forests.

Later at Bagori High School, former Executive Member (EM) of Karbi Anglong Bunting Terang attended a function where a 100 saplings were planted by the participants, including deputy conservators of Kaziranga National Park Pallav Deba and Alitamas Bez, besides the local Gaonbora and others.

An effort to identify plant species was carried out for the young participants under the guidance of Dr Pranab Bora, a senior executive of WWF-India. This was followed by a drawing and essay competition.

Similarly at Kohora Chariali, a cleanliness drive was carried out under the initiative of with the rest of the State. World Environment Day was observed here by Government departments and NGOs with a day-long programme, our Correspondents.

At 135 ECO Task Force in association with the Forest Department organised a massive plantation drive at Dibrugarh. A number of students representing various schools along with local people took part in the plantation drive along with the CO of the ECO Task Force, AS George.

The Day was also observed by the Nati Yogi Yuva Sammiloni of Kokrajhar district with a plantation drive in Balajan area.

Additionally, the Balajan anachika unit of AKRSU also observed the Day with a plantation drive at Balajan PS.

In Patacharukuchi, commemorating World Environment Day, plantation drives were undertaken today in various nooks and corners of Bajali subdivision.

Under the initiative of SDO Prema Sarma, around 90 saplings were planted within the campus of the office. Every employee of the office was given the opportunity to plant at least one sapling and asked to shoulder the responsibility of tending the sapling.

Again, employees along with the local people attended a plantation drive which was attended by Green Mission director Ananda Khatian and Seiji Dharma director Nagn Choudhury and Munindra Narayan Goswami, among others.

The Day was also observed at Bagana, about 15 kms from here. In the Bajali Revenue Circle Office premises, plantation of saplings was done under the initiative of Joydev Mahanta, Circle Officer of Bajali Circle.

In Doooomoda: Students of Learners' High School here planted trees in the school campus today. The initiative was taken by the girls' NCC unit of the school under 63 Girls Battalion of NCC, Dibrugarh.

Earlier, the Headmaster of the school explained the significance of the day. The students who passed the HSLC examination this year from the school were also felicitated.

The Day was also observed in the most of the educational institutions here with various programmes. Noa Dihing Foundation organised a mini marathon to plant around 500 saplings during a week-long drive. In all, 200 saplings of different species were supplied by Homen Pathak from Baghamara.

Meanwhile, Happy Club of Bhabanipur also undertook a plantation drive. At Akola Nanda Suba, about 12 kms from here, the Day was observed under the aegis of the VDP who resolved to plant around 500 saplings during a week-long drive. In all, 200 saplings of different species were supplied by Homen Pathak from Baghamara.

In AIR, Nagaon: The Day was observed by All India Radio, Nagaon in association with the Divisional Forest Office and active support of senior citizens and staff with a daylong programme today, a press release stated.

The welcome address was delivered by the Head of AIR, Nagaon, Bison Sinha. The meet was chaired by senior announcer Chidananda Dev Goswami.

A tree is equivalent to 10 sons'

CORRESPONDENT

SDO Civil of Bakokhat, Dhiraj Das and Swapna Nath, a reporter of a local Assamese Daily.

Later, a special prize was awarded to businessman Prakash Ghosh for maintaining a clean and greenery in his restaurant.

Earlier, the director of Green Mission informed that they will undertake a 15-day plantation

ra Forest Office.

Similarly, the Day was also observed at Nirmal Hailoi College, where a plantation drive was undertaken by the students and staff.

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**State observes**

**World Environment Day**

drive and cover hospitals of the locality besides educational institutions and Government offices.

**In Jorhat campus of AAU:**

A plantation programme was organised at the Assam Agricultural University campus today, an e-mail stated.

It was jointly organised by the National Service Scheme Cell, Students' Society, All India Agricultural Students' Association unit (AISAS) of AAU, Jorhat, Dr DK Borah, Dean, College of Agriculture highlighted this year's UN theme of 'Connecting People with Nature'.

The plantation drive was started by Dr S Kaur, Dean, College of Home Science, Dr DK Borah, NSS Programme Coordinator, Director of Students' Welfare, AAU, Jorhat and other senior teachers and students of the Colleges of Agriculture, Home Science, Sericulture and Horticulture.

A similar programme was held along with members of the village community of Na Shyam Gaon and Balajan Shyam Gaon at Kachukhali under Sansad Adarsa Gram Yojana near Tibabor with active involvement of NSS volunteers, students, staff and NSS Programme Officers of AAU, Dr S Bora and A Das to practically implement this year's theme, i.e. Connecting People with Nature'.

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A tree is equivalent to 10 sons'

CORRESPONDENT

ASASU, Matri Seva Sangha, staff of Barpari Mini Health Centre, Praktiri Yukta Parishad, Paschim Darrang Hospital, etc., participated.

Earlier, the DC took part in several sapling distribution programmes at Muktedeyon Club, Bhabanipur, Phuktishil Community Crematorium and Uttar Mangaldoi High School, Chapai.

On the other hand, plantation programmes were organised by various organisations of the district. Staff of the main branch of Mangaldoi SBL planted saplings at its premises. Manager Debeli Borthakur of the Panchayat Development Wing along with veteran academician Biswita Kumar Debi, Basanta Kumar and members of Mangaldoi Sports Association took part.

Similarly, plantation at Bhabanipur LSCP/BPfB-stown was also reported. Several semi-office reported of the ministry, including the district president Nilima Devi took part in the programme. Dashedi Devi Foundation, a voluntary organisation based at Barpeta, Siyam, a part of the concerned movement campaign in all public institutions along the National Highway since 2013, observed World Environment Day at Dumunichowki Girls' High School premises with plantation and free sapling distribution.

According to Hiranya Kumar Nath, secretary of the organisation, there was favourable public response.

Similarly, the Krishnigopal Kendra of Darrang too observed the day at Kasturi Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya at Dholu with a daylong programme, including demonstration and sowing of vegetable seeds in kitchen garden, demonstration on low-cost compost manure,

ents from the local schools participated in the run.

Doooomoda Town Committee planted trees in different parts of the town and also carried out a cleanliness drive.

In Udaguri: World Environment Day was observed at various places with the focal theme 'Connecting People with Nature'.

At Nonapara Tea Garden LP School near the Bhutan border, the Day was observed by the students and teachers of various schools of the locality. The programme was sponsored by Nonapara Group Ltd.

The programme started with plantation of several saplings by the students of Nonapara TE LP School, namely Dilip Kerata and Sardhan Sikdar in the presence of wildlife activists, tea garden officials, representatives of ATSSA, AASAA, ACMS and teachers of the schools. The plantation drive was started by a semi-nomadic tribe, namely Sabdhani Sikkim, Sardik, Dipali Kerkata, Bhawna, Rabu, Rabua, Praeti Munda, Amrita Kerkata spoke on pollution control, wildlife conservation, plantation of trees, cleanliness etc. Dipankar Hazarika, Zone Welfare Officer in his welcome address read out the written message from Parasnath Sen, Manager of Nonapara TE.

Wildlife activist Jayanta Kumar Das spoke on the role of students and children in protecting wildlife and plantations with special reference to India-Bhutan villages where 'man-elephant conflict' has taken a serious turn. The programme was also attended by Chetan Chetan, Deputy Manager of Nonapara TE, Dr Jayanta Hazarika, Augustin Jasil, Headmaster of Nonapara TE LP School; Omkant Lomzel, Headmaster of Jagiari Gram Vikas, Kartik Nayak, Augustin Soona, secretary of ATTSA, Sanjukta Kumar, secretary of ACMS and Barun Kumar, president of AASAA. As part of the itinerary, saplings were distributed among the students.

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Talking on the theme, 'Connecting People to Nature,' the guest of honour Asok Dev Choudhury, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Nagara Division, asked the gathering to disseminate information about a congenial environment and use radio as a medium to communicate information about the present-day environment.

Nepal Mandal, Range Officer, Forest Division, Forest Office of Nagaland also spoke on the occasion.

Among others who spoke included Gautam Nath, Pradeep Kumar, Dipak Kumar Saha and Tuli Bora. The gift of thanks was offered by Ashin Jyoti Bora.

The occasion was marked by planting of saplings by Dimbsew Bora with lightening of earthen lamp. Around 200 fruits saplings were planted in and around theofice premises.

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**BRAHMAPUTRA CRACKER AND POLYMER LIMITED (BCPL)**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Leperkata, Dibrugarh - 786006, CIN: U11101AS0207G0008290

E-TENDER NO. BCPL/CAPL/E175135MD/00903 dated 06-06-2017  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

OPEN DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE E-BIDDING

BCPL INVITES BIDS THROUGH NIC PORTAL FOR PROCUREMENT OF 55,00,000 PCS OF PP WOVEN GARDEN FABRIC FOR PP & LDPE/HDPE UNIT BCPL, LEPERKATA, DIBRUGARH, ASSAM FOR THE PERIOD AND SYSTEMS AS under:

Cost of Tender Document : INR 300/-

Safe Period of Bid Document : From 06-05-2017 to 27-06-2017

Bid due date for submission : Up to 28-06-2017 at 14:30 hrs

For details, visit BCPL (www.bcponline.com) or GAIL (www.gailtenders.in) website & CPP Portal ([https://procurement.gov.in](http://procurement.gov.in)). Any revision, clarification, Addendum, corrigendum, time/date extension etc. if any, to this tender would appear on above websites only & will not publish on any other Media/Press. Bidders are requested to visit above websites regularly to keep themselves updated.

**BRAHMAPUTRA CRACKER AND POLYMER LIMITED (BCPL)**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Leperkata, Dibrugarh - 786006  
Corporate Identity No.: U11101AS0207G0008290

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(E-TENDER NO. BCPL/CAPL/E17W022MK/00370 dated 06.06.2017)

BCPL INVITES E-BIDS (THROUGH NIC PORTAL) FOR "HIRING OF SERVICES FOR INTERMEDIATE STORAGE OF 1200 MT BUTTER AND 100 MT GHEE IN THERMO TANK FACILITIES AT PORT FOR BCPL - LEPERKATA" as detailed below:

Cost of e-Tender Document: Rs. 5,000/-

Safe Period of Bid Document: From 06.06.2017 to 03.07.2017

Pre-Bid Meeting: 16.06.2017, 15.00 hrs.

Bidding Date: 28.06.2017 up to 14:30 hrs

For details, visit BCPL (www.bcponline.com) or GAIL (www.gailtenders.in) website & CPP Portal. Any revision, clarification, Addendum, corrigendum, time/date extension etc. if any, to this tender would appear on above websites only & will not publish on any other Media/Press. Bidders are requested to visit above websites regularly to keep themselves updated.

**Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited**  
**Assam Asset, Nazira**  
GM-Head MM, ONGC, Assam Asset, Nazira invites e-bids under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) in Two Bid system through ONGC's e-procurement portal for the following item:

Tender No: R18G\_C17001, Description: Procurement of Casing Lines, Delivery period: 90 days for Indigenous bidders and 120 days for foreign bidder from the date of issue of NOA;

Tender fee: ₹ 10,000/- to be paid through e-portal. Payment of tender document: ₹ 10,000/- on 17.06.2017. Techno-commercial bid closing / opening date: 03.07.2017 at 14:00 hrs / 15:00 hrs. Note: In case of exigencies ONGC at its option may decide to extend tender sale/closing/opening date/time in future which will be posted on the referred website for bidders. Bidders should regularly visit ONGC website for updates on this regard. New vendors should ensure to approach ONGC for issue of vendor code along with all the required documents minimum 5 working days prior to bid closing date.

For details of above tenders including corrigendum if any, please log on to website: [tenders.ongc.co.in](http://tenders.ongc.co.in) & [etender.ongc.co.in](http://etender.ongc.co.in) for details.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

Assam Asset, Nazira

GTM-Head MM, ONGC, Assam Asset, Nazira invites e-bids

Industrial Growth Centre, Chayagon

Chayagon at vil. Chayagon & 2 No. Jambari, Dist. Kamrup, Assam.

Fee: The firm should quote the lump sum fee with breakup of salary per person for Security Guard, Security in-charge to be deployed at Industrial Growth Centre, Chayagon at vil. Chayagon & Dist. Kamrup, Assam. The salary per person in case of Ex-Army men shall also be submitted along with the quotation.

Other terms & conditions:

1. The firm should submit valid licenses / permission from the appropriate authority for their operation.

2. The firm will be agreeable to engage suitable well built trained properly uniformed Security Guard at Industrial Growth Centre, Chayagon at vil. Chayagon & 2 No. Jambari dist. Kamrup, Assam. The Security in-charge shall be Ex-serviceman, the proof of which shall be submitted along with the quotation.

3. The firm shall submit their present organisation set up indicating past experiences in the line.

4. The firm shall deposit a earnest money of ₹10,00,000/- in the form of Demand Draft/Banker Cheque/Bank Draft drawn in favour of AIDC Growth Centre Chayagon- Patgaon along with their quotation except which the quotation will be rejected.

5. The successful bidder shall have to deposit an amount to equivalent to 1 (one) month's contractual fee as security deposit which will be retained till the end of the contract period.

6. The quotation with all information as above shall be submitted to under signed on or before 20-05-17 up to 2.00 PM and shall be opened on the same day at 3.00 PM in presence of the intending tenderers or their authorised representatives. No quotation will be entertained after the scheduled time and date.

7. The incomplete quotation shall be summarily rejected.

8. The tender shall give a declaration that they will comply with all statutory requirements applicable for providing such services.

9. The Corporation is not bound to allot the works to the lowest bidder only.

10. The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all the quotations without showing any reason thereof.

The NIT is also available in the website [www.aidcassam.in](http://www.aidcassam.in) or [www.investinassam.com](http://www.investinassam.com).

Sd/- Managing Director

Assam Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation

অসম চৰকাৰৰ

সামৰিক সংস্থাৰ কল্যাণীৰ উদ্যোগত

আৰু পাৰ্শ্বি প্ৰাদৰ সেৱাৰ নথিৰ সহযোগত

নথিৰ কৰ্তৃকি পাৰ্শ্বি প্ৰাদৰ কল্যাণীৰ উদ্যোগত

এবং অন্য স্থানৰ মধ্যে

জোনাকী ঘেৰে

WEATHER  
NORTHEAST

**Forecast for NE:** Moderate rain/thunderstorms is very likely to occur at many places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura and light to moderate rain over Assam. Light rain in few places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya.

**Warning:** Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh on June 9 and over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on June 8 & 9.

**Temperatures :**

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	32.3	23.0
Tezpur	29.8	23.0
Silchar	33.7	24.7
Dhruvi	30.3	21.8
Jorhat	32.0	24.4
M.L.Nagpur	30.4	21.8
Shillong	26.8	16.8
Imphal	30.7	20.5
Itanagar	33.1	22.4
Aizawl	28.2	11.2
A�artala	30.3	21.2
Agartala	25.2	17.2
Passighat	32.8	23.0
Cherrapunji	23.0	17.3

**Kolasib to block Mizoram's lifeline**

**AIZAWL,** June 5: Joint NGOs of northern Mizoram's Kolasib town has decided to impose an indefinite blockade on National Highway 54, the lifeline of the State, from Tuesday, in protest against the transfer of a surgeon from Kolasib district hospital. They are demanding revocation of the transfer order.

Earlier, on Thursday and Friday, the NGO committee had imposed a strike on all government offices in Kolasib town near the Assam border.

Meanwhile, the Mizoram Pradesh Congress Committee media cell has appealed to the NGOs to withdraw the blockade. "Shortage of doctors is a common problem in all government hospitals in Mizoram," it said. "The government has been taking utmost efforts to mitigate the shortage of doctors. It is in the process of appointing 26 doctors by June 13," it added.

Meanwhile, the Kolasib district magistrate has ordered closure of all wine shops within Kolasib district from June 6 until further notice to prevent untoward incidents. - Correspondent



Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Committee president, former Chief Minister DD Lapang releasing balloons during celebration of 25th anniversary of Ri-Bhoi district at Nongpoh on Monday. - UB Photos

## Manipur Assembly passes GST Bill

SOBHPATI SAMOM

IMPHAL, June 5: Manipur on Monday joined the rest of the country and Northeastern States by passing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill. The Bill was passed by voice vote on the concluding day of the two-day special session of the State Assembly.

Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh said the State expects around Rs 100 crore-

Rs 200 crore as projected revenue since the new tax regime comes into force in the country from July. So far, 450 retailers/traders have registered for the new system.

Singh said, "Steps have been taken to include State's favourite Ngan or dried and fermented fish and handloom products in the exemption list of GST."

Introducing the Bill, Deputy CM Yumman Joykumar, who holds the Finance portfolio, said that the adoption of the GST Act would ensure progressive taxation and that it would benefit a consumer State like Manipur, as it would no longer have to bear the burden of taxation at various stages.

"The GST is all about tax reforms and it will effectively put an end to multiple taxation."

The passing of the Bill which is aimed at making a provision for levy and collection of tax on inter-State sup-

ply of goods or services or both by the State, will pave the way for a uniform tax regime for goods and services.

The ruling members supported the Bill while participating in the discussions expressed their desire to discuss the matter seriously. Legislators Y Surchandra, K Ranit, KJ Joykishan, K Megachandha, Th Lokeshwar and others participated in the discussion.

## ANVC (B) rejects govt's rehab claim

BIPLAB DEY

TURA, June 5: The fight for securing the rehabilitation of the rebels belonging to the now disbanded breakaway faction of Achik National Volunteers Council (ANVC-B) has resumed with its leaders rejecting the Meghalaya Government's claim of providing rehabilitation package to 18 of its former cadres.

The former militants have been at loggerheads with the government on the question of rehabilitation with both parties making contrasting claims.

In a release, Deepan Momin, secretary of Achik Matrigri, a social group, said, "It looks like government has sanctioned our packages to other militants."

Momin said that if the Government's claims are true they should disclose the names of the selected members of the ANVC-B. "The government has not submitted the list of eligi-

gible cadres despite our request. We could not forward the account numbers of our cadres till now because the government did not give us the list of selected cadres", Momin added.

"Who are these cadres? Government must come clean on the names of these cadres and also justify why they are not maintaining transparency on the packages to our cadres when Centre has already sanctioned it," he added.

Stating that 51 cadres of the disbanded United Achik Liberation Army (UALA) were given Rs 2.5 lakh each as rehabilitation package, Momin expressed concern that the sanctioned fund for ANVC-B was given to UALA cadres.

Momin said that while ANVC cadres were given Rs 1.5 lakh rehabilitation package, UALA cadres were given Rs 2.5 lakh each. He asserted that the former cadres of the outfit will fight for their rights.

SHILLONG, June 5: Congress has accepted the challenge of the BJP to have a debate on the development of North East.

The Congress leader further accused the BJP of infringing those projects in the region which were sanctioned and funded by UPA Government.

"They are only imposing their Hindutva culture on North East and if BJP wants to do so they should say it openly," he said. He further accused BJP of imposing RSS culture in Meghalaya while expressing confidence that the people of Meghalaya would vote against the culture of hatred in the 2018 Assembly elections in the State.

Slamming the BJP-led NDA Government at Centre over the notification on cow slaug-

ther, he said, the party was "working on three Ds - Divide, Destroy and Disrupt."

Gogoi accused the BJP of dividing people on food and religion, saying the notification on cow slaughter has affected people and cow policies have led to beating and even lynching of people in the country.

He alleged that BJP is lying to the people of Meghalaya on the notification and the party is doing politics with the people of the State over beef.

"Instead of giving jobs, youths are being encouraged to become Gaurakshaks," Gogoi said, adding, the BJP Government cares only for corporate bodies rather than farmers and is destroying the country by using tax payers' money for their advertisements and marketing in media.

## Cong accepts BJP's challenge to debate on NE development

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

States, saying the special category status of NE States was done away with by the BJP Government and even 90 per cent funding for these States.

The Congress leader further accused the BJP of infringing those projects in the region which were sanctioned and funded by UPA Government.

"They are only imposing their Hindutva culture on North East and if BJP wants to do so they should say it openly," he said. He further accused BJP of imposing RSS culture in Meghalaya while expressing confidence that the people of Meghalaya would vote against the culture of hatred in the 2018 Assembly elections in the State.

Slamming the BJP-led NDA Government at Centre over the notification on cow slaug-

## USTM Convocation on June 10

GUWAHATI, June 5:

The University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya will hold its 2nd Convocation at Techno City Campus on June 10. Vice chancellors of three oldest universities in India, Prof Girish Chandra Tripathi, VC, BHU, Prof Ashutosh Ghosh, VC, University of Calcutta and Prof Sanjay V Deshmukh, VC, Mumbai University will grace the occasion, a press release said.

Honorary Doctorate of Science will be conferred on Prof Mihir Kant Chaudhuri, former VC, Tezpur University and honorary D.Litt on Dr DD Lapang, former Meghalaya Chief Minister.

USTM, started in 2011, has more than 3,500 students from all over North East. During the convocation, 518 students will receive post-

graduate degree, 61 undergraduate degree and four scholars will be awarded Ph.D degree.

**PRESS NOTICE**  
The Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Tezpur Electrical Division, Tezpur Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites sealed tender after affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 with Bid Price of Rs. 8,85,268.00 for the work "Installation of High mast Light at Bheberghat" with a validity of 180 (One hundred and eighty) days from the date of issue of the tender. The tenders will be received from the Experienced High Mast Installation registered APWD Contractor/Firm/Pvt. limited Co. Class-(A/B/C) category, Class-II Category and Class-III Registered under PWD Tezpur Electrical Division. The Tender Paper will be issued to the eligible contractors (Not to authorized person) from 10.06.2017 to 12.06.2017 in the office of the undersigned on submission of self attested photocopy of up-to date Registration certificate, PAN Card, Registration certificate under VAT and IPD of Rs. 500.00/Rupees Five Hundred only per set in favour of the Executive Engineer, Tezpur Electrical Division. The tender document will be received on 15.06.2017 (up-to 2P.M.) and will be opened at the same day at 3P.M. in the office of the undersigned.

The Press notice will be part of the tender documents.  
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD**  
Janasanayog/1059/17  
Tezpur Electrical Division, Tezpur.

## No. DLR/LR38/P1 VI/2012/NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The Director of Land Records & Surveys etc. invites sealed Bids affixing Court Fee stamp of Rs. 8.25/- from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or the Authorized Dealers/ Distributors of the OEM for Supply and installation 1 No. of DGPS for official use.

Tender documents shall be available from the office of the Director of Land Records & Surveys etc. on payment of non-refundable fee of INR 2000/- by Demand Draft/Cash in favour of Director of Land Records & Surveys etc. payable at Guwahati. Complete tender documents are also available on Assam Government website, as noted below :

<http://revenueassam.nic.in>

The documents downloaded by the parties from the website shall be valid for participation in the tender process. Those making use of the tender documents downloaded from the website shall have to pay the fee of the document i.e. Rs. 2000/- (Rupees two thousand only) in the form of a demand draft along with the tenders. Tenders received without the requisite fee shall be considered as invalid ab initio.

Last date of submission of bids is 27 June, 2017 by 11.30 AM

Director, Land Records & Surveys etc., Assam reserves the right to accept/ reject any/ all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

**Sd/- Director of Land Records, Assam**  
Rupnagar, Guwahati-32

## CTI 95/2000-7/559 TENDER NOTICE

Short assit tender on open price affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25/- (Rupees eight and twenty five paise only) invited from the registered PWD (Electrical)/APWD Ltd. Assam contractors for the following works and will be received by the undersigned or his authorized agents upto to 02.00 p.m. on 14-06-2017 and will be opened on the same day at 03.00 p.m. in presence of the tenders or their authorised agents/ representative.

The tenders should quote rates and total amount for each item both in figures and words and should be inclusive of all taxes and industrial charges.

SI No	Name of Items	Unit	Quantity	Specification
1	16.3 Supplying with fitting and fixing DP 10 KA 240/415 V 50 Hz MCB of the following capacity complete with making necessary connection as approved specified and directed by the deptt.			
2	16.3.1 6 to 32 A	Each	4	
3	16.5 Supplying with fitting and fixing DP 10 KA 240/415 V 50 Hz MCB of the following capacity complete with making necessary connection as approved specified by the deptt.			
4	16.5.1 6 to 32 A	Each	4	
5	16.5.3 63 A	Each	4	
6	16.21.1.5 250 A	Each	1	
7	19.22 Supplying including installation, commissioning of vermin and dust proof cable, insulating porcelain powder coated painted metal outdoor type double door, floor mounting compartmental panel board of size 1.32 M x 1050 M x 0.40 M made of 1.5 SWG copper wire C.R. Sheet 35 mm x 35 MM x 5 mm angle having 4 nos. legs at the bottom and C.R. Sheet roofing, on the top complete painting with 2 coats of red oxide primer and 2 coats of top coat paint and base board to be mounted in 1.31 P.C.C. foundation including excavation of trench and brick soiling etc. complete neatly wiring with protection 1 no. 250 A + 4 Pole 100 amp switch, 1 no. 100 amp meter and provision for 600 DP or TPN outgoing specified and directed by the deptt. conforming to IEC 60364-3-7 comprising of the following electrical items: 1) 25 m long 16 mm square copper bus bar 1.4 m length each. 2) Digital 3 phase Voltmeter Accuracy class 0.5 - no. 3) Digital 3 phase Ammeter Accuracy class 0.5 - no. 4) Pilot lamp with integral CKT LED 110-230V	set	1	
8	22.9 Supply, installation and testing of G.I. Plate earth station with 600 mm x 600 mm x 6 mm heavy duty G.I. sheet bending pipe with 20 mm thickness S.S. Elbow, Nipple and 50 mm x 40 mm G.I. reducing socket for funnel including locking ammeter with 300 mm length with probe and 1 no. 250 A + 4 Pole 100 amp switch, 1 no. 100 amp meter and provision for 600 DP or TPN outgoing specified and directed by the deptt.	no	2	
9	22.18 Supplying and laying of 6 SWG G.I. earth drawn through 15 mm dia. Medium quality G.I. pipe from earth electrode (below G.I.) to electrical substation or electrical machine room including making necessary connection as approved, specified and directed by the deptt.	mtr	39	
10	32.1.3.7 150.00 sqm 3 & 1/2 core armoured U.G. cable	mtr	45	
11	32.1.3.8 185.00 sqm 3 & 1/2 core armoured G. cable	mtr	40	
12	All electrical drawings as per norms All Test reports as per norms Licensing with electrical licensing board, MTC and other statutory bodies, including Treasury Challan for inspection fees.	U.S	1	

Total value 1 work 2,48,017.00

Sd/-Principal  
Central Training Institute  
CD & HQ, Assam, PWD  
Guwahati-26



Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh taking part in the World Environment Day celebrations in Imphal on Monday. - Correspondent

## World Environment Day observed in NE

World Environment Day was observed on Monday all over the Northeastern States under the theme "Connecting People to Nature." Our Correspondents report:

**DIMAPUR:** The Day was observed across Nagaland today. Addressing the gathering in Mokochung town hall, Speaker Dr Intiawapan Aier called on the participants to seriously think about positive environmental action and restraint from random destruction of our environment. He said environmental issues are increasing due to 'our greediness' while expressing grave concern over rapid deforestation.

Dr Intiawapan said time has come to understand ways in which natural system support us. "Our fragile forests should be protected through concerted efforts before it is too late," he stated.

The Speaker also appealed to partici-

pants to make tree planting a habit. He further urged the participants to make Mokochung district a 'carbon-free zone' through preservation of our natural forests.

In his address, Parliamentary Secretary, CAWD & Taxes, Dr Benjoliba expressed concern over age-old practice of slash and burn jhuming saying that it has resulted in destroying our rich biodiversity. However, he noted that this practice has been gradually shifting to permanent cultivation.

The Chief Minister said, "Our tribal culture is deeply intertwined with nature - be it the paja or our way of living. Each tribe has a unique relation with their natural environment, which makes our culture inseparable with nature."

Khandu discouraged unplanned destruction in the name of development and urged all the departments to see that the development activities have minimal impact on nature.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein said, "We have degraded the abundant

natural resources like forest, animals, fish etc., through our activities like rampant forest cutting, hunting and fishing".

He called upon all to protect the environment from degrading further and appealed to take necessary corrective measures by minimising first degrading activities.

Parliamentary Secretary for Forests and Environment CT Mein and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Omkar Singh also addressed the gathering.

**IMPHAL:** The Day was observed in Manipur on Monday by taking up various initiatives to rejuvenate nature and environment. The State level observation was held jointly by Directorate of Municipal Administration, Housing and Urban Development (MAHUD) and Environment departments.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched the Segregation at Source

campaign in Imphal city by providing school children with Art of Living campus at Jollang village, on the outskirts of twin capital town of Itanagar and Naharlagun. About 200 students from different schools planted more than 300 saplings during the programme organised by State Department of Environment & Forests.

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Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein said, "We have degraded the abundant

nature for sustainable development and survival of human beings, he added. The State Government is planning to impose ban on the use of polythene bags in the State, he said.

In his speech, MAHUD and Forest and Environment Minister Th Shyamkumar said that people should not disturb nature. People would bear the brunt of nature's fury if they keep on breaking the nature's law, he warned.

# GST regime a turning point for economy, says Modi

NEW DELHI, June 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today reviewed the status of goods and services tax (GST) rollout from July 1 and described it as a "turning point" for the economy.

"The Prime Minister asserted that the implementation of GST from July 1 is the culmination of the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, including political parties, trade and industry bodies," an official statement said here.

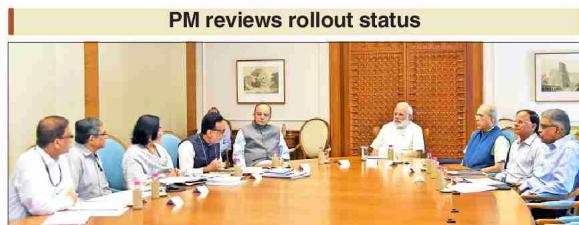
At a review meeting with officials here, Modi described the GST regime as a turning point for the economy, unprecedented in history.

He said that the creation of 'One Nation; One Market; One Tax' would greatly benefit the common man.

The Prime Minister directed officials to pay maximum attention to cyber-security in IT systems concerned with GST.

The meeting, which lasted for over two-and-a-half hours, was attended by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and top officials from the Ministry of Finance, the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Secretary.

In the course of the meeting, the Prime Minister specifically reviewed the aspects of implementation such as IT readiness, HR readiness, training



Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewing the status of GST, which is to be implemented from July 1, in New Delhi on Monday. — UNI

and sensitisation of officers, query handling mechanism, and monitoring.

Modi was informed that GST systems such as IT infrastructure, training of officials, integration with banks, and enrolment of existing taxpayers will be in readiness well in time for the July 1 implementation date.

The GST Council on Saturday completed the exercise of bringing all items under a four-slab tax structure with gold to be taxed at 3 per cent.

The GST Network (GSTN) made a

detailed presentation at Saturday's meeting on their IT preparedness for implementation from July 1.

**Postponement ruled out:** Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said that the goods and services tax (GST) is simplified indirect tax regime and there is no reason to further postpone its targeted July 1 rollout.

"With all the procedural matters decided, registrations are taking place at a fast pace. Today I see no reason why we can't target July 1," Jaitley

told CNBC TV18.

Negating any adverse impact of the GST on growth, Jaitley said there could be initial teething troubles but it would actually lead to expansion of assessed base and taxpayer base.

"There may be teething troubles initially. I don't think there would be any adverse impact on growth. Disruption

will be there because we are switching to a new system. But I foresee assessed base and taxpayer base expanding," he said.—Agencies

# Civil Aviation Ministry to decide on Air India's future: Jaitley

NEW DELHI, June 5: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said that the government has a proposal to exit Air India, however, the final call on the future of the debt-ridden national passenger carrier has to be taken by the Civil Aviation Ministry.

"Civil aviation is turning into a good success story in India... Therefore, how fair is it for government to occupy 14.99 per cent of market share and then say some Rs 35,000-60,000 crore of taxpayer's money must get into this process," Jaitley told CNBC TV18 in an interview.

"In addition to the existing players, if private sector players come, participate in Air India's proposed privatisation scheme, I think it will add to competition and add to quality, at what pace it will be done, in what manner it will be done, is for the Civil Aviation Ministry to decide."

Replying to a question on government's ability to find a buyer for Air India without being able to write off a significant portion of its debt, Jaitley

said: "I think the debt itself will have multiple components."

"The debt has a component which is the assets itself, which is the aircrafts. Then there are buyers can bid."

Besides the huge debt, Panagariya said the government also would need to consider whether to retain some stake in Air India since it is the nation's carrier.

In a recent report to the Civil Aviation Ministry, the NITI Aayog has recommended strategic disinvestment from the loss-making Air India, by which government control would be transferred to a private owner.

On May 30, Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju said that several options and alternatives are available to restore the financial health of the national passenger carrier.

According to the minister, the NITI Aayog has already submitted several suggestions to restore the financial health of the national passenger carrier and these are being examined. — IANS



routes, then there is a lot of immovable property and out of the rest which is the government's responsibility, let us see what the Civil Aviation Ministry decides and the government will then take a corrective view."

On last Friday, government think-tank NITI Aayog had said that settling Air India's Rs 52,000-crore debt will be a "very difficult affair".

"Something has to be done on the debt issue... Whether the government writes off part of the debt or not," NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya had said.

"The government needs to

resolve four big issues in Air India's strategic disinvestment... Whether or not to privatise, and if yes, then what is the universe of potential buyers... Whether even foreign buyers can bid."

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# Circumstances ideal for rate cut by RBI: FM

NEW DELHI, June 5: Banking

route for a rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its upcoming monetary policy review. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today said the circumstances are ideal as inflation is under control and monsoon prediction good.

"Inflation for a long time has been under control. There is possibility of good monsoon.

Balancing between petrol and oil prices that will go through the roof. Growth and investment need to improve. Any Finance Minister under these circumstances would like a rate cut," Jaitley told CNBC TV18.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by RBI Governor Urjit Patel will meet on June 6-7 to decide on the key interest rates.

"But let's wait for the MPC decision. MPC experiment is in its first year," he said.

Adding that revival of private investment and banking sector were the government's focus points now, Jaitley said good infrastructure and growth returning to the world after three-four years of slowdown were positive indicators.

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for the rest till the health of the banks improves.

"We have now relooked at the whole system and there are some institutions within the public sector banks which can be consolidated even in the present circumstances. We are seriously examining them," Jaitley said.

Even Reserve Bank Governor Urjit Patel in April had said

the Indian banking system could be better off if some public sector banks are consolidated to have fewer and healthier entities, as it would help in dealing with the problem of stressed assets.

Toxic loans in public sector banks rose by over Rs 1 lakh crore to Rs 6.06 lakh crore during April-December of 2016-17, the bulk of which came from power, steel, road infra and textile sectors. — Agencies

# COAI moves Finmin for cut in telecom GST rates

NEW DELHI, June 5: The cellular operators have approached the government for a reduction in the 18 per cent GST rate, saying the benefit of input credit is not enough to fully compensate the higher tax incidence in the new regime.

The telcos under industry body Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) have emphasised that reduction in goods and services tax or GST rate is important given that the industry is already suffering from 'poor financial health'.

"...We request that the applicable GST rate for the telecom industry, which is already suffering from poor financial health, is reduced, so as not to increase the burden from the current levels," COAI said in a letter to the Revenue Secretary.

The letter comes just days before the meeting of the GST Council on June 11, in which the Centre and the States will review demands by various industries of lowering the proposed tax rates on certain goods and services.

The Finance Ministry has already indicated that a review is only possible where the proposed tax rate is exorbitantly higher than the current levels.

The letter by COAI Director General Rajan Matthews said the benefits on account of availability of credit from existing duties and taxes are not perceived by the Finance Ministry.

The notion that the increase in GST rate by three per cent will get compensated by the reduction of cascading tax costs, is "misconceived," the industry association said.

"While the increased burden of three per cent will arise on the entire revenue, the benefit of input taxes will accrue only on procurement of capital equipment, etc., which is a smaller percentage of the revenue," the COAI letter said.

Hence the benefit "will be minimal", it added.

The apex industry body – which counts Bharti Airtel, Vodafone, Idea Cellular and Reliance Jio as its members – highlighted

that a number of key inputs such as diesel and electricity that are consumed by the telecom firms continue to be outside the GST regime for which no credit is available.

"It is therefore evident that the telecom sector will continue to reel under significant cascading taxes even under the GST regime," it added.

Under the new rates decided by the GST Council, the telecom services will be taxed at 18 per cent. At present, telecom consumers are charged 15 per cent in form of tax and cess over their phone bills.

The debt-ridden industry had expressed disappointment with the rates, saying telecom services will become expensive for consumers.

The Finance Ministry, however, has asked the telecom companies to rejoin costs and lower prices to pass on to the consumers' benefits of rate reduction on the goods and services tax regime, which will come into effect from July 1. — PTI

## Monitoring ONGC, OIL performance

# Oil Ministry forms 'super-board'

NEW DELHI, June 5: The Oil Ministry has formed all-powerful review committee to monitor performance of ONGC and OIL, and will have the power to relinquish any oil and gas field for auctioning to private firms.

Being dubbed as 'super-boards', the com-

mittees will be headed by the ministry's upstream nodal authority DGH, and will review and monitor performance of areas given to Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) on nomination basis.

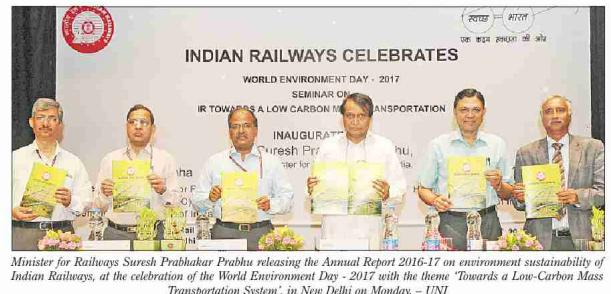
The two panels – one each for ONGC and OIL – will review from annual work

programme and budget to declaration of a discovery as commercial as also reservoir and production performance, monitoring of development activities and collaborations with other explorers.

"The advice/decision of the Review Committee shall be implemented forthwith by the NOC (national oil company) concerned and the progress of implementation shall be reported to the Review

Committee through DGH at its next meeting," the May 25 order issued by Atanu Chakraborty, Director General, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), said.

The order follows ministry's unhappiness with state explorers, particularly in delays in projects linked to output enhancement. It has already ordered a detailed review of board of directors of ONGC for a possible revamp of the functional heads. — PTI



Minister for Railways Suresh Prabhu releasing the Annual Report 2016-17 on environment sustainability of Indian Railways, at the celebration of the World Environment Day - 2017 with the theme 'Towards a Low-Carbon Mass Transportation System', in New Delhi on Monday. — UNI

# SEBI seeks clarification from bourses

NEW DELHI, June 5: Markets regulator SEBI has sought status update from stock exchanges about the 'no-object' sought by Aditya Birla Group firm Idea Cellular regarding its proposed merger with Vodafone Plc's Indian unit.

Without disclosing details, SEBI said that "clarifications (are) awaited on exchanges" on the proposed Idea-Vodafone merger.

As per the latest weekly update of draft scheme of arrangement filed with SEBI, the markets regulator has said clarifications are awaited on the proposed merger as on June 2. The next update would be available on June 12.

The Securities and Ex-

change Board of India (SEBI) had last received a communication from Idea on June 1.

Last month, the market regulator had sought clarification from Idea regarding its proposed merger.

Idea had sought approval from SEBI in April.

The remaining 28.9 per cent will be held by other shareholders.

Besides, the companies approached the Competition Commission of India (CCI) last month regarding the proposed merger and are awaiting the fair trade regulator's nod in this regard.

Earlier, Idea had said a joint notification has been filed with the CCI and the Scheme of Arrangement has been filed with SEBI and stock exchanges for their approvals. — PTI

# Ola Share posts 500% growth in one year

NEW DELHI, June 5: Delhi-based cab aggregator Ola Share has announced that its shared mobility offering Ola Share has registered 500 per cent growth in the last one year.

Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata emerged as the biggest users of Ola Share.

"Ola Share is one of our flagship products and is poised to bring down traffic congestion on roads, which means that people in our cities will spend less time in traffic," said Vishal Kaul, COO of Ola.

Ola Share claimed to have effectively reduced 12 million kgs of CO2 and saved over 70 lakh litres of fuel since October 2015. Ola offers shared rides across 26 Indian cities.

— Agencies

# RBI Financial Literacy Week gets under way

## BUSINESS REPORTER

During the Financial Literacy Week, which will continue till June 9, RBI officials along with bankers will create awareness on topics such as Know Your Customer (KYC), exercising credit discipline, going digital — UPI, Going digital

“#99#(USSD) and awareness of grievance redressal mechanism, the release said.

The activities during the week will involve display of financial literacy material in bank branches, conduct of literacy camps for public at large in various districts, enhancing the literacy efforts at the Financial Literacy Centres, etc. RBI officials will work with bankers and district-level authorities to ensure the success of this initiative, the release added.

# 2-wheeler segment to grow 8-10% in FY18: ICRA

NEW DELHI, June 5: After five months of rough ride due to demonetisation and ban of BS-III models, the two-wheeler segment is on a recovery path and expects the sector to grow by 8-10 per cent in FY18, according to ratings agency ICRA.

The two-wheeler industry had witnessed a decline of 6.5 per cent in the five months period between November 2016 and March 2017 when compared with the year-ago period, ICRA said.

Commenting on the recovery, ICRA Senior Vice-President and Group Head - Corporate Sector Ratings Sub-

rate Ray said with the impact of demonetisation wearing off and both major product segments gradually reporting an upturn in their growth rates, the new fiscal has started off with a growth of 7.3 per cent in April 2017.

"Among the various two-wheeler product segments, both scooters and motorcycles were significantly impacted by the demonetisation exercise, while mopeds continued to report growth on their low base," he added.

Expected improved demand from rural segment is on the basis of improved farm sentiments following two seasons of good crop, forecasts of normal monsoons and benefits from ru-

ral employment guarantee schemes trickling in, ICRA added.

"The industry witnessed a growth in both the key product segments—motorcycles and scooters during the last five months (Nov-Mar 2017) of the (last) fiscal," it said.

In contrast, ICRA said the industry had posted a strong double-digit growth across all the product segments between April–October 2016.

"On an annual basis, this has led to the slowing down of growth in the domestic two-wheeler industry to a relatively modest 6.9 per cent during FY17," it added. — PTI



ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় স্বাস্থ্য অভিযান, অসম

# তৃতীয় আন্তঃবাণ্টীয় যোগ দিরস

୨୧ଜୁନ, ୨୦୧୭

# যোগাসন শিকো আহক

আন্তঃবাণিজ্য  
যোগ দিরসলৈ  
আৰু মাত্ৰ  
১৫ দিন



এই যোগাসনৰ দ্বাৰা কিদৰে উপকৃত হ'ব?

শরীরত বক্ত সপ্তালন বন্ধি পায়

এই যোগসমত সঞ্চিতভারে শুধু পশ্চাস লোরাৰ ফলত আমাৰ হাওফাৰ আৰু তেজত ধৰাৰাবিহিকভাৱে অজিজেন সঞ্চলিত হয়। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা মেহৰ বিষাক্ত গোছ আৰু কাৰ্বন ডাই অক্সাইড নিৰ্গমন হৈ দেহত থক বিষাক্ত উপাদানৰ বাহি হৈয়।

ଦେହର ଓଜନ ହ୍ରାସର ବାବେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସାଧନ କରେ

এই যোগাসন সমূহের দ্বারা শরীরট তেজ সঞ্চালন প্রাণী ক্ষিপ্তির হয়, তলপেটের পেশীসমূহৰো সমাত্বালভারে সঞ্চালন হয় ফলত পেটিৰ অতিবিক্ত ও জন হ্রাস পোৱাত সহায়ক হয়। তদুপৰি বাজাহাত, বাহ তথা কঠকলাত্মক পর্যবেক্ষণী কৰে।

ଘରୀବିଦ୍ୟାକାରୀ ପାଠ୍ୟମୁଦ୍ରାର ନିଯମିତ୍ୟା କରେ

যদিহে কোনো মহিলা মাহেকীয়া সমস্যাত ভূগি আছে তেতে তেনে মহিলাই নিয়মীয়া যোগাভ্যাস দ্বারা উপকৃত হ'ব পাবে।

চুলি আৰু চৰ্মৰ বাবে উপকাৰিতা

এই আসনসমূহ নিয়মীয়াকে অভ্যাস করিবে সৌন্দর্য আৰু স্থায় অটুট থাকে। মুখমণ্ডলত বৱসৰ চাপ কমাব আৰু চলি সৰা তথা আকাল পৰ্বতাত বাধা দিবো।

মানসিক উদ্বিগ্নতা হ্রাস হয়

সর্ব নম্বকার অভ্যাসের দ্বারা শুভি বৃদ্ধি হয় আর প্লায়টিভ সবল হয়। ইয়াবোপৰি ই মানসিক দেহৰ নি:শ্রোত গ্ৰহি সমৰকো সক্ৰিয় কৰে।

Resonance | NHM | 2017

অসমত আয়ুস স্বাস্থ্য সেৱাৰ বিষয়ে এক আভাস

- গুরাহাটী জালকুবাৰী স্থিত চৰকাৰী আয়ুৰ্বেদিক কলেজ য'ত ৫০খন শান্তক শিক্ষাৰ আসন, ২৪খন নাতকোত্তৰ শ্ৰেণীৰ আসনৰ লগতে ২০০খন বিছনাযুক্ত দিবা মৈশ হিস্পতাল সেৱা উপলক্ষ  
    - অসমৰ গুৱাহাটী, নগাঁও আৰু মোৰচাটৰ হেমিআ'পোথিক চিকিৎসা মহিলাস্বাস্থকেইখনত হেমিআ'পোথিক চিকিৎসা শিক্ষাৰ বাবে ৫০খনকে আসন উপলক্ষ
    - অসমৰ জিলা চিকিৎসালয়টো এইচিপিএছিচ পৰ্যায়ত ৩০মো অধিক চিকিৎসা বিষয়ীয় আয়ুস বাস্তু সেৱা আগবঢ়াই আহিছে
  - বৃষ্টিভাৰ্যা আয়ুস মিশনৰ অধীনত ৪৫খন আয়ুস অপিডি কেন্দ্ৰ আৰু পিইএচিচি, এইচিচি আৰু জিলা চিকিৎসালয় পৰ্যায়ত ১০খন আসন শাখা নিৰ্বাচন কৰা হৈ আছে

সপ্ত জীরনৰ বাবে প্ৰশংসিত যোগ নিৰ্দেশকৰ পৰা যোগাভ্যাস শিকক

সবিশেষ জানিবৰ বাবে ডায়েল কৰিব পাৰে ১৩৬১ ১১৩০৩৩৮

ବାହିକ ଆସ୍ତର ପାଇଁ ବନ୍ଦମଳ ଲଗର ପଥ ଛିପିବା ପାଇଁ

ই-মেইল: pamassam15@gmail.com



## Sleep disorder

Even mild sleep apnoea may increase hypertension, diabetes risks, says a study

**Y**oung and middle-aged adults suffering from mild-to-moderate obstructive sleep apnoea with symptoms such as snoring and excessive daytime sleepiness, may be at an increased risk of developing hypertension and diabetes, researchers say.

Obstructive sleep apnoea is a potentially serious chronic disease that involves the repeated collapse of the upper airway during sleep.

The findings showed that mild sleep apnoea in young adults was strongly associated with a risk of developing hypertension by four times.

Similarly, compared to individuals without sleep apnoea, moderate sleep apnoea was associated with the risk of developing diabetes by almost three times.

"Given the stronger association of sleep apnoea with metabolic abnormalities in this age group, emphasis should be placed on yearly monitoring of indices of metabolic symptoms

and lifestyle interventions, such as weight control, healthy diet, regular exercise, and stress management," said lead author Yan Li, postdoctoral researcher at the Pennsylvania State University.

If left untreated, sleep apnoea can result in a growing number of health problems, including high blood pressure, stroke, heart failure, irregular heart beats, and heart attacks.

"Early detection and treatment of mild-to-moderate sleep apnoea is warranted in order to prevent future cardiometabolic disease," Li added.

For the study, published recently in the journal *Sleep*, the team conducted twin studies involving a sample of 1,741 adults.

Participants completed a detailed medical history interview at baseline and were evaluated in a sleep centre during an overnight sleep study. Those without hypertension or diabetes at baseline were followed up after 10 years. —JANS

## Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! To Tuesday, June 6, 2017:

This year you will seem very different to those in your outside world. You project an inspiring, caring attitude toward others, but you might not feel that you are receiving the same in return. You even might feel as if you have been left out of the fun. You are more likely to be the one who sings, so you could have a similar experience. It is important to take sometime getting to know someone before you commit. If you are attached, you and your sweetie flourish if you plan some extra time for just the two of you. SCORPIO can be unusually precise and challenging.

The Start Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 3-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

\*\*\*\*\* You easily could go overboard if you follow your intuition. Use your intellectual ability when dealing with a boss or authority figure instead of being emotional. Otherwise, a problem could emerge. Do not allow anyone to inspire you tonight. Tonight: Make time for a favorite person.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

\*\*\*\*\* Defer to others, and allow greater give-and-take in an emotional situation. Reach out to someone at a distance who often causes you to rethink your position. Focus on a friendship and/or a long-term goal. Others will respond positively. Tonight: Listen to a special person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

\*\*\*\*\* You become wittier as the day goes on. You know where you are heading and why. Don't deceive yourself about an associate's intentions; this person might aspire with her or his ideas, yet there is an element of self-delusion. Tonight: Put up your guard and relax.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\*\*\* You could be determined to have your way, and a friend will support you in that goal. Your instincts carry you through a problem. A partner or friend shares more than you might be ready to handle. Underestimate your own immediate circle. Tonight: Time for fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\*\*\* Pressure builds around your personal life. Do not fight some fast changes happening around you. Be willing to take a risk. A friend does not let you down. Know what your guard. You might hear some information that you don't want. Tonight: Head home early.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\*\*\*\* Reach out to someone you care a lot about. This person might express unusual caring and use good sense when it comes to you. Understand that underlying tension is resolvable, as long as you can relax. A boss or parent is full of ideas and suggestions. Tonight: Join a love club.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

\*\*\*\* Be aware of the costs of conflicting as you have been. Listen to your intuition and your reasons. Tonight: Be bold in telling yourself that everything is OK. Consider revising your budget. Don't just pretend that there isn't a problem. Tonight: Reach out to a close friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\*\*\* You'll follow through on a concept or project that you have been working on for a long time. A conversation with a partner refreshes your ideas. The words you choose need to be said differently in order to get your message across. Tonight: Your wish is someone else's command.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\*\* You might feel pressured by what a partner or loved one expects of you. You are likely that you are not the star taking place in your own household. Your situation, or your perspective of it, could be changing. Tonight: Lie low and stay close to home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\*\* Zero in on what is important to you. A meeting could be scheduled in which your mind seems fixated on what was discussed. You will need to diffuse the situation and step back. Your creativity and imagination allow greater flexibility. Tonight: Where your friends are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\*\*\*\* If you are single, a love interest becomes more visible. Tonight: You are likely to be the one to be chosen. Follow your heart, and do what you want. Use caution with your finances. You want to build greater financial security for yourself. Tonight: Listen to news.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\*\*\* You might choose to disclose a secret. Tonight: You will need to keep hush-hush. You might want to talk about what you have learned with someone else, but resist the urge to spill the beans. Tonight: Reach for the impossible, and do not allow anyone to stop you.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Not to be born is, past all prizing, best.

- SOPHOCLES

### LOCKHORNS



### DENNIS THE MENACE



### THE PHANTOM



By Lee Falk

### BLONDIE



### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



### Kids

#### CN

- 13:00 Roll No. 10
- 14:00 Roll No. 21
- 15:30 Roll No. 10
- 16:00 We Bare Bears
- 17:30 Teen Titans Go
- 18:00 Larva
- 18:30 Roll No. 21
- 21:00 Teen Titans Go
- 22:00 Ben 10
- 23:00 Dragon Ball Z
- 23:30 Telephong

#### StarPlus

- 13:00 Tu Soora Main Saanvi Pyali
- 13:30 Ek Asitha Aise Bhee
- 14:30 Love Ka Hai Intzaar
- 15:00 Dil Bole Oberoi
- 15:30 Naamkaran Pyak Khelba Hail
- 16:00 Meri Dungi
- 16:30 Naamkaran Pyak Khelba Hail
- 17:00 Ishqzaaz
- 18:30 Meri Dungi
- 19:30 Saath Mein Hail Meri Dili
- 20:00 Pardes Mein Hail Meri Dili
- 20:30 Naamkaran Pyak Khelba Hail
- 21:30 Neh Rehna Kehla Hail
- 22:30 Ishqzaaz
- 23:00 Love Ka Hai Intzaar
- 23:30 Dhaka Kit Pre

#### colors

- 13:00 Tu Soora Main Saanvi Pyali
- 13:30 Ek Asitha Aise Bhee
- 14:30 Love Ka Hai Intzaar
- 15:00 Dil Bole Oberoi
- 15:30 Naamkaran Pyak Khelba Hail
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- 20:00 Pardes Mein Hail Meri Dili
- 20:30 Naamkaran Pyak Khelba Hail
- 21:30 Neh Rehna Kehla Hail
- 22:30 Ishqzaaz
- 23:00 Love Ka Hai Intzaar
- 23:30 Dhaka Kit Pre

#### infotainment

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

#### AFRICA'S HUNTERS

- 14:00 Stars
- 14:30 Rock of Ages
- 15:00 Yoh Moh Me India
- 16:00 The Warfighters
- 17:00 Big Cat Hunt
- 17:30 Baggage Battles
- 18:00 Don't Blame
- 18:30 Food Tech
- 19:00 Food Tech
- 20:00 France's Grand...
- 20:30 Wild Africa
- 21:00 Counting On
- 21:30 Dogged Battles
- 22:00 Prove It
- 22:30 Strong Wins
- 23:00 Food Tech

#### Discovery CHANNEL

- 13:00 Africa's Hunters
- 14:00 The Mammoths
- 15:00 Water: The Real Story
- 17:00 Primeval
- 18:00 The Great Barrier Reef
- 19:00 Science of Stupor
- 19:30 Siamese Cats
- 20:00 Amazing with DMO
- 21:00 India's Megaliths
- 22:00 Man Hunt
- 23:00 Animal Fight Club

#### Animal Planet

- 13:00 Freedom
- 14:00 Fauna and Flora
- 15:00 Animal Attack
- 16:00 Wildest Africa
- 18:00 Natural Born Hunters
- 19:00 World Environment Day
- 20:00 Fast and Furious
- 21:00 King of the Jungle
- 22:00 Animal Attack
- 23:00 Animal Attack

#### MAN vs. WILD

- 14:00 You've Been Warned
- 15:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 15:30 Man vs. Wild
- 16:00 Man vs. Bear Grylls
- 16:30 Naked and Afraid
- 17:00 Man vs. Wild
- 17:30 Man vs. Wild
- 18:00 You've Been Warned
- 18:30 River Monsters
- 19:00 Man vs. Wild
- 19:30 River Monsters
- 20:00 Man vs. Wild
- 21:00 Man vs. Wild
- 21:30 Man vs. Bear Grylls
- 22:00 Animal Attack

#### Rainbow

- 13:00 River Monsters
- 14:00 You've Been Warned
- 15:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 15:30 Man vs. Wild
- 16:00 Man vs. Wild
- 16:30 River Monsters
- 17:00 Man vs. Wild
- 17:30 Man vs. Wild
- 18:00 You've Been Warned
- 18:30 River Monsters
- 19:00 Man vs. Wild
- 19:30 River Monsters
- 20:00 Man vs. Wild
- 21:00 Man vs. Wild
- 21:30 Man vs. Bear Grylls
- 22:00 Animal Attack

#### DISNEY CHANNEL

- 14:00 I'm a Genius
- 15:00 I'm a Genius
- 16:00 I'm a Genius
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- 97:00 I'm a Genius
- 98:00 I'm a Genius
- 99:00 I'm a Genius
- 100:00 I'm a Genius

#### STAR PLUS

- 13:00 Tu Soora Main Saanvi Pyali
- 13:30 Ek Asitha Aise Bhee
- 14:30 Love Ka Hai Intzaar
- 15:00 Dil Bole Oberoi
- 15:30 Naamkaran Pyak Khelba Hail
- 16:00 Meri Dungi
- 16:30 Naamkaran Pyak Khelba Hail
- 17:00 Ishqzaaz
- 18:30 Meri Dungi
- 19:30 Saath Mein Hail Meri Dili
- 20:00 Pardes Mein Hail Meri Dili
- 20:30 Naamkaran Pyak Khelba Hail
- 21:30 Neh Rehna Kehla Hail
- 22:30 Ishqzaaz
- 23:00 Love Ka Hai Intzaar
- 23:30 Dhaka Kit Pre

#### Entertainment

- 13:00 Tu Soora Main Saanvi Pyali
- 13:30 Ek Asitha Aise Bhee
- 14:30 Love Ka Hai Intzaar
- 15:00 Dil Bole Oberoi
- 15:30 Naamkaran Pyak Khelba Hail
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- 20:30 Naamkaran Pyak Khelba Hail
- 21:30 Neh Rehna Kehla Hail
- 22:30 Ishqzaaz
- 23:00 Love Ka Hai Intzaar
- 23:30 Dhaka Kit Pre

#### Regional

- 07:00 Breakfast Live
- 08:00 Good morning Assam
- 10:00 Good morning Assam
- 11:00 Konka Barista (R)
- 12:00 Mid Day Live
- 13:00 Mid Day Live
- 14:30 Afternoon Live
- 17:00 Good evening Assam
- 18:00 Good evening Assam
- 19:00 Good evening Assam
- 20:00 Good evening Assam
- 21:00 Good evening Assam
- 22:00 Good evening Assam
- 23:00 Good evening Assam
- 07:00 Breakfast Live
- 08:00 Chirup
- 09:00 Good morning Assam
- 10:00 Good morning Assam
- 11:00 Konka Barista (R)
- 12:00 Mid Day Live
- 13:00 Mid Day Live
- 14:30 Afternoon Live
- 17:00 Good evening Assam
- 18:00 Good evening Assam
- 19:00 Good evening Assam
- 20:00 Good evening Assam
- 21:00 Good evening Assam
- 22:00 Good evening Assam
- 23:00 Good evening Assam
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Onlookers react near the scene of an attack close to London Bridge in central London on Monday. — UNI

## ISIS claims attack; 12 arrested in London's night of terror

LONDON, June 5: British police arrested a dozen people in a widening terrorism investigation after attackers using a van and large knives turned a balmy evening of nightlife into a bloodbath and killed seven people in the heart of London. The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) group claimed responsibility today.

Although the attackers were also dead, authorities raced to determine whether they had accomplices, and Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday warned that the country faced a new threat from copycat attacks.

The country's major political parties temporarily suspended campaigning with only days to go before the general election. May said the vote would take place as scheduled Thursday because "violence can never be allowed to disrupt the democratic process."

The assault unfolded over a few terrifying minutes late Saturday, starting when a rented van veered off the road and barreled into pedestrians on busy London Bridge.

Three men then got out of the vehicle with large knives and attacked people at bars and restaurants in nearby Borough Market until they were shot dead by police.

"They went 'This is for Allah,' and they had a woman on the floor. They were stabbing her," witness Gerard Vowles said. Florin Morariu, a Romanian chef who works in the Bread Ahead bakery, said he saw people running and some fainting. Then two people approached another person and "began to stick the knife in ... And then I froze and I didn't know what to do."

He said he managed to get near one attacker and "hit him around the head" with a bread basket.

"There was a car with a loudspeaker saying 'go, go' and they (police) threw a grenade.... And then I ran," he said. London police said officers killed the attackers within eight minutes of arriving at the scene. Eight officers fired some 50 rounds, said Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley, the force's head of counterterrorism.

Islamic State's statement today from its Amaq news agency claimed the group's "fighters" were responsible, according to the SITE Intelligence Group. IS has urged supporters to weaponize vehicles in attacks against the West. — AP

## Arab nations cut ties with Qatar in major diplomatic crisis

RIYADH, June 5: Arab nations including Saudi Arabia and Egypt today cut ties with Qatar accusing it of supporting extremism, in the biggest diplomatic crisis to hit the region in years.

Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen joined Saudi Arabia and Egypt in severing relations with gas-rich Qatar, with Riyadh accusing Doha of supporting groups, including some backed by Iran, "that aim to destabilise the region".

Qatar reacted with fury, denying any support for extremists and accusing its Gulf neighbours of seeking to put the country under "guardianship".

The crisis was likely to have wider-ranging consequences, not just for Qatar and its citizens but around the Middle East and for Western interests.

Qatar hosts the largest US airbase in the region, which is crucial to operations against Islamic State group jihadists, and is set to host the 2022 football World Cup.

Today's announcement came less than a month after US President Donald Trump visited Saudi Arabia to cement ties with Riyadh and called for a united front among Muslim countries against extremism.

It also followed weeks of rising tensions between Doha and its neighbours, including Qatar accusations of a concerted media campaign against the country and the alleged hacking of the Qatari News Agency.

The Gulf states banned their citizens from travelling to Qatar and ordered Qatari citizens to leave within 14 days.

Saudi Arabia also closed its borders with Qatar, effectively blocking food and other supplies exported by land to Qatar.

Local media in Qatar reported there was already some panic buying by people stocking up on food.



The Gulf states banned their citizens from travelling to Qatar and ordered Qatari citizens to leave within 14 days.

Riyadh said in a statement the moves aimed to "protect its national security from the dangers of terrorism and extremism".

The measures were the result of "gross violations committed by authorities in Qatar", Riyadh said, accusing Doha of harbouring "terrorists and sectarian groups that aim to destabilise the region including the Muslim Brotherhood, Daesh (IS) and Al-Qaeda". — AFP

## Tillerson urges Gulf States to stay united

SYDNEY, June 5: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson today called on Gulf states to stay united and work out their differences after several nations cut diplomatic ties with Qatar.

"We certainly would encourage the parties to sit down together and address these differences," he said in Sydney.

"If there's any role that we can play in terms of helping them address those, we think it is important that the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) remain united."

In the region's most serious diplomatic crisis in years, Qatar's Gulf neighbours Riyadh, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates as well as Egypt all announced they were severing ties with gas-rich Qatar.

Riyadh cut diplomatic relations and closed borders with its neighbour to "protect its national security from the dangers of terrorism and extremism", the official Saudi Press Agency said.

A Saudi-led coalition which for more than two years has been fighting Iran-backed rebels in Yemen separately announced Qatar was no longer welcome in the alliance, accusing it of supporting terrorist organisations.

Riyadh had assigned warplanes to the coalition conducting air strikes against Yemen's Houthi rebels.

Tillerson said despite the impasse, he did not expect it to have "any significant impact, if any impact at all, on the unified fight against terrorism in the region or globally".

"All of those parties you mentioned have been quite unified in the fight against terrorism and the fight against Daesh, ISIS, and have expressed that most recently in the summit in Riyadh," he added.

Less than a month ago, US President Donald Trump visited the region to cement ties with powerhouse Saudi Arabia – the first foreign stop of his young presidency.

In a Riyadh speech to Muslim leaders from around the world, Trump urged them to "drive out" extremists and "terrorists", as Sunni jihadists carry out attacks in many countries. — AFP



## Skin cure fad driving Myanmar elephant poaching surge: WWF

YANGON, June 5: Myanmar's wild elephants are being poached in record numbers with at least 20 killed this year due to surging demand for their hide, WWF said today, warning the species is facing a "crisis".

Hunters are increasingly targeting mothers and calves, using poisoned arrows to inflict a slow and agonising death before stripping them of their skin, the wildlife group said.

At least 20 elephant corpses have been found stripped of their skin in two sites the wildlife NGO monitors so far in 2017 – more than are usually killed in a whole year.

Global wildlife law enforcement specialist Rohit Singh said poaching at the Bago Yoma and the Irrawaddy Delta sites, both in the south, had reached crisis point.

"If the current trend continues then you're going to lose the wild elephant population (in these areas) in the next 1-2 years," he told AFP.

"The sex ratio was already screwed up so any more pressure on young or breeding females will have serious, serious implications."

Elephant skin has become one of the latest animal products to be touted by some as having medical properties, although there is no scientific support for those claims.

WWF estimates there are 1,400-2,000 elephants roaming

wild in Myanmar, thought to be the second-largest population in Southeast Asia after Thailand.

But these numbers have dwindled as Myanmar has emerged as a key hub in the USD 20 billion a year global wildlife trafficking trade.

Myanmar's government said in January that elephant poaching has

jumped tenfold in recent years, driven by growing demand for skin and body parts used in traditional medicine.

AFP reporters who visited a wildlife market behind the gates of Myanmar's famed "Golden Rock" pilgrimage site earlier this year saw chunks of the hide on sale for a few dollars a square inch.

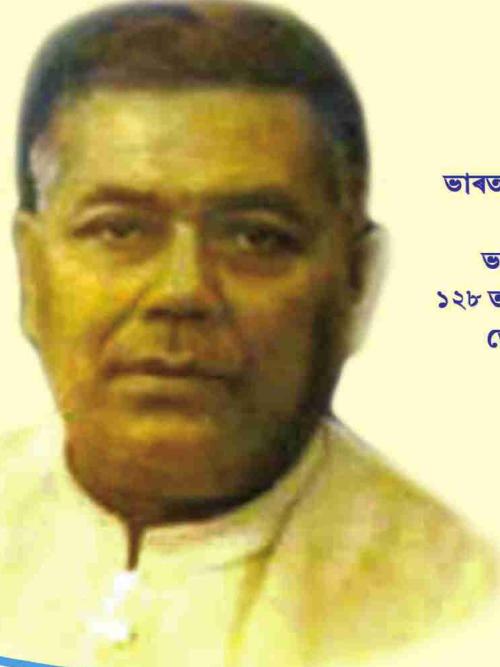
Vendors promised that a paste made of its ash and coconut oil would cure eczema, while ground up elephant teeth would smooth and whiten skin.

But experts say the majority of elephant products go to feed neighbouring China's insatiable taste for exotic animals.

Much of the trade runs through the country's lawless eastern frontier, controlled by a sophisticated criminal network who are thought to be armed and funded by powerful "kingpins" in China. — AFP

## ভাৰতৰ লোকপ্ৰিয় গোপীনাথ বৰদলৈৰ ১২৮ তম জন্ম দিৰস

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ভাৰতৰ স্বাধীনতা সংগ্ৰামৰ অন্যতম মুক্তি যুৱাক  
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ভাৰতৰ লোকপ্ৰিয় গোপীনাথ বৰদলৈৰ  
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তেখেতলৈ যাচিছো আন্তৰিক শ্ৰদ্ধাঞ্জলি।

সৰ্বানন্দ সোণোৱাল  
মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী, অসম



# Svitolina in quarters, Halep establishes title credentials

PARIS, June 5: Fifth seed Elina Svitolina ended Petra Martic's dream run to move into her second French Open quarterfinal, while Simona Halep outplayed Carlo Suarez Navarro to seal her place in the quarterfinals on Monday.

Ukraine's Svitolina dug deep to produce her best tennis in adversity, beating Croatian qualifier Martic 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, while Halep ensured a resounding 6-1, 6-1 victory.

Martic, ranked 290th in the world after a 10-

month injury layoff last year, was two points from victory at 5-2, 30-0 on her opponent's serve, but Svitolina unleashed a barrage of winners to claim 20 of the last 26 points.

"I decided to give everything I had and stay strong mentally. I hope I will recover from my injury," said the fifth seed, who received on-court treatment to her lower back at the beginning of the decider.

Paris-based Svitolina, one of the tournament

favourites, next faces Romanian Simona Halep who she beat in the Italian Open final in Rome last month.

Martic, playing in the fourth round here for the second time, was no pushover.

She had beaten two seeded players in previous rounds and was close to adding a third to her list when she served for the match at 5-3.

But Svitolina suddenly found her range, hitting seven winners and an ace in the last three games before Martic bowed out on the second match point when she sent a backhand into the net.

Halep established her credentials to become the newest French Open champion with a blistering victory over Carla Suarez-Navarro of Spain to reach the quarterfinals.

With no former champions left in the field, pregnant Serena Williams watching from the sidelines and Maria Sharapova not invited to compete, third seed Halep has a golden opportunity to break into the Grand Slam winners' circle.

Monday's evidence suggested the Romanian may be ready for it.

"I was expecting a tough game against a very good claycourt player," Halep said. "But I managed to push her back."

"I played a good game." There could be no arguments from any observers or from Suarez Navarro who appeared stunned at the outcome.

Before this clash there had been little to suggest it would be so one-sided. Halep led their head-to-head record, but only by 6-5.

As soon as the match began, however, its complexion became quickly apparent. Halep settled faster and raced into a 5-0 lead before Suarez

Navarro could register on the scoreboard.

The Spaniard finally held her serve for 5-1 when Halep made a rare forehand error to end a 15-stroke rally, but the Romanian put that behind her to seal the set with a backhand pass a game later.

There are few players who strike the ball more crisply than Suarez Navarro, especially the backhand side where she usually unfurls a big top-spin shot.

But whether it was the swirling wind which

snapped the flags lining the roof of the showcourt, or Halep's varied pace, the Spaniard repeatedly struggled to find her range.

The one high point for Suarez Navarro was when she broke back for 1-1 in the second set, but it was all downhill from there.

Her timing had gone, then her footwork. At one point she was forced to lunge forward to strike a backhand and accordingly popped it into the net, her foot positioning all wrong. — Agencies



Ukraine's Elina Svitolina clenches her fist as she plays Croatia's Petra Martic during their fourth round match of the French Open at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, on Monday.

## Gaurav enters medal round in Kazakh boxing

NEW DELHI, June 5: Gaurav Chauhan (91kg) assured himself of at least a bronze medal by being the only Indian boxer to register a victory on the opening day of the President's Cup in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Gaurav defeated Kazakhstan's Erkin in the quarterfinal to make the last-four stage.

However, Deepak Singh (52kg) and Parveen Kumar lost their respective opening bouts to bow out of the competition.

While national champion Deepak went down to Kyrgyzstan's Musatov, Parveen lost to local favourite Nurbolat Sermakhanov.

The tournament features both men's and women's competition with close to 150 boxers vying for the top honours. — PTI

## Murray eases past Khachanov into quarterfinals

PARIS, June 5: Andy Murray of Britain produced a clinical performance to see off Russian Karen Khachanov and reach a seventh French Open quarterfinal.

The World No.1 came through 6-3, 6-4 to claim his 650th Tour-level victory in two hours and four minutes.

The Scot, 30, goaded on face Japan's Kei Nishikori or Fernando Verdasco of Spain in the last eight.

After his win, Murray paid tribute to the victims of recent terror attacks in Manchester and London.

"It was a terrible tragedy in London and also in Manchester only a few weeks ago," he said.

"Paris has had some problems in the last few years and I'm sure everyone will join me in sharing the fact that our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by this."



Britain's Andy Murray in action during his fourth round match of the French Open against Russia's Karen Khachanov in Paris, on Monday.

## Amir's SBL names captains for 8 franchises

NEW DELHI, June 5: Former Commonwealth Games bronze-medallist Amandeep Singh will lead the Punjab franchise in the Amit Khan-promoted Super Boxing League (SBL) to be held next month.

Amandeep will captain Sher-e-Punjab, while World Boxing Council's Asia-Pacific Champion Neeraj Goyal will lead Haryana Warriors. Former national champion Kuldeep Singh will be captaining team Southern Super Kings.

Deepak Tanwar will lead Maratha Yoddhas, Ram Singh will spearhead Mumbai Assassins, and national level MMA artist Pawan Mann will captain the team Delhi Gladiators.

Sandeep Kumar Dahiya will captain team Uttar Pradesh Termites and the youngest of all Asia Roka will lead the team North-East Tigers. — PTI



Romania's Simona Halep plays a shot against Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro during their fourth round match of the French Open at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, on Monday.

## We were below-par, loss to India a reality check: Arthur

BIRMINGHAM, June 5: Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur feels his side was given a "reality check" by India in the lost Champions Trophy clash here and the "below-par" show was a result of his players letting the occasion get the better of them.

India launched their Champions Trophy campaign with a resounding 124-run victory over Pakistan yesterday, extending

of is the magnitude of the occasion to them."

Arthur said his lack of belief and errors in executing simple plans.

"We were below par. It's as simple as that. And it's a reality check of where we are in our one-day cricket at the moment," Arthur told reporters at the post-match press conference here.

"We talk about setting the tone up front, but we didn't set tone up front. We had a couple of guys that were in the clouds at the start and that sets the tone. For us to have a performance as tentative as that right from the start is a worry and the only thing I can think

their dominance over the archrivals in major ICC tournaments.

Pakistan now need to win their final two games against Sri Lanka and South Africa to stand a chance of qualifying for the semifinals.

"The guys tried hard as they

could. My issue is fear. My issue is getting out there and really looking to take the game on and just believing in themselves and believing that they can take the game on," Arthur said.

"The worrying thing for me, and it has been for a period of time, is we just do the basics wrong. We do the simple things wrong. We drop simple catches. We don't run well enough between wickets," he lamented.

An exasperated Arthur could barely hide his disappointment with his players, who floundered in almost every aspect of the game.

"We don't hit the keeper with our throws. We don't understand when to bowl our variations. We bowled a really good over and then we bowled a variation in our sixth ball and that's the ball that ended up going for a boundary," he said. — PTI

## England set for a tougher test against NZ

CARDIFF, June 5: After a comfortable outing in the tournament-opener, title favourites England are set to face a much stiffer test against New Zealand in a crucial Champions Trophy Group A fixture here tomorrow.

There is a lot at stake for both the teams. England will put their one foot in the semifinals with a second successive win while New Zealand will aim for two full points after rain denied them a crack at Australia and the two teams settled for a point each in a game that produced no-result.

England could not have hoped for a better start to the tournament as they thrashed a

lacklustre Bangladesh in the first match of the Champions Trophy on Thursday.

How easily they chased down 306 was a timely warning to the other title contenders. Joe Root strode to a 10th ODI hundred while opener Alex Hales moved out on a deserved hundred by five runs.

Captain Eoin Morgan too began his campaign on a confident note, finishing an unbeaten 75 off 61 balls.

He, however, would be a tad worried about the leaky patch of opener Jason Roy, who has not crossed 50 in his last 10 ODI innings. — PTI

**MATCH STARTS: 3PM IST**

## Ramkumar wins ITF Futures title in Singapore

SINGAPORE, June 5: Indian player Ramkumar Ramachandran lifted the USD 15,000 ITF men's Futures title after outplaying Raymond Sarmiento of the USA in straight sets here.

The top-seeded Indian hardly broke a sweat on his way to a 6-2, 6-2 win over the second-seeded player from USA in the final of event last night.

It was the first title of the season for Ramkumar and 15th of his career.

Ramkumar, a regular in India's Davis Cup team, had recently competed in the qualifying event of the French Open but failed to make it to the main round of the Grand Slam tournament. — PTI

## Lahiri finishes career-best 2nd in PGA

came into the week following a streak of three missed cuts and a ranking that was fast dropping, had the best card for the day as he rose from overnight 27 to finish at 10-under 272.

It was a score that stayed as the clubhouse target as the players grappled with a weather delay and a golf course that became demanding before the rain stopped it in the day.

Dufner, who had a record 36-hole score of 14-under before

planning to five-over 77 on the third, turned in nine-under after three birdies and three bogeys on front nine. — PTI

## Warner says 'no contracts, can't play' in CA dig

SYDNEY, June 5: Vice-captain David Warner has attacked Cricket Australia's handling of an Ashes series boycott by players later this year.

The feisty opener has not backed away from claims he made last month of a potential players' strike during the three-week home series against England, starting in November.

CA has threatened not to pay contracted players beyond the June 30 expiry of their current financial deal if they do not accept a new offer.

Warner has gone on the front foot, claiming the governing body had prosecuted its argument primarily through media briefings.

"If we are unemployed, we have no contracts, we can't play," he told Fairfax Media today in England at the Champions Trophy.



Cricketers' Association (ACA).

"They are doing a great job for us," he said of the players' union's efforts in the dispute. — AFP

"We are pretty sure that they will come to an agreement. But, as you know, we are going to be unemployed come July 1. So we have to wait and see."

Warner said beyond "a couple of emails" CA management had not engaged with his contracted players.

"What we hear in the media and that's how CA have been driving it the whole way," he said.

"They have been using the media as a voice and we get the message from there."

Warner again pledged his "full support" to fellow players and affirmed he is "100 per cent" behind the Australian cricket board.

"They are doing a great job for us," he said of the players' union's efforts in the dispute. — AFP

"I think that really deflated the optimism and that gave me a bit of time to settle in from the other end. When he got out, I took over. But I think his innnings was a difference in the game," he added.

While he was pleased with the win, Kohli was not impressed with India's fielding.

"With the bat and ball, right up there — I would say nine out of 10. In the field we were still 6. It's a very strong performance, we've taken the confidence from the practice games."

"We need to tighten our fielding to compete hard against the best teams," he said.

The Indian batsmen remained focused despite the rain breaks with Rohit Sharma (91 off 119), Shikhar Dhawan (68 off 65), Kohli and Yuvraj rising to the occasion in a game reduced to 48-overs-a-side affairs.

"I think the way Shikhar batted was really good to see. Rohit was taking a bit of time because, understandably so, he's come back after so long to international cricket," Kohli said.

"After I got to 50, I wasn't able to freely play. And Yuvra came in and just took all the pressure off me. And the way he batted was the way only he can strike the ball, hitting low full tosses for fours and sixes, and even digging out yorkers for fours was outstanding."

"The way he (Yuvraj) was hitting the ball, I felt like a club batter in front of him," Kohli told reporters at the post-match press conference.

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