

Private jet, Rolls Royce on Bieber's wish list

MUMBAI, May 4: He is yet to arrive in India for his maiden concert here but the bizarre list of luxuries to be provided to pop sensation Justin Bieber includes a Rolls Royce, a private jet and a chopper at his disposal throughout his stay in the country.

Bieber, who is even demanding hydrating lip balms, is bringing machine, refrigerator, upholstered, wardrobe cupboard and a massage table so he can

according to the list which has gone viral on social media.

Bieber will be accompanied by eight bouncers and will also have '2 plus' security while in India. The 23-year-old singer is bringing his own ping pong table, playstation, sofa set, washing machine, refrigerator, up-

holstery, wardrobe cupboard and a massage table so he can

relax backstage. Arrangements for a jacuzzi have also been made for Bieber's personal use, states the list circulating on Twitter.

According to it, two five-star hotels have been reserved for security reasons. The hotel, in which he chooses to stay, will be converted into "Bieber's private villa" with three floors of the hotel being booked for the artist.

The singer has also requested 100 clothes hangers, cans of wildberries and vanilla room fresheners. As per the list, Bieber wants his dressing room to be entirely draped with white curtains, with a large glass-door refrigerator, clothing shelves, eight power outlets and 12 white handkerchiefs. - PTI

All set for South Asian Satellite launch today: ISRO chief

CHENNAI, May 4: Preparations for the launch of GSAT-9, the South Asia Communication Satellite that will boost connectivity among nations in the region, were "going on smoothly," ISRO Chairman AS Kiran Kumar said here today.

The Geostationary Communication Satellite built by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will blast off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, about 100 kms from here.

Seven out of the eight SAARC countries are a part of the project, as Pakistan decided to opt out stating "it has its own space programme."

The satellite will be launched on board the space agency's rocket GSLV-F09. Costing around Rs 235 crore, the satellite would serve the neighbouring countries through 12 Ku band transponders carried by it and has a mission life of 12 years.

The satellite is meant for providing communication and disaster support, connectivity among the countries of South Asia region. It will provide a

significant capability to each of the participating countries in terms of DTH, certain VSAT capacity plus linking among the states for disaster information transfer.

"We have the launch tomorrow at 4.57 pm in the evening... All activities are going on smoothly," Kumar said.

After coming to power in May 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked ISRO scientists to develop a SAARC satellite that can be dedicated to neighbouring countries as a "gift from India." - PTI

Kerala to plant one crore saplings

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, May 4: The CPI-M led LDF government in Kerala will launch a massive tree planting exercise on June 5 as part of its drive to make the state green. - PTI

ROYAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY GUWAHATI
Under Section 2(f) of UGC Act 1956

ADMISSIONS 2017

MBA
Human Resource
Marketing
Finance
Family Business
Entrepreneurship

Industry Driven Curricula	Employability & Personality Enhancement Courses	Expert Faculty Team	Well Stocked Library
---------------------------	---	---------------------	----------------------

OTHER PROGRAMME OFFERED :
BBA + MBA (Integrated)

ROYAL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

APPLY BY : 22nd May, 2017

Address: BETUCHI, OPP TIRUPATI BALAJI TEMPLE, N.H.-37, Ghy-781035, Assam, India.
Contact: +91 70860-93459, 70860-93458 | **EMAIL ID:** admissions@rgu.ac



TRUST THE PIONEER WHEN IT MATTERS THE MOST.

- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Primary angioplasty
- 24x7 cardiologists
- 24x7 trauma team
- 24x7 stroke team



EMERGENCY SPECIALISTS

UNIT: INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL, Lotus Tower, G.S. Road, Guwahati
Phone: +91 361-7135005 | email: info@apollohospitalsguwahati.com

FROM NISSAN WITH PRIDE

3 YEARS OF DATSUN COUNTLESS REASONS TO CELEBRATE



₹2.46 LAC* ONWARDS

5 YEARS WARRANTY

FREE INSURANCE | INTEREST @ 8.99% | PILLARS OF INDIA GOVERNMENT CASH BENEFIT ₹6,000*

DATSON redi-Go

Break Through

TO TEST DRIVE CALL ON 1800 308 5566 | Special Offers for Corporates / Govt. Employees / Farmers / Doctors. Also available in CSD. www.datsun.co.in

AUTHORIZED NISSAN DEALERS: NORTH EAST - GUWAHATI: Bined Nissan - 9854053078, 7896027168. ADABARI GUWAHATI: Bined Nissan - 9854053078, 7896027168. MANGALBARI: Bined Nissan - 9854053078, 7896027168. JORHAT: Bined Nissan - 9854053078, 7896027168. TEPZURI: Ohsami Nissan - Dekargaon - 7096050190, 7096050181. HOJAI: Ohsami Nissan, J.K. Kedia Road - 7096050185, 7096050186. Dibrugarh: Ohsami Nissan - 9854053078, 7896027168. Tariapuri - 985413577, 873380790, 9957289740, 9435004085. KARimganj: SRB Nissan - 9854050546. HAVALAKANDI: SRB Nissan - 9854050546. Dibrugarh: Ohsami Nissan - 9854053078, 7896027168. *Offer valid for a limited period. Interest rates may vary as per availability. *Applicable on loan duration of four years. Finance at the sole discretion of NBFCs. *India of cash benefit offer cannot be clubbed with the cash offer for corporate, doctors, and farmers. *5 year warranty, standard 2 years + 3 years extended under terms and conditions. *Ex-showroom Price Assam. For detailed terms & conditions please visit your nearest Nissan showroom.

Birthakur's IAS Academy
Unit of Emperor IAS, Delhi, Associate of The Civils, Jammu
"Student Today, Civil servant Tomorrow"



VAKUL JINDAL | ROHIT CHOKSEY | Dr. Laba Kr. Deba | Mausumi Das
AIR 174 IAS | AIR 257 IPS | AIR 257 Rank | APS 10 Rank
BFSU

IAS/IPS 2018
8 Months PCM COURSE ₹ 69,000/-
Course Includes: Updated Study materials & Test Series

2017 Fresh Batches Starts 7 May 17 May 27 May

Premier Faculties of Delhi
Borthakur's IAS Academy Ph: 9806334049 9127077707

Jonai Head Office | Silukhuri Branch | Jorhat Branch
Nr. Jonai Durga Temple | Opposite of SBI Evening Branch, 1st Floor
H.No: 7, Ghy-24 | Near Sanjeevani Hospital, AT Road

SBI State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department, Corporate Centre, Mumbai

Recruitment of Special Management Executive (SME) - Banking
MMGS-II and MMGS-III GRADE

Applications are invited from the Indian Citizens for recruitment to the post of Special Management Executive (SME) - Banking, MMGS-II and MMGS-III Grade in State Bank of India.

Eligibility criteria (age, qualification & experience), requisite fees and other details are available under Advertisement No. CRPD/SCO-SME/2017-18/03 on Bank's website <https://bank.sbi/careers/> and <https://www.sbi.co.in/careers/> along with a link for online submission of application as well as online payment of the fee. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement and ensure their eligibility/vacancy position etc. before applying and remitting fees. Start of Registration of Application and Payment of Fees: 03.05.2017

Last Date for Registration of Applications and Payment of Fees: 18.05.2017

For any query please mail to crpd@sbi.co.in.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 03.05.2017

General Manager
CRPD

15 YEARS of LEADERSHIP



pulsar 220
SPECIAL LOW DOWN PAYMENT ₹24,889/-

pulsar 150
SPECIAL LOW DOWN PAYMENT ₹15,800/-

ALL NEW 2017 COLLECTION
NOW POWERFUL THAN EVER

TEST RIDE IT TO BELIEVE

Call 1800 233 2453 (Toll Free) or visit www.bajajauto.com

*Terms & Conditions Apply. Down Payment amount may vary as per the location. Approval for finance and scheme at the sole discretion of Bajaj Finserv Ltd. All activities have been performed under expert supervision. Please do not imitate.

Authorised Dealers for Bajaj Auto Ltd., GUWAHATI: Panbari SHREE AUTO BAJAJ 03612631838 • Belaisi UNNATHI BAJAJ 8311080011 • G.S Read UNNATHI BAJAJ 8311080016 • Tezpur S K BAJAJ 03712224235 • Nagara S K BAJAJ 0367222284 • Tinsukia Lapui AUTO WHEELERS 03712350117/974673243 • Dibrugarh SALIGRAM BAJAJ 8302084844 • North Lakhimpur A H AUTO WORLD BAJAJ • Barpeta ANIRBAN BAJAJ 03664220352 • Borjuli CHAMPAK BAJAJ 03884230882 • Dhubri CHAMPAK BAJAJ 9531144833 • Jorhat AKASH BAJAJ 0344225526.

Hindu arrested for 'blasphemy'

ISLAMABAD, May 4: A 35-year-old Hindu man in Pakistan has been arrested for allegedly sending blasphemous contents through WhatsApp, GPTV, a shop owner, a shop owner, was arrested yesterday in Firdaus area of Lahore district in south-western Balochistan. - PTI

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT**MUSIC**

Exclusive Western Music classes, Guitar, Piano, Violin, Vocal, Drum, Ph: 8876228092, Music/P/8805/8

COMMERCIAL SPACE

2200 sq ft, at first floor and 1500 sq ft, at second floor with parking for near Zoo Road (Final), Police Point, 94351-15190, 94356-77585, CPS/P/8823/5

Two rooms for office on 2nd floor at MRD Road, Bamunimaidam, near Petrol Depot. Contact: 9085090246, CPS/P/8872/1

OFFICE SPACE

For rent 100/500/800/1000 sqft, in Bhagat Singh Main Road, only office, Ph: 97707-50449, OS/P/8813/3

2000 sq ft. office accommodation for rent on 4th floor, Prag Plaza, G.S. Road, Public undertaking, Central Govt. Office, preferred. 9864050876, OS/P/AP/272/1

TOURS & TRAVELS

Required Innova, Xylo, Dizire, Indigo, Etios with commercial Regn. Ondaily rental basis. Ph.: 97707907070, T&P/ACT/308

GODOWN

2100 to 9800 sq ft Industrial Shed/Warehouse, Godown at Khanapara, Beltopa, Lokhra, Amingaon, Changsari, Mirza, 9435403986, Godown/P/AC752/8

SALES & PURCHASE

FRANCHISEE OF IIT-JEE MEDICAL ENTRANCE COACHING CENTRE FOR SALE AT GUWAHATI, CONTACT: 863331224, 7006216799, S&P/8855/3

SHOPS & SHOWROOM

Wanted shop space in ground floor, road facing, 200 sqft, in, Bhalukhumi/Maligaon/Silpukhuri, Phone: 97070-50449, S&Showroom/P/8812/3

LOAN

QUICK AND EASY PERSONAL LOANS FOR SALARIED PERSON ABOVE 14,000/- FOR BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEE, DAVID 912745164, Loan/P/AC733/4

BUSINESS

Cement & Flyash Bricks/Interlocking Paver Bricks/Machine (Hydraulic), Diesel/Electric, operated, 25 types of Bricks in same machine. Minimum 450 Bricks per shift. Low investment, Guwahati, 8633816593, 8666830928, 9414151732, Busi/P/AC669/9

Any financial help. Cont: 9706029123, 8638963956, 9864032525, Busi/P/8861/1

Wonderful Products wonderful Plan. Required ambitious man-woman high facilities & future. Phone: 9864325676, 967895950, Busi/P/8887/2

BEAUTY PARLOUR

Unisex hair and beauty running salons on contract. Phn.: no. 95777517277/7646827486, 8658279548. Beauty Parlour/P/8887/2

PHARMACY

A runnig pharmacy with AC Doctor Chamber sale at Chandmari, Ph: 70021-5915, 88223-36644, Pharmacy/P/8887/3

REPAIRING & SERVICING

Home Service TV, Fridge, AC, Geyser, Microwave, Washing Machine, Inverter Batteries # Shambhu, 9864073804, Rep&Servicing/P/8889/8

CDL/N/50/1

INTERNATIONAL**Trump offers to be 'mediator' for Israeli-Palestinian peace**

WASHINGTON, May 4: US President Donald Trump has told Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas that he is ready to act as a "mediator or facilitator" for brokering peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians, as he exuded confidence that a deal to end their protracted conflict could be struck.

Just two-and-a-half months after he received Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump welcomed Abbas and ushered him into the Oval Office for their talks.

In their first meeting, Trump and Abbas discussed the advancement of the Middle East peace process and the strengthening of US-Palestinian relations, the White

House said in a statement. "Trump and Abbas reaffirmed the commitment of both the US and the Palestinian Authority to achieve a genuine and lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians," it said.

Trump stressed that he is personally committed to helping the Israelis and Palestinians achieve a comprehensive peace, and that any peace settlement can only be the product of direct negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians.

The US President expressed his appreciation for Abbas' unambiguous support for a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

Trump also offered himself



as a "mediator, arbiter or facilitator" to help reach a peace agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, but said, "any agreement cannot be imposed by the US or any other nations."

"We will get it done,"

Trump said, exuding confidence of facilitating a deal.

Trump told Abbas that together with the Israelis, they could bag "the toughest deal to make."

"It is something that I think is frankly, maybe not thought over the years," Trump said.

Abbas echoed Trump's optimism, saying, "Our strategic choice, our strategic choice is to bring about peace."

"We believe that we can... be true partners to you to bring about a historic peace under your stewardship," he said.

However, Abbas asserted that, "Mr. President, it's about time for Israel to end its occupation of our people and our

lands."

The two leaders discussed the value of actions that can help create a climate conducive to tangible progress toward peace.

According to the White House, the two leaders reaffirmed the joint determination of the Palestinian Authority and the US to combat violence and terrorism.

They discussed the importance of the US-Palestinian partnership in building and sustaining the capacity of Palestinian security forces to counter terrorism, maintaining peace and security for the Palestinians, and continuing strong coordination with the Israeli Government to benefit both peoples. - PTI

Prince Philip to retire from royal duties

LONDON, May 4: Prince Philip, the 95-year-old cricket-loving husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, will step down from carrying out royal engagements from September, the Duke's first visit to India was in 1961. Since then,

The Duke of Edinburgh will no longer carry out public engagements from September, the palace said in a statement.

"In taking this decision, the Duke has the full support of the Queen," it said, ending frenzied speculation in the media after the Queen had called an emergency meeting of all of her staff at the palace today.

The Duke said that the royal, who turns 96 in June, will continue to attend previously scheduled engagements between now and August, with the monarch and individually. But he will not be accepting any new invitations for visits and engagements, although he may

"choose to attend" certain public events from time to time.

Prince Philip has accompanied the Queen on all major foreign tours, including three visits to India. Their first visit to India was in 1961. Since then,

The Duke of Edinburgh is president, or a member of over 780 organisations, with which he will continue to be associated, although he will no longer play an active role by attending engagements," the statement said, adding that the decision does not affect the 91-year-old monarch's public engagement calendar.

The prince was last seen in good spirits as he unveiled a new stand at Lord's Cricket Ground yesterday. "You're about to see the world's most experienced plaque-unveiler," he said at the plaque-unveiling.

The royal, known for his sense of humour and off-the-cuff remarks, had indicated plans of "winding down" from public engagements on his 90th birthday. - PTI

and increasing the strength of the civil police. Similarly, intelligence gathering machinery will have to be augmented and the assistance of the Centre will also be required for the purpose. Sources pointed out that the location of the State.

which shares long international boundaries with Bangladesh and Bhutan and has boundaries with states battling the military problem, is another reason why Assam needs special attention and assistance from the Centre.

Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram has been ranked as clearest among the Fast Moving Big City.

In the Swachh Survekshan 2017 category, four cities of Assam were surveyed and Guwahati was given the best rank, while Dibrugarh was given the lowest rank.

Meanwhile, reacting to Nagaon being declared as the clearest medium city, local Lok Sabha MP and Minister of State for Railways, Rojen Gohain said that he felt very proud and in the coming days he would strive to develop the city even more.

Meanwhile, Indore city of Madhya Pradesh has bagged the first position in the top-ten clean cities of the country. Bhopal is ranked second and Vishakhapatnam is in the third position.

Releasing the Swachh Survekshan 2017, Nitin Gadkari said India clean by 2019 is a serious mission. Naidu said it is part of the mission of Making of a Developed India. He said the whole purpose of the sanitation survey is to make cities know where they stand in cleanliness.

The Swachh Survekshan was commissioned in 434 cities which saw the participation of 37 lakh citizens. Gujarat has a maximum of 12 cities among the top 50.

Govt examining ...

(Contd from page 1) deployment of the Army for such a long period would have any impact on the society.

Sources said that the overall situation in the State has improved in the last few years, the Government cannot lower its guard and adequate help from the Central Government would be required to strengthen the State's own police force.

Giving details of the kind of help that the State would require from the Centre, sources revealed that the first priority would be to modernise the police force.

The Centre will also have to provide help to the State to raise more India Reserve Battalions. Raising of such battalions will not only help in strengthening the police force, but also provide employment to local youths and prevent them from joining militant groups.

In addition, the Centre will have to assist the State in improving the police stations,

and increasing the strength of the civil police. Similarly, intelligence gathering machinery will have to be augmented and the assistance of the Centre will also be required for the purpose. Sources pointed out that the location of the State.

which shares long international boundaries with Bangladesh and Bhutan and has boundaries with states battling the military problem, is another reason why Assam needs special attention and assistance from the Centre.

Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram has been ranked as clearest among the Fast Moving Big City.

In the Swachh Survekshan 2017 category, four cities of Assam were surveyed and Guwahati was given the best rank, while Dibrugarh was given the lowest rank.

Meanwhile, reacting to Nagaon being declared as the clearest medium city, local Lok Sabha MP and Minister of State for Railways, Rojen Gohain said that he felt very proud and in the coming days he would strive to develop the city even more.

Meanwhile, Indore city of Madhya Pradesh has bagged the first position in the top-ten clean cities of the country. Bhopal is ranked second and Vishakhapatnam is in the third position.

Releasing the Swachh Survekshan 2017, Nitin Gadkari said India clean by 2019 is a serious mission. Naidu said it is part of the mission of Making of a Developed India. He said the whole purpose of the sanitation survey is to make cities know where they stand in cleanliness.

The Swachh Survekshan was commissioned in 434 cities which saw the participation of 37 lakh citizens. Gujarat has a maximum of 12 cities among the top 50.

SC seeks ...

(Contd from page 1)

AAMSU is among at least five petitioners who have challenged the Gaubati High Court order on banning the use of panchayat certificates as proof of citizenship.

On April 20, the Central Government had told the Supreme Court that it is considering the reliability of the ration card as a supporting document for the purpose of updating the NRC.

Residency certificates issued by gaon panchayat secretaries will no longer be considered as valid link document for NRC, the Gaubati High Court had ruled.

The High Court in a strongly-worded judgment had said, "If a panchayat secretary issues such a certificate and the same is later disbelieved by the Foreigners Tribunal or High Court and the certificate holder is eventually declared a foreigner, the issuing authority would run the risk of issuing the certificate to a foreigner."

"Such an act may be construed to be an act of harbouring an illegal migrant, which may amount to gross misconduct exposing his/her self to departmental action, besides attracting penal consequences. Such consequences may also visit the countersigning authority (which is the BDO)," the Court had stated.

Govt to ...

(Contd from page 1)

that legislative steps will be taken to prevent wives from being deserted by their husbands on flimsy grounds such as birth of girl child, etc.

"A special strategy to lower dropout rates for girls will be implemented, whereby families who support higher education for their daughters may be economically incentivised in certain ways," Sarma pointed out.

He further informed that there will be schemes for divorces and single women to ensure that they can live a life of dignity without economic problems. "There will be provisions for skill upgrade of Muslim women divorcees, especially related to 'triple talq' as well," the Minister said.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. RN-03-2017-DN-01

Open tender on e-procurement tender document E-Tender are invited by the Divisional Railway Depot, Dibrugarh, Assam, Rn-03-2017-DN-01.

Tender No. RN-03-2017-DN-01

Name of works: Management of

unclaimed mobile phones worth

Rs.10,000/-

Date of closing of tender:

04-06-2017 at 15.30 hrs.

Date, time & place of opening

of tenders: Rn-03-2017-DN-01

At 15.30 hrs. of 04-06-2017.

For details visit: www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Signal &

Telecom Engineer &

Spring assembly &

Fire retardant cotton canvas

water proof, 45157555, 415 Mts 40'

10/07/03/2017. Set of detailed

specifications & technical

drawings available online at

www.ireps.gov.in

This registration is mandatory for participation in the tender.

Participating bidders shall

submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.

Offers received shall be ignored

if they do not conform to

the terms and conditions of

this tender.

For further information contact:

Controller of Stores, Maligaon

Rn-03-2017-DN-01

For further information contact:

Divisional Signal &

Telecom Engineer &

Spring assembly &

Fire retardant cotton canvas

water proof, 45157555, 415 Mts 40'

10/07/03/2017. Set of detailed

specifications & technical

drawings available online at

www.ireps.gov.in

This registration is mandatory for participation in the tender.

Participating bidders shall

submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.

Offers received shall be ignored

if they do not conform to

the terms and conditions of

this tender.

For further information contact:

Controller of Stores, Maligaon

Rn-03-2017-DN-01

For further information contact:

Divisional Signal &

Telecom Engineer &

Spring assembly &

Fire retardant cotton canvas

water proof, 45157555, 415 Mts 40'

10/07/03/2017. Set of detailed

specifications & technical

drawings available online at

www.ireps.gov.in

This registration is mandatory for participation in the tender.

Participating bidders shall

submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.

Offers received shall be ignored

if they do not conform to

the terms and conditions of

this tender.

For further information contact:

Controller of Stores, Maligaon

Rn-03-2017-DN-01

For further information contact:

Divisional Signal &

Telecom Engineer &

Spring assembly &

Fire retardant cotton canvas

water proof, 45157555, 415 Mts 40'

10/07/03/2017. Set of detailed

specifications & technical

drawings available online at

www.ireps.gov.in

This registration is mandatory for participation in the tender.

Participating bidders shall

submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.

Offers received shall be ignored

if they do not conform to

the terms and conditions of

this tender.

For further information contact:

Controller of Stores, Maligaon

Rn-03-2017-DN-01

For further information contact:

Divisional Signal &

Telecom Engineer &

Spring assembly &

Fire retardant cotton canvas

water proof, 45157555, 415 Mts 40'

10/07/03/2017. Set of detailed

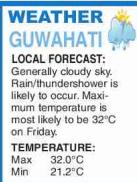
specifications & technical

drawings available online at

www.ireps.gov.in

This registration is mandatory for participation in the tender.

Participating bidders shall



Lutad Award to novelist Chandana Goswami

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: Trilingual newspaper *Lutad* presented the Lutad Award 2016 to novelist Chandana Goswami, on the occasion of the second anniversary of the newspaper at a function held here recently.

According to a press release, Prof Thaburn Taid, founder-president of the Missing Agen Keban, who was the chief guest, described Assam as a treasure house of diverse cultures. It is a storehouse of diverse languages too and the strength of its society lies in the unity of its indigenous communities. These diverse peoples live in an amicable condition.

Novelist Chandana Goswami, who is also known for her novel *Keynra*, was presented the award by Toren Boro, president of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The award includes a memento, a certificate, a *garmosa*, a Missing neck cover, a *japi*, a *sari* and a cheque of Rs 10,000.

The programme was anchored by Arindam Prince Panigrahi, editor and proprietor of *Lutad*, which is published in Mising, Assamese and English.



A prospective buyer stops his vehicle near a street vendor selling the traditional japi, in Guwahati on Thursday. - UB Photos

Good response prompts NF Rly to plan running more DEMU trains

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, May 4: Maligaon-headquartered Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has received positive response from the commuters for its Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMUs) trains on the short-distance routes and the zonal railway is now looking to increase the number of such rakes.

"Local short distance passengers have wholeheartedly welcomed the introduction of DEMU trains. With the passage of time, we expect it will become even more popular. There is a plan to convert all passenger trains running presently into DEMU trains," PJ Sharma, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPO) of NFR told *The Assam Tribune*.

DEMUs were first started in Assam in 1996 in the Guwahati-New Bongaigaon-Fakirgram section, but later had to be withdrawn due to technical glitches.

Last year, these trains were again introduced between Fakirgram and New Jalpaiguri and later DEMU services in up-Per Assam started in Tinsukia Division.

In Assam, DEMU services are presently operating on Guwahati-New Bongaigaon-Guwahati, Guwahati-Haihargao-Guwahati, Guwahati-Silghat Town-Guwahati and Ledo-Tinsukia-Dibrugarh Town-Tinsukia-Ledo routes.

"Three rakes are in operation under Tinsukia Division. Another 8-9 rakes are in operation on rotational basis throughout NFR, including Guwahati. The number of DEMU rakes is expected to increase with



Children with cleft palates being brought for treatment to the Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital on the first day of the 'Difficult Cases Week' programme conducted by Operation Smile, in Guwahati on Thursday. - UB Photos

Graduate engineers resent pay panel recommendations

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: Graduate engineers serving in the State government departments are aggrieved at the recommendations of the Seventh State Pay Commission which lowered the status of the engineers compared to the ACS administrative officers.

They have urged the intervention of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to remove the same.

The graduate engineers have been given a discriminatory treatment for the last decade with the recommendations of the Fifth State Pay Commission and the Sixth State Pay Commission, which were headed by the administrative officers. This is despite the fact that the engineers are appointed in the State government departments only after their clearing the BE final examinations.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions. Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Altaf Majid lecture

GUWAHATI, May 4: The Indian Federation of the United Nations Association and United Nations Association (UNA) Assam, jointly celebrated World Press Freedom Day here on Wednesday.

According to a press release, the function, presided over by Dr Aswin Singh, secretary general of the UNA Assam, was addressed by Pratap Bardoloi, former Deputy Director of the Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati and Nava

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club. Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended, among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.



ney rakes) with DEMU/DEMUs rakes. However, no schedule for this replacement has yet been fixed," said Sharma.

He added that as the DEMU train is more convenient for faster movement of short-distance passengers, NFR is also likely to replace normal conventional passenger trains running in other northeastern states with new DEMU trains in course of time."

Sharma said that the introduction of DEMUs has been a well-planned exercise with well-located maintenance facilities and there have been no logistical or op-

erational problems so far.

The DEMU trains running presently are having eight coaches each, including engines at both ends. On an average more than 750 passenger can be accommodated in the entire train. In conventional coaches of passenger trains the capacity is about seven per cent lower.

"With the progress of electrification, the DEMU rakes in turn will be replaced by Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains which are like DEMU rakes which ply in electrified sector. NFR has plans to replace all conventional passenger rakes (short distance day jour-

Function

GUWAHATI, May 4: The valedictory function of the diamond jubilee of Guwahati Diamond Insurance Employees Association will be held at the Institution of Engineers at 2 pm on May 6. A seminar on 'India 2017: challenges and possibilities', will also be held. - Staff Reporter

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former minister Biraj Kumar Sarma, a host of journalists and the members of the UNA Assam and UNA Guwahati.

Earlier, the graduate engineers were paid higher salaries at the initial stage. But the Fifth Pay Commission equated them with the ACS administrative officers. This was followed by the Sixth Pay

Commission recommending a Rs 500 higher pay to the ACS administrative officers compared to the graduate engineers, considering the services of the ACS officers as the premier services.

Till the pay commissions were headed by the judges, there was no discrimination against the graduate engineers. But the situation underwent a change as soon as the administrative officers were made heads of the pay commissions, alleged the graduate engineers.

The graduate engineers in fact initiate the developments of the remote areas by undertaking infrastructure development works braving critical conditions.

Only after completion of such infrastructure development works, the administrative officers go to those areas to start the administrative works, the engineers rued.

Thakuria, general secretary of the Guwahati Press Club.

Bardoloi urged the journalists to focus on development of society, reminding them of the dedication and the sacrifices made by their predecessors for the purpose. Nava Thakuria described journalism as a great tool to accelerate development of society.

The function was attended,

among others by former

MESSAGE FOR TODAY
If your ship doesn't come in, swim out to it.
 — JONATHAN WINTERS

The Assam Tribune

Goodbye earth

British physicist Stephen Hawking, arguably the greatest contemporary scientist after Einstein, has made another doomsday prediction! It may be recalled that Hawking last December had made a list of the ways in which mankind might face extinction. Calling this period in our existence as "the most dangerous time" in our history, Hawking had stated that man faces "awesome environmental challenges; climate change, food production, overpopulation, the decimation of other species, epidemic disease, acidification of the oceans," not to mention cosmic accidents like an asteroid-strike, or technological developments that might destroy us! Now he has made another prediction as to the time frame by which Armageddon would overtake Planet Earth: it would, according to Hawking, become uninhabitable within a century and mankind will have to colonize another planet if it is to survive. Speaking in a new BBC documentary titled *Expiration New Earth*, part of the series called *Tomorrow's Earth*, the eminent physicist asserts that time is running out for our planet and humanity will have to leave Earth for its survival. Apart from the above-mentioned possible causes of destruction, he has added that the planet has become more vulnerable to potential nuclear or biological war, something that only a "world government" can prevent. However, given the advent of individuals like the "global warming" sceptic Donald Trump, and enhanced nationalistic sentiments everywhere, such a government seems to be eight years away!

Humanity has merely touched the tip of the cosmos till date as far as space exploration is concerned; whether it would be able to find another inhabitable planet or create the technology needed to travel through space to colonize it in time is extremely doubtful. No doubt there are other inhabitable planets like our own in the universe, but these are located in other far-off galaxies and scientists have been able to reach them only through radio-telescopes – that we can within the space of a century develop a mass-transit system to such a planet is nothing but a pipe dream. Mars has lately been thought to be a potential candidate for the erection of human settlements, for scientists believe that once upon a time the Red Planet did possess conditions conducive to life. Unfortunately, the gradual disappearance of the magnetic field of Mars, causing the dissipation of its 'atmosphere', transformed it to the cold, inhospitable and uninhabitable place we know it today. However, concepts such as construction of a giant magnetic shield around Mars to contain its atmosphere and make it habitable are still in the realm of science fiction and mankind has so far not been able to send a man to it, let alone plan on colonizing it. Thus the sole bet left to us is our dear Planet Earth, and unless we learn to retain its habitability, we might as well bid goodbye to existence itself!

Clean up APSC

With skeletons continuing to tumble out of the murky cupboard of the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC), it is now more than apparent that the august precincts of the Commission were degraded into a stinking den where jobs were up for grabs in return for a price. More and more revelations have emerged in the wake of the confessions from disgraced APSC chairman Rakesh Paul, culminating in the arrest of three ACS officers on the charge of paying money to get their jobs. Just as the arrest of the APSC chairman was something unprecedented, so have been the arrests of the ACS officers. While the police has been doing a good job, the case of these three ACS officers form only the proverbial tip of the iceberg and the ongoing probe must go deeper into the anomalies and book all those involved in the nefarious job racket. It is impossible to assume that such a deep-rooted racket could flourish un inhibited without the blessings of the high and mighty in the government, especially ministers. It's preposterous to believe that Rakesh Paul was the lone beneficiary of the proceeds from the job sale. The common man would be tempted to think that the ruling political party and its leaders, too, were among the beneficiaries. Can the probe go beyond the arrest of the chairperson, members and a few of those getting job in return for money, is the million-dollar question. At the same time, it has to be conceded that the unprecedented arrest of the bribe-paying ACS officers is likely to act as a deterrent for prospective dishonest job-seekers. However, a thorough cleansing of the APSC will require that at least a few of the bigwigs involved in the job racket are brought to book.

Media reports on the APSC scam has laid bare that Rakesh Paul had been the kingpin of the nefarious goings on who used his power, clout and immunity as APSC chief as also his proximity to ruling politicians to perpetuate a syndicate in which candidates were given coveted government jobs not for merit but in return for monetary considerations. The logical course of action now will be to book and punish as per law each and every accomplice in this nefarious syndicate. Paul has reportedly named quite a few influential persons including politicians, bureaucrats and so-called student leaders having involvement in the racket. It is anybody's guess that the police would be under a lot of pressure to slacken the probe and allow the big fish to escape the dragnet. Such an eventuality will frustrate the very objective of the probe and the State Government, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in particular, must ensure that the investigations are not weakened under any circumstances.

Media trial and moral policing

■ Arup Borbora

Taking law into hand has of late become such a social phenomenon that it has threatened the very existence of the rule of law. Whether it is about public dealings with a petty thief caught red-handed or with a person detected for indulging in extramarital yet consented love affair; however gravest criminal offence that any citizen might be implicated with, even the law-enforcing authorities are not permitted under the law to inflict third-degree methods of torturing the accused under any pretext. Their duty is to frame charges against the accused and put him in the dock for a trial under the established criminal norms and procedure.

Unfortunately, at places around the country and definitely not excluding Assam, moral policing has not only become the order of the public life but is running parallel to the official and judicially expected executive mechanics dealing with criminality and criminals. Irate isolated small mobs and vigilantes in different peripheries, with unbridled arm-twisting allowed by a prevalent deficiency in the administration of legal and constitutionally prescribed methodology, have threatened the basic principles of rule of law.

Television channels are prompt enough in condemning and holding a media trial for any offender, even before the completion of investigation, let alone filing of charge-sheets, thereby contributing towards prejudicing a fair trial. Such

overly aggressive stands virtually take away the sheen from even many a credible investigative journalistic exercise, including sting operations done in given cases. Most of the local Assamese channels carry even poorer portrayals for them in pre-emptive and populist media trials. There are instances galore when persons condemned and adjectively portrayed by such channels at the threshold of any given event have subsequently been honourably acquitted by the court of law.

Vigilantism and public vigilance have assumed such a level of media gimmick that a Petty or a bigamist caught in a suburb of a township is tied up with ropes to a betel nut tree by a small mob and not beaten up till a television crew with cameras arrive at the scene. It is very often seen how a handful of police constables and bavildars, after reaching the site, helplessly watch such public beatings and 'camera works'.

In absence of any rational public opinion building and effective social awareness, people even stand by cruetiles meted out to irrationally condemned so-called 'witches' rather than resisting and taming the unscrupulous ones. Medieval psychopathy and intolerant social behaviours even amongst the literature sections in the country all in

the name of enforcement of one's own cherished ideology and socio-religious dogma have assumed proportions threatening the basic rights of citizens and also various communities' humanistic and constitutional customs and liberties. Communal-religious antagonism with one-upmanship cannot be the order of the day. Whims and vagaries must not affect rational tolerance about contrary views and opinions of diverse cross-sections of

them. They don't allow any public debate or symposium having the prospect of criticizing, in all earnestness, their rigid public posture.

Heart goes out for one poor Pehlu Khan, who was brutally killed by a group of cow vigilante in Rajasthan merely for translocating two cows owned by him for farming/milking a few miles away. His 85-year-old mother was recently seen sitting at Jantar Mantar in Delhi with a small placard demanding justice. These so-called vigilantes are actually some fanatical goons.

The question is not about the agrarian and holistic values of cows and buffaloes. No one denies it. It is just about the debatable areas in which various tribes and communities belonging to different faiths, customs and religions take them for meat.

Why is any organization not opposed to the cruel killings of goats and pigs? Well, the hardened motto against cow slaughter, or for that matter liquor ban, etc., can never be imposed or enforced all along the length and breadth of a country, more particularly in the North-Eastern States. If any central legislation prohibits cow slaughter in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, one will not be surprised if these States prefer to go against the Indian mainstream. Ducks in upper Assam districts and pigeons in the lower Assam districts have been favoured as non-vegetarian

food items for centuries. How can anyone put an embargo on such customary food habits? Amongst the indigenous tribal populace, pork and even bats are considered to be delicacies with traditional alcoholic drinks like *happani, apong, rohi, sameda*, etc. Everything goes well here without disturbing the centuries-old harmonious community living.

For sure and for all time to come, during the human civilization cycle, no government or ideologist on planet earth has been able to or is likely to prevent three things: eating of meat of any species not declared as wildlife, liquor of any traditional variety and, of course, affairs among grown-up adults, spite of any anti-Romeo drives as recuperated recently in Uttar Pradesh.

Enforceability does not necessarily succeed upon penal legislations as more fructified by sound educative generation of social awareness with built-in scientific approaches. There is no dearth of penal and retributive statutes aimed at curtailing social menaces ranging from witch hunting, poaching of wildlife, cruelty towards animals and drug abuse, etc. Such statutory provisions have proved to be inadequate even with respect to reckless driving resulting in accidental deaths, engagement of child labour, human trafficking, etc. It is thus abundantly clear that it is only through mechanism of social awareness, more than stringent and yet mostly unenforceable statutory laws, such menaces could be considerably brought down, if not totally repudiated.

Wetlands and fisheries development in Assam

■ Dhruba Jyoti Sharma, Sanjay Sarma

Assam is endowed with vast surface water resources in the form of the mighty rivers Brahmaputra and Barak with network of its tributaries and hundreds of wetlands besides large numbers of derelict ancient tanks and around two lakhs of private ponds and tanks. The total surface water resource is estimated to be about 5 lakh ha. Out of this area, natural water bodies like river fisheries and wetlands cover about 2.05 lakh ha and 1 lakh ha respectively. The wetland coverage of the State is about 1/12th of the country's total. These unique ecosystems are rich in diverse fauna and flora where some may be extinct, and some are highly endangered or threatened.

Wetlands, essentially shallow water bodies, could apply described as nature's wonderland encompassing rich biodiversity, and which provide a range of ecosystem services. For human beings, wetlands signify a steady flow of water, providing livelihood opportunities, filtering water, helping mitigate floods, and at times modifying the micro-climate, with the added potential to attract tourists.

Wetlands are tectonic depressions, dead river courses and floodplain water bodies with unique eco-

system and is called granary of fish. Over the years, connection with the parent river got cut off due to creation of bundhs along the courses of rivers for flood protection purposes. This has caused hindrance to the migration of fish mainly during the time of natural spawning as scientifically-designed fish passages were not provided in the strategic locations of the bundhs. There is therefore an urgent need to have an integrated approach with experts from disciplines concerned to formulate projects so that the concerns on all related aspects are properly met for sustainable management of resources. The Deepor Beel is the right example of tremendous neglect that we are showing in management of water resources. The *beel* is a Ramsar site but is vertically and horizontally being squeezed for individual benefit. Nowhere in the world will we find mismanagement of such precious resources.

Wetlands since the time of their emergence have been the natural refuge of a vast range of organisms, some of which are in fact endemic to the region. They are home to a fantastic assembly of aquatic life, which include many that await scientific scrutiny. Habitat for a variety of water fowl, wetlands attract migratory birds in great numbers eve-

ry winter. The peculiar physical condition of wetlands in Assam has proved to be conducive for the one-horned rhinoceros. Their physical dimensions and locations allow wetlands to play a crucial role in Assam. The State area covered by wetlands is around 101,231.6 ha. The largest occurrence is in Morigaon district where wetlands spread over 11,658 ha. The districts of Kamrup, Nagaon and Cachar too have substantial tracts of wetlands. Many of the wetlands are of considerable size with at least 170 of them covering more than 100 ha each. Of the 3,513 wetlands in Assam, 18 are quite extensive with a coverage more than 500 ha. The numbers might look impressive, but the status of the wetlands is uninspiring. The wetlands in Assam and parts of the North-East are among the most neglected zones, a distressing fact considering they are among the richest reservoirs of biodiversity, and contain tremendous prospects for economic activities which could be compatible with sustainable living.

Wetland management is a critical subject where features of each ecosystem are site specific and accordingly individual studies are made for project preparation. The extensive growth of fast growing weeds casts off sunlight penetration and results in faster eutrophication and deposition of debris at the bottom. The

present fish production from the wetlands in the State is in the range of about 250 kg/ha/year to 400 kg/ha/year with the potential to rise above 1500 kg/ha/year. These *beels*, because of no management over the years, have developed thick weed infestation added by encroachment problem in many cases thereby hindering smooth development. Scientific management of the resource in general entails detailed study of the present stock, clearance of weeds, stock manipulation, mesh size regulation and catching of specific size range of fish, introduction of pen culture, cage culture and provision of assured supply of standard size quality seed.

The present status of rivers, fisheries and wetlands is not all satisfactory. Silting caused due to human interferences and natural processes has resulted in gradually reduced water-holding capacity of the precious water resources. The ultimate result is the gradual decline in the fish stock population along with the loss of rich aquatic biodiversity in both the water resources. Moreover, the wetlands are gradually transforming into swamp and land formations with a possible threat to their very existence within the next 25-50 years. It is estimated that the wetland area in the State has reduced about 40% by now. Different use of water bod-

ies by different stakeholders cause the major concern such as silitation, pollution, weed infestation, water quality degradation and decrease in productivity as a whole. Again it is the need of the hour for conservation of water bodies for multipurpose activities to uplift the rural economy through employment generation. Economic use of water hyacinth for handicraft/fertilizer, exploitation of aquatic weeds, *makhna*, etc., for vermicompost and food products is another aspect.

This strategy should emphasize not only technical feasibility and economic viability, but also an approach which is environment friendly and socially acceptable. Trust on biodiversity, habitat and resource conservation are important aspects to be taken care of. The role of the planner is important while taking a new project in and around rivers and water bodies to see that the natural flow of water during the rainy season is not adversely affected for damaging the natural breeding ground of local fish fauna. However, the positive aspect of aquaculture in wetlands is that it can develop continuously with minimum environmental disturbance. The time is therefore running out and, hence, there is an immediate need to formulate a State Wetland Policy for effective management of the water resources.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir – Through your esteemed daily, I want to draw the attention of everyone to the fact that under the new RTI Rules, 2017 proposed by the Central Government, an RTI query can be withdrawn by the applicant and it will be closed if the applicant dies. It means that people can be threatened into withdrawing their queries and if they do not care of threats, they will be killed. Many people use the RTI Act to fight against corruption in various government departments and also in government bodies. So, the RTI activists are at a higher risk to be threatened and killed.

If someone is threatened, then the government must provide them protection instead of letting them withdraw their queries. Why should an RTI query be closed after the applicant's death? The response to it must immediately be disclosed by the government. The new RTI rules put the lives of the common man, especially the whistleblowers, in grave danger while fighting against corruption. The government should discard these new RTI rules for the security of the common citizens and help make a corruption-

Proposed RTI Rules, 2017

free state. The RTI Act needs to be stronger on the people's side. Yours etc., KIRITNATH KALITA, Dibrugarh.

Offensive post

Sir – The recent incident where DPS Arjan Bora was arrested and suspended for his act of posting highly objectionable remarks, alleging a BJP woman legislator of involvement in flesh trade in Dispur was bizarre. Whatever might be the depth of the fact, posting such offensive comments in social media, that too by a government servant, was uncalled for. Bora was booked by the police earlier also for posting anti-Muslim remarks which had the potential to incite violence. This is highly condemnable. The matter should be investigated and if found guilty, the police officer should be punished as per law. Yours etc., SHAJID KHAN, Tangla.

An appeal to APSC

Sir – Through your esteemed daily, I would like to bring it to the notice of the APSC authority that the recent efforts of making the APSC recruitment transparent is highly commendable. I am pleased for the PHE exam this year. To my surprise, I noticed a doctor to prescribe generic names. It is time the public forced the doctor to prescribe only generic names. Yours etc., SABYASACHI DEB, Lachitnagar, Guwahati.

trust upon him, lies buried in the unforeseen future. Yours etc., GAUTAM GANGULY, Hengrabari Road, Guwahati.

APSC irregularities

Sir – The arrest of the three civil service officers of Assam on the charge of securing their jobs through the APSC by paying money has exposed the adoption of irregularities by the Commission in the recruitment of candidates for various State Government jobs through 'competitive' examinations. Now, it is clear that a number of persons have got jobs through the APSC by paying hefty amounts of money to its chairman or to any other member(s). The truth is that in the past, many meritorious candidates were deprived of getting jobs through the APSC as the selection process was not done properly. As such, a big number of very dull and inefficient persons have got government jobs. Ultimately, the State Government has lost the services of the talented persons available in the State. Yours etc., MAHESWAR DEKA, Rangia.

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



Veteran journalist Kanak Sen Deka releasing Sangbad Surjya Kirtinath Hazarika, a book on the life and works of former Dainik Assam editor Kirtinath Hazarika, in the city on Wednesday evening.

Poster contest on road safety, sanitation

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: With a view to incorporating innovative ideas of the people of the State in governance and igniting their creative and intellectual aptitude in general and youth in particular, 'My Gov Assam', a digital platform, is organising a poster designing competition on road safety and sanitation and ODF awareness. Interested participants may send their entries at www.assam.mygov.in or before May 10 for road safety and May 18 for sanitation and ODF awareness, said an official release here.

The winners of the poster designing contest on road safety will be awarded certificates of merit signed by Chief Minister Sonowal and the selected first, second and

'Focus more on work culture, less on dress code'

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: BIP MLA from Dispur constituency Atul Bora today said that the target set for construction of household toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) or SBM-G during the 2016-17 fiscal.

Addressing the media here today, Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) Rihon Daimary said that 10.54 lakh toilets were built in the rural areas of the State during the last fiscal as against a target of 8.5 lakh.

For the purpose, the Central government allocated a total of Rs 747 crore during the last fiscal and the entire amount was spent.

The State government also released its share of Rs 201 crore, including arrears for previous years. "We were able to utilise that amount as well," Daimary said.

The Minister added that the

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: Assam has been able to surpass the target set for construction of household toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) or SBM-G during the 2016-17 fiscal.

He said that lack of Aadhaar unique identification numbers in the State has led to some problems as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the beneficiaries, on which the Centre

has been laying stress, cannot be undertaken without the Aadhaar number.

Daimary said that along with the supply projects have been held in limbo and all the MLAs have been asked to suggest six schemes in each constituency for revival.

Daimary, who holds the portfolio of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, also said that the Agriculture Marketing Board has been directed to procure potatoes from farmers of Lakhimpur and Barpeta districts, where the potato crop has been good this year and there were also reports of distress sale.

He said the government had last month released Rs 1 crore for the purpose and another Rs 50 lakh was sanctioned today.

Assam Accord a product of intellectual immaturity'

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: Joining the debate on the relevance of the Assam Accord of 1985, senior journalist DN Chakravarty today observed that the accord itself would not stand any legal validity as it was never passed in the Parliament.

Chakravarty said that even with a fragile accord, it was disgraceful for the part of two AGP governments to be unconcerned in implementing even partially the accord – whatever might be its shortcomings and ineffectiveness.

The accord of the Assam movement can even now be achieved if the people of Assam under an able and farsighted leadership could influence the Government.

Secondly, he added, guaranteeing of safeguards to the Assamese people was itself vague and without any administrative obligation.

The accord itself would not stand any legal validity as it was never passed in the Parliament. Chakravarty said that even with a fragile accord, it was disgraceful for the part of two AGP governments to be unconcerned in implementing even partially the accord – whatever might be its shortcomings and ineffectiveness.

The senior journalist further said that the Bengali-speaking Muslims of East Bengal and East Pakistan origin as a distinct class of Indian citizens in Assam restricting their rights of voting as per population figure 1951.

Chakravarty said that the Bengali-speaking Muslims of East Bengal and East Pakistan should also be debarred from purchasing land within the State of Assam.

Dimasa food festival

GUWAHATI, May 4: Jismal, an organisation to promote ethnic cuisine and culture of Dimasa Hsao district in association with Landmark Hotels is organising a food festival here on May 6 and 7 to introduce Dimasa food and popularise it among the people.

Concurrent programmes depicting Dimasa music, art and culture will also be organised.

The event, to be held on Dr B Barooah Road, will be attended by noted actor Victor Banerjee as a special guest, a statement said. — Staff Reporter



Release of an Assamese prose work by Santanu Baruah, daughter of Parbat Prasad Baruah, by writer Arup Kumar Dutta at Vivekananda Kendra at 4 pm.

Do you really want to pay more on your electricity bill?

The scheme will be formally inaugurated by Shri Pallab Lochan Das Hon'ble Minister of State, Power etc. on 5th May, 2017

If not, then choose smart.

Get LED bulbs / LED tube lights and energy efficient fans.



LED BULB

Wattage:	9W	=	18W	=	60W
Price:	₹ 70		₹ 80		₹ 10
Lifespan:	40,000 hours		8,000 hours		1,500 hours
Lighting Cost:	₹ 131 per year		₹ 263 per year		₹ 876 per year
SAVE UP TO ₹ 132 to ₹ 745 per year					



LED TUBE LIGHT

Wattage:	20W	=	40W
Price:	₹ 230		₹ 40
Lifespan:	40,000 hours		9,000 hours
Lighting Cost:	₹ 292 per year		₹ 584 per year
SAVE UP TO ₹ 350 per year			



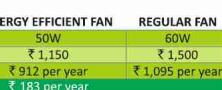
REGULAR TUBE LIGHT

Wattage:	50W	=	60W
Price:	₹ 1,150		₹ 1,500
Power Cost:	₹ 912 per year		₹ 1,095 per year
SAVE UP TO ₹ 183 per year			



ENERGY EFFICIENT FAN

Wattage:	50W	=	60W
Price:	₹ 1,150		₹ 1,500
Power Cost:	₹ 912 per year		₹ 1,095 per year
SAVE UP TO ₹ 183 per year			



REGULAR FAN

Wattage:	50W	=	60W
Price:	₹ 1,150		₹ 1,500
Power Cost:	₹ 912 per year		₹ 1,095 per year
SAVE UP TO ₹ 183 per year			

BUY TODAY!

From Electrical Sub-Division or fair price shop or Arunudoy Kendra

UJALA
www.ujala.com
PAVAN
www.pavan.com

Free replacement warranty up to 3 years



Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd.

EESL ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES LIMITED

Sealed quotations are invited from the dealers holding Pollution Control Board Licence for sale of Industrial/Production/ Construction & Laboratory waste on "as is where is basis". Interested persons may submit their quotation along with complete details of process flow for use, sale or destruction of above wastes at the following address:

General Manager,
ITC Limited (ICML)
Bardezpur, Mouja Rampur, P. O. Kukurmara,
Dist. Kamrup, Assam-781134.

Scrap can be inspected on all working days from May 8th 2017 to May 12th 2017 between 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm at the address mentioned above. Company reserves the right to discard any of the quotation without assigning any person.

हिन्दुस्तान पेपर कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड HINDUSTAN PAPER CORPORATION LTD. (A Govt of India Enterprise)				
Nagaon Paper Mill, Nagaon, Assam - 782 413 Morigaon, Assam, Website : www.hindpaper.in				
Tender No. & Date	Name of work	Qty	EMD (Rs.)	
PNC/2516100993/R Otd. 05.05.2017	SUPPLY AND DOSING OF KALIYNE SING CHEMICAL WITH ALKYL KETENE DIMER (AKD)	115000 (Set)	10.0 Lakh	

Bid Submission start date : 05.05.2017 at 0800 hrs.

Bid Submission Closing date : 26.05.2017 at 1500 hrs.

Tender documents can be downloaded from HPCL website www.hindpaper.in, www.tenders.gov.in, www.aprocur.gov.in, <https://eps.buyjunction.in> or contact Commercial Department (Purchase Section) Nagaon Paper Mill, Jagriroad.

Corrigendum, if any may be hosted in the website only.

The tendering process shall be on Enterprise Procurement System under M-Junction Services Ltd. The bidders must get themselves registered with M-Junction Services Ltd free of cost, url:<https://eps.buyjunction.in> for participation in the tender.

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LTD. ONGC				
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (INT)				
ONGC invites percentage rate open tender in two bid system under e-Procurement through ONGC's e-Procurement portal from reputed/experienced contractors for the following work as per the details given below :-				
Tender No.: LC1MC17025 Name of work: Renovation of Civil Engineering Building except toilets, ONGC, Cinnamara Complex, Nagaon, Assam. Total estimated cost of the work is ₹ 18,42,512.37. Estimated time of completion : 03 (Three) months. Tender Fee: ₹ 500/- Start date & time of participation in https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal: 05-05-17 from 10:00 Hrs. Last date & time of tender fee payment in https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal: 29-05-17 Up to 23:59 Hrs. Last date of sale of tender paper in https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal: 30-05-17 Up to 23:59 Hrs. Last date of time of submission of bid in e-tender website https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal: 30-05-17 Up to 23:59 Hrs. Date and time of opening of Un-priced Techno Commercial Bid.: 30-05-17 at 1500 Hrs.				
Tender No.: LC1MC17026 Name of work: Civil works for 15 KL HSD Tank at D Type colony. Estimated Cost : ₹ 18,42,512.37. Estimated time of completion : 03 (Three) months. Tender Fee: ₹ 500/- Start date & time of participation in https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal: 05-05-17 from 10:00 Hrs. Last date & time of tender fee payment in https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal: 29-05-17 Up to 23:59 Hrs. Last date of sale of tender paper in https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal : 29-05-17 up to 23:59 Hrs. Last date and time of submission of bid in e-tender website https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal: 30-05-17 up to 14:00 Hrs. Date and time of opening of Un-priced Techno Commercial Bid.: 30-05-17 at 1500 Hrs.				
Tender No.: LC1MC17026 Name of work: Civil works for 15 KL HSD Tank at D Type colony. Estimated Cost : ₹ 18,42,512.37. Estimated time of completion : 03 (Three) months. Tender Fee: ₹ 500/- Start date & time of participation in https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal: 05-05-17 from 10:00 Hrs. Last date & time of tender fee payment in https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal: 29-05-17 Up to 23:59 Hrs. Last date of sale of tender paper in https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal : 29-05-17 up to 23:59 Hrs. Last date and time of submission of bid in e-tender website https://etender.ongc.co.in/rj/portal: 30-05-17 up to 14:00 Hrs. Date and time of opening of Un-priced Techno Commercial Bid.: 30-05-17 at 1500 Hrs.				
For further details of tender, please logon to our website http://tenders.ongc.co.in . The e-Procurement portal can be accessed directly at https://etender.ongc.co.in .				

Exclusively BDCI 05-2017

Bohagi Utsav at Nellie from May 8

CORRESPONDENT

JAGIROAD, May 4: Nellie Manchajay Bohag Bihu Udjapan Samiti is organising a three-day Bohagi Utsav at Nellie from May 8 to 10 with various cultural programmes.

Ramasing Deo-ja of Nellie Raj-chora will hoist the Bihu flag while Bhupen Deka, president, Bihu Samiti will offer *smarit tarpan*.

Dharanidhar Bordoloi, president, Morigaon district samiti of BJP will inaugurate the first cultural evening, while Swapnil Deka, SP, Morigaon will inaugurate the second day's Kadambini Day memorial cultural evening.

The cultural evening will be graced by Paban Manta, chief executive member, Tiwa Autonomous Council, Morigaon and Piyush Hazarika, MLA.

Meat prices at Tinsukia reviewed

CORRESPONDENT

TINSUKIA, May 4: District Veterinary Officer, Apurba Saikia, who is also the member secretary of the Tinsukia District Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), held a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office here on Wednesday to discuss various aspects of animal slaughter facilities, meat selling booths as well as fixation of prices of meats.

The meeting which was presided over by additional deputy commissioner Rima Mech discussed various problems faced by the people in the district.

It also resolved that a workshop will be organised to educate the people, especially the meat vendors for creating awareness about various aspects of animal welfare at the earliest under the initiative of the Municipal Board. In the meeting, the prices of dressed broiler meat and goat meat have been fixed at Rs 240 and Rs 429 respectively.

Dilip Kumar Barman: a tribute



Dilip Kumar Barman, a former senior geologist of the State's Geology and Mining Directorate died at his Panjabri Sankar Nagar residence in Guwahati on April 25 morning at the age of 67. He leaves behind his wife and a son.

His death has filled many hearts with grief. Dilip Kumar Barman was simply an unassuming person. But after coming across the extent and intensity of his works, one is sure to regard him as a dedicated geologist having vast

knowledge on the geology of the State. He perhaps left no aspect of the State's geology unexamined. He had the convincing answers to all the geological-related developments of the State. For, he never used to accept any idea without critically examining it, he used to go strictly by the Socrates way in this respect.

Because of his outspoken nature, Dilip Kumar Barman earned the animosity of many quarters. This affected his career too. But he accepted all the bitter experiences in his life with a smile. He never considered those harming him as

his enemies. Born near the Sabbar Khola at Taachbari to primary school teacher Late Manohari Barman on March 1, 1950, Dilip Kumar Barman joined the Geology and Mining Directorate of the State in 1974, after completing his M Sc in 1972.

He has at least 12 scientific papers on various geological-related issues to his credit. Besides, he also used to write for the daily newspapers, including *The Assam Tribune* regularly on various issues.

Some of his publications include - *Hydro-geological characteristics of the Basistha-Ba-*

sin, Guwahati; Remote Sensing Contribution for Augmentation of Urban Water Supply in Greater Guwahati Area; A concept of groundwater exploration; A sedimentological evidence confirming existence of a prehistoric river across Gauhati city; Seismotectonic studies of Barak Valley, Assam-2001; Landslide hazard in Gauhati city, 1997, among others.

Let his dedication continue to inspire our young geologists.

Today on this day of his adyashraddha, we pray to the Almighty for the eternal peace of his soul.

- Ajit Patowary

Sarat Chandra Barua



Late Sarat Chandra Barua, my b e l o v e d *peha*, who was a father-figure, philosopher and guide to me, passed away on April 25 last. Blessed with a long life by the Almighty, it was only last year that we had enthusiastically celebrated his centenary birthday which was well attended by friends, well-wishers and relatives.

Ever since my childhood, *peha* had played a pivotal role in shaping my career, my life and my destiny. It was he who had presented me with my first table tennis racquet and prodded me to pursue my first love, table tennis, with dedication and zeal. It was his constant inspiration that encouraged me to aspire to leave a mark in the field of sports and granted me the courage to

reach out for the sky with dreams in my eyes.

Born on April 18, 1917 in Golaghat, Sarat Chandra Barua passed his matriculation examination from Golaghat, under Calcutta University and thereafter completed his Intermediate in Commerce from Jagnath College, Dibrugarh (then part of undivided India) in 1941. With the onset of the second world war, he had to return to Assam from Dhaka. In 1943, he completed his Bachelorate in Commerce from Vidyasagar College, Calcutta with flying colours and thereafter, in 1944, he joined Assam Govt. Service as Inspector of Cooperative Societies, gaining profound experience in his work, serving in various districts of Assam. Under the Colombo Plan initiative, he was nominated for a training in Canada and after the completion of his training, he rejoined the Department of Cooperatives as

Joint Registrar in 1958. In 1948, he entered into holy matrimony with Hemalata Duvarah, sister of noted artist and my father, Late Tarun Duvarah. The duo led a contented conjugal life for seven decades and were blessed with two sons and two daughters. After a glorious career fruitfully spent in several places in Assam and years of service to the people, he superannuated in 1976.

Late Sarat Ch Barua was passionately involved in the socio-cultural activities in his neighbourhood. Notable among them was the Srimanta Sankardev Krishi Sangha', of which he was the president of the managing committee. His piousness and steadfast devotion to the noble cause of promotion of Srimanta Sankardev's Eksharan Naam Dharma endeared him to the community at large. An amiable and social person, he believed

- Tridib Duvarah

in the Vedic adage, *Vasudaeva Kutumbakam*.

In an age of fast-paced society driven by consumerism, targets and rat races, *peha* could be seen forging and cementing relationships with the people of the society where he belonged. His amiable nature always attracted admirers from far and wide and he found profound joy in interactions with people.

His son Ratul da and daughter-in-law, Anju bou have displayed exemplary devotion in taking care of Late Sarat Ch Barua during his sunset years and provided him with the necessary emotional support in the aftermath of his wife's demise after seven decades of togetherness.

Today on the day of his adyashraddha, I pray to the Almighty to bestow his soul with eternal peace and salvation.

- Tridib Duvarah

Historic Athani Zamindar Bari in a shambles

CORRESPONDENT



DHUBRI, May 4: Once an identity for the people of Bagribari area, the Athani Zamindar Bari, which was not only an administrative office of the Chaudhary Zamindars but an witness to may historical events in western Assam, is now in a shambles.

According to historians and local people, this Zamindar Bari was an important point of administration in western Assam during the period of Harendra Narayan Chaudhary. It is said that the building, the adjacent Ram Mahal and the Moti Mahal played an important role in the freedom struggle of the nation. But now due to lack of proper maintenance, this historic building is in a pathetic condition.

The locals of Bagribari area say that many historians have visited this place and tourists from different places throng here regularly to see the Zamindar Bari. Moreover, dif-

ferent organisations have been demanding, from time to time, to develop this historic building into a popular tourist spot.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, Shreela Chaudhury, the granddaughter of Harendra Narayan

Zamindar Bari said that she too wants the historic building and the properties of the Athani Zamindars to be a spot of attraction for tourists and a pride and identity for the people of western Assam.

"The glory and hospitality of the Athani Zamindars were so unique that it was known all over the country, but it could not be preserved by the next generation. Most of the properties were encroached upon by illegal settlers but the Zamindar

Bari is still surviving. I always want it to be a tourist spot," Shreela, who stays mostly in Kolkata and Japan, has recently arrived to look after the property.

Shreela, who is also known as Rani Ma by the locals, said, "I believe the last heir of the Athani Zamindar properties, have tried a lot towards preserving the lost glory. I have contacted different agencies for developing the area but in vain. A few years back, I donated the property to the Art of Living Foundation with the hope that it will utilize it in a proper way and make it an important centre of spiritual study."

The 70-year-old, Shreela says that before her death she wants to see the Zamindar Bari as an important centre of tourism. "After I am gone there will be no one to look after this property. I just want that the people all over the country know this place for the administrative building of the Athani Zamindars."

NDFB linkman held

CORRESPONDENT

BONGAIGAON, May 4: A joint team of Army and police on Wednesday nabbed a linkman of NDFB's anti-talk faction at Bogorikari under Runikhatia Police Station in Chirang district. He has been identified as Bahang Bihang Musahary (23), son of B Musahary of Tempara in Kokrajhar town.

Bahang, who is also a student of Kokrajhar Government College, had come into contact with Sujit Musahary alias M Salkhong, a hardcore Myanmarese-trained cadre of the outfit, a few months back. Sujit had assigned Bahang to collect money from traders in Chirang district in the name of the outfit. Based on a tip-off on Wednesday, the security forces nabbed him and sent him to police custody.

Executive meet

CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, May 4: State executive meeting of the non-provincialised Asom Sikshak Kar machari Akhyamancha was held on Wednesday here at Kanaklata High School, Kondukhola under Rangiya subdivision.

The meet discussed relevant issues related to the body's long urged demands as well as the problems of the teachers and employees in the State's non-provincialised colleges. The meet took resolutions on various important issues to press upon the State govt for their early redressal. Further, it was also resolved that the mancha would hold a sit-in demonstration at Dispur Last Gate before conclusion of the next Assembly session, secretary Bhuneswar Lakhar of the mancha stated in a press release here Wednesday evening.

Swachata Abhiyan begins at Doomdooma

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, May 4: The Ministry of Urban Development has declared a month-long Swachata Abhiyan from May 1 to 30. Along with rest of the nation, the Abhiyan also began at Doomdooma under the initiative of Doomdooma Town Committee (DDTC).

On May 1, the Abhiyan formally began at DDTC office where the chairman, vice-chairman, ward-commissioners, employees and cleaning workers took the oath of cleanliness. In this programme, the cleaning workers of DDTC who have contributed remarkably in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan since October 2, 2014, were felicitated.

OBITUARY

Indira Borah

GUWAHATI, May 4: Indira Borah, Retired Lecturer, wife of Prof JN Borah, resident of Bhangarh, Guwahati passed away on May 3 at the International Hospital due to prolonged illness. She was 71 years old.

She was a kind and caring human being who always brought joy and happiness. She was a loving mother to her two children and a wonderful wife to her husband who will always cherish her.

Jamila Begum

CORRESPONDENT

DALGURI, May 4: Jamila Begum, a pious lady and wife of noted businessman Tara Hussain Khan, a resident of ward no. 3 of Tangla in Dalguri district left for her heavenly abode on April 27 last following a brief illness at her husband's ancestral home at Sivwan in Bihar. A popular lady of the area, she was loved and respected by all for her amiable disposition. She was 68. Her husband Tara Hussain Khan predeceased her in 1995. She spent a good period of her early life in Tangla and had very close relations with a number of social organisations around Tangla town.

She leaves behind two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives.

Demand to make Udaguri daily market area clean

CORRESPONDENT

UDALGURI: May 4: While Kabihari village near Udaguri town is wearing a clean look and going to be declared as the cleanest village, the Udaguri daily market area in the heart of Udaguri town is wearing the most dirtiest look with dirty and stinking garbage everywhere creating health hazards for the neighbouring residents of the town.

It is to be noted that the southern part of the daily market having mutton, chicken and fish market holdings is just below the Udaguri Town Committee office building and its dirty look even affects the officials of the town committee.

Meanwhile, a section of residents living near the daily market also urged the Udaguri town committee to make the unabated sale of illegal liquor in the daily market area and demanded a permanent solution from the district administration.

A resident near the daily mar-

ket feels that the town committee should have instructed the petty businessmen to keep their holdings clean.

But even the businessmen themselves said that they too feel allergic to such an unhygienic environment but due to lack of basic facilities of 'lets out' for garbage disposal and a common toilet, people use open areas as urinal in this part of the market creating a stinking environment.

Meanwhile, a section of residents living near the daily market holding also urged the Udaguri town committee to make the unabated sale of illegal liquor in the daily market area and demanded a permanent solution from the town committee of the town area to create awareness among the residents of town area to avoid harmful polythene at any cost.

Child welfare schemes in Hailakandi reviewed

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, May 4: A team of Assam State Commission for Protection of Children Rights (ASCPCR) led by Chairperson Runumi Gogoi held discussions with the officials of various government departments.

Gogoi reviewed the present status of child welfare schemes in Hailakandi district and asked the officials to update it with official records.

She also laid emphasis on

smooth supply of mid-day meal and proper maintenance of health and hygiene in the school toilets. During the discussion, Gogoi asked the officials of all the departments to keep a close vigil on the agencies so that people can't use child labour.

Additional SP of Hailakandi, Raj Mohan Ray informed that altogether seven cases of child abuse have been registered in six different police stations of Hailakandi district so far.

She said that the conditions of private schools should be monitored properly. Tushar Rane of UNICEF, who was also present in the meeting, expressed serious concern over the increase in death of children.

The meeting was addressed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Rithilien, Labour Officer Alim Uddin Barbhuiya, member of the commission, Gopal Chandra Sarma, and child protection officer of Hailakandi, Jitul Gogoi.



Madhusmita Dihingia receiving the 'Bihu Kuvarti Award' from social activist Ganesh Tamul and singer Samar Hazarika at the 47th Nalbari Mokhuma Bihu Sammelan recently.

Poor road conditions irk people in Kalaigaon

CORRESPONDENT

KALAIGAON, May 4: The people of Kalaigaon town have been facing severe hardships for the last several months due to poor road conditions. Despite repeated complaints from various organisations, the State PWD seems to be insensitive in this regard forcing the people to take the agitational path.

The Bhatikhana Chowk, which is said to be the heart of Kalaigaon town, has been badly affected following perennial water-logging problem. Sim-

ilarly Kalaignan-Rangamati PWD road (KR road), from Kalaignan police station to Samalbari LP school, has also been badly damaged by recent rain waters.

As several schools, including Sankardev Sishu Niketan, Lokapravita Bordoloi Public School, Kalaignan Girls HS, Kalaignan Girls MVS, Milan LPS, etc., are located at the KR Road, people have demanded early repair of the road.

On the other hand, the McKenzi Road starting from Kalaigaon ASTC station point to


**WEATHER
NORTHEAST**

Forecast for NE: Moderate rain/thunderstorm is very likely to occur at most places over Arunachal Pradesh and many places over Assam & Meghalaya and light to moderate rain/thunderstorm is very likely to occur at a few places over Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya & Tripura.

Warning: Thunderstorms with wind speed exceeding 50 kmph is likely to occur over Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on May 5. Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh on May 5 and over Assam & Meghalaya on May 5 & 6.

Temperatures:

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	27.6	22.9
Tezpur	30.8	21.6
Silchar	34.2	22.7
Dhubri	28.6	22.3
Jorhat	30.0	21.6
Lakshimpur	28.4	20.5
Guwahati	29.9	17.0
Itanagar	31.0	21.1
Aizawl	31.5	14.9
Agartala	34.2	21.9
Tamabil	25.2	19.4
Passighat	25.8	22.4
Cherrapunji	25.2	15.5

Intelligence failure led to Sukma attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, May 4: After the Sukma incident, Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF), Meghalaya Frontier PK Dubey said that new strategies are being adopted to tackle the Naxalites and the National Security Guard (NSG) is part of the new plan.

Admitting that Sukma massacre was a "result of intelligence failure", Dubey said in view of the attack new anti-Naxal strategies are being adopted with the support of the NSG.

Dubey's statement is in stark contrast to senior security adviser to the Union Home Ministry and acting CRPF DG, K Vijay Prasad, who denied any failure of intelligence soon after the incident.

At least 25 CRPF personnel were killed and six wounded in the Sukma attack which is one of the deadliest attacks carried out by the Naxalites.

Dubey further said that the para-military forces are capable of taking on Naxals. "There are losses in operations. I hope our forces learn from this and take proper care in the future," Dubey added.

Former Nagaland college principal appointed ICSSR chief

NEW DELHI, May 4: Braj Bihari Kumar, editor of quarterly journals Dialogue and Chaitanya Srijan, has been appointed as chairman of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), succeeding noted economist SK Thorat.

HRD Ministry on Tuesday took the decision finalising his name for the top post for a period of three years, a senior HRD Ministry official said. Thorat was heading the council since April 2011.

76-year-old Kumar has been serving as the editor of the two quarterly journals, published by a society called Astha Bharati, of which he is a founding member.

A former principal of Sao Change Government College in Tuensang (Nagaland) and Science College in Kohima, Kumar has written, edited and co-authored 136 books. —PTI

NORTH EAST

Imphal is NE's 3rd cleanest city

SOBHAPATI SAMOM

IMPHAL, May 4: Manipur's State capital Imphal is North East India's third cleanest city after Gangtok and Aizawl, a nationwide cleanliness survey by Union Ministry of Urban Development has found.

In the survey of 434 cities, conducted as part of Modi Government's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, or Clean India Mission, Imphal is ranked 122 (1192 score), while Aizawl (1222 score) and Gangtok (1414 score) are ranked 105 and 50

respectively, according to the 3rd edition of Swachh Survey-shan released on Thursday.

Imphal, which was initially ranked 83 out of 500 selected cities of the country in 2015, has moved up to 15th in ranking for which the State was conferred with 'Top Mover' in North Eastern Region in 2016 survey wherein Gangtok and Aizawl were ranked 8th and 41st.

Gangtok, the premier city of NE which was ranked 50 in 2016, is ranked 134 this time and becomes the fourth cleanest city in the region and it was

followed by Kohima 208, Itanagar 216, Shillong 276, Agartala 290. In 2016, Agartala was ranked 33, Shillong 53rd and Itanagar 71st while Kohima was not listed that time.

Cities were evaluated on five parameters – waste collection, solid-waste management, construction of toilets, sanitation strategies and behaviour change communication. The rankings are based on the data provided by municipal corporations, independent assessors and feedback from people. In all, 3.7 million citizens participated in the exercise.

The cleanliness survey was carried out during January and February. Launched in 2014, the Swachh Bharat campaign aims to make India clean and open-defecation free by 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Though there cannot be an absolute comparison between the rankings of 2016 and for 2017 since the parameters have been tweaked, it's evident from the results that State capitals like Aizawl and Kohima have improved their rankings.



Manipur Governor Dr Najma Heptulla inaugurating the two-day State Level Youth Convention, 2017 in Imphal on Thursday. — Correspondent

BJP chief to visit Tripura on May 6

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, May 4: As part of his 95-day 'prabhas' in different States of the country, BJP president Amit Shah would be arriving here on a two-day visit to Tripura on May 6, party sources said here today.

The visit of Shah assumes significance keeping in view the next Assembly elections scheduled early next year. During the visit, the BJP president will hold a series of meetings with party's State unit president Biplob Deb,

Prabhami (observer) Sunil Deodhar, senior party leaders and senior tribal leaders of the State to get feedback on the ground reality.

A presentation on the past Assembly and Lok Sabha elections has already been given to him by senior party leaders, said party spokesman Dr Ashok Sinha.

"After a series of meetings, the party president is expected to prepare a roadmap for the mission 2018 on how to win," he said.

Kumarghat has been chosen for rally due to its strategic location – close to three districts of Unakoti, North and Dhalai – where the party has already been able to establish its mass base. Around 16 As-

sembly constituencies fall under the three districts.

Shah, who is scheduled to leave the State on May 7, may be accompanied by Union minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Orang Debi. State's departure for Debi, Union Minister for Railways and State's departure for Suresh Prahlad would arrive at Udaipur in Tripura's Gomati district to flag off a passenger train service between Udaipur and Garone on May 7.

Chief Minister Manik Sarkar and Transport Minister Manik Dey will attend the flagging off ceremony.

Church body launches 'Clean Election Campaign'

KOHALA, May 4: With Nagaland scheduled to go to the polls early next year, the apex body of churches – Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) has launched its political 'Clean Election Campaign'.

"The Clean Election Campaign is an apolitical move by NBCC, which is neither a political party nor is influenced by any political agenda," he said.

"We are deeply concerned with the election system that has gone corrupt in our State,

seemingly affecting every system of our existence."

The system has now condemned the Nagas making the people ineffective and victims to the evil practices of election. "It has affected every system and it has become like a virus killing us softly," he said.

The movements aim to educate and speak against the corrupt system of election in the State and appeal to the people's conscience to use their birthright without monetary or any other influence, Keyho said.

Executive director of Angami Baptist Church Council, Rev Atsi Dole said that the campaign should not just be for the State Assembly election, but also should be associated with election practices for village councils, students' unions, municipal and town councils. -PTI



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma inaugurating a new CRD Block and Inspection Bungalow at Bajengdoba in North Garo Hills district of Meghalaya on Thursday. — UB Photos

Trafficking of Naga girls on the rise: NSCW

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 4: The menace of trafficking of Naga girls is on the rise threatening our youths insidiously and silently, said chairperson of Nagaland State Commission for Women (NSCW) Dr Temsula Ao.

Speaking at a day-long legal awareness campaign on Human Trafficking at Zimheboto today, Dr Temsula said keeping this in mind, NSCW is conducting awareness programmes all

over Nagaland to warn the youths not to be lured by extravagant promises of touts and traffickers for better life outside the State. She cautioned the Naga people to be always alert and beware of the ulterior motives of these traffickers.

While pledging to participate in a global fight against human trafficking, Dr Temsula asserted that NSCW works to create awareness in our own societies and to fight against human trafficking so that as envisaged by world bodies

we will also be able to eliminate trafficking from our societies by 2020.

The one-day legal awareness on Human Trafficking was organised by NSCW in association with National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi.

Dr Temsula said that human trafficking is a global menace that affects not only the poor nations but also the more affluent ones. Lamenting that bulk of trafficked population comprises those who are absorbed as labourers, slaves and workers in mines, fac-

tories, industries and brothels, she said the issues involved in trafficking are many – legal, moral, political as well as financial.

Dr Temsula said the menace of trafficking of Naga girls is on rise which is threatening our youths insidiously and silently. Other speakers spoke on the role of police in seeking justice and legal aid and also provisions of judicial system in our country. Women, students, public leaders, GBS and DBs attended the programme.

Poacher killed in Manipur

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 4: One poacher, who was accused of killing three hog deer inside Keibul Lamjao floating national park in Loktak Lake in Manipur, was arrested by the park authority and detained in forest custody.

The incident took place when Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP) guards detected hunting by some poachers inside the park on Wednesday noon, Forest officials said. The poachers sneaked into the park from its northern side by using local boats.

"Some of them escaped from the scene when our park guards rounded up the poachers," said a forest officer. "We also recovered bullet ridden bodies of three hog deer including a mother deer and her two fawns. We are investigating the case," he added.

The accused person, booked under Wildlife Protection Act 1972, was produced before court of Chief Judicial Magistrate and remanded in forest custody for nine days. KLNP is the only natural habitat of deer, deer-brow antlered deer or Sangai, an endangered deer species listed by IUCN.

Garo man goes missing in Vizag

CORRESPONDENT

TURA, May 4: A 24-year-old man who was on his way to Chennai has reportedly gone missing in Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The worried parents, who last spoke to him on April 28 flagged him as missing.

Kalingam Sangma, the son of Norek Induklim of East Garo Hills was on his way from Guwahati by train to Chennai today.

"All communication was lost after the last contact was made on April 28. We request anyone with information to call 9615050366 or 8014175532," said GSU, East Tura, in a release.

2 kg of opium seized

AIZAWL, May 4: Mizoram police seized two kg of opium here and two persons, including a Myanmar national was arrested in connection with it, police said today.

The seized two kg of opium and a Tripura resident were arrested at the border crossing between Mizoram and Arakan State.

The two accused were charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. -PTI

Sale Notice

Under permit No. 31/13 of the Arunachal Pradesh Mining Concession Rule, 2013 sealed tender affixing court fee worth of Rs. 825 (Rupees eight hundred and twenty five only) is hereby invited for the sale or lease or sale of the mining permit area.

The date of receiving tender is hereby fixed on 29/05/2017 up to 3 pm (IST). The office of the undersigned and the date of opening of the tender paper will be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours in any working day on payment of Rs. 100/- (one hundred rupees only) which is not refundable.

1. Dikhow River Silt/Ordinary Clay Mining Permit Area "N" (Bolaghat) - 2017-18

Permit Period: For 2 (two)

years from the date of Settlement.

Divisional Forest Officer (T)

Sivasagar Division, Sivasagar

Janasanyog/457/17

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU), ASSAM PROJECT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION SOCIETY (APFBCS), ARANYA BHAWAN, PARASARI ROAD, GUWAHATI-781001, ASSAM
EOI No. APFBCS/PML/Invitation/Phase II/2017
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The Project Director, PMU, APFBCS invites EOI from experienced consultancy services for Evaluation of Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation and drafting of Phase II of the Project.

The last date for receipt of sealed EOI documents (1 original and 4 copies) in English at the above mentioned address is 20th May 2017.

For further information firms/ agencies may visit society's website: www.apfbcns.cnic.in

Sd/- Project Director, P.M.U.
e-mail: pd.pmu.apfbc@nic.in

Janasanyog/460/17

Sd/- Project Director, P.M.U.
e-mail: pd.pmu.apfbc@nic.in

Janasanyog/462/17

Sd/- Registrar

Janasanyog/463/17

COTTON COLLEGE STATE UNIVERSITY
Panbari, Guwahati-781001, Assam India
website: www.ccsu.ac.in

Notice Inviting Quotation

Sealed quotations from manufacturing/packers/suppliers are invited for supply and installation of different items under the package.

Sl. No. N.I.Q No. Package

1 N.I.Q No. CCSU/2017/32 Equipments under DST-SERB

Dated: May 04, 2017 Project for the Department EBWS

The detailed N.I.Q Document is available in the office of the Registrar, CCSU website. Last date of submission of sealed quotation is on 21st May 2017 upto 12 Noon, and the quotations will be opened on same date at 2:00 P.M. Sealed quotations are to be submitted during office hours alongwith the demand money of 2% of total value of the contract to CCSU office. Those who have submitted quotations earlier than N.I.Q. CCSU/2017/32 may not submit again. However they may update their submission if any Participated firms may attend at the time of opening of the quotations as per date and time mentioned above.

Janasanyog/462/17

Sd/- Registrar

Janasanyog/463/17

ADVERTISEMENT

The department of Clinical Haematology, GMCH, Guwahati will be celebrating World Thalassemia Day on 07/05/2017 (Sunday) with a walk for Thalassemia (from GMCH to Christian Basti, Guwahati) followed by an interactive session between doctors, patients & public followed by drawing competition amongst the patients.

Date & Time : 7th May (Sunday), 2017. 10:00 AM onwards.

Venue : Dept. of Clinical Haematology, Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, Guwahati-32

Sd/- Dr. Jina Bhattacharyya, Professor & Head,

Dept. of Clinical Haematology, GMCH, Guwahati.

Janasanyog/122/17

CORRIGENDUM

Inviting application for appointment against vacancies arising due to expiry of term of Chairperson and Members of Child Welfare Committees (CWC) and Social Workers for Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) in various districts of Assam under JJ Act 2015

In reference to the earlier advertisement published in daily news papers on 05 April 2017 regarding appointment of Chairperson and Members for Child Welfare Committees (CWC) and Social Workers for Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) in various districts of Assam under JJ Act 2015, the following corrigendum is issued -

1. The vacant position of Chairperson & Members of CWC, Naibari district is mentioned hereunder.

2. The vacant position of CWC, Kamrup Metro is to be as five instead of one.

3. The revised last date of submission of application is 20/05/2017.

4. The requisite minimum qualification & work experience criteria for all 3 position i.e. Social Worker / Member of JJB and both Chairperson and Member of CWC are similar.

5. The latest breakup of total vacancies in CWCs & JJBs district wise is as per table below:

Sl. No.	J.B	CWC
1	Baksa	2
2	Bongaigaon	2
3	Chirang	2
4	Dhemaji	2
5	Dhubri	2
6	Karbi Anglong	2
7	Lakhipur	2
8	Nagaon	2
9	Naibari	2
10	Soniapur	2
11	Tinsukia	2
12	Udalguri	2
13	Hailakandi	1
14	Barpeta	2
15	-	Kamrup
16	-	1
17	-	4
18	-	3
19	-	1
20	-	4
21	-	11
22	-	52

The rest term & conditions of earlier advertisement vide No. SCPS/G(20/2010/P1/335 dated 04/04/2017 shall remain the same. The candidates who have already applied for the vacant positions may also submit fresh applications against the vacant position.

Sd/- Member Secretary

State Child Protection Society, Assam

Cum Director, Social Welfare, Assam

Janasanyog/182/17

No ACET/NT/17/PR/1/07/99

Addl. Civil Engineer, P.W.D. Tezpur Zone, Tezpur on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Tender for the following work for the year 2017-18.

Sl. No. Name of the Division Scope of work Approx value of work (Lakh) Rs.

1. Lakhipur Rural Road Division Repairs & Maintenance of road from "Rangjan" to Borbali Link Road (Ch. 0.00m to 2013.00m) under Assam Road Maintenance Fund for the year 2016-17.

2. "Do" Repairs & Maintenance road from "Rangati Road" (Ch. 2480.00m to 4480.00m) under Assam Road Maintenance Fund as Grant-in-Aid (GIA) for the year 2016-17.

Note: 1. Details may be seen at the office of the undersigned during office hours from 08.05.2017

2. Value of work is approximate and may differ in the detail bid document for which no claim will be entertained.

Sd/- Addl. Civil Engineer, P.W.D. (Roads) Tezpur Zone, Tezpur.

Janasanyog/31/17

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Addl. Civil Engineer, P.W.D. (Roads) Tezpur Zone, Tezpur on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Tender for the following work for the year 2017-18.

Sl. No. Name of the Division Scope of work Approx value of work (Lakh) Rs.

1. Lakhipur Rural Road Division Repairs & Maintenance of road from "Rangjan" to Borbali Link Road (Ch. 0.00m to 2013.00m) under Assam Road

Maintenance Fund for the year 2016-17.

2. "Do" Repairs & Maintenance road from "Rangati Road" (Ch. 2480.00m to 4480.00m) under Assam Road Maintenance Fund as Grant-in-Aid (GIA) for the year 2016-17.

Note: 1. Details may be seen at the office of the undersigned during office hours from 08.05.2017

2. Value of work is approximate and may differ in the detail bid document for which no claim will be entertained.

Sd/- Addl. Civil Engineer, P.W.D. (Roads) Tezpur Zone, Tezpur.

Janasanyog/31/17

Military not getting its due share: Army chief

NEW DELHI, May 4: A national military strategy and a security framework will be finalised very soon to effectively deal with security challenges facing the nation, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said today.

In an address at defence think tank, the Army Chief lamented that the spending on defence is considered a "burden" by many in the country and the military is not getting its due share.

Giving China, he stressed that India's true potential will be realised only when both economic and military strength and might of the armed forces go hand-in-hand.

He said the country must look for new friends and allies to deal with neighbours along India's western and northern borders, an apparent reference to Pakistan and China.

Teach easy self-defence techniques to girls: HC

NEW DELHI, May 4: The Delhi High Court today asked the city government to start self-defence training for girls in schools as a precautionary measure keeping in mind their safety.

A bench of Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Yogesh Khanna said "as a preventive precautionary measure, start self-defence classes so as to arm and strengthen girls and ensure their self protection. This should include all techniques exclusively given to them on priority basis."

"The Delhi Government said it will be included as soon as possible and may be in the coming few months," the bench said.

Looking up health-related information on the Internet can cause parents to not trust the diagnosis made by their child's doctor, potentially leading to delayed treatment, a new study warns.

Researchers from Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine in the US recruited 1,374 parent participants who were presented with a profile of a child who "had a rash and worsening fever for 3 days."

Internet-driven interpretation

Health information on Internet may reduce trust in doctors, warns a study

The participants, who averaged 34 years of age and had at least one child under age 18, were then divided into groups.

In the first group, participants received screen shots of Internet information describing some symptoms of scarlet fever, an infectious disease linked to Streptococcal throat that causes rash and fever.

Unless treated with antibiotics, scarlet fever can develop into rheumatic fever and, in some cases, lead to heart damage.

The second group of participants received screen shots listing select symptoms of Kawasaki disease, a condition in which blood vessels throughout the body become inflamed. It also is accompanied by fever and rash.

Prompt treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs is needed to help prevent life-threatening complications such as aneurisms.

A third set of parents, the control group, received no Internet screen shots. All participants then read that the doctor had diagnosed the child with scarlet fever.

Compared to the control group, in which 81.0 per cent of parents reported trusting the physician, 90.5 per cent of parents who had received scarlet fever

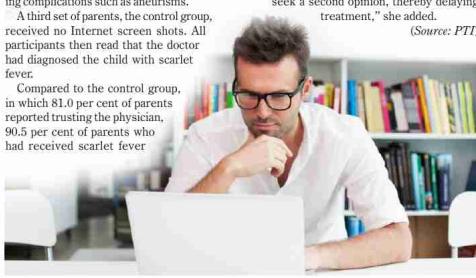
and 64.2 per cent reported that they were likely to seek a second opinion.

Although there are many advantages of having easily accessible medical information available on the Internet, the findings show that "Internet-driven interpretation of symptoms" can compromise trust between a doctor and patient, researchers said.

"The Internet is a powerful information tool, but it is limited by its inability to reason and think," said Ruth Milanaik, an associate professor at the Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine. "Simply entering a collection of symptoms in a search engine may not reflect the actual medical situation at hand," Milanaik said.

These computer-generated diagnoses may mislead patients or parents and cause them to question their doctors' medical abilities and seek a second opinion, thereby delaying treatment," she added.

(Source: PTT)



Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, May 5, 2017:

This year your creativity allows you to find a solution to nearly any problem. This gift often charms those around you as well. Associates and new friends will want to get to know you better. If you are single, you easily could have several potential suitors. Get to know one person a little rather than be superficial with several suitors. If you are attached, you will be more successful in determining what he or she wants. Make it your pleasure, and in return, you will receive many kudos and lots of affection. VIRGO can be fussy.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** You're more popular than ever around here. Try not to ignore what they are doing instead; focus on what you need to do. You could clear a lot of work if you decide to screen your calls and avoid interruptions. Tonight: Plans could change more than once.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** Don't distract a potential relationship by putting someone on a pedestal, as you'd be setting both of you up for failure. Recognize the difference between fantasy and reality. Tonight: Be open to meeting new people.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** You can change direction if you so choose. You'll have a variety of invitations to head your way, each with its own unique appeal. Making a choice will be difficult. You might not be sure what someone wants from you. Be direct and ask questions. Tonight: Time for a celebration!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** You might be surprised by the words people say but the connotation you get from them is something totally different. Be more in touch with what others mean if you want a smooth interaction. Someone close to you could cause a problem; patient. Tonight: Talk is cheap.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** You might want to extend your hand to someone. Perhaps you don't want to hear all the possibilities that are involved. An associate keeps changing what he or she will do, which impacts decisions. Stay patient. Tonight: Throw yourself into the moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** You can inspire someone a lot about a lot. This person might have the ability to inspire you in some way. Be careful, as it will be too easy to put this person on a pedestal. If you do, you could be quite unhappy in the long run. Allow readily to set in. Tonight: Claim your power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Much more on your mind the last few days. A friend could interfere with your plans during the day. Honor what is happening end go with the flow. You could feel challenged by a conversation. Be aware that you seem to have a gossipy neighbor. Try to be more discrete. Tonight: Cut and about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Want to be a good sport? Be a good sport. Light with that role comes a lot of excitement and responsibility. Think twice before you act. Visualize what a situation could look like before you jump in. Are you sure you want to get involved? Tonight: Handle a changing money master.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Details will help you understand a problem better. You also will be able to visualize a different approach. Be willing to change your style of relating to a key individual. Perhaps you have misread this person's reactions in the past. Tonight: Try something new and different.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** You might be willing to try a new idea and bring others in. You might be surprised by the amount of emotional support you get. Use caution with your funds. A mistake could be quite costly, perhaps even more than you realize. Tonight: Quality time with a favorite person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

**** Feel the heat here around your thinking, which could be preventing you from hearing the message your friends are sending. You prefer to be in your mind rather than deal with what is happening. Know that this could cause you a problem in the long run. Tonight: Say "yes."

Thought for the day

Good luck is a lazy man's estimate of a worker's success.
— ANONYMOUS

symptom screen shots reported trusting the physician.

Furthermore, fewer parents in the scarlet fever cohort answered that they were likely to seek a second opinion (21.4 per cent), compared to the control group (42.0 per cent).

Conversely, only 61.3 per cent of participants who had viewed the screen shots listing rash and fever as symptoms of Kawasaki disease reported trusting the doctors' diagnosis,

Kids

CN
CARTOON NETWORK

13:00 Roll No. 21
14:00 Ben 10: Omaverse
15:00 Ben 10: Alien Force
15:30 Horni Henry
16:00 We Bare Bears
17:00 Teen Titans Go
17:30 Teen Titans Go
18:00 Land of Stories: Narnia vs. Neverland
18:30 No. 21
21:00 Teen Titans Go
21:30 Ben 10: Alien Force
22:00 Tom and Jerry Tales
23:00 Dragon Ball Z

23:00 M.A.D.

13:00 The Tom And Jerry Show
13:30 The Tom And Jerry Show
14:00 Mighty Raju

14:30 Chota Bheem
15:00 Main Hoon Super Bheem
15:30 Chota Bheem Dham
17:00 JhoomBeeBheem Dham
18:00 Chota Bheem Show

19:00 TaleSpin Castle
20:00 Ben 10: Alien Force
21:00 Ben 10: Alien Force
22:00 Ben 10: Alien Force
23:00 Ben 10: Alien Force

23:30 Ben 10: Alien Force

N Korea media warns China of 'grave consequences'

Sino-Korean ties have frayed in recent years, with China increasingly exasperated by the North's nuclear antics

SEOUL, May 4: North Korean State media have issued a stinging denunciation of the country's chief ally and diplomatic backer China, saying Beijing should be grateful for its protection.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) carried a bylined commentary warning of "grave consequences" if China tests its patience further.

Beijing and Pyongyang have a relationship forged in the blood of the Korean War, and the Asian giant remains its wayward neighbour's main provider of aid and trade.

But ties have begun to fray in recent years, with China increasingly exasperated by the North's nuclear antics, fearful of a regional crisis.

Beijing regularly calls for parties to avoid raising tensions — remarks that can apply to both Washington and Pyongyang — and in February it announced the suspension of coal imports from the North

for the rest of the year, a crucial foreign currency earner for the authorities.

Chinese state-run media have called for harsher sanctions against the North in the event of a fresh atomic test, urged Pyongyang to "avoid making mistakes at this time", and spoken of the need for it to abandon its nuclear programmes.

The KCNA commentary bylined "Kim Chol" — believed to be a pseudonym — denounced the "reckless remarks" and said nothing will shake Pyongyang's determination.

"The DPRK will never beg for the maintenance of friendship with China, risking its nuclear programme which is as precious as its own life," it said, referring to the North by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The commentary late Wednesday added that Pyongyang had acted as a buffer between Beijing and Washington

since the Korean War in the 1950s, "contributed to protecting peace and security of China" and that its ally should "thank the DPRK for it".

Beijing should not try to test the limits of the North's patience, it said, warning: "China had better ponder over the grave consequences to be entailed by its reckless act of chopping down the pillar of the DPRK-China relations."

The text is a sign of the level to which ties between the two have deteriorated — North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un has yet to visit Beijing, more than five years after taking power. Washington is meanwhile pushing Beijing to put more pressure on Pyongyang.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson last week warned the UN Security Council of "catastrophic consequences" if the international community — most notably China — failed to pressure the North into abandoning its weapons programme. — AFP

Pak to take up with India issue of students' return

ISLAMABAD, May 4:

Pakistan today said it would take up with India the issue of about 50 students being sent back following the beheading of two Indian soldiers and criticised New Delhi for being "a silent spectator".

Delhi-based NGO Roots2Roots had invited the Pakistani students as part of their student "Exchange for Change" Programme.

They were sent back yesterday after the government advised the NGO against hosting them, saying the time was not "appropriate" for such exchanges after the beheading of Naib Subedar Paramjeet Singh and BSF Head Constable Preen Sagar by Pakistan's Border Action Team (BAT) on May 1. — PTI

Russia presents greatest threat to US: FBI chief

WASHINGTON, May 4: Russia presents greatest threat to American national security, FBI Director James Comey has told lawmakers.

"Certainly in my view, (Russia presents) the greatest threat of any nation on earth, given their intention and their capability," Comey said in response to a question during his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, where lawmakers expressed concern over Russian activities in the cyberspace.

Comey said "yes" when Senator Lindsey Graham asked when it comes to Russia, is it fair to say that Russia actively provides safe haven to cyber criminals.

He said "it is a fair statement," when Senator

Lindsey Graham asked if he agreed with him the only way the Russians are going to stop this for them is to pay a price for interfering in the US political process.

Comey said that Russians are doing this all over the world.

The FBI chief said that in the last presidential elections, the Russians were not able to change the actual vote tally, but one day they might.

"We found no indication of any change in vote tallies. There was efforts aimed at voter registration systems, but I suppose in theory, part of the US. The beauty of our system is it's a bit of a hairball. All different kinds of systems," he said.

"My understanding is they have attempted it in other countries," Comey said in response to another question from Graham.

In his remarks, Senator Chuck Grassley, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Ranking Member Senator Diana Feinstein expressed concern over Russian cyber activities.

Comey said the FBI has been working against Russian hackers.

"Last month, the FBI working with our partners with the Spanish national police took down a botnet called the Kelihos botnet and locked up the Russian hacker behind that botnet, who made a mistake that Russian criminals sometimes make of leaving Russia and visiting the beautiful city of Barcelona," he said. — PTI



Pope Francis welcomes Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi during a private audience at the Vatican on Thursday. — UNI

Little hope of survivors after 21 die in Iran mine rescue bid

TEHRAN, May 4: There was little hope of finding any survivors at a mine in northern Iran where 21 miners died trying to rescue their trapped workmates, a rescue official said today.

The 21 perished in a failed rescue bid after an explosion Wednesday caused a mile-long tunnel to partially collapse, news agencies said.

"The hope of finding the remaining 14 miners still alive is now minimal," Sadegh-Ali Moghadam, emergencies director of Golestan province, was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

Officials had earlier said 32 miners were feared to be trapped deep underground in the Zemestan Yort mine.

"The bodies of the 21 miners were found at a depth of 600 metres," Moghadam said, adding that operations were continuing to reach the workers stranded at a depth of 1,500 metres.

The tunnel caved in when methane gas exploded underground as workers tried to jump-start a locomotive engine, according to initial reports.

The rescue operation had been hampered as the tunnels were filled with poisonous gases and the miners were stuck at the far end of a 1,000-metre shaft in a mine that is around two kilometres long.

Three days of mourning were declared in the province of Golestan, where the accident occurred. — AFP

Vatican and Myanmar agree to establish diplomatic ties

VATICAN CITY, May 4: The Vatican and Myanmar established full diplomatic relations today in the latest step in the former pariah Asian state's rehabilitation by the international community.

The Vatican said it would appoint a papal nuncio to Yangon and that the country would open an embassy at the Vatican, formally wrapping up an accord approved by Myanmar in March.

The move came as Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi met Pope Francis on the latest leg of a European tour overshadowed by her country's treatment of the Rohingya, a persecuted minority Muslim group in the 90-per cent Buddhist country.

Pope Francis has spoken out in the past on behalf of the Rohingya while Nobel peace prize winner Suu Kyi has come under fire for not condemning repression of the minority group by her country's security forces.

Kun Siyi and a small group of officials spent around 20 minutes in today's audience with the leader of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics.



ଆମ୍ବାତ ନବ କୁମାର ଦଲେ, ମାନୀଯ ମହିଳା

ପଦ୍ଧତିଯାତ୍ମକ ଆକାଶମୋହନ, ଅମ୍ବା

ବାଣ୍ଟିଆ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟତ
ପଥଗ୍ୟତ ବଢ଼ାରେ
ଅସମ ନାମ
ଉଜଳୋରାସକଲୈ
ପଥଗ୍ୟତ ଆର୍ଥ
ଗ୍ରାମୋନ୍ୟନ ବିଭାଗର
ଉତ୍ସୁ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ...



ବାଣ୍ଟିଆ

ପଥଗ୍ୟତ

ବଢ଼ାରେ

ଅସମ ନାମ

ଉଜଳୋରାସକଲୈ

ପଥଗ୍ୟତ ଆର୍ଥ

ଗ୍ରାମୋନ୍ୟନ ବିଭାଗର

ଉତ୍ସୁ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ...

ଆହାକ ଆମି ସକଳୋରେ ମିଳି ଗାଁର ଉନ୍ନଯନର ବାବେ ସହ୍ୟୋଗ କରୋ ।

ପଥଗ୍ୟତ ଆର୍ଥ ଗ୍ରାମୋନ୍ୟନ ବିଭାଗ, ଅସମ ।



ଦିନ ଦୟାଳ ଉପାଧ୍ୟାୟ ପଥଗ୍ୟତ ସ୍ଵଶକ୍ତିକରଣ ବଟାପ୍ରାପକ

★ ଖେମାଜି ଜିଲ୍ଲା ପରିଷଦ

★ ଡିମବିରା ଆର୍ଥଲିକ ପଥଗ୍ୟତ, କାମରୂପ ମହାନଗର ଜିଲ୍ଲା

★ ଖେମାଜି ଆର୍ଥଲିକ ପଥଗ୍ୟତ, ଖେମାଜି ଜିଲ୍ଲା

★ ଏଜାବବାବି ଗାଁଓ ପଥଗ୍ୟତ, ମରିଗାଁଓ ଜିଲ୍ଲା

★ ସୋଗାପୁର ଗାଁଓ ପଥଗ୍ୟତ, କାମରୂପ ମହାନଗର ଜିଲ୍ଲା

ନାନାଜୀ ଦେଶମୁଖ ବାଣ୍ଟିଆ ଗୋବର ଗ୍ରାମ ସଭା ବଟାପ୍ରାପକ

★ ଏଜାବବାବି ଗାଁଓ ପଥଗ୍ୟତ, ମରିଗାଁଓ ଜିଲ୍ଲା



Magic of marketing

Priyanka Tamuley uncovers the ingenious tricks and tactics that are engaged in film promotions today.

Gone are the days when movies vended only on the basis of a strong storyline, stardom of the film cast or catchy songs. In this era of competition, everything that is marketed, movies not being an exception. The Mumbai-based film industry, commonly known as Bollywood, releases around 80-90 films per month, suggests a report by Forbes. That accounts to 20-25 films per week, and all we as audiences get to hear are the names of five to six films that release per week. So what makes the real difference? It is the magic of marketing that lets these movies stand out from others.

A few years ago, the basic strategy that

marketers used for films to get a wider audience was to form a structured distribution channel; distribute the film to the nooks and corners of the country. But now, the promotional or communication part of marketing is gaining more significance among the filmmakers and marketers. The main element of a film promotional strategy is the trailer of the film, which must make an emotional connect with the targeted audience base. We have even seen the trailer of a single film being released in parts at various intervals of time to create and maintain curiosity among people.

The traditional methods of promotion like associating brands with the movie or creat-

ing movie merchandise to be associated with brands are still prevalent, forming a strong base for marketing the movie. McDonald's is one of the pioneer food joint brands to get associated with various movie merchandises, especially superhero flicks or children's movies, giving rise to movie character toys available with their food products.

Presently, celebrities are seen visiting various popular reality shows as guest judges or even daily soaps as single day fictional characters. But why? This has become a major part of film promotional tactics with the star cast of the movie visiting each show just a week before the release of the movie to create a buzz among the people. In 2014, *The Times of India* poll declared *Comedy Nights with Kapil* to be the best reality platform for film promotion. But, quite a few times, certain film stars have objected in promoting their films stating that it is not their job to do so, but today, promotion of their film has become a part and parcel of their job description. Another similar phenomenon is a 'film junket' where all the significant cast, crew and journalists are flown to a secret location and all the interviews are conducted continuously within a day or two's span.

Every new thing gets exhausted and it has been predicted by marketing gurus that all these basic techniques will soon get exhausted with people becoming immune and ignorant about these tactics. To combat this and bring a twist to promotional tactics, what has emerged is 'guerrilla marketing', a technique to grab the quick attention of people, usually applied in crowded places and is cost effective. The recently released *Kong Skull Island* used this technique by designing imprints of a big foot on streets and beaches in the United States to create the buzz that "Kong is coming". Flash mob is a big part of guerrilla marketing, and the idea of promoting a cause or event through flash mobs was actually shown in a movie, *Step Up Revolution*. Another brilliant example of movie promotion was seen during the release of *3 Idiots* when Aamir Khan roamed all around the country in various disguises, facilitating viral marketing. *Deadpool*, the movie, having only the adult target audience base, still managed to gross a huge chunk due to its brilliant viral marketing strategy.

A movie's official website and its social media marketing also plays a huge role in promotional techniques. Although the film *Baahubali* was promoted through its starcast extensively, it has been admitted by the producer that positive 'word-of-mouth' channelised through tweets and through other social media platforms resulted in the film earning more than 100 crores.

A negative publicity stunt is another way of promotion. A negative news about the film, be it the cast or the content, comes out to leave the people shocked, thus, creating a buzz which touches the subconscious mind of some people and drives them to ultimately watch the movie.

Nevertheless, the regional film industry, especially the Assamese film industry, is lacking in this field of marketing, with certain movies having great content but failing at the Box Office due to non-generation of adequate buzz about the movie. Of late, the film *Local King Fu 2* was in the news because it tried to raise funds to cover its budget through crowd sourcing. Likewise, movies can opt for this option to raise only the promotional expenses. Also, regional films should try to target their niche local audience through less costly guerrilla marketing tactics by engaging local struggling artists and designers. Ideas are aplenty, it is how we implement them that eventually becomes the game changer!

- priyankatamuley001@gmail.com



Beasts of burden

Rabin Prasad Kalita

Don't you feel sad to see small children carrying a huge backpack to school? Can't we think of a way to lessen their burden somehow?

Shrisantu and Naman are two little neighbourhood kids. One studies in Class I, while the other is in Class III. I never see their normal height while they go to school, which is often evident when they play at my courtyard in the evenings. I see them going to school from my porch daily, as I sit and have my morning cup of tea. They carry a big backpack filled with heavy text books, note books, a water bottle, a lunch box, the

sports kit etc., which perhaps makes them bend forward to maintain their balance. It seems like a hump swells out of their back and thus shrinks their normal height. I love to see them off but at the same time I hate watching them walk like that. It is really so pitiful. Isn't it a kind of child labour?

Carrying a heavy bag on a regular basis may lead to strained backs and necks. Health experts say that a substantial number of primary level students suffer from back pain or strain on the neck by the age of 14 and there is a rise in cases of spinal abnormalities too.

One of my friends, Dr Ranjan Baruah says, "Children's skeletons are still growing, so, at this critical time of their

growth, carrying heavy bags can cause lasting and irreversible damage to their health." He also emphasised that if a child carries more than 15 per cent of their body weight on their shoulders, it may put undue stress on the muscles, ligaments and vertebral disk, thus damaging them. According to Dr Baruah, the weight of a school bag should not be more than 10 per cent of his/her body weight. But, practically I have noticed that, many youngsters are carrying as much as 25 per cent, and even beyond, of their body weight around.

Parents should, therefore, ensure that while buying a bag,



it is paramount to buy a well-designed bag with wide and well-padded shoulder straps that reduces the pressure on the neck and the shoulders. Check your child's posture after he/she has put the bag on.

Make sure that your child is only carrying the items they need for school that day - remove any unnecessary books or equipment. Students should be allowed to carry only one big notebook with sections for all subjects, instead of different ones for various subjects. Accordingly, the department of education must also think about having just one common textbook for different subjects of different classes up to the primary level. Another very effective way to tackle this problem is that

the children be allowed to keep their books in their classroom itself or be asked to take home only those with home work. This will also reduce the burden to a huge extent.

We can also make use of technology effectively to ease the weight of their bags by introducing child-friendly tabs. These tabs will have all the subjects installed in them and also have the facility for the children to write their homework in it. Probably, this revolutionary concept will be a playful and joyful thing for children and might make them more active. Also, the purpose of minimising the load of school bags can be attained to a great extent.

So, make children free from these beasts of burden and let them enjoy their childhood.

- rabin1966@gmail.com



Education... then and now

Akalita Das

In ancient India, education was imparted by the *gurus*/teachers in their respective ashrams, where the students were called *shishyas*. The system was known as the *Gurukul* system. In those days, the student had to reside in the ashram during the learning process. Once they were done with the learning process, they had to take a test. There used to be separate *gurukuls* for girls and boys. Girls got their education from women-sages called *Rishikas* and boys got their education from the *Rishis*. Education at that time was free. It was free because no outside agency could interfere in the matters of education. There was perfect autonomy. No external authority, no external beneficiary, no politics was permitted to enter the school or college system. A student had to pay nothing in return for the education he/she received in a *gurukul* or ashram. Access to good education depended not on wealth but on talent. The student was expected, but never compelled, to gift a plot of land, a cow, horse or the elements of daily needs to his teacher or *guru*, according to his financial position in the society, and that was known as *Guru Dakshina*.

In ancient time, the education system in India mainly focused on discipline, culture and knowledge. The syllabus included mainly the study of the *Vedas*, *Ayurveda* (medicine), warfare, *rajniti*, etc. Though the *gurukul* system was mainly designed to impart knowledge to the pupils and to teach them how to lead a proper life in the society with all the required skills and knowledge, the system did not lead to new perceptions, innovative ideas and new inventions, which is required for a better future of this country.

In comparison to the ancient *gurukul* system, nowadays, the education system emphasises more on advanced and practical knowledge in all subjects. It is good for the society. But is it uniform for all? Are all students getting the same education standard? Along with all the advancement in the education system, there are many drawbacks too. Nowadays, most of the students give emphasis on marks, rather than on knowledge, as they need a high score for admission into a reputed institution. It seems students are studying just to reach the next level. Parents also pressurise the students without knowing their capability. Most parents wish to see their children in a good position, some want to fulfil their own dreams through their children. That is understandable as parents might have some expectation from their children, but what if they are not able to do so? This hypercompetitiveness, rather than encouraging them to learn, is creating stress. These are some of the underlying reasons why student suicides are increasing.

On the other hand, the cost of education is increasing in an exponential manner. It is as if the cost of education is directly proportional to the quality of education, which actually should not be the case. As the government is unable to invest enough in the education sector, private institutions have come into the picture, and the result is a higher cost of education. For education, a minimum infrastructure (classrooms, laboratories and hygienic toilets) is required, which, however, is not present in most government schools. And since private institutions can provide the same, they charge more. Poor people cannot afford that so they send their children to government schools. Nowadays, government schools have the mid-day meal system, which is good, but along with this, the government should also ensure quality education. The poor children cannot afford coaching centres or private tutors. In many government schools, even the basic necessities are unavailable; no blackboards, no desks or benches, no books. Most highly qualified people do not want to work in these schools because of the poor facilities. Recently, the government has taken the initiative to distribute free books to students, but it will be useful only when the government can ensure quality education through qualified teachers.

In this digital era, when we are dreaming about a smart city, metro rail, etc., to get India into a better position in the world, will it be truly possible without taking along these poor students by giving them the same standard of education?

In today's education system, many things have changed, many new things have been incorporated, yet there is something wrong somewhere. Things can get better only when the government, as well as the citizens, take initiatives to improve the Indian education system, by providing the same quality as well as facility to all classes of students, irrespective of being students of government or private institutions.

- adas_cs@gmt-tezpur.ac.in



Stunningly surreal fare

Enrique Vila-Matas is one of Spain's major literary voices whose innovative narrative structures show a creative engagement with ideas that extend beyond the mere ambit of storytelling. There is a sense of the 'new' in the way the fictional accounts configure worlds which stem from familiar situations. In his pathbreaking novel *Bartleby and Co.* (2000), Vila-Matas engaged with a kind of marginalia where the American writer Melville's art-world acquired a reality of its own. His fascination for literary realms as potential fictional resource offers us insights into the creative ways of reading traditions in literature. Compact, and nuanced to evince awe, Vila-Matas' fictions are remarkable examples of controlled narratives where the writer's command over the elements of the story combine with features of craftsmanship to suggest possibilities of embarking upon untrodden realistic planes. Experimental yet surely invigorating, his writings explore themes of urbanity and subtexthood with a quirky understanding of unspoken feelings. In his new collection of stories titled *Vampire in Love* (Speaking Tiger, 2017) there are episodes that range from the essayistic to the fluidly moving surrealistic accounts of dream that interweave with reality. In the title story there is an insistent pathos that places the central figure in a predicament he cannot quite pigeonhole, and both the romantic and gothic (which the story heading

LOVING LITERATURE Bibhash Choudhury

ries. Memory plays a crucial part in the configuration of the immediately felt experience, but how far is recollection a reliable agency for the marking of self-knowledge? Or is reality only subject to how it is represented? Such questions surface in the aphoristically organised *Invented Memories* where short passages bear questions of profundity with surprising directness. "I remember always thinking that life itself doesn't actually exist, because if no one tells it as a story or turns it into a narrative, life is merely something that happens, nothing more. To understand life, you have to tell it, even if only to yourself. This does not mean that a story can make life comprehensible, because there are always gaps in any narrative, whatever sources or remedies you might try to apply. That is why a narrative only restores life in fragmentary form."

Vila-Matas had previously explored the possibilities of the literary imagination in two of his long fictional accounts, *Montaro's Malady* (2002) and *Dublinesque* (2010). In *Vampire in Love* there is introspection that is incisive without being idea-heavy: "this is what often happens: we look for distant causes when the real one is to be found much closer to home, in ourselves." Then there are the stories which engage with the themes of companionship and loneliness, not by exclusionist placement of one in lieu of the other, but through interfaces which open the dialogic spaces between selves. The blurred space that exists between the imagined and the tangible offers the narrator of *A Permanent House* the scope to have a conversation with the story-making process which is the only source of recognisable knowledge: "My father, who had once believed in many, many things only to end up discarding all of them, was leaving me with a unique, definitive faith: that of believing in a fiction that one knows to be fiction, aware that this is all that exists, and that the exquisite truth consists in knowing that it is a fiction and that, nevertheless, one should believe in it." The necessity of determining truths for functionality is not an exercise in itself here, it is a mode of coming to terms with the question of identity. Vila-Matas' writing carries the signature of a rich creative heritage, and the refined sophistication of his stories in *Vampire in Love* place his craft among the outstanding tale-tellers of our time.

- outenga@gmail.com

Madhya Pradesh has become the first State in the country to shift its financial year from the present April–March cycle to January–December. The state's budget session for the next financial year would be held in December–January. Hence, the State government plans to finish the current budget proceedings by December this year. Shifting of the tax assessment year, also it necessitated changes to be made in infrastructure, especially at the level of companies.

The decision of the Madhya Pradesh State government comes in the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's suggestion of shifting the fiscal year to January–December period during the NITI Aayog governing council meeting on April 23, held at New Delhi. He had reasoned that as agricultural income is exceedingly important, budgets need to be prepared immediately after the receipt of agricultural incomes for the year.

Today's Master's Choice has been compiled by one of our regular contributors, Adish Agarwal from Moranhat. Meanwhile, keep writing to us with quiz reports, questions (with answers and full postal address) and interesting bits of information at: Quizone, Horizon, C/o The Assam Tribune, Maniram Dewan Road, Guwahati. SMS at: 98640-26322 and e-mail at: tosallen@gmail.com or quizonesailen@gmail.com. To read Quizone online, you can log on to epaper.assamttribune.com.

MASTER'S CHOICE

- To raise money for the construction of the pedestal of which famous monument did American Poet Emma Lazarus write the sonnet *The New Colossus* in the year 1883?
- Who translated the book *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, written by MK Gandhi, from Gujarati to English?
- Which American President was the first to have paid an official visit to India?
- Name the only Roman Catholic President and the only American President to have won a Pulitzer Prize for his biography *Profiles in Courage*.
- This award was first given in March 21, 1954 at an event held at Metro Cinema in Mumbai. It started with actress Nalini Jaywant singing the National Anthem. Which award was it?
- Which famous comic was created by Alfred Harvey and Warren Kremer in 1953?

A tribute to Arun Sarma

The eight hues of Arun, The sun-like persona, After the seven-hued rain, The rainbow dazzles.

The eight hues of *Aashirbadar rang*, Arun learnt the rule, To break the rule, New moment of life's drama, In absurd platter.

In the stage of the heart, Once again alights, Nibaran.

Arun rises in the night sky, The sun too is a star, The narrator throws, Heart dialogue continues.

Original poem by Prayag Saikia, translated by Bibekananda Choudhury

Failed woman

Gladly she embraced the decisions of her family, Without any complaints she accepted the stranger. Dreaming of leading a happy life She got caught in a web of complexities.

She was the perfect wife, perfect daughter-in-law But she craved to be the perfect mother. She was denied of this happiness Questions were raised about her, But no one dared to question the man. For a man is faultless, And the woman deprived of motherhood a 'failed woman'.

Hanshita Saikia,

Via e-mail

SCIENCE ZONE

Dr Dharmakanta Kumbhakar



Some patients with severe chronic anaemia require repeated red blood cells transfusion in order to maintain their haemoglobin level

Red blood cells transfusion

A red blood cell that circulates in the human body has a lifespan of 120 days. The circulating red blood cell may either be a neocyte or a gerocyte. The gerocyte is an old red blood cell having a short life span and the neocyte is a young red blood cell having a long lifespan. Neocytes are larger and more buoyant than the smaller and denser gerocytes. Some patients with severe chronic anaemia require repeated red blood cells transfusion (chronic transfusion therapy) in order to maintain their haemoglobin level between 10-12 gm/dl and survive. Chronic transfusion therapy provides them an active life, preventing the ill-effects of chronic anaemia. The treatment however has some complications. Each unit of red blood cell (about 180 ml) transfusion adds chances of transfusion-related hazards and adds about 200-250 mg of extra iron to the recipient. The added extra iron in the patient cannot be excreted quickly and efficiently. Traditional therapy for this complication is iron chelating agents that enhance the urinary excretion of iron. Later this extra iron may cause iron overload (haemosiderosis) and may be deposited in

different tissues/ organs (siderosis) of the patient. Usually, more than 100 units of conventional packed red blood cell transfusions produce siderosis and its sequel: growth failure, hypogonadism, diabetes mellitus, hepatic disease, cardiac failure and death.

Neocytes transfusion may be useful in the treatment of young patients with severe chronic anaemia (e.g. beta-thalassemia major patients) or in adults with severe chronic anaemia (chronic kidney disease) which requires chronic transfusion therapy. The concept of transfusion of younger red blood cells, i.e. neocytes, was introduced by Propri in 1980 in beta-thalassemia major patients. Later it was proved in different studies.

Presently, we transfuse conventional packed red blood cells in chronic transfusion therapy that contain both neocytes and gerocytes, ranging from one day old to 120 days old. So, both gerocytes and neocytes enter into the circulation of the recipient. The transfused gerocytes live for a few days in the circulation of the recipient. If neocytes with an average 90-day lifespan are transfused instead of the conventional packed red blood cells with an average 60-day lifespan (half-life of neocyte is almost twice that of conventional red blood cell), then the number of required red blood cells transfusion can be reduced by extending the transfusion intervals as neocytes survive long in the circulation of the recipient. Thus, neocytes transfusion can prevent incidences of transfusion related hazards, iron overload (haemosiderosis), siderosis and its sequel: growth failure, hypogonadism, diabetes mellitus, hepatic disease, cardiac failure and death by reducing the number of red blood cell transfusions.

Various techniques have been developed to collect neocytes. One approach is in the form of apheresis termed as neocytopheresis. In the neocytopheresis approach, the required volume of neocytes can be collected from a single voluntary blood donor with the help of the apheresis machine. We can prepare concentrated neocytes from freshly collected blood in closed quadra or triple free-blood bags by centrifugation and separation technique using refrigerated centrifuge (e.g. Cryofuge 6000i) by the principle of density. This method involves the selective removal of top 50-60 per cent volume of packed red blood cells of a voluntary donor's fresh blood (within six hours of collection), taking into account that younger cells are larger and more buoyant than the smaller and more dense older cells.

- dkd@dmkanta@yahoo.com

QUIZ ZONE Sailen Baishya

Picture clue:

19. Identify the famous US citizen behind Dr Hiranta Biswa Sarma in the picture. This picture was taken when Dr Sarma was felicitated in Virginia for the Operation Smile Project in 2010. (Subhrangshu Pratim Sarma, Delhi University)



ANSWERS

- The Statue of Liberty.
- Mahadev Desai.
- Dwight Eisenhower.
- John F Kennedy.
- Filmfare Award.
- Richie Rich.
- Billy Murdoch of Australia.
- Premlata Agarwal.
- Infosys.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India.
- iPhone.
- Phag Singh.
- Anayabhatta.
- Octavio Paz.
- Golf.
- Vatican City.
- Mocha.
- Red Sea.
- Brigade.
- Partha Jyoti Baruah.
- Tangla.
- Donald Trump.
- He took three wickets in three balls.
- His teammates collected a prize fund in a hat and gave it to him, thus coining the term 'hattrick'.

FEELINGS

The bridge of life

The bridge lay across the gurgling river Ricketty, worn-out; bamboo planks, ropes All knotted together. Villagers busily ferrying their wares for sale, Chattering school-goers; pilgrims heading towards the temple, I stood still in the middle, watching the ceaseless flow Of water, of passersby. My loneliness, my shadow; to which I am inseparably tied. Purposeless, my life stagnates. I fall to tally the gains and losses.

On the threshold of the last lap of my life, Empathy gnaws, thrashes me, my inner strife. The warm orange glow of the setting sun, Beacons from the other end.

Bids me to kindle my inner light, Dispel the darkness that chases day and night. I shall borrow from the countless stars and Keep my lamp alight to greet thee, my Lord.

Amit Chatterjee

Alwar, Rajasthan

Why be a man?

Why be a man,

A man and nothing more? Ambition is his poison then; Poisoned to oft ignore Things which do matter not And still do matter a lot.

Why be a man, A man and nothing more?

Be judged upon the Tarzan – A tanned man of a white lore: Strength and stature is but all And still strong men do fall.

Why be a man,

A man and nothing more? Emotions left rotting in a can, Silence is what a man swore: Work hard to be a man And still not be human.

Why be a man,

A man and nothing more?

Arunabh Debendranath Konwar, Jorhat

Bohag is all about The oneness We feel as we return home After a long night of *huchori* And merry making ...too tired, Yet so light; Each walking beside the other!

Bohag is all about

That tiny tear drop of happiness

And contentment that our eyes

Unknowingly still feel,

Whenever we talk about it!

Bohag is all about The love oath... Well, can we all Take it again, together?

Swapnajyoti Bordoloi,

Dibrugarh

7. Who scored the first ever double century in Test Cricket in 1884?

8. Who is the first Indian woman to have scaled all the seven summits of the world?

9. Which is the first Indian company to trade on the US stock exchange NASDAQ-100 index?

10. This organisation was registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act with six associations affiliated to it, in December 1928. RE Grant Govan was the first president and Anthony De Mello was the first secretary. Name the organisation.

READERS' CHOICE

- A team worked on a highly confidential project named 'Project Purple' in 2004. What is the output of this secret project? (Abhigyan Borah, Jorhat)
- Which freedom fighter was the author of the book *An Introduction to the Dreamland*? (Sumita Sharma, via SMS)
- The main function of which Indian satellite was to perform X-ray experiments in space and send them back to earth? (Partha Jyoti Baruah, Tangla)
- Which Nobel laureate poet served as the Mexican Ambassador to India from 1962 to 1968? (Ritumita Borah, Dibrugarh)
- 'Bogie', 'T', 'Put hole', 'Caddy' are the terms associated with which sport or games? (Nirbir Hazarika, Golaghat)
- On the flag of which country would you find two crossed keys representing the keys to the kingdom of heaven? (Ankita Koushik, Guwahati)
- From where did the popular coffee variety, Mocha, derive its name? (Abhishek Dey, Guwahati)
- Which State has become the first Indian state to ratify the GST Constitution Amendment Bill? (Nitumoni Takudar, Rangiya)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

- In 1858, HH Stephenson performed an exemplary feat for the all-England cricketing eleven at the Hyde Park ground in Sheffield. In recognition for his feat, the other players held a collection for him, bought something with the proceedings and presented it to him. What did they give him and what did he do? (Dr Jayanta Kr Sharma, Guwahati)

Dr Sudarshana Baruah

Psychology is the science of the mind. It teaches us how to examine our own mind and the changes it undergoes from time to time under certain influences. Just as a doctor observes the changes in the physical condition of his patient under the influence of a particular drug, the psychologist observes the changes which the mind presents under different conditions. The process of observing our own mental processes is called introspection. We shall by means of introspection and interpretation examine the changes which the mind undergoes under the influence of musical notes.

Music therapy is considered to be the most expressive therapy. Music therapy is an interpersonal process in which music is used for the treatment of different physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual problems. Music therapy not only heals the disabled or ill persons but also improves the quality of normal and healthy persons. Music is a kind of yoga system through the medium of sonorous sounds, which acts upon the human organism and awak-

ens and develops their proper functions to the extent of self-realisation. Music engages much of the brain, and coordinates a wide range of processing mechanisms. Very little serious research has gone into the mechanism behind music's ability to physically influence the brain and even now the knowledge about the neurological effects of music is scarce. Music is widely regarded as a means of enjoyment and entertainment. However, music has also been used towards improving the well-being of patients. While the brain interprets music, successive biochemical reactions are induced with the body.

Evidence indicates that music plays a role in activating pleasure-seeking areas of the brain that become stimulated by food, sex, and drugs. Biological effects of music has mostly been studied with the heart rate variability and blood pressure, which look to explain the cognitive background of musical appreciation, stress relief, as well as emotion identification. The messengers within the body which carry the signals vary from small to large molecules which are vital for physiological health. Research on music therapy has shown that it can decrease pain and anxiety in critical care patients. Music has

tated. These notes are either *prakrita* (natural) or *virkrita* (accidental). The simplest way of representing the 12 notes of the octave is thus – *Sa, Re1, Re2, Ga1, Ga2, Ma1, Ma2, Pa, Dha1, Dha2, Ni1, Ni2, Sa*.

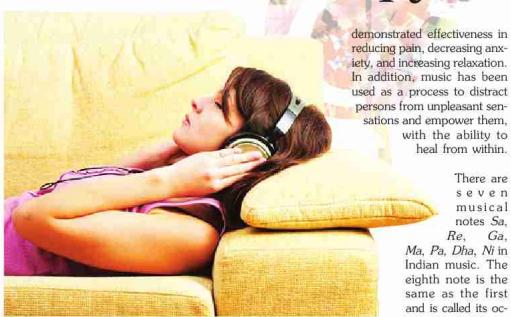
The musical notes – *Sa* and *Pa* are tranquil notes. *Re1* and *Dha1* indicate tranquillity, *Re2* and *Dha2* are perceptions, eyes and *Ni1* indicate disagreeableness, *Ga2* and *Ni2* indicate enquiry. *Ma1* denotes optimism or egoism, *Ma2* denotes degradation.

The human body is used to being like an instrument expressing frequencies in a constantly changing spectrum of life. The sensations are received through the eyes. Ears and other organs are known as the gateway of sensation. At the basic level, the sound waves affect specific parts of the middle and inner ear. From the ear, the auditory information travels to the brain. Music, whether vocal or instrumental, has the power to stimulate the human body, mind and spirit simultaneously. A musical composition consists of many components such as melody, rhythms, tones, etc., and all these combined together can evoke certain emotions. For a person suffering from depression, the morning *ragas* such as *Bhairav* and *Jogya* can evoke *shanta rasa*, spiritual mood or *bhakti bhava*. Such *ragas* can treat patients with anxiety and hypertension.

Music therapy stimulates good vibrations in the nerves of the listeners. Since ancient times, it has been known that the child in the womb adopts impressions from the surroundings and behaviour of its mother and also starts learning things. The Hindu scriptures and Ayurveda prescribe a particular daily practice for the pregnant women. The sound of the veena, flute, *mrdanga* and *sarvadeva mantras* give health to the pregnant women and the child within her. It has been studied that a foetus of about 30 weeks can listen to music and get affected by it. A provoking music can discomfort the foetus but a piece of classical music provides calmness to him/her. A foetus of 33 weeks can also recognise the music. This has been proved by the psychologists through an experiment. Those babies who had listened to a particular piece of music in the mother's womb at once made a reaction to that particular music when it was played to them post-birth. But the babies who never listened to that particular music before showed no reaction.

– sudarshana.banah83@gmail.com

Music as therapy



demonstrated effectiveness in reducing pain, decreasing anxiety, and increasing relaxation. In addition, music has been used as a process to distract persons from unpleasant sensations and empower them, with the ability to heal from within.

There are seven musical notes *Sa, Re, Ga, Ma, Pa, Dha, Ni* in Indian music. The eighth note is the same as the first and is called its octave.

– sudarshana.banah83@gmail.com

The road to wisdom

Dr Gitartho Roymedhi

Wisdom, often described by philosophers as the 'father of all virtues', is defined as the quality of having experience, knowledge and good judgement. It is the ability to think and act using understanding, common sense and insight. It is wisdom that boosts positive energy and attitude, along with maintaining social, physical and mental well-being in human beings.

Philosophers like Nicholas Maxwell promoted wisdom defining it as the capacity to realise what is of value in life, for oneself and others. Only strength is not enough to fulfil every work. Great feats have been observed to be achieved through perseverance. Wisdom teaches us that true strength lies in being wise and humble. The pathway of life is full of downfalls. Failure does not mean the end. Every time we fail, we learn something new. It is wisdom that enables us to sail smoothly in life, even when disasters discourage us. Life itself is a lesson, which teaches us about wisdom.

Every incident that we experience in life teaches us a new lesson. It does not matter whether we pass or fail – in both the situations we gain valuable knowledge. Wisdom acts as the divine power that motivates one to get back up on his/her feet and make a new start.

Wisdom, the coordination of knowledge and experience, increases accordingly with age and

time.

Wisdom has been regarded as one of the four cardinal virtues of Catholicism. It occupies a special spot in Christianity. In Hinduism, wisdom is a state of mind and soul where a person achieves liberation. In Hinduism, the God of wisdom is Lord Ganesha and Goddess Saraswati. Similarly, the ancient Greeks considered wisdom as an important virtue and Athena and Metis as the Goddesses of wisdom. The ancient Romans also personalised wisdom as Minerva. According to ancient Egyptian mythology, Sia represents the God of wisdom. In Islam, wisdom is mentioned as the greatest gift from God that humankind can enjoy.

According to Buddhism, wisdom is the antidote to the self-chosen poison of ignorance. For the Jews, wisdom is the greatest virtue and is represented by King Solomon in the Hebrew Bible.

There are a few things in the world that money cannot buy. Wisdom is one of them. It is a valuable treasure which we can receive from others. There is no limit to gathering knowledge, and the acquired knowledge should be shared with others. It is also important to remember that little or incomplete knowledge is very dangerous. So whenever we listen to learn, we must listen till it concludes.

Wisdom is the helping hand or the solution to every problem. It works like a magician's wand, philosopher's stone and the cape of good fortunes.

– gitarthoroymedhi83@rediffmail.com



The deadliest tree

In 2011, a tree from the western hemisphere was recorded in the Guinness World Records as the most dangerous tree in the world. The Manchineel tree (*Hippomane mancinella*) is mainly found in places such as the Everglades National Park, Florida, Caribbean coast, and southern part of North America. Christopher Columbus named this plant *marzapão de la muerte* meaning 'little apple of death'. Historical records reveal that Carib Indians used the sap of this plant to poison their arrowheads and its leaves to contaminate the drinking water of their enemies.

This tree has shiny green, oval leaves and it grows up to a height of 50 feet. It bears small green fruits resembling green crab apples measuring about one to two inches wide. It has a reddish-grey bark and small greenish-yellow flowers. The Manchineel tree produces a thick, milky sap which oozes out of its leaves, fruits and barks. The sap is poisonous that even rain drops falling from the branches can cause immense harm to the skin.

The sap contains a range of toxins like Hippomanin A, Hippomanin B, Mancinellin, Sapogenin and Phorbol. Phorbol, a highly water soluble organic compound, is thought to be the most toxic one. Even the smoke from burning leaves and twigs can temporarily cause blindness and may cause significant breathing problems. Contact with the sap can also cause rashes, headache, acute dermatitis and severe breathing problems. Eating the fruit can cause abdominal pain, vomiting, digestive track damage, bleeding, etc.

Interestingly, some Caribbean carpenters have been using manchineel wood to make furniture for centuries by carefully cutting and drying it in the sun to neutralise its poisonous sap. Moreover, considering the potency of the tree, it could be used for the benefits of mankind after careful scientific manipulation in the days to come.

– Contributed by Gargi Sharma, Jorhat



(This column will carry everything odd around the world. Readers' contributions will be appreciated at partha.hazarika@assamtribune.com.)

Sleep and anxiety disorders have gripped a whole generation of people and there was no sign of getting rid of these problems. But with scientists working overtime to find cures, a solution seems to have emerged now. Research into proprioceptive input showed that deep pressure stimulation produces a calming influence – one that decreases stress, improves sleep and boosts mental health.

They produced a 25-pound blanket, using a technique called proprioceptive input, which works by activating pressure points across your body. This relaxes the nervous system by increasing serotonin and melatonin levels while decreasing cortisol levels. The Gravity Blanket is also custom tailored to each individual, so you can select a blanket that is designed specifically for your body type. The high-density pellets are odourless and non-toxic, and the fabric is made from micro plush fleece, which is easily removable for washing or for the warmer summer months.

With age trying to catch up, I sure need one. Happy sleeping to you, too.

ARTIFICIAL PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Here is good news for those amongst us who are worried about the future. A researcher has created an affordable synthetic material that mimics the natural process of photosynthesis, absorbing visible light to

Powered by weight



TECH TRENDS

Devol Kumar Nath

trigger a chemical reaction that cleans the air while converting CO₂ into solar fuel.

Scientists around the world have been trying to mimic photosynthesis – the natural process by which a plant converts carbon dioxide into fuel using sunlight – in a synthetic material in a way that could have practical uses. Now, they have announced a breakthrough in that field that promises to revolutionise the power industry. Researchers had so far failed to find an inexpensive material, which could absorb those wavelengths of light.

According to a research published in the *Journal of Materials Chemistry A*, University of Central Florida's Fernando Uribe-Romo and his team got around this problem by using a type of synthetic material called Metal-Organic Framework (MOF). The much hoped-for reaction occurred when they treated the MOF within a blue LED photofacilitator. The air was cleaned and the CO₂ was converted into two types of solar fuel: formate and formamides.

The new material promises to reduce the problem posed by the rapid destruction of forests. Being able to recreate their natural process on a large, more directed scale promises to be invaluable in the fight against climate change.

– devolath@hotmail.com

their behaviour. 'Ought to' is also sometimes used in such a general statement. But to say that one course of action is better than another one, we may use 'It would be better to', as in 'It would be better to say nothing than to get involved in a fight.'

'Good to know about these uses...'

'Well, anyway, I need to go home now. I'm feeling under the weather for last couple of days...'

'Feeling what?'

'Under the weather, which means I am not feeling well.'

'Oh, you'd better see a doctor then! Dr Acharya is the best doctor of our city hospital; you must see him.'

'Thanks. I'll seek an appointment then. But mind you, it is not the best doctor of the hospital.'

'But he is the best doctor!'

'I mean the phrase follows 'the best' + noun usually takes 'in', not 'of'.'

'So it is 'Dr Acharya is the best doctor in the hospital', not 'of the hospital'.' Then take another –

'They are some of the best students in the class' and not 'of the class'.'

'Oh, I just remember I'm late for my class.'

'You'd better hurry!'

MIND YOUR ENGLISH

Protim Sharma



GRAPHIC PICK

Deborshee Gogoi

Why did I create Humans???



Humans caused 322 Animal Extinctions in Past 500 Years.

Meditation in minutes

Sitting down to clear your mind for just 10 minutes is enough to overcome stress and anxiety, a new research has revealed. The report from the University of Waterloo in Canada also says that a short stint of meditation will help block out the internal thoughts of restless people and allow them to concentrate.

According to Mengran Xu, a researcher and PhD candidate at the university, taking a few minutes a day to meditate will allow for more concentration.

He said, "Mind wandering accounts for nearly half of any person's daily stream of consciousness. For people with anxiety, repetitive off-task thoughts can negatively affect their ability to learn, to complete tasks, or even function safely."

The study asked 82 people who describe themselves as anxious to perform a task on a computer with random interruptions throughout the assignment. Those who had a short meditation beforehand outperformed the other half who didn't.

Meditation has been linked with beneficiary health results in the past, including fighting off diseases, and reducing stress and depression.

– Agencies

