

## NEWS CAPSULE



Hundreds of fish died due to unhygienic condition in the pond on the premises of Hayagriva Madhava Temple at Haio, on Sunday. - UB Photos

### Sharia laws

LUCNINOW, April 23: In a bid to clear confusion over Sharia laws, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has decided to tread the social media path and also explore the possibility of starting a TV news channel and newspaper. The board will constitute a special social media body. - PTI

### Farmers' stir

NEW DELHI, April 23: Farmers from Tamil Nadu who have been on protest sit-in here for the past 40 days have demanded suspension of their demonstration till May 25 after they met state Chief Minister K Palaniswami. He will request the Prime Minister for the loan waiver. - IANS

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## CM wants continuation of NEIIPP for now

SP Correspondent

NEW DELHI, April 23: Pleading for continuation of the North East Industrial Investment and Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Sunday called for revival of the Ashok Paper Mill.

Taking part for the first time in the third Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog at the Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre here,

Sonowal also pleaded for revival of the Nagaon Paper Mill and Cachar Paper Mill, saying the resumption of these units will give a boost to the rural economy of Assam.

He requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to assist the State Government in reviving these mills.

Sonowal further requested the Prime Minister to allow continuation of the existing NEIIPP 2007.

till a new policy is put in place. "NEIIPP 2007 has led to significant industrial investment in Assam to the tune of around Rs 5,000 crore before its expiry on March 31 this year.

**NITI Aayog meet**  
Till a new industrial policy is put in place, NEIIPP may be allowed to continue," he said.

Sonowal pleaded for instructing the Ministry of Finance and NITI

Ayog to evolve a mechanism for scheme-wise allocation of Central share well in advance to enable the states to prepare a realistic resource-based action plan. This is necessary because "non-availability of scheme-wise allocation of Central share before the presentation of a state budget creates difficulties in reflecting the correct allocation of funds against each scheme."

As the country is on the cusp of introducing GST from July 1 this year, and he said it will give a big fillip to the Prime Minister's 'Make in India' initiative. In this context, Sonowal pointed out that Assam has had the enviable distinction of being the first state in the country to ratify the GST Constitution Amendment Bill.

The Chief Minister further pointed out that a special session of the Assam Assembly will be (See page 2)

## AASU to seek time-bound Accord implementation

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 23: The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) will demand a time-bound action plan for implementation of all the clauses of the Assam Accord in the ensuing tripartite meeting to review the implementation of the Accord.

The meeting, which will be chaired by the Union Home Minister Rajnath

people of the State etc., are yet to be implemented.

Bhattacharya said the AASU would also demand scrapping of the Citizenship Amendment Bill to provide citizenship to the Hindu Bangladeshi nationals who entered the State due to religious persecution in their own country. He said that the AASU would not accept any move that would dilute the Accord. Assam has already taken the burden of foreigners, who came to the State up the midnight of March 24, 1971 and it would not be possible for the State to take any more burden of foreigners, he asserted.

The AASU chief adviser further said that as many as 22 treacherous roads between India and Bangladesh during the recent visit of the Bangladeshi Prime Minister to India, but no agreement was signed for deportation of the Bangladeshi nationals living in India.

This will be the first tripartite meeting at the political level on the implementation of the Assam Accord during the tenure of the present government. The last such meeting was held way back in 2005, when Dr Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister, but most of the decisions taken in that meeting were not implemented.

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the possibility of a spurt in incursions along the international border cannot be ruled out, it is very unlikely that China would go for a war. He also pointed out that unlike the border with Pakistan, the India-China border has remained peaceful for decades except for incursions, which may continue till the international border disputes are finally settled.

China is obviously unhappy with the Dalai Lama's visits to Tawang time and again, and it has been expressing its displeasure. This time, his visit was a long one, which included a number of public addresses, and China is worried over

the grand reception he has received. Besides, China is also a little concerned over the emergence of India as a major economic power, said Brig Borthakur.

Over the years, India has also improved its defences to a large extent to secure the border with China. Two new divisions have been created, while a strike corps has been raised and the Indian Army is not what it was in 1962. The strength of the Air Force has also increased. In case of any eventuality, the Indian Army is very much capable of securing the borders, Brig Borthakur pointed out.

(See page 2)

## 'China unlikely to go for conventional war with India'

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

GUWAHATI, April 23: Though China has been issuing strong statements against India following the recent visit of the Dalai Lama to the Northeast, particularly Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, it is unlikely that the neighbouring country will go for a full-scale conventional war, at least in the near future.

This was expressed by Brig (Retd) Ranjit Borthakur, who, as an Army intelligence officer, closely worked on the China affairs for a long time.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, Brig Borthakur expressed the view that while

the grand reception he has received. Besides, China is also a little concerned over the emergence of India as a major economic power, said Brig Borthakur.

Over the years, India has



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## Birubala to pitch for strong laws against superstitious practices

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 23: Leading a crusade against the prevalence of superstitious practices in the State, activist Birubala Rabha will make a plea for strong legislation against superstititious practices and sufficient healthcare facilities among the rural and backward segments of population at a United Nations conference in Geneva.

The activist's concerns would be voiced at a global arena at a time when Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Act/Bill passed by the State Assembly

would complete two years of the Assembly nod, still awaiting ratification.

Rabha, a victim of witch-hunting herself, believes that awareness and legal intervention should go hand in hand, when it comes to addressing a social scourge like witch hunting, which is mostly an organised crime under the veil of superstition.

"Legal provisions are a must to work as deterrence for the organised crimes in the name of witch hunting. Moreover, women, who easily fall prey to such malpractices both as victims and a soft target of superstitious beliefs, must be sensi-

tized in a proper way," Rabha

asserted. Honoured by the State Government with the Sati Sadhani award for her relentless efforts to eradicate superstititious practices prevalent in several parts of the State, Birubala Rabha has been invited to attend a two-day Witchcraft and Human Rights Experts Workshop in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in September 2017. The UN Independent Expert on albinism Ilpona Ero, Lancaster University, and the Witchcraft and Human Rights Information Network, will co-organise the conference. (See page 2)

## Farmers give shape to State's first ornamental fish village

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, April 23: Every week, ornamental fish worth Rs 20 lakh is imported to Assam, mostly from Kolkata, the production of which in Assam is negligible despite the fact that some of the exotic species produced in the State are of better quality.

And now a nondescript village in Nagaon's Dhing is witnessing the dawn of a 'rainbow revolution' in Assam, as a group of farmers gives shape to the State's first 'ornamental fish village'. From a humble beginning way back in

2012, as many as 52 farmers of Athagao village, about 23 km from Nagaon town, are now involved in breeding ornamental fish.

Backed by technical support from institutions like Fishery College (Raha), Dhang College, KVR (Nagaon), State's fisheries department and National Fisheries Development Board (NDFB), the farmers are now producing around 3.5 lakh ornamental fishes of eighteen varieties and supplying them in some six districts of the State. Leader of the farmer's group, 39-year-old Partha Rathi Hazarika is a science graduate (See page 2)

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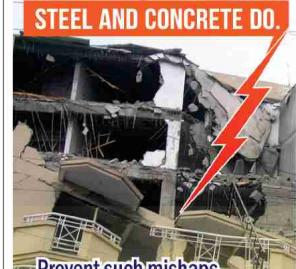
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Heat waves claim 4,620 lives in 4 yrs

NEW DELHI, April 23: Heat waves in the country are turning out to be particularly deadly with over 4,620 recorded deaths caused by the severe weather condition in the last four years. Of that figure, a whopping 4,246 people died in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana alone. - PTI

## NATIONAL MCD poll: turnout likely to cross 54 pc

NEW DELHI, April 23: Polling to elect Delhi's municipal councilors ended at 5.30 pm here today. However, those who entered the polling stations before the stipulated time will be allowed to vote.

"The entire electoral exercise passed off peacefully. The turnout by 4 pm was around 45 per cent and we are very hopeful that the final tally will be beyond 54 per cent, the voting percentage in the 2012 civic body polls in Delhi," State Election Commissioner S K Srivastava said.

The initial hours of polling, which began at 8 am, witnessed a dismal turnout. The situation improved as people trooped out later in the day as the intense heat waned.

Around 46 per cent turnout was recorded till 4 pm, with north Delhi leading the tally. "Around 22.2 lakh people have cast their vote in areas under the North Delhi Municipal Corpora-

tion," the State Election Commission said. Polling was held in 270 wards of the three municipal corporations. The election in two wards has been postponed due to the death of candidates. 1,32,10,206 voters are entitled to exercise their franchise in electing councilors for the 270 wards falling under the three corporations – NDMC (103), SDMC (104) and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (63).

Meanwhile, better roads and cleanliness were the most important issues for a majority of voters who exercised their franchise in the MCD polls today. "I am fed up with the poor administration management in my area. I have voted for better cleanliness," Sonia Jaiswal, Bhullar Singh, from north Delhi's GTB Nagar, said. "I have been complaining for a long time about the potholes on a road right outside of my house, but the issue is yet to be resolved." — PTI

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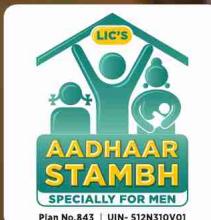
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Marine Le Pen, French National Front (FN) political party leader and candidate for French 2017 presidential election, casts her ballot at a polling station in Henin-Beaumont, northern France, on Sunday. — UNI

## Pence reaffirms historic US-Australia alliance

SYDNEY, April 23: US Vice President Mike Pence reaffirmed the country's historic alliance with Australia, and urged China to enhance its efforts to pressure North Korea to curb its nuclear program.

Mike Pence on Saturday said during a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull that the Donald Trump administration would work closely with Australia, China and other allies in the region to ramp up diplomatic and economic pressure on Pyongyang, Efe news reported.

He added that if China was unable to convince Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, the US and its allies would deal with North Korea instead, and said "all options are on the table".

His statements came amid an escalation in tensions between Washington and Pyongyang due to North Korea's latest ballistic missile tests, which prompted the US to send nuclear aircraft carrier USS *Carl Vinson* and its strike group to the Korean Peninsula.

The USS *Carl Vinson* will arrive on the Korean Peninsula shortly, according to Pence.

Turnbull also called on China to show leadership and make a "stronger commitment to

### Asks China to pressurise N Korea

Australia is the last leg of Pence's 10-day Asia-Pacific tour which will conclude on Monday when he will depart for Hawaii.

His visit to Australia is particularly significant because of the controversial telephone conversation between Trump and Turnbull early this year over a refugee deal signed by former US President Barack Obama.

Trump publicly described the deal, allowing resettlement of 1,259 refugees in the US, as "dumb". Pence and Turnbull reiterated several times on Saturday the importance of the alliance and friendship between the two countries. — IANS

## Lanka workers to strike against proposed oil deal with India

COLOMBO, April 23: Workers' of Sri Lanka's state-run petroleum firm are set to launch an indefinite strike from tomorrow against the government's proposed deal with India to jointly operate an oil storage facility at the strategic eastern port town of Trincomalee.

Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) Trade Union Collective workers have threatened to cripple entire transportation sector in the country.

Lanka and India are expected to sign an agreement to jointly invest and develop the Trincomalee Port and establish a petroleum refinery and other industries there.

The workers have three demands which include getting the government to stop granting outright ownership of

some 14 World War II oil storage tanks in the eastern port district of Trincomalee.

The Petroleum Joint Union Alliance says it opposes the proposal to transfer operations rights to oil tanks to India since the agreement would benefit the Lanka IOC, Indian Oil's subsidiary, allowing it to expand further and the CPC, which is already in debt, will incur further financial losses.

They also asked the government to shelve plans to build a new oil refinery with Chinese assistance in the southern port of Hambantota and to immediately begin repairing the existing refinery near Colombo.

"We will be striking from tomorrow and stop all fuel distribution in the country," Bandula Saman Kumara a spokesman for the trade union.

## ISIS attacks Iraq police base, 1 killed

IRBIL, April 23: Iraqi officials say ISIS militants attacked a police base in a town that is being used as a staging ground for the Mosul offensive, killing at least one policeman.

Captain Mahmoud Attia, a police spokesman, told The Associated Press that a sleeper cell of three IS fighters attacked the base today in Hamam al-Alil, some 30 kilometers south of Mosul.

Rudaw, a local television channel whose reporters were inside the base, said at least two suicide attackers entered the facility before detonating their payloads.

A Federal Police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity said one police officer was killed in the attack. — AP

### US air marshal leaves gain in Delta flight's toilet

NEW YORK, April 23: A US air marshal on a New York bound Delta flight left her loaded service gun in the aircraft's lavatory where it was discovered by a passenger, according to a media report.

The passenger gave the weapon to a member of the flight crew, who returned it to the air marshal. But the marshal, who is based in the New York region, failed to reach the incident to her superiors, as required by agency policy until several days later, the New York Times reported.

The union has taken the decision to strike after President Maithripala Sirisena has reportedly turned down a request for a meeting to discuss the issue.

Ranki Wickremesinghe, who will visit India on April 25, had said yesterday the development of eastern port district of Trincomalee will be discussed during his visit. — PTI

Delta happened on April 6, aboard a Delta flight from Manchester to Kennedy International Airport.

Despite the security lapse, the marshal was assigned to a flight a few days later, the paper said, quoting people familiar with the case. — PTI



Displaced Iraqis display a white shirt being used as a flag as they flee after a battle between Iraqi rapid response forces and ISIS militants in western Mosul, Iraq on Saturday. — UNI

## France votes in presidential nailbiter

PARIS, April 23: France voted today under heavy security in the first round of the most unpredictable presidential election in decades, with the outcome seen as vital for the future of the beleaguered European Union.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen and centrist Emmanuel Macron are the favourites to progress to a run-off on May 7 but the result is too close to call in a deeply divided country.

Le Pen, the 48-year-old leader of the National Front (FN), hopes to capitalise on security fears that were catapulted to the fore of the campaign after the fatal shooting of a policeman on Paris's Champs Elysees avenue claimed by the Islamic State group.

Aiming to ride a wave of populism that led Donald Trump to the White House and Britain to vote for Brexit, Le Pen wants France to abandon the euro and intends to call a referendum on withdrawing from the EU as well.

Her ambitions have led observers to

predict that a Le Pen victory could be a fatal blow for the EU, already weakened by Britain's vote to leave. Macron, 39, is seeking to become France's youngest ever president and has campaigned on a strongly pro-EU and pro-business platform.

Seeking to benefit from a worldwide move away from established political

parties, the former banker and economy minister formed his own movement, "En Marche" ("On the Move"), that he says is "neither to the left nor to the right."

But polls show scandal-tainted conservative candidate Francois Fillon, a former prime minister, and hard-left firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon are also in

with a fighting chance of finishing among the top two candidates and reaching the all-important second round.

Le Pen cast her ballot in Henin-Beaumont, a former coal mining town in northern France that has an FN mayor.

Macron voted in the chic Normandy seaside resort of Le Touquet with wife Brigitte, his former high school teacher who is 25 years his senior.

Nearly 47 million people are eligible to vote and most polling stations will close at 1700 GMT with those in major cities shutting an hour later. First projected results are expected shortly afterwards.

In the wake of the policeman's killing on Thursday, 50,000 police and 7,000 soldiers have been deployed around France to protect voters.

"Security issues have influenced me after the attacks. Candidates who want fewer security measures, who want to reduce the police's powers, have not got my vote," he told AFP.

## Be combat-ready: Chinese President Xi tells military

BEIJING, April 23: Chinese President Xi Jinping has underlined the need for building a combat-ready army and accelerate the building of the theatre joint combat command system, amidst the PLA flexing its muscles in the disputed South China Sea.

Xi, the ruling Communist party's General Secretary and the Central Military Commission's chairman, made the comments while inspecting the Southern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Friday and stressed building a strong army which should also avoid being corrupt.

Xi, 63, viewed as the most powerful leader despite the party, military and the government will complete his first five-year term this year and expected to be re-elected for another five-year term during the 19th Party Congress to be held later this year.

He vowed to fight corruption and enhance the "sense of gain" among officers and soldiers of the 2.3 million-strong People's Liberation Army, the world's largest.

Xi asked military personnel to strengthen their awareness in preparing for war, closely follow changes of situations and make unremitting efforts to enhance combat capabilities.

Xi required an accelerated building of the theatre joint combat command system, vigorous development of a new-type fighting force and simultaneous improvement of national defence strength and economic development, the official Xinhua news agency quoted him as saying.

His comments came amid China's maritime disputes with its South China Sea neighbours.

China claims almost all of the South China Sea, including islands more than 800 miles from the Chinese mainland, despite objections from neighbours such as the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam.

Beijing has also created artificial islands in the area, outfitting some of them with military features. The issue is a source of ongoing tension and anger in the region. — PTI

## N Korea detains US citizen in latest case

PYONGYANG, April 23:

North Korea recently detained a US citizen, officials said today, in the latest case of an American being held in the country.

The Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang said it was aware of a Korean-American citizen being detained recently, but could not comment further. The embassy looks after consular affairs for the US in North Korea because the two countries do not have diplomatic relations.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency citing unnamed sources, reported that a Korean-American man arrested Friday at Pyongyang's international airport

was detained in the US while trying to leave North Korea. It said the man, in his late 50s and identified by his surname, Kim, has been involved in aid and relief programs to North Korea and was a former professor at the Yonsei University of Science and Technology in China.

South Korea's Unification Ministry and its intelligence agency both said they were unable to confirm the report.

At least two other Americans are currently detained in North Korea. Last year, Otto Warmbier, then a 21-year-old University of Virginia student from suburban Cincinnati, was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor in prison after he confessed to trying to steal a propaganda banner. Kim Dong Chul, who was born in South Korea but is also believed to have US citizenship, is serving a sentence of 10 years for espionage. — AP

## 'Carl Vinson' in west Pacific for Japan navy drills'

TOKYO, April 23: The US nuclear test as it pursues its goal of a weapon capable of reaching the US mainland.

The *Carl Vinson* drills are expected to last several days and involve two Japanese warships, Japan's defence ministry said.

It is the third time the Japanese navy has held exercises with *Carl Vinson* after two such drills in March.

Washington has sought to

clarify the aircraft carrier's whereabouts in recent days after President Donald Trump suggested it was steaming towards North Korea when in fact it was sent towards Australia.

US Vice President Mike Pence on Saturday said it would soon arrive in the Sea of Japan, days after vowing an "overwhelming and effective" response to any North Korean attack.

He has also renewed calls for China to use its "unique" position to bring Pyongyang to heel.

US officials have repeatedly warned that "all options are on the table" including military strikes to curb the North's nuclear ambitions.

Pyongyang has ramped up its rhetoric in recent weeks, threatening to hit back against any provocation. — PTI

## Amnesty lobbies in US on human rights issues in India

WASHINGTON, April 23: Leading NGO Amnesty International is lobbying with the US lawmakers to advocate for "protection of human rights defenders" in India among other countries, as also to seek "political pressure" on the American companies responsible for the Bhopal gas tragedy.

It also wants the top leaders of the US and India to demonstrate "the importance of making the respect and protection of human rights an integral part of a just society".

In its latest quarterly lobbying disclosure report filed with the US Senate last week, Amnesty International has listed "protection of human rights defenders" in India and several other countries among the "specific lobbying issues" for the quarter ended March 31.

There are several other issues listed in the report, including the issues related to the Trump administration, on which it

on a quarterly basis, listing out the lobby issues, the departments and offices approached and the costs involved.

Incidentally, Modi is expected to visit the US later this year.

Asked about the points of advocacy regarding this, Amnesty International India's Executive Director Aakar Patel said the group has submitted "briefings to both governments on human rights concerns in each other's countries" ahead of the bilateral meetings between the Indian prime minister and the US president since 2014.

"We intend to submit similar briefings in 2017 as well, Amnesty International believes that the leaders of the US and India — the oldest and largest democracies in the world — have a great responsibility to demonstrate the importance of making the respect and protection of human rights an integral part of a just society," Patel said. — PTI



## MESSAGE FOR TODAY

*Being defeated is often a temporary condition.  
Giving up is what makes it permanent.*

— MARILYN VOS SAVANT

**The Assam Tribune**

## NRC concerns

In a significant development, the Supreme Court refused to accept ration cards as valid documents for including a person's name in the National Register of Citizens (NRC). This comes after the Gauhati High Court had rejected residency certificates issued by Gram Panchayats for the same purpose. This is a logical stand, given that procuring a ration card is a simplistic exercise and vulnerable to easy manipulation. Nowhere else in the country are ration cards recognized as valid citizenship documents, and there can be no reason why Assam has to be made an exception, that too at a time when a large number of illegal migrants in the State are known to have access to fake citizenship documents, including ration cards. It is also surprising why the Registrar General of India was open to the idea of accepting ration cards and residential certificates as citizenship documents. With the all-important task of verification of the citizenship documents now over, this happens to be the most critical phase of NRC updating. As such, both the State Government and the Centre are under an obligation to ensure that the exercise of identifying and enlisting the genuine Indian citizens remains foolproof. A foolproof NRC warrants a stringent monitoring mechanism that can plug every possible loophole in the exercise. The apex court which is closely monitoring the NRC update process is right in its observation that work on family tree, field verification and scrutiny be done simultaneously. Apparently, the stakes are high for the large number of foreigners living illegally in the State to have their names enrolled as Indian citizens, and it hardly merits surprise that illegal migrants would try to access forged documents for the purpose. In fact, several rackets issuing false birth certificates have been busted since the NRC process started. All that needs to be treated seriously by the government authorities, failing which the very objective behind having an NRC will be frustrated.

It is against the disturbing backdrop, where the State's indigenous communities are staring at an existential crisis triggered by large-scaled infiltration from Bangladesh, that the urgency of an authentic NRC needs to be understood. Even the Supreme Court had much earlier acknowledged the gravity of the situation by equating the developments to external aggression. There is no doubt that the long-term interests of peace and stability in the State can be served by identification and deportation of the illegal migrants, and an authentic and updated NRC would be crucial to such an exercise. Along with NRC update, other provisions of the Assam Accord—especially the detection and deportation of illegal migrants and the matter of providing constitutional safeguards for the indigenous people by way of reserving seats in Assembly, Parliament and local self-governing bodies—must also be implemented within a time frame.

## Doctor's dilemma

The intention behind the Medical Council of India's directive to doctors that they prescribe generic medicines to patients is laudable. The cost of health care in the country is rising with each year and doctors certainly have to share a part of the burden of culpability for this. That there exists a nexus between doctors and medicine manufacturers, of monetary or other benefits for the former, is an open secret. Hospitals, nursing homes and kindred health-care institutions, in connivance with doctors, widely fleece patients by not only carrying out unnecessary 'tests', but also prescribing costly branded medicines for which cheaper alternatives might be available. In keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recently-announced intention of putting in place a legal framework to ensure that doctors prescribe low-cost generic medicines to patients, the Council's directive is designed to give poorer patients access to affordable therapeutic drugs. The Council has also directed doctors to write out legible prescriptions, preferably in capital letters, and stating the rationale for prescribing the generic medicines, failing which strict disciplinary action would be taken. Indeed it is a reality that branded medicines having the same therapeutic purpose come with different price tags. Use of generic names on prescriptions would give patients options to choose which brand is the most affordable, while the statement of the rationale will ensure that doctors do not prescribe unnecessary drugs.

However, there are problems with implementation which will have to be ironed out. For instance, with the burden of selecting a brand passing on to pharmacists, the latter might show the customer a particular brand which gives them a bigger profit margin. Moreover, despite having similar compositions, all brands may not be qualitatively equal. Sample surveys in the past have shown that around 6 to 7% of drugs in the market are of substandard quality—if, for the sake of cheapness, poor patients opt for these, it would defeat the very purpose. Also, there are certain brands which comprise of fixed dose combinations of multiple drugs, and it would be difficult to prescribe these in generic terms. Also, there are practical as well as legal issues involving taking action against doctors who violate the directive, given that there are hundreds of thousands medical practitioners in the country. Perhaps a more pragmatic step would be for the Government itself to regulate prices of medicines based on factors such as manufacture and distribution costs. Fixing a price range within which a particular generic drug can be branded and marketed would also assist reputed manufacturers to cut down on costs while retaining drug quality. It is quite true that currently unscrupulous elements are taking advantage of the price structure to fleece patients; but merely asking doctors to prescribe generic medicines without follow-up measures will not cure the system of this malaise.

## Is the Dalai Lama a threat to China?

## ■ Vijayanta Sharma Pathak

**N**o wonder China kicks up a thunderstorm and squall whenever the Dalai Lama, or the US Ambassador to India visits Tawang, or any other part of Arunachal Pradesh. Rumours abound about the Special Services Bureau (SSB) personnel imparting guerrilla training to Tibetans on Chinese soil. The raising of the Special Frontier Force (SFF)—formed by a manstay of 5,000 Tibetans—initially after the Sino-Indian war of 1962—was in direct conflict with the Chinese strategic and tactical interests in the Indo-Tibetan perspective. It was a move that countered any goodwill China might have harboured towards India. The formation of the SFF was triggered after hectic lobbying by the Intelligence Bureau (IB), even as the Nehru Government ordered the setting up of the elite force with manpower mainly drawn from the Tibetans. The elite commando unit and specialised mountain divisions primarily comprised Tibetan resistance fighters with Chakrata near Dehradun as their base. The SFF later went on to integrate with the SSB which was the operations arm of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) until 2000. The SSB had trained thousands of Mukti Bahini men on guerrilla warfare in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. Mostly Khampons were recruited at the SFF's new Mountain Training Facility at Chakrata at the outset. If the Tibetan guns spread the message of kinship and brotherhood in Assam and Tawang in the mountain State facing China, he has drawn anger of the Chinese in the

air and missile tests.

What further galls the Chinese is the fact that the US' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was allegedly involved in the raising of the SFF along with the RAW. It were the Americans, the Chinese say, who provided all the weapons to the SFF. They basically consisted of M1, M2 and M3 machine guns, even as the unit came under the operational command of the Intelligence Bureau and later the RAW. If India could raise an elite force that has been alleged to carry out surveillance and other op-

**The decision to lay the religious carpet for the Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh is being seen as New Delhi's way of showing its resentment and telling Beijing that India has a diplomatic card to play as well.**

Each battalion, consisting of six companies, was commanded by a Tibetan who had a rank equivalent to a lieutenant colonel in the Army. A Tibetan major or captain commanded each company, which was the primary unit used in operations. Females also participated in the force. They were in the signal and medical companies. During this time, the SFF was never used against its intended enemy, China. However, the unit did conduct limited cross-border reconnaissance operations, as well as highly-classified raids to place sensors in the Himalayas to detect Chinese nucle-

ar and missile tests. Ever since, the Dalai Lama has visited Arunachal Pradesh in 1983, 1997, 2003 and 2009. In 2009, Beijing said the visit undermined Chinese territorial integrity and criticized the Dalai Lama's "scheme to wreck China's relations" with India. And since then China has been volatile about the so-called South Tibet.

Chakrata was home to the large Tibetan refugee population and was a mountain town in the foothills of the Himalayas. The SFF commenced six months of training on rock climbing and guerrilla warfare. The intelligence agencies from India and the US also helped in raising the force. Initial training was conducted by the CIA paramilitary officers and the IB's own special operations unit. In 1968 SFF, with the help of the Aviation Research Centre which provided airfield facilities, became fully airborne-qualified and a dedicated mountain and jungle warfare unit.

The decision to lay the religious carpet for the Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh is being seen as New Delhi's way of showing its resentment and telling Beijing that India has a diplomatic card to play as well. "More common people in China feel South Tibet (read Arunachal) is part of China since ancient times. The Tibet issue is vital to China's national interests; its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Dalai Lama, who said Tawang is a part of India, is a 'separatist in action' for the Chinese. China should use all the resources at its disposal, including economic, cultural and eventually military

means, for preserving our core interests," Wang Dehua, director of the Institute for Southern and Central Asian Studies at the Shanghai Municipal Centre for International Studies, has said.

Even as there were indications that the Chinese were preparing a nuclear bomb since long, it did in fact conduct the test from Lop Nor nuclear installation in Xinjiang on October 16, 1964. The event was expected but details were scarce. The CIA later in November, 1964 launched a U2 flight out of Aviation Research Centre's Cherrapunji base in Orissa. The CIA also decided to launch an electronic intelligence operation in collaboration with the RAW and the ARC, to monitor China's nuclear tests and missile launches. The operation was led by celebrated Indian climber, MS Kohli, who along with SFF and CIA operatives, was to place a permanent electronic intelligence device. It was a transceiver powered by a plutonium battery, that could detect and report data on future nuclear tests carried out by China. The plan to install a snooping device was hatched far away in Washington DC, in the offices of the National Geographic Society.

Following the normalization of the Sino-Indian relations after Deng Xiaoping's market reforms, the SFF ceased most of their operations allegedly within the People's Republic of China. Beijing's anger over the Dalai's visit could be passed off as diplomatic bluster but the global environment is altogether different this time around.

Is the Dalai Lama, the messenger of world peace and a staunch Buddhist, a threat to China?

## Management of wastewater

## ■ Kabita Sharma

**C**lean, safe drinking water is scarce. Today, nearly one billion people in the developing world don't have access to it. Yet, people take it for granted, waste it, and even pay too much to drink it from little plastic bottles. As world populations require both – more clean water and better ways to dispose of wastewater – the demand for wastewater will increase.

Reclaimed water, sometimes called recycled water, is former wastewater that has been treated to remove solids and certain impurities, and then reused for a variety of applications including landscaping, irrigation and recharging groundwater aquifers. Treating water for reuse is an important part of water conservation efforts and in some regions of the world makes great economic sense. Groundwater and surface water supplies are at risk of overuse in many areas. The demand can be greater than the amount supplied by rain and snowmelt. Water conservation, wastewater becoming increasingly important due to increases in demand on potable water resources, costs of treating wastewater, regulations requiring greater flows for streams and rivers, which reduce irrigation sources, and the demand for sus-

tainable building options.

This year, the UN World Water Day's theme 'Why waste water?' has underscored the importance of improving water quality by greatly reducing the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally. Once freshwater has been used for an economic or beneficial purpose, it is generally discarded as waste. In many countries, the wastewater is discharged, either as untreated waste or as treated effluent, into natural water courses, from which they are abstracted for further use after undergoing 'self-purification' within the stream.

Sewage is also wastewater. It is wastewater originating from toilets and bathroom fixtures, bathing, laundry, kitchen sinks, cleaners and similar dirty water that is produced in households and public places. This sewage water is at risk of overuse in many areas. The demand can be greater than the amount supplied by rain and snowmelt. Water conservation, wastewater becoming increasingly important due to increases in demand on potable water resources, costs of treating wastewater, regulations requiring greater flows for streams and rivers, which reduce irrigation sources, and the demand for sus-

tainable building options.

Wastewater collection is the first step in the wastewater treatment process. This water is then directed to a treatment plant using underground drainage systems or by exhauster tracks owned and operated by business people. The transportation of wastewater should however be done under hygienic conditions. The pipes or tracks should be leak proof and the people offering the exhausting services should wear protective clothing.

At the treatment plant, sludge control is very important. Wastewater contains a lot of dirty substances that cause a foul smell over time. All odour sources are controlled and treated using chemicals to neutralize the foul smell-producing elements. Screening is the next step in wastewater treatment process. Screening involves the removal of large objects. The solid wastes removed from the wastewater are then transported and disposed of in landfills.

Precious treatment involves the separation of macrobenthic solid matter from the wastewater which is done by pouring the wastewater into big tanks for the solid matter to settle at the surface of the tanks. The sludge, the solid waste that settles at the surface of the tanks, is removed by large scrapers and is pushed to the centre of the cylindrical tanks and later pumped out of

the tanks for further treatment. The remaining water is then pumped for secondary treatment.

The secondary treatment stage involves adding seed sludge to the wastewater to ensure that is broken down further. Air is first pumped into huge aeration tanks which mix the wastewater with the seed sludge which fuels the growth of bacteria that uses oxygen and the growth of other small microorganisms that consume the remaining organic matter. This process leads to the production of large particles that settle down at the bottom of the huge tanks. The wastewater passes through the large tanks for a period of 3-6 hours.

The solid matters that settle out after the primary and secondary treatment stages are directed to digesters. The digesters are heated at room temperature. The solid wastes are then treated for a month where they undergo anaerobic digestion. During this process, methane gas is produced and there is a formation of nutrient rich bio-solids which are recycled and dewatered into local firms. The methane gas formed is usually used as a source of energy at the treatment plants. It can be used to produce electricity in engines or to simply drive plant equipment. This gas can also be used in boilers to generate heat for digesters. The tertiary treatment

stage has the ability to remove 99% of the impurities from the waste water and produces effluent water that is close to drinking water quality. After these processes, there are still some disease-causing organisms in the remaining treated wastewater. To eliminate them, the wastewater must be disinfected for at least 20-25 minutes in a tank that contains a mixture of chlorine and sodium hypochlorite.

The sludge that is produced during treatment put into thickening tanks that allow it to settle down and later separate from the water. The remaining water is collected and sent back to huge aeration tanks for further treatment. The sludge is then treated and sent back into the environment and can be used for agricultural use.

Wastewater treatment process is one of the most environment-friendly conservation processes that should be encouraged worldwide. Most wastewater treatment plants treat wastewater from homes and business places. In industrial plants, refineries and manufacturing plants, wastewater is usually treated at the onsite facilities. These facilities are designed to ensure that the wastewater is treated before it is released to the environment. Some of the water is used for cooling the machinery within the plants and treated again.

## Letters to the EDITOR

## 'A word of caution' properly stated

done in the river which is again impossible for technical and financial constraints. So, there should be a detailed study on the silt load of the Brahmaputra and its major tributaries and a detailed project report (DPR) for the dredging work should be prepared before taking up the work. Secondly, we feel that the construction of the expressways will be difficult considering the technical, environmental, ecological and social aspects involved. The livelihood of the people living along the banks of the river will be greatly affected by such a move. It is not understood how these expressways would be aligned along the banks with the provision for thousands of outlets for inland water sources and tributaries spreading from Sadiya to Dhubri. Another issue is that the dredged out materials will not be suitable to build a strong dyke-cum-expressway. We urge the State Government to consider the viability of the proposal technically and scientifically and not with any political interest. Yours etc., PRADIP PUZARI, Panjabari, Guwahati.

## Health care

Sir.—Health care is not only about the treatment. There is a need to guide the people to reach the health care destinations to receive the exact treatment.

## Societies, foundations and organizations organize free medical camps, awareness programmes and many other similar activities to provide proper health care.

But for the people in the remote and rural regions, such activities hardly help. A common man is often seen getting deprived of proper health care when required. So there should be camps and programmes in every locality where the people should be guided in the best possible way to reach the nearest, convenient and affordable health care facilities whenever required. Cost and duration for the treatment should also be focused. The schemes and benefits provided by the Government in the field should be highlighted too. Yours etc., DR GITARTHA ROYMEDHL, Survey, Guwahati, KULEN TALUKDAR, Guwahati.

## Population policy

Sir.—The Government of Assam's decision to formulate a state population policy is a welcome step. The Government of India has set up an expert group to draft the National Population

Policy, headed by MS Swaminathan. The group provided for incentives for the citizens for adopting small family norms. Similarly, certain facilities have been made available for the Central Government employees like LTC, CEA, etc., for two children. But no restrictions had been put for the candidates to apply for jobs on the ground of number of children. Nor had it barred the citizens from fighting elections on similar grounds. Why have the people of Assam been singled out then? In a State like Assam where a sizeable population is adopting polygamy in the name of religion and many others give birth to multiple children owing to lack of education, it is very likely that the Bill will confront stiff opposition. It will therefore be wise to constitute an expert committee to look into the issue and suggest suitable measures. Yours etc., RUPRAM BORA, Panjabari, Guwahati.

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

# New facilities to be introduced for convenience of Rly passengers

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 23: In an endeavour to provide smooth travel experience to the Railways commuters, Indian Railways has taken various initiatives for improved passenger experience during the ensuing peak season.

"Considering the peak season during summers, Indian Railways is poised to offer convenient travel to the passengers without upsetting their plans. To ensure optimal utilization of available accommoda-

tion, a number of initiatives have been undertaken by Indian Railways," said PJ Sharma, Chief Public Relations Officer (Copro) of the Maligaon-headquartered Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) here.

He said that among the measures is finalisation of first reservation chart at least 4 hours before the scheduled departure of the train.

"After preparation of the first reservation chart, current ticket booking facility will be provided through any reserved ticket booking window as well as on internet till preparation



of second reservation chart.

Provision has also been made for transfer of vacant web-available accommodation after pre-

paration of the second reservation chart to the next remote location," Sharma said.

The official added that some facilities are also being provided online through the IRCTC website.

"Wait-listed passengers have been given the option of accommodation in any other train without payment of any difference of fare or grant of refund thereon under 'Vikash' scheme. This facility can also be availed for e-tickets booked prior to April 1. Tickets booked across reserved ticket booking window can be cancelled through IRCTC website or through phone number

139," said Sharma.

He said that in case of e-tickets, boarding points can be changed through IRCTC website at least 24 hours before the scheduled departure of the train.

"The facility of online booking of wheel chair has been provided free of cost to the deserving passengers. The facility of online booking of retiring rooms through the IRCTC website has also been introduced. Besides, disposable bedrolls can be purchased through the IRCTC website and e-catering has been introduced to increase food options available for the passengers," said the NFR CPRO.



Dancers performing at a journalists' Bihu function in Guwahati on Sunday. — UB Photos

## Prantik: A unique story of success & survival

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, April 23: As-

amese fortnightly magazine *Prantik*, which completed 35 years of its existence in December last year, has been able to create a group of loyal readers who boast by identifying themselves as the members of the 'Prantik Family.'

Together with the legacy left behind by its founder Chief Editor, Late Dr Bhupendra Nath Saikia, and the legacy left behind by him, the love and loyalty of the readers, writers and sellers of this magazine have sustained the fortnightly for the past 35 years.

Some of the most popular

novels and autobiographies in Assamese literature were

first serially published in

*Prantik*. The writings of its

founder Chief Editor were a

treasure for this magazine

and Assamese literature. The

*Shesh Prishtha* (Last Page)

containing the daily dairy of

Late Dr Saikia, who expired in 2003, is still very popular.

Similarly important, or

more important, is the editor's letters to the

readers receives and publish-

es. Impressed by its quality,

some of the readers have even

gone to the extent of describ-

ing the magazine as 'keen to

transcend the frontiers.'

the magazine, titled 'A man-

agement case on *Prantik* –

the Assamese fortnightly.'

The working paper maintained that the ideas and standards set by Late Dr Saikia and the legacy left behind by him, the love and loyalty of the readers, writers and sellers of this magazine have sustained the fortnightly for the past 35 years.

The working paper also quoted Deben Saikia of Rumrupak Enterprise, an old agent of *Prantik* and distributor of some other periodicals at Nagaon, who maintained that though the advent of new technology-based devices have affected the sales of Assamese magazines, *Prantik* is the least affected by this phenomenon.

Reasoning, it said that with the advent of the new age media vehicles, the print magazines in India, including Assam, are facing problems in retaining their readership and increasing circulation.

However, under the impact of the forces of rapid urbanisation, there is an ostensible erosion in the traditional values and habits of the Assamese society. And the real growth of the periodicals ex-

sists in the smaller towns and

villages, where people still have slower pace of life and can enjoy leisure reading," said the working paper.

Though the fortnightly is not targeting the children, it is said that children of the 10-14 year range also read and enjoy its contents. But it remains a fact that despite the fortnightly having the potential to get its readership base expanded phenomenally due to the existing size of the students, who read in Assamese medium, the reality is different.

Mowsam Hazarika, Assistant Director (Horticulture), Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing, Assam, Dr Sarat Saikia, Chief Scientist at the Horticultural Research Station of AAU, and Bakul Chander Saikia, Senior Agricultural Development Officer, Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing, Assam and Nodal Officer of FPC will take part in the discussion, said a

## AIR talk on Farmer Producer Company tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 23: All India Radio (AIR) Guwahati will broadcast a radio

programme about Farmer Producer Company (FPC) in Assam on April 25 from 7.15 pm in the 'Krishi Jagat' programme.

Mowsam Hazarika, Assistant Director (Horticulture), Directorate of

Horticulture and Food Processing, Assam, Dr Sarat

Saikia, Chief Scientist at the

Horticultural Research

Station of AAU, and Bakul

Chander Saikia, Senior

Agricultural Development

Officer, Directorate of

Horticulture and Food

Processing, Assam and Nodal

Officer of FPC will take part

in the discussion, said a

statement.

The discussion is aimed

at farmers of the State to

provide them inputs on how

to improve their bargaining

strength in the market.

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Forest Minister Pramila Rani Brahma interacting with the staff of NC College in Badarpur on Sunday. — UB Photos

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At 10.30 am & 3.15 pm	
<b>FAST AND FURIOUS 8 (Hindi) 3D</b>	
At 10.30 am & 3.15 pm	
<b>FAIRY TAIL STORM 3D</b>	
At 10.30 am & 3.15 pm	
<b>NOOR (Hindi) 3D</b>	
At 10.30 am & 3.15 pm	
<b>LOCAL KUNG FU 2 (Assamese)</b>	
At 10.30 am & 3.15 pm	
<b>SMURFS : THE LOST VILLAGE (3D)</b>	
At 10.30 am & 3.15 pm	
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<b>NOOR (Hindi) 3D</b>	
At 11.00 am & 3.30 pm	
<b>FAIRY TAIL STORM 3D</b>	
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## STATE

## Speaker plans to introduce 'members' hour' in Assembly

## CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, April 23: Addressing a press conference at Jorhat Press Club today Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly Hitenra Nath Goswami said he is taking up initiatives to introduce a new provision namely 'members' hour' to provide additional period for the newly elected MLAs to speak about vital issues of their respective constituencies in details.

"I am going to organise all party meeting soon for this purpose. Members' hour will provide additional period of time to the newly elected members of legislative Assembly in the sessions to speak about the vital issues of their constituencies," said Speaker Goswami.

As many newly elected MLAs did not avail additional time to bring their local

issues in details during earlier sessions the Speaker felt the need of an additional provision for those members to bring out the problems of the citizens of their respective constituencies adequately. If the issues of public importance were highlighted properly by the MLAs in the Assembly the departments concerned will take up necessary measures to solve those problems without delay.

Goswami, who is also the MLA of Jorhat Assembly constituency, highlighted many ongoing development activities in different parts of his constituency which witnessed rampant corruption in several government projects in last 10 years of Congress rule.

As the government gave a financial approval of Rs 200 crore recently for the development of urban

infrastructure of Jorhat the MLA said the amount would be spent properly for the larger benefits of the public. Seventy eight major roads of 30 km distance at various urban localities have been pointed out to be developed and maintained initially. Another project of widening of the embankment of Bhogdoi river from Pujadubi Ghat to AT Road and the beautification of the riverside area with children-park, sculptures have been prepared, said Goswami.

He also said that initiatives were taken up to provide piped cooking gas connections for the residents of around 15 municipal wards in the urban areas. It is to be mentioned that out of 19 municipal wards of Jorhat, 15 municipal wards have proper infrastructure to provide piped cooking gas to around 15,500 families. Only eight per cent of the total households of urban Jorhat could avail the piped cooking gas even after the introduction of the system in the city several years ago.

## Irregularities in BPL rice distribution alleged

## CORRESPONDENT

HAFLONG, April 23: Huge irregularities in BPL rice distribution in Dima Hasao has come to light where one Ramu Dibrageed of Food and Civil Supply Department, Haflong, alleged that one Babu Chetri of Kashipuri has been involved in black-marketing of NFSAs rice against more than 170 card holders of 19 villages right from the beginning of NFSAs scheme.

Conscious citizens of Haflong expressed their concern over the delaying attitude of the authority concerned for not taking any action against the culprit even after submitting the enquiry report by the officials.

**Unabated tree-felling:**

Though Dima Hasao district is considered to be the greenest in Assam, the fact remains

holders for his personnel gain keeping all the BPL cards in his custody which were later recovered from him.

He also said that he had already submitted his enquiry report in detail to the department but no action has been taken so far.

Conscious citizens of Haflong expressed their concern over the delaying attitude of the authority concerned for not taking any action against the culprit even after submitting the enquiry report by the officials.

**Unabated tree-felling:**

Though Dima Hasao of forest department is allowed to continue unabated, as now, the day is not far off when the glory of Dima Hasao Forest Department.

According to the villagers of Khepre, timber smuggling is going on from 2013. Though the matter was informed to the concerned department, no concrete steps were taken to stop the menace of timber smuggling by people from Nagaland.

They also alleged that the gangs involved in timber smuggling are so strong that the vil-

lagers can hardly stop them. Sometimes, they place nails on the road so that the vehicles of the security men or the departmental officials get punctured.

The villagers also said that this practice can be checked only when the Forest Department takes some pragmatic initiatives. There is an apprehension that if this practice of tree-felling is allowed to continue unabated, as now, the day is not far off when the glory of Dima Hasao of forest department is allowed to continue unabated, as now, the day is not far off when the glory of Dima Hasao Forest Department.

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## Assam Police organises events to boost police-public relationship

## CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, April 23: Under the goodwill initiative of Assam Police to strengthen police-public relations, Rangia police administration has organised a day-long event with various programmes for both police and the local public here recently.

The event, organised by the police administration with the focal theme 'Police with the public and for the public' at the Rangia HSS playground here, started with community marathon race in the morning. The event was inaugurated by Ankur Deeka, a writer.

Later, a 'tug of war' event was held where different teams of police, public, CRPF personnel took part. Musical chair competitions

## Clay making contest held

## ANN Service

MUSHALPUR, April 23: In order to sensitise the students about the collective responsibility of the world citizens towards protecting Mother Earth, a clay material making competition was organised among students at Modern English School, Nikashi on Saturday.

Students made various materials related to ecosystem using clay. Prior to the competition the students were explained about the importance of the observation of Earth Day.

It may be mentioned that Eco-Clubs observed the day with various programmes in 83 institutions including the delegates meet.

Eco-Clubs

Students



**WEATHER  
NORTHEAST**  
Forecast for North Eastern States : Moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur in some places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

**Warning:** Heavy to very heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya on April 24. Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya on April 25 and 26. Over Arunachal Pradesh on April 25 and 26. In Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura on April 24.

**Temperatures :**

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	25.6	22.6
Tenzpur	26.7	20.9
Silchar	24.1	21.0
Dibrugarh	28.1	21.8
Jorhat	25.2	21.7
N Lakhimpur	26.5	22.0
Shillong	20.9	17.7
Mawlynnong	27.5	20.5
Aizawl	27.9	6.9
Agrahata	27.3	20.2
Kameng	20.0	14.4
Pasighat	27.7	22.8
Cherrapunji	20.0	13.4

## Mizoram CM orders removal of car beacon

AIKAWL, April 23: Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla has ordered removal of beacon from his official car.

The CM's directive in this regard comes days after the Union Cabinet decided to ban use of beacon lights atop vehicles of dignitaries and government officials from May 1.

Lal Thanhawla said that there should be no place for VIP culture in a democracy, official sources said.

Meanwhile, State Chief Secretary Lalithswami said that order would be issued after receiving instruction from the centre. - PTI

## Man arrested with arms

DIMAPUR, April 23: A joint team of Nagaland police and Assam Rifles today arrested a person after arms and ammunition were seized from his possession at Indien village here.

In a joint operation, the police and Assam Rifles conducted a raid at Indien village and arrested a person. The team seized an AK-47 rifle with magazine, one M-16 rifle, two magazines of 22 pistol, 17 cartridges and four barrels from his possession, Assam Rifles Public Relations Officer said.

The accused has been handed over to police for further investigation, the officer said. - PTI

## Obituary

### Indubala Khound

GUWAHATI, April 23: Indubala Khound, a resident of Bisnupur, Shillong, passed away at her residence at 5.30 pm today. She was 88.

A lady with an amiable disposition, she was loved and respected by all. People from all communities in the area used to address her as Bar-maa (elder mother). Her husband Mukund Khound predeceased her.

Her last rites will be performed at Barapatra crematorium in Shillong tomorrow.

Will naming Beijing as Mumbai make it Indian territory?

## Arunachal leaders slam China for renaming places in State

TITANAGAR, April 23: "Will naming Beijing as Mumbai make China's capital an Indian territory," asks the president of Arunachal Chamber of Commerce and Industries summing up the mood of locals on China renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh.

People and political leaders cutting across party lines here have strongly denounced China's move to "standardise" official names of six places in Arunachal Pradesh.

Arunachal BJP president Tapir Gao said China's claim over Arunachal is "baseless". "China forcefully occupied Tibet in 1959 and it wants to capture Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

Gao said the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama had stated many times at various international and national forums that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India.

"So renaming of places in Arunachal by China is baseless and Beijing should learn from history that they forcefully occupied Tibet and their claim is meaningless," he said.

Criticising China's move, he said India has no boundary with China but with Tibet since 1914 when MacMahon, the British India representative, had signed an agreement with the Chinese representative at Shimla over the boundary.

When contacted, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Secretary Shambhala Dooley Gamlin refused to comment on the issue. "We have nothing to say on the issue as the External Affairs Ministry will handle it," she said.

Senior Congress lawmaker and former CM Nabam Tuki also ridiculed Beijing's claim over the State's territory and said, "There is no logic in such claim. Everybody knows that Arunachal is an integral part of India. The Centre should take up the matter seriously and resolve the matter once and for all."

China had announced "standardised" official names for six places in Arunachal Pradesh, days after it lodged strong protests with India over the Dalai Lama's visit to the frontier State.

India had hit out at China for giving Chinese names to some parts of Arunachal Pradesh, saying assigning invented names to towns of the neighbour does not make illegal territorial claims legal.

APCC president Takan Sanjyo said there is no doubt and confusion that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the Indian Union.

The indigenous and ethnic people of Arunachal Pradesh have got integrated with the Indian mainstream. Some ethnic tribe leaders had even participated in the freedom struggle. Therefore, Arunachal being disputed as claimed by China is absolutely absurd," Sanjyo said.

China's move evoked strong protests here with the apex students' body - All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) terming it as "intriguing and uncalled for".

"China is unnecessarily interfering in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation. The development is an unwarranted act on the part of the Chinese Government."

"We reject outright the renaming which has been done without the concern and certification of the indigenous populace of Arunachal Pradesh," AAPSU president Hawa Bagang said.

"Arunachal was never a part of China at any given point of time and a parochial approach and idea won't have any takers in Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

Arunachal Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Tashi Nauchung puffed pooh-pooed China for renaming six places in the State and called it a "whimsical move".

"Will naming Beijing as Mumbai make China's capital an Indian territory?"

"China is ignorant of the democratic development through which Arunachal Pradesh has evolved into its present status, or else it would not have made a mockery of itself by making such an announcement," they said. - PTI

"So renaming of places in Arunachal by China is baseless and Beijing should learn from history that they forcefully occupied Tibet and their claim is meaningless," he said.

Gao said the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama had stated many times at various international and national forums that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India.

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**CAPSULE****JLR cuts prices**

NEW DELHI, April 23: Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has slashed prices of its two models in India by up to Rs 4.08 lakh to take on German rivals. The company has cut the price of diesel-powered Land Rover Discovery Sport by Rs 4.08 lakh each, from Rs 43.8 lakh to Rs 45.85 lakh. It has also reduced price of Range Rover Evoque diesel by Rs 3.25 lakh to Rs 45.85 lakh from Rs 49.10 lakh earlier. —PTI

**LG smartphones**

NEW DELHI, April 23: South Korean consumer electronics major LG is gearing up for a renewed push for its struggling smartphone business in India after past missteps. The company's arm, LG Electronics India, plans to launch a range of affordable smartphones equipped with features tailored for local requirements around Diwali. LG Electronics India MD Ki Wan Kim said the company will try to understand consumer feedback with the new products without setting any targets. —PTI

**PVR strategy**

NEW DELHI, April 23: Multiplex operator PVR is looking at increasing contribution from its non-core businesses such as food and beverages and advertising to reduce its dependence on ticket sales. "We would like contribution of box office sales to go down so that dependence on ticket sales (goes down)... while that is our core business... That is the reason we exist but we would like the other revenue segments to come up in a way..." PVR Chief of Strategy Kamal Gianchandani told PTI.

**HDFC optimistic**

NEW DELHI, April 23: HDFC, which is optimistic that the government's interest subsidy scheme will boost affordable housing, has already disbursed about Rs 400 crore under the plan and sees a huge growth potential going ahead. The Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme to boost demand for affordable housing can be a game changer and help revive the real estate sector, which is facing a multi-year slowdown, HDFC MD Renu Sud Kamad said. —PTI

**VW engine update**

NEW DELHI, April 23: Over a year into the exercise, German auto major Volkswagen has been able to reduce 30 per cent of the 3.4 lakh recalled diesel vehicles it had equipped with defeat device that helped cheat emission tests in India. Volkswagen Group India said the process has been delayed as it involves different brands, engines and models. The company's headquarters has so far given 10 updates on engine updates that cover almost 70 per cent of the vehicles which have been recalled in India. —PTI

**TCS recruitment**

NEW DELHI, April 23: Tata Consultancy Services recruited 1,000 people outside India during 2016-17, including graduates from engineering and B-schools in the US, as it ramps up local hiring in offshore markets to tackle visa-related challenges. The country's largest software services firm added 79,000 employees (gross) and 33,380 employees (net), taking its employee base to 3.37 lakh at the end of March. —PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairing the 3rd Governing Council Meet of NITI Aayog, in New Delhi on Sunday. —UNI

## NITI Aayog presents 300 action points

NEW DELHI, April 23: NITI Aayog today came out with 300 specific action points for accelerating the economic growth of the country at its Governing Council meet here.

These action points formed part of a presentation made by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya at the third meeting of the council held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, no specific details about the action plan were available.

The action points are part of the presentation on a 15-year long-term vision accompanied by a 7-year strat-

egy and a 3-year action agenda, an official statement said.

Panagariya, the statement said, "gave an outline of the draft action agenda circulated at the meeting, which had been prepared with inputs from the States."

He noted that there were over 300 specific action points that had been identified, covering a wide gamut of sectors.

The period of the 'action agenda' coincides with the period of the 14th Finance Commission's award and will give stability to the funding estimates of both the Centre and States.

### Revving up economy

Panagariya also solicited inputs and support of the States in taking the vision forward.

Speaking on the occasion, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant apprised the gathering of the work done by the think tank for transforming the economy and cooperation with States in the sectors of education, health, infrastructure, etc.

He also spoke about the work done by the sub-groups of chief ministers

on rationalisation of Centrally-sponsored schemes, Swachh Bharat and skill development.

Kant outlined the initiatives taken in areas such as agriculture, poverty elimination, health, education, digital payments, disinvestment, coastal zone and island development, etc.

He said that NITI will work with States to improve basic services and infrastructure, in districts and regions which require specific attention.

Reiterating the NITI's resolve to facilitate partnership with the States for transforming India under the framework of cooperative and com-

petitive federalism, Kant said the States should treat NITI Aayog as their outpost in Delhi.

The Aayog, the statement said, is working on a platform for sharing best practices to strengthen the learning ecosystem.

It has partnered with a large number of top-ranking institutions for knowledge sharing and ideation to nurture evidence-based policymaking, the statement added.

Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia, who made a presentation on GST, urged the chief ministers to expedite the enactment of State GST Act. —PTI

## Jaitley for urgent World Bank, IMF quota reforms

WASHINGTON, April 23: The World Bank needs to decide the issues of Selective Capital Increase (SCI) to reflect the increasing weight of Developing and Transition Countries (DTCs) and General Capital Increase (GCI) to expand its annual lending. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has said.

"We must fulfil our commitment to consider and reach a decision on SCI and GCI by annual meetings 2017 in line with the Lima Roadmap," he said at the plenary here on Saturday of the Development Committee of

the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"We support SCI to bring about voice reform to ensure higher representation to the under-represented and support the use of the dynamic formula-based allocation," he said.

The Finance Minister also urged a decision this year on expanding the annual lending by the various arms of the multilateral lender through the GCI formula.

"A minimum 50 per cent increase in historical average of \$24 billion per annum in the case

"Recent work by the Fund also points to the need for realigning quota shares to reflect the changed economic realities. All these must be achieved as part of the 15th General Review of Quotas (GRQ)," he said.

"We are disappointed that the deadline for completing the 15th GRQ has been pushed back to no later than the 2019 annual meetings. Any further delay in the 15th GRQ will erode Fund's legitimacy and credibility and will be against the spirit of the Articles of Agreement," he added. —IANS

### Boosting FDI inflows PMO asks ministries, depts to modify framework, rules

NEW DELHI, April 23: The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has asked all the ministries and departments to modify enabling framework and regulations in tune with the liberalised FDI policy with a view to attracting more foreign investment.

These directions were issued at a high-level meeting of senior officials called by the PMO recently.

The meeting deliberated upon various issues pertaining to different departments, including financial services, consumer affairs, defence, home affairs, commerce & industry, space, and pharmaceuticals.

In the meeting, it was pointed out that significant reforms have already been carried out in the foreign direct investment (FDI) and now it is for the departments concerned to provide an enabling framework to attract foreign investors, officials sources said.

The government in the last two-and-a-half years has relaxed FDI policy by removing sectoral caps and placing several sectors under the automatic route.

According to the sources, the Department of Financial Services was suggested to discuss with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion a proposal to allow 100 per cent FDI in insurance broking. The issue of permitting 100 per cent foreign investment in ATM and cash management companies was also discussed in that meeting.

Similarly, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers was asked to come out with a document on future roadmap on the sector which can act as a guide for investors.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals was suggested to formulate a comprehensive medical devices policy, which is important to achieve full benefit of the liberalised FDI policy for the sector.

The government wants these issues to be in place as it would help provide a conducive investment climate to investors, besides creating jobs and boosting economic growth of the country.

FDI into the country grew 22 per cent to \$35.85 billion during April-December of 2016-17. —PTI

## Finmin in talks with PSBs to get a fix on growth plans

MUMBAI, April 23: The Finance Ministry has initiated detailed discussions with select public sector banks to assess their growth blueprint over the next three years and seek turnaround plans to check if they need more growth capital.

The Department of Financial Services will be meeting representatives of 10 state-owned banks that received funds in March this year.

"The ministry officials have sought business plans for the next three years and also wanted detailed turnaround plans. Banks will also have to submit stressed asset resolution plans," a senior public sector banker said.

The officials will also be assessing capital needs of each bank for the next three years, a source added.

In the second tranche of capital infusion, the government

had infused Rs 8,586 crore in 10 banks in March. For the full year 2016-17, it had pumped in Rs 25,000 crore.

The recipients last fiscal were Bank of India (Rs 1,500 crore), Bank of Maharashtra (Rs 300 crore), IDBI Bank (Rs 1,900 crore), Indian Overseas Bank (Rs 1,100 crore), Central Bank of India (Rs 100 crore), Dena Bank (Rs 600 crore), UCO Bank (Rs 1,150 crore), Andhra Bank

(Rs 1,100 crore), United Bank of India (Rs 418 crore) and Allahabad Bank (Rs 418 crore).

Talks are part of the Indrabhanush plan which involved banks submitting detailed growth plans and indicating how they are going to deploy the funds to get additional money.

Some banks have already got calls from the ministry for the meeting and the bankers will be meeting individually. —PTI



Finance ministers and bank governors pose for a 'family' photo for the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), as part of the IMF and World Bank's 2017 Annual Spring Meetings, in Washington, US, on Saturday. —UNI

## Recognition boosts employees' confidence: Survey

MUMBAI, April 23: Being appreciated at work not only benefits the receiver but also the giver as they feel more confident and driven, according to a recent survey.

According to a research by OC Tanner, employees who frequently give recognition feel more confident, driven and dedicated to the success of their organisation – especially the millennials (those born after 1980).

OC Tanner conducted a survey of more than 3,400 working professionals from countries around the world, including in India, the US, Canada,

unrestricted to just top managers, it said.

The survey revealed that those who give recognition at work have more organisational pride.

About 94 per cent of employees who noted that they 'always' give recognition to other co-workers are proud to tell others they work for their organisation and the percentage goes down as frequency of giving goes down, it said.

It also noted that those who give recognition at work are more confident about their work.

About 90 per cent of employees who 'always' give recognition to their co-worker in the form of handwritten notes. —PTI

## Post Payments Bank to start selling insurance products, MFs by next year

NEW DELHI, April 23: India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will start selling mutual funds and insurance products of other companies by early 2018 and is open only to "non-exclusive" tie-ups, its Chief Executive AP Singh has said.

Nearly 100 firms, both domestic and foreign, have shown interest in partnering the government.

As per RBIs norms, payments banks have to focus on providing basic financial services, including social security and utility bill payments, remittance functions, and can mobilise deposits of up to Rs 1 lakh.

Also, there would not be any training of staff necessary as no individual product of any specific company is to be sold.

Asked when IPPB would be ready to sell third-party products, Singh said "by first quarter of calendar year 2018 it should be there".

As per RBIs norms, payments

### Tata Motors starts commercial test drive of electric bus

MUMBAI, April 23: Tata Motors started commercial test drive of its first batch of electric buses under the Marcopolo brand in Shimla over the weekend.

"Last Friday we successfully piloted our first electric bus in Shimla. It was carried out jointly with the Himachal Road Transport Corporation and the State Transport department.

"The 9-metre bus, with a seating capacity of 31 people, was piloted on the Parwanoo-Kalka route with the round-trip distance of 160 km with no charging en route," AK Jindal, head of Engineering, Commercial Vehicles, Tata Motors told PTI.

Since the first test was a success, the second level of commercial pilot will happen soon in Shimla city, he added.

Jindal said the vehicle is a success as clear from the fact that the Himachal State utility has decided to increase its order for these buses to 75 from the original order of 25.

Asked when will the commercial production begin, he said as soon as the firm orders are in they can start production. The manufacturing will happen at its Dharward plant for chassis and the body will be built at the Automobile Corporation of Goa facility, a joint venture between the Tatas and the Goa government.

The country's largest busmaker has priced the 9-metre e-bus at around Rs 1.6 crore, while the 12-metre one will cost about Rs 2 crore. These are the rates that its nearest rival Ashok Leyland also charges. —PTI

### Success rate among Indian start-ups is good: IT expert

HYDERABAD, April 23: Mortality rate among start-ups in India is not alarming, and their success ratio is actually good and on par with global trend, said an expert in information technology (IT) industry.

"In the start-up industry (in India), if you look at ten companies at least three or four will succeed. It's a good rate. Globally, that's the norm."

"I don't think it (mortality rate) is alarming. Some of them had some challenges in the B2C space. But it's okay."

The nature of the industry is like that. Nothing alarming," former Chief Financial Officer of Infosys V Balakrishnan told PTI.

On reports that valuations of top-listed IT companies in India are at record lows for nearly a decade, he said the industry is facing "too many headwinds and that it is reflecting in their valuation."

"But I think the IT industry is growing, has good cash flows, and return on equity is very good," he said.

There are very few industries in India with such a scale and good financial matrix, Balakrishnan said, adding, "once the headwinds somehow minimise, the market will see more value in those stocks." —PTI

### Anti-dumping duty imposed on chemical from Thailand

NEW DELHI, April 23: India has imposed an anti-dumping duty of up to \$135.40 per tonne for a period of five years on imports of a chemical used in foam making from Thailand.

The move is aimed at protecting domestic players from cheap imports of 'flexible slab stock polyol' from the Southeast Asian country.

The application for the anti-dumping investigation was filed by Manali Petrochemicals Ltd on behalf of the domestic industry.

"The anti-dumping duty imposed... Shall be effective for a period of five years," the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has said in a notification. —PTI



**“India's progress depends largely  
on the development of villages”**

Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister



**“The future of India lies  
in its villages”**

Mahatma Gandhi

## SMART VILLAGES WILL BUILD A NEW INDIA

### NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY

24 April, 2017 | Venue: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Ashiana, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Chief Guest  
**Yogi Adityanath**  
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Presided over by  
**Narendra Singh Tomar**

Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Drinking Water & Sanitation

Guest of Honour  
**Parshottam Rupala**  
Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj

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- Launching of YouTube Channel of Ministry of Panchayati Raj with short films on best practices and schemes of Government of India.
- Sharing of audio-visual capacity building content for Panchayati Raj Institutions through instant messaging apps over smartphones to the elected members of Panchayats.
- Online certification courses for Master Trainers including elected PRI members and functionaries for imparting quality training.
- Release of quarterly magazine with QR codes and its online version for access to PRIs over mobile phones.
- National awards viz., Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar, Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar to be conferred upon Panchayati Raj Institutions and e-Panchayat Puraskars to State Governments.



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## Fatty liver disease

Meat-based diet is associated with a higher risk of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, says a study

**A**diet high in animal protein is associated with a higher risk of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), a condition in which fat builds up in the liver, in overweight people, says a study.

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is a major health concern as it leads to permanent scarring (cirrhosis) and subsequently to cancer and malfunction of the liver.

This may result in life-threatening complications for which a liver transplant is needed.

"A healthy lifestyle is the cornerstone of treatment in patients with NAFLD, but specific dietary recommendations are lacking," said lead author of the study Louise Alferink from the Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

"The results from this study demonstrate that animal protein is associated with NAFLD in overweight elderly people," Alferink said.

These findings, presented at the International Liver Congress 2017 in Amsterdam, also showed that fructose consumption per se

might not be as harmful as previously assumed.

A total of 3,440 people were included in the study of whom 30 per cent were lean and 70 per cent were overweight (body mass index [BMI] of 25 kg/square metre or greater).

The average age was 71 years and NAFLD, as assessed by abdominal ultrasound, was present in 35 per cent of the participants.

Macronutrient intake was recorded using an externally validated 389-item food frequency questionnaire and analysed in quartiles using the nutrition density method (energy percent-age).

Furthermore, analyses were stratified for BMI to account for BMI-related differences in eating habits and dietary measurement errors.

Significant associations between macronutrients and NAFLD were found predominantly in overweight individuals.

The results showed that total protein was associated with higher odds of NAFLD and this association was mainly driven by animal protein. —IANS

## Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, April 24, 2017:

This year you seem more closed down than in recent years. You reflect on issues and become more insightful as a result. Opportunities will be enhanced after mid-October. If you are single, someone of interest might come forward during that period. In fact, more than one person could appear. Get to know a potential sweetie well. If you are attached, the two of you will be in sync and harmonious. To go out with others as a couple, don't let an ARIES influence your thinking. You come from a different perspective.

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

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)

You are more closed off because you are willing to make an effort. You are on the same wavelength. You might not be able to manage a personal issue as well as you'd like to, but a friend will offer to help. Opportunities appear from out of nowhere. Tonight: Initiate a chat.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20)

\*\*\*\*\* Relax more, and don't push yourself so hard right now. You are more closed off and need help if necessary. For some of you in the next few days, you could encounter a problem. Try to put your best foot forward, but kind to yourself should you trip. Tonight: Come zzz's.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)

\*\*\*\*\* You are both a natural cheerleader and a quarterback in your life. You take what depends on what you feel you'll do best; some of you will integrate both equally. You tend to put others first. Remember to care of yourself, too. Tonight: Stay out late too late.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\*\*\* Take charge, as you understand how to move a needed item. You are more closed off from different ideas. Knowing all of them are probably effective. Choose the one that you feel will be the best and that you are most comfortable with. Tonight: Brainstorm with buddies.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\*\*\* Reach out to someone at a distance whom you really care about. You will enjoy catching up on this person's news. You could have a lot of responsibilities on your plate, and you'll want to get through them as efficiently and carefully as possible. Tonight: A must appearance.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\*\*\*\* Be a partner here to make the first move. For some of you, this might be a business connection. Respond clearly, and the results will be better. You might need to mentally set a boundary and honor it, especially if it involves finances. Tonight: Seek out a new perspective first.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

\*\*\*\*\* You are in the position of having to make a decision, but not wanting to. Take your time. You could be unusually fortunate right now, yet you are sensitive to the risks involved. The real issue boils down to whether you can afford a loss. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\*\*\* You might need to rethink a decision with more care and thoughtfulness. You could be pushing too hard at the present moment. Take more breaks, and schedule relaxing activities to help get you through this period. Try taking a power nap. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\*\*\* Your sense of humor helps you overcome a grudge or difficult situation. You will feel relieved by connecting with an important associate or friend over a particular issue. Refuse to stand on ceremony. Listen carefully before you speak. Tonight: Express your playfulness.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\*\*\* You have a strong foundation that often stays from spontaneously jumping into new situations. Your willingness to survey a situation defines you in many ways. Try a plunge into the unknown once in a while; you'll find it very exciting. Tonight: Be less serious.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\*\*\*\* You often say what you think, and are known to be blunt. You don't usually let others see the thoughtful, caring individual within. Harness the energy and express a greater sensitivity. What you say has tremendous impact; make it easier to swallow. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

\*\*\*\*\* You express a willingness to make a big splash and be noticed. You could go to extremes, especially financially. Try not to push so hard to make a good impression. Sit back and relax; others appreciate you. You don't need to do anything. Tonight: Dinner with a favorite person.

\*\*\*

Thought for the day

Though a lucky man into the sea, and he will come up with a fish in his mouth.

— ARAB PROVERB

### Kids

**CN**  
CARTOON NETWORK

12:00 Teen Titans Go  
12:30 Kieratu  
13:00 Ben 10  
14:00 Bakugan  
15:30 My Knight and Me  
16:00 Powerpuff Girls  
17:00 Teen Titans Go  
17:30 Teen Titans Go  
18:00 Larva  
18:30 Ben 10  
19:00 Nausicaa  
20:30 Roll No. 21  
21:00 Dragon Ball Z  
23:00 Telephoning

**UNIQ**

12:00 Telekids' Castle  
12:30 The Tom And Jerry Show  
13:00 Chhota Bheem  
14:00 Yo-Kai Watch  
15:30 Ben 10  
16:00 Powerpuff Girls  
17:00 Ben 10  
18:00 Larva  
19:30 Yo-Ho HoboBahn  
20:00 Pardesi Mein Hai Meri Dili  
21:00 Ben 10  
22:00 Dragon Ball Z  
23:00 Telephoning

**colors**

12:00 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsaas Ki  
13:00 Tu Soora Main Saanghi Pya  
13:30 Ek Ashtaa Aise Pya  
14:00 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsaas Ki  
14:30 Ishqbaaz  
15:30 Yeh Ratri Kya Kehata Hai  
16:00 Meri Durga  
16:30 Ben 10  
17:00 Suhani Bi Si Ladki  
17:30 Jaana Ha De  
18:00 Ben 10  
18:30 Meri Durga  
19:00 Ben 10  
19:30 Ben 10  
20:00 Ben 10  
21:00 Naamkaran  
21:30 Yeh Ratri Kya Kehata Hai  
22:00 Dil Boley Oseen  
23:00 Kyu Koochar Hui Amila Ki  
23:30 Dhaka Ki Pyar Ki

**zcafe**

13:00 Zindagi Ki Mahak  
13:30 Anna Sa  
14:00 Pyar Ki Mala  
14:30 Kumkum Bhagya  
15:00 Ben 10  
15:30 Ben 10  
16:00 Ben 10  
17:00 Pyar Ki Mala  
17:30 Woh Anna Sa  
18:00 Ben 10  
19:00 Ben 10  
19:30 Ben 10  
20:00 Ben 10  
21:00 Ben 10  
22:00 Ben 10  
23:00 Ben 10

**SONY**

13:00 Zindagi Ki Mahak  
13:30 Anna Sa  
14:00 Pyar Ki Mala  
14:30 Kumkum Bhagya  
15:00 Ben 10  
15:30 Ben 10  
16:00 Ben 10  
17:00 Pyar Ki Mala  
17:30 Woh Anna Sa  
18:00 Ben 10  
19:00 Ben 10  
19:30 Ben 10  
20:00 Ben 10  
21:00 Ben 10  
22:00 Ben 10  
23:00 Ben 10

**regional**

20:00 Armaan Akash  
21:00 Wild Frank in India  
22:00 Republic Kingdom  
23:00 Jungle Starlet

**NAT GEO people**

12:00 World's Most Extreme  
13:00 Kings of the Kill  
14:00 The Great Wall of Roads  
15:00 THE GREAT  
16:00 THE HUMAN RACE

**raing**

15:00 Do or Die: Shark Attack  
15:30 Car Science  
16:00 Mystery  
17:00 Science of Stupid  
17:30 Animal Fight Club  
18:00 The Great Wall of Roads  
19:00 Vanishing Kings  
20:00 The Great Wall of Roads  
21:00 Brain Games: Memory  
21:30 India's Magic Kitchen  
22:00 Food Lovers' Guide to the...  
22:30 The Great Wall of Roads  
23:00 Living Free With Kim  
23:30 Ben 10  
24:00 Charlie Luxton's Home...  
24:30 Ben 10  
25:00 The Island Bear Girls  
25:30 Ben 10  
26:00 River Monsters  
26:30 Man vs. Wild  
27:00 Ben 10  
27:30 Natural Born Hunters  
28:00 Ben 10  
28:30 Martha Stewart's...  
29:00 Hello World!

**Discovery**

12:00 River Monsters  
12:30 Ben 10  
13:00 Ben 10  
14:00 Food Fighters  
15:00 Ben 10  
15:30 Ben 10  
16:00 Ben 10  
17:00 Ben 10  
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18:30 Ben 10  
19:00 Ben 10  
19:30 Ben 10  
20:00 Ben 10  
21:00 Ben 10  
22:00 Ben 10  
23:00 Ben 10

**LOCKHORNS**



### Entertainment

**StarPlus**

13:00 Tu Soora Main Saanghi Pya  
13:30 Ek Ashtaa Aise Pya  
14:00 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsaas Ki  
14:30 Ishqbaaz  
15:30 Yeh Ratri Kya Kehata Hai  
16:00 Meri Durga  
16:30 Ben 10  
17:00 Suhani Bi Si Ladki  
17:30 Jaana Ha De  
18:00 Ben 10  
18:30 Meri Durga  
19:00 Ben 10  
19:30 Ben 10  
20:00 Ben 10  
21:00 Naamkaran  
21:30 Yeh Ratri Kya Kehata Hai  
22:00 Dil Boley Oseen  
23:00 Kyu Koochar Hui Amila Ki  
23:30 Dhaka Ki Pyar Ki

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13:00 Zindagi Ki Mahak  
13:30 Anna Sa  
14:00 Pyar Ki Mala  
14:30 Kumkum Bhagya  
15:00 Ben 10  
15:30 Ben 10  
16:00 Ben 10  
17:00 Pyar Ki Mala  
17:30 Woh Anna Sa  
18:00 Ben 10  
19:00 Ben 10  
19:30 Ben 10  
20:00 Ben 10  
21:00 Ben 10  
22:00 Ben 10  
23:00 Ben 10

**HBO**

19:00 Ben 10  
19:30 Ra Ga Ma Pa Li...  
20:00 Pya Abela

**Movies**

22:30 Zidagi Ki Mishk  
23:00 Ra Ga Ma Pa Li...  
23:30 Pya Abela

**HBO**

14:30 Dil Se Dil Tak  
23:00 Shakti-Astha Ke Ehsaas Ki  
23:30 Ben 10  
24:00 Just Laughs  
14:00 Americas Funniest Home...  
15:00 America's Funniest Home...  
16:00 Scandal  
17:00 The Big Bang Theory  
18:00 Young & Hungry

**HBO**

14:30 Ben 10  
15:00 Just Laughs  
16:00 Americas Funniest Home...  
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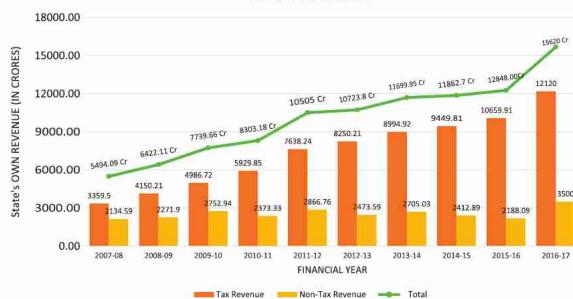


**Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam

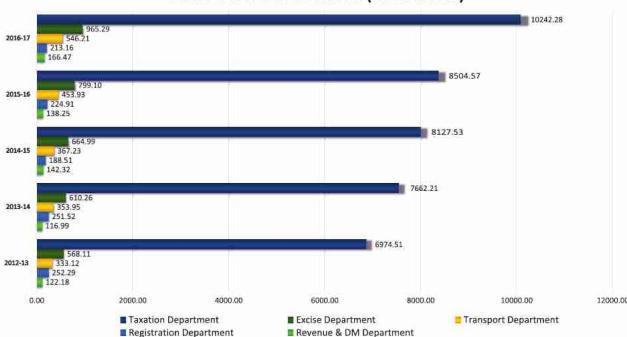
## RECORD 21.60% GROWTH IN REVENUE COLLECTION

## 2016-17: A GREAT BEGINNING OF JOURNEY TOWARDS RESURGENT ASSAM

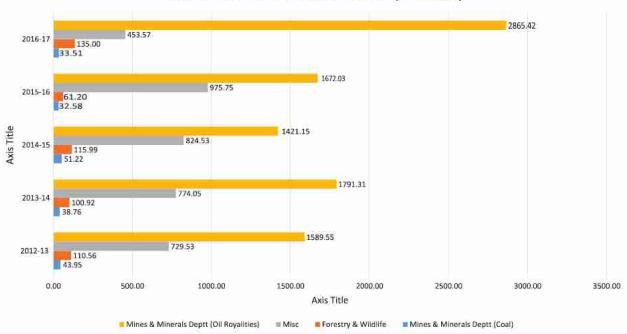
### GROWTH TREND OF STATE's OWN RESOURCES



### STATE OWN TAX REVENUE (Rs in Crores)



### STATE NON TAX REVENUE (Rs in Crore)



- As promised in our White Paper dated June 03, 2016, we sincerely attempted to restore the self-respect of the people of Assam and to come out of 70 years' old "dependency syndrome".
- With each one of your support and blessings, our collective mission to ReSTART Assam (Restructuring Systems and Technology for Augmenting Resources for Transformed Assam) began showing results in record growth in state's own revenue.

Major departments	(Rs. in crores)		
	2015-16	2016-17	% Growth
<b>Provisional</b>			
<b>Taxation Department</b>	8504.57	10242.28	20.4
<b>Excise Department</b>	799.10	965.29	20.8
<b>Transport Department</b>	453.93	546.21	20.3
<b>Land Revenue Department</b>	138.25	166.47	20.4

- The total State's own revenue collected in 2016-17 is ₹15620 crore against ₹12848 crore in 2015-16.
- This amounts to additional revenue collection of ₹2772 crore. This is 21.60% more than the previous year.

#### We extend our sincere gratitude to-

- The citizens for their efforts in re-building Assam.
- Business entities/traders.
- Officers & Staff of all Revenue earning Departments.



**Rededicating ourselves for welfare of the people**

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**

# Chelsea beat Tottenham in thrilling FA Cup semifinal

LONDON, April 23: Late goals from Eden Hazard and Nemanja Matic settled a rip-roaring FA Cup semifinal 4-2 in Chelsea's favour over title rivals Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley on Saturday.

Blues boss Conte sprang a major surprise by starting with Hazard and Diego Costa on the bench in the Wembley semifinal as he looked ahead to the Premier League leaders' vital fixture against Southampton on Tuesday.

But Conte's bold moves proved inspired as Hazard's replacement Willian put Chelsea ahead early on and then restored their lead in the second half after Harry Kane's equaliser.

Dele Alli levelled again for Tottenham, but Conte had all the answers as, when sent on Hazard, the Belgian blotted Chelsea back into the lead.

Nemanja Matic's thunderous long-range effort sealed a late draw against Arsenal or Manchester City, who meet in the second semifinal on Sunday.

Having seen their lead at the top of the league cut to four points by second placed Tottenham last weekend and looking vulnerable following a limp defeat at Manchester United, this should be a huge psychological boost for Conte's men.

They rode their luck at times but showed a decisive killer-in-

stinct while their London rivals came up short in crunch time.

Tottenham, losers yet again at Wembley and still without an FA Cup final appearance since 1991, had an immediate response in their midweek trip to Crystal Palace if they are to get revenge by piping Alderweireld's lunge, Chelsea were hoping for a more severe punishment than the yellow card shown by referee Martin Atkinson.

But their frustration was short-lived as Willian stepped up to exact retribution from the free-kick, the Brazilian's superb 20-yard strike eluding Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris be-

fore nestling into the far corner.

Kane has been the spearhead of Tottenham's impressive run this season and the England striker's typically predatory finish drew them level in the 18th minute.

As Christian Eriksen prepared to whip over a cross, Kane was already on the move and his awareness gave him a valuable extra yard of space on Chelsea defender Nathan Ake as he steered to guide a delicate header past Thibaut Courtois. — Agencies



Chelsea's Eden Hazard celebrates after scoring the third goal against Tottenham Hotspur during the FA Cup semifinal at the Wembley Stadium in London, on Saturday.

## MI arguably is playing the most aggressive cricket

Mumbai Indians these days is a torture chamber for visiting teams. It's what



zookeepers tell you when you approach a leopard's habitat: You can go in but you can't come out. It's like aiming to swim across a lake full of crocodiles. Or trying to pinch a meatball, under attention of swooping, swooping falcons. It's a booby-trap and you don't touch it without consequences.

Pune Supergiant would have similar attacks of nerves ahead

Amir takes five as rain ruins Jamaica Test

KINGSTON, April 23: Mohammad Amir completed a five-wicket innings haul and West Indies captain Jason Holder reached a fifth-half-century as the home side reached 278 for nine in their first innings on a rain-ruined second day of the first Test against Pakistan at Sabina Park.

Only 11.3 overs were bowled in the entire day as inadequate covering from heavy overnight and early morning rain left damp patches on the pitch and a sodden area of the outfield, delaying the start of play by four hours.

By the time the showers returned in late afternoon with even greater ferocity, just 55 minutes play was possible during which Amir and Holder shone through the gathering gloom. — AFP

of Monday. It won't be much help that one of the world's best batsman (Steve Smith), allrounder (Ben Stokes) and finisher (M.S. Dhoni) are part of the touring party. They can't bowl or bat

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every single delivery. Others could sing under the assault.

There are others pointers why Pune won't find Mumbai a gracious host. Pune had caught Mumbai cold in the IPL opener

a fortnight ago. That's been the only blushing on Mumbai's part this season. They can't wait to set the record straight. It's a team which looks to hit a boundary or take a wicket every single over. And they pretty much walk the threat.

It's not so Pune hasn't improved. They have won straight in 15 overs and defied a lowly 141. Or that even hat-tricks can't cause a seizure. Mumbai probably play the most aggressive cricket of all. They never take the foot off the pedal.

Their aggression against the Delhi batters the other night was suited for 'Test and not T20' cricket. It's a team which looks to hit a boundary or take a wicket every single over. And they pretty much walk the threat.

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## Bowlers guide KXIP to victory vs Lions

RAJKOT, April 23: Kings XI Punjab produced an all-round performance to finally arrest their slide, beating Gujarat Lions by 26 runs in an one-sided Indian Premier League encounter, here today.

Courtesy Hashim Amla's 65 and Axar Patel 34, Kings XI Punjab notched up 188 for seven after being invited to bat. The much-criticised bowling attack then joined the party, restricting Lions to 162 for seven as they won a match after losing four consecutive games on the trot.

Kings XI Punjab now have six points from seven games while Lions remain at the bottom with four points.

The dangerous Brendon McCullum missed an in-dipping full-toss from Sandeep Sharma in his first over.

Skipper Suresh Raina (32) and Aron Finch (13) added 40 runs at a brisk pace with the



Sandeep Sharma of Kings XI Punjab celebrates after picking up a wicket against Gujarat Lions during the IPL match at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot, on Sunday.

sheepr Nath (0) in-front of the wicket to make matters worse as Karthik waged a lone battle.

### SCORECARD

**Kings XI Punjab:** Manan Vohra c Sheepr Nath b Singh; 2. Hashim Amla & b Agarwal 65, Shaun Marsh c Raina b Tyre 30, Glenn Maxwell b Patel & Raina 31; Aron Finch c Patel & Cullen 2-0; Axar Patel c H Smit 34, Wriddhiman Saha run out (Basil Thampi) 10. Mohit Sharma not out 4. Extras: (B-1, LB-2, W-1). Total of 188. Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-81, 3-128, 4-132, 5-157, 6-174, 7-188. **Bowling:** S Agarwal 4-0, M Natarajan 2-0, Piyush Chawla 1-0, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 1-0, Tyre 4-25, 2, Jades 4-32, 1, Smith 1-0 18-1.

**Gujarat Lions:** McCullum lbw Sanjay Sharma 6, Finch c Stoinis b Patel 13, Rishabh Pant c Maxwell b Patel 23, Karthik run out 3, Axar 6 & b Carriappa 9, Smith c Stoinis b Patel 4, Nath lbw b Carriappa 0. Tyre b Patel 22. Shamsi 22, Thakur not out 11. Extras: (B-1, LB-1, W-1). Total of 162. Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-46, 3-70, 4-95, 5- Smith (4) also got out cheaply, becoming Axar's second victim of the match.

Carriappa then trapped Ak-

shian international hitting a flurry of boundaries. It was then that Mohit Sharma, who bowled one wide and full outside the off-stump and Finch's upish drive was taken by Marcus Stoinis.

But what changed the game completely was skipper Glenn

Maxwell's brilliant catch at the deep mid-wicket boundary. Raina played the customary swat over his cow corner but Maxwell kept his balance as timed his jump to perfection.

The pitch showed signs of being two-paced and KCari-

appa got Ravindra Jadeja to play early and dived in-front to grab the return catch.

The big-hitting Dwayne Smith (4) also got out cheaply, becoming Axar's second victim of the match.

Carriappa then trapped Ak-

### JCCC beat River Rime

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 23: Jorhat Cricket Coaching Centre (JCCC) got the better of River Rime Cricket Coaching Centre by 28 runs in their match of the 7th Sitaram Agarwala Memorial Under-17 Inter School/Organisation Cricket Tournament at the Barsapara stadium here today.

Electing to bat, Jorhat boys put up a total of 207 runs before being all out in 45.2 overs. Md Kaif top scored with 69 runs while Rituraj Chakraborty had three wickets conceding 41 runs in his allotted 10 overs.

In reply, River Rime boys were bundled out for 179 runs in 32.4 overs. Jay Singh scored 83 runs while Rituraj Chakraborty was the pick of the bowlers with six wickets to his kitty which also earned him the man of the match honour.

**Brief scores:** **JCCC 207 in 45.2 overs** (Md Kaif 69, Barenjam Kashyap 28; Denis Das 3/41, Biswajit Patowary 223, Subham Das 2/26). **River Rime 179 in 32.4 overs** (Jay Singh 83, Gautam Dutta Hazarika 25 no.; Rituraj

Chakraborty 6/23, Imtiaz Hussain Borbhuay 4/33).

### Birth centenary celebration of Dr T Ao

GUWAHATI, April 23: The Dr T Ao Birth Centenary Celebration Committee will organise various events from October to January at Kalabor, Mokokchung, Kohima and Guwahati along with other places in order to mark the birth centenary of India's first football captain Dr Tamimero Ao.

The Dr T Ao Birth Centenary Celebration Committee is headed by former commissioner of sports Swapnil Barua as the president while member of All India Council for Sports Balendra Mohan Chakraborty is the working president. Sports Journalists Federation of India president Subodh Malla Barua is the secretary while Bidyut Kalita is the treasurer of the committee.

The centenary celebrations will conclude at Guwahati on January 28, 2018. The committee has also resolved to erect a statue of the legendary footballer and get a postage stamp released in his honoured memory stated a release.

### Bowlers won us the match, says Rohit Sharma

MUMBAI, April 23: Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma chose not to be harsh on his batsmen and gave full credit to his bowlers for defending a modest total of 142 against Delhi Daredevils in an IPL match, here tonight.

Mumbai Indians consolidated their top position with their sixth win in a row, following a 14-run win over Daredevils.

"To defend 142 was not easy but we had the belief that the guys do it. The bowlers won us the match. We were not so good with the bat but I don't want to be too harsh on the batters, they've been in really good form," Sharma said at the post match presentation ceremony.

"The pitch looked little dry compared to earlier matches and the chat we had in the dressing room was we had to bowl differently this time. There was not much dew but it's been pretty unpredictable here," he added.

Kiwi paceman Mitchell McCleena-

ghian was declared man of the match for his three-wicket burst that blew away the Daredevils.

"The last match I went for 50 so it's a roller coaster in T20, every game is a new game. We had certain plans for certain guys and everyone stuck to their guns today," the New Zealander said.

"(Corey) Anderson has pumped me around the park so it was good to get him," he said responding to a query on dismissing his compatriot.

Daredevils skipper Zaheer Khan said they did not do any good to their cause but losing wickets in a heap.

"The only chance they had was by taking early wickets and that's exactly what went for them. We restricted them about 20-25 runs short, our bowlers did a fantastic job. Good to see the bowlers dominating. Considering they were at 26 for 6, it was a fantastic effort from Morris and Rabada," he said. - PTI

### City Premier League concludes

GUWAHATI, April 23: Crocodile XI and Lion XI won the senior category of the 8th City Premier League at the Dispur Parade Ground here today. In the final of the junior category, Crocodile XI defeated Bull XI by eight wickets while

in the senior category Lion XI thrashed Kangaroo XI by 102 runs, stated a release.

**Brief scores:** **Crocodile XI 74 in 19 overs** (Arkajyoti Pal 13; Aniket Medhi 6/4). **Crocodile XI 76/2 in 13.5 overs** (Rahman Zaman 22 no; Bastab Das 1/13, Bikash Terong 2/15).

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Printed and published by Ganesh Ch. Das on behalf of Assam Tribune Pvt. Ltd. at the Tribune Press, Tribune Buildings, P.O.- Assam Tribune, M.K.D. Road, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003, Tel. (0361)-2669102 (EPABX), 0361-2661360, 0361-2668807 (News Desk), FAX: (0361)-2668396. E-mail: advt@assamtribune.com, news@assamtribune.com, airtribune@airtribune.com.

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