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NEWS CAPSULE

Graft arrest

GUWAHATI, April 11: The anti-corruption and vigilance wing of Assam Police today arrested agriculture inspector Durganath Baruah on charges of corruption before for issuing permission for shops dealing in fertilizers. Baruah was caught red-handed in the Kamrup District Agriculture Office here. — Staff Reporter

Grace period

NEW DELHI, April 11: The Supreme Court today said that the government after summer vacation a batch of pious seeking a grace period for exchanging demonetised currency notes. A bench comprising Chief Justice JS Khehar and Justices DY Chandrachud and SK Gaul said let these matters be fixed for hearing after the summer vacation. — PTI

India executions
NEW DELHI, April 11: India registered an increase of 81 per cent in death sentences imposed in 2016 compared to 2015, a study released by Amnesty International has said. India awarded as many as 136 death sentences in 2016 as compared to 75 in 2015, the report said. — PTI

Terror incidents
NEW DELHI, April 11: Terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir have come down by around 25 per cent after the surgical strikes carried out by the Indian Air Force last year. Minister of State for Home Hansraj Ahir said in the Lok Sabha today. — PTI

Truce violation

NEW DELHI, April 11: Pakistani security forces violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir 26 times in the last one year. Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre informed the Rajya Sabha today. — PTI

Bill blocked

NEW DELHI, April 11: A Bill to accord constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes is set to delay as the Opposition today blocked its consideration in the Rajya Sabha and insisted that it be sent to a Select Committee for proper scrutiny. — PTI

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



Meet of NDA partners

NE parties call for expediting NRC works

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 11: The first meeting of the NDA partners on Monday evening saw the regional parties of the Northeast calling for expediting the National Register of Citizens (NRC) update works and implementation of the Assam Accord.

The meeting, presided over by BJP president Amit Shah and attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, besides 33 regional parties, saw the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Darlong People's Front (BPF) renewing the demand for early completion of the NRC update works. The BPF also demanded a berth in the Modi government at the Centre.

The AGP was represented by party president Atul Bora and Keshab Mahanta who in their brief mentioned urged the BJP government at the Centre to expedite the implementation of the Assam Accord.

(See page 4)

caste, creed and religion, as

sources said in the accord.

Sources said that Bora also brought to the notice of the

(See page 4)

Bangla migrants issue rocks LS

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 11: The problem of illegal infiltration from Bangladesh today rocked the Lok Sabha, with the members demanding constitution of a commission by the Centre to identify the districts that have witnessed demographic change.

While the BJP MPs called on the Centre to determine steps to deport the illegal Bangladeshi migrants, the Congress MPs favoured granting them refugee status.

(See page 4)

Govt files affidavits opposing Paul's release

SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, April 11: The State Government has requisitioned the services of Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi and Assistant Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta along with senior Supreme Court counsel KK Venugopal to counter the claim of bail for Rakesh Paul, the prime accused in the cash-for-jobs scam in the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC).

Affidavits were filed today before the apex court on behalf of the State Government opposing Paul's release on bail.

Paul, the suspended chairman of the APSC, who had prayed for bail on the strength of two special leave petitions (SLPs), filed with the Supreme Court, has already engaged top-notch criminal lawyer Kapil Sibal to pursue his case.

Although the two SLPs came up for

hearing and arguments were placed before the bench of Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose and Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman, the court after hearing both the sides refrained from passing any order, and instead fixed the matter for hearing after two weeks.

Earlier, Sibal sought time to file a rejoinder to counter the submissions placed by the State Government opposing Paul's release on the strength of the SLPs.

Special public prosecutor Narayan Mahajan and assistant public prosecutor Nayantaran are camping in New Delhi to assist in preparation of the counter-affidavits in connection with the two SLPs.

The investigating officer of the case, Additional Superintendent of Police Sunil Singh Panesar and Additional Superintendent of Police (Special Operation Unit) Subhasish Baruah were also present in the apex court today.

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, April 11: "Embankments are the cheapest, durable and least technical structures to prevent flood or inundation caused by rivers. The benefits of embankments are manifold, if they are maintained properly," said noted river engineer Nomal Chandra Das. A former Secretary of the State's Water Resources Department, Das was talking to this newspaper.

During the British rule, the two trunk roads—North and South Trunk Roads—built along both the banks of the Brahmaputra, served as the main passage for surface communication as well as embankments to prevent the mighty river from flooding the coun-

tryside, he said.

However, he maintained the two trunk roads had upset the natural drainage of the State by disturbing the natural flow of the rivers and other watercourses denying them the required passage at most of the places. The courses of most of the tributaries or the watercourses were either closed or diverted by these trunk roads. This was one of the major factors that aggravated the flood situation in Assam.

These structures were built based on the design flow of the rivers, which were calculated applying the statistical probability theory. Embankments were normally designed with 25 years' flood frequency data, while their tributaries on a massive scale.

Earlier, embankments were built by the Ahom Swargadeos and the British rulers in patches. In the post-independence period, major embankments came up in the State between 1951 and 1954 and between 1955 and 1956. But the hydro-meteorological data and sub-surface information available with the authorities were inadequate for the purpose of constructing these structures. This is the main reason for the failure of the embankments.

Now that the observed flood data are adequately available since 1962, the embankments' sections, such as height, top width, side slopes, should be provided as per the present design flood, he said.

in the case of the anti-erosion structures, such data of 50 years and in the case of the dams, such data of 100 years are usually used.

At places, it is observed that the embankments were breached and this is because of not maintaining proper slopes or adequate heights. In the first case, the embankments fail due to seepage and in the second case these structures fail due to their being overtapped by floodwaters, said the river engineer.

Now that the observed flood data are adequately available since 1962, the embankments' sections, such as height, top width, side slopes, should be provided as per the present design flood, he said.

Embankments cheapest structures to control floods

79 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION



Children take part in a rally after a Bihu workshop at Dhemaji on Tuesday. — UB Photos

Centre notice on NRC works

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 11: The Centre today disclosed that it has issued notifications on March 29 to complete the NRC update works for update of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam by December 31.

In reply to a Lok Sabha question by Sushmita Dev, Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiran Rijiju said the

(See page 4)

opposition saw the Centre as

imminent.

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI, April 11: The

magnitude of the fund misutilisation in the advertisement scam in the State

Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR)

in Assam by December 31.

In reply to a Lok Sabha

question by Sushmita Dev,

Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiran Rijiju said the

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STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI, April 11:

Amid an outrage in Parliament,

the government will go "out

of way" to ensure justice to Kulbhushan Jadhav and warned Pakistan that his execution will

have consequences on bilateral

ties.

The death sentence awarded

to Jadhav by a Pakistani military

court after declaring him a "spy"

resonated in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, where all parties came to

India will go 'out of way' to ensure justice for Jadhav

NEW DELHI, April 11: Amid an outrage in Parliament, India today said it will go "out of way" to ensure justice to Kulbhushan Jadhav and warned Pakistan that his execution will

have consequences on bilateral ties.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj made a statement in both the Houses, asserting that India will go "out of way" to ensure justice to Jadhav who is an "innocent kidnaped Indian".

Jadhav's execution will be taken by India as a "pre-meditated murder" and Pakistan should consider its consequences on bilateral relations.

(See page 4)

ULFA(I) bid to recruit new cadres

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

reporting missing from their

respective areas.

Security sources told *The Assam Tribune* that the ULFA(I) has been trying to increase its strength by launching a fresh recruitment drive and the outfit is mostly targeting the unemployed youth. According to reports available, around 15 youths from the upper Assam districts of Tinsukia and Dibrugarh by engaging linkmen. Meanwhile, to thwart such attempts, the district police forces have been directed to keep in regular touch with the village defence parties and citizens' committees to keep tab on the youths

recruits is yet to be ascertained.

Sources said that some of the bidders of the ULFA(I) to recruit youths have been foiled following arrest of the linkmen of the outfit, while a few new recruits were also nabbed before they could be taken to Myamar.

On the activities of the outfit, sources admitted that according to inputs available, a few hardcore members of the ULFA(I) were reportedly

(See page 4)

Rs 5,400 cr undisclosed income detected post note ban

NEW DELHI, April 11: The Income Tax department carried out over 1,100 searches and surveys immediately after demonetisation and detected undisclosed income of over Rs 5,400 crore. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley told the Rajya Sabha today.

He added that more follow-up action was taken and 18 lakh people were identified whose tax profiles were not in line with the cash deposits made by them in the demonetisation period and online responses were sought.

Jaitley gave these details during the Question Hour, where he claimed that no other government had taken so much action against black money as the present regime.

He said the Reserve Bank was verifying the exact amount that was deposited during the demonetisation period and the precise figure would be presented before the nation. — PTI

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Civil Judge No. 3, Kamrup(M) at Guwahati

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CD/LN/184/1

ADYA SHRADDDHA

In loving memory of


Gaurav Sarma (Sanu) [26.11.1988 - 02.04.2017] Today on your Shradha (12.04.2017) is full of memories of a loving son, brother who laid to rest and every single memory of you is filled with happiness. For you were someone special always such a joy to know and there was so much pain when it was time to let go that's why whenever any special message is sent to heaven above for the angels to take care of you and give you all our love.

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Consultancy/186/3

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IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE NO. 1

NO.1 CAMRUP(M) AT GUWAHATI

NOTICE(SUMMON)

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To. M/s Standard Real Estate Developers Pvt. Ltd. & C. A company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 having its registered office at the address 70, Gomonti Lane, Guwahati-6, Dist-Kamrup (M), Assam represented by its Director, Mr. S. Chihaburji Saluka. We have filed a suit with the court for injunction application for your possession and permanent injunction to restrain you from carrying on business in this place. We have filed a suit with the court for injunction application for your possession and permanent injunction to restrain you from carrying on business in this place. We have filed a suit with the court for injunction application for your possession and permanent injunction to restrain you from carrying on business in this place.

Giving over my hand and seal of this on the 28th day of March, 2017 at Guwahati.

Civil Judge No. 1, Kamrup(M), Assam

CD/LN/P/AC31/1

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The Court of Civil Judge

No. 3, Kamrup(M) at Guwahati

FORM NO. 1-A

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY ADVERTISEMENT IN A NEWSPAPER (CPC) MONEY SUIT NO. 96 OF 2017

North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. [NERMAC]

-Versus-

M/s North East Agro Consortium & others

Defendants To:

1. M/s North East Agro Consortium House No. 114, Zahir Khan Road, Behind Town Hospital, Guwahati-6, Dist-Kamrup (M), Assam.

We have filed a suit with the court for injunction application for your possession and permanent injunction to restrain you from carrying on business in this place. We have filed a suit with the court for injunction application for your possession and permanent injunction to restrain you from carrying on business in this place.

Giving over my hand and seal of this on the 26th day of April, 2017 at 10. O'Clock in the morning to answer the same, failing which the suit will be disposed of ex parte.

Given over my hand and seal of this on the 27th day of February, 2017.

Civil Judge No. 3, Kamrup(M) at Guwahati

CD/P/AC21/1

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Rule empowers PAC to summon PM, Cabinet ministers: Thomas

NEW DELHI, April 11: Citing an old rule, Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman K V Thomas today defended his earlier contention that the panel has the power to summon a Cabinet minister, including the Prime Minister.

The rule that empowers the PAC to summon a Cabinet minister, including the Prime Minister, has supremacy over a contrary direction of the Speaker, he said.

Battling for strengthening one of the oldest committees of Parliament, Thomas said a rule framed years ago states that the PAC can summon a Cabinet minister provided there is a unanimity on the issue and the Speaker permits it.

"But at the same time, there is a direction of the Speaker — also framed years ago — that the committee cannot summon a Cabinet minister."

"The rule is above Speaker's direction," he told reporters here.

He said since the Prime Minister is "first among equals", the panel can summon him too.

Thomas was asked to explain whether the Prime Minister can be called by the PAC.

The then prime minister Manmohan Singh had offered to appear before the PAC on the 2G scam issue. BJP veteran M J Joshi was then summoned by the key.

Thomas, however, hastened to add that it does not mean that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be summoned by the panel.

"All I am saying is that PAC needs to be strengthened. It is the mother of all parliamentary committees," he said.

BJP MP and PAC member Nishank Dubey has recently sought to move a privilege motion against Thomas, alleging that the latter used the panel to "lower the dignity" of the PM by claiming his favour.

The Prime Minister said a "positive" public mood in favour

NATIONAL Budget Session a 'winner' for govt: Modi

NEW DELHI, April 11: Notwithstanding frequent disruption of Parliament over a host of contentious issues, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the Budget Session was a "winner" for his government as it could secure the passage of many bills, including the key GST legislation.

Addressing the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting a day before the session ends, he referred to the party's victory in the recent state assembly elections and credited his government's "delivery" on its pro-poor schemes for people's trust in it.

The Prime Minister said a "positive" public mood in favour of the Centre's ruling dispensation pervaded the country as its completes three years in office next month and pitched for a harder push to the reforms and development agenda he asked party MPs to claim credit for the government's achievements, saying they will be its face when it fights the next elections.

Modi told them that the promise of "garibi hatao" (a slogan coined by Indira Gandhi) remained a catchphrase till his government assumed office and began acting on it.

People are witnessing such development for the first time, he said. The hope people had from his government when it came to power in 2014 has changed into trust due to the work done by it, the Prime Minister said. Briefing reporters following the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar said Modi called the Budget Session "very constructive" with the Lok Sabha passing 21 bills and the Rajya Sabha

14. These include the crucial GST bills and also the politically important OBC bill.

Referring to the massive win for BJP in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, the Prime Minister said it reflected how people's hope in his government has turned into confidence.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu, who also addressed the meeting, outlined the one-month third anniversary programme, Kumar said. From the party MPs to chief ministers, deputy chief ministers and office-bearers, all will travel across the country during the exercise.

Heaping praise on Modi,

Naidu referred to last night's meeting of 33 NDA constituents where important allies like Parkash Singh Badal of Akali Dal and N Chandrababu Naidu of TDP spoke about his "transformative" leadership. "Modi has emerged as the poor's messiah," he claimed. — PTI

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Dr. B. Arun Kumar MS, FRCR, M.Ch (Urology)

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Dibrugarh Ph: 09654189632, 09439010146, 0373-2303634

Centre tells SC

Triple talaq impacts dignity of women

NEW DELHI, April 11: The Centre has told the Supreme Court that the practices of "triple talaq", "nikah halala" and polygamy impact the social status and dignity of Muslim women and deny them fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

In a fresh written submission filed before the apex court, the government has reiterated its earlier stand and said these practices render Muslim women "unequal and vulnerable" as compared to men of their community as well as women belonging to other communities.

"The practices which are under challenge, namely, triple talaq, nikah halala and polygamy are practices which impact the social status and dignity of Muslim women and render them unequal and vulnerable qua men belonging to their own community, women belonging to other communities and also Muslim women outside India," the Centre said.

"There are unreasonable clas-

sifications which arise from practices such as those under challenge in the present petition, which deny to Muslim women the full enjoyment of fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution," it said.

The apex court had on March 30 observed that practices of "triple talaq", "nikah halala" and polygamy among Muslims were important issues involving "sentiments" and a Constitution bench would hear the plea challenging these from May 11.

The Centre, in its written submission, has termed these practices as "patriarchal values and traditional notions about the role of women in society" and said that "the right of a woman to human dignity, social esteem and self-worth are vital facets of her Right to Life under Article 21".

"Gender inequity has ripple effect on the rest of the community, preventing it from partaking in full, liberties guaranteed by a modern Constitution," it said. — PTI



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Dr. B. Arun Kumar MS, FRCR, M.Ch (Urology)
Will be available only for consultation at Guwahati

30th April'2017

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Calls for boycott of United Airlines in China

BEIJING, April 11: Angry Chinese netizens today called for the boycott of the United Airlines for "racial discrimination" after a 69-year-old Chinese-American passenger was forcibly removed by its staff from an overbooked flight in Chicago.

Video of police officers dragging the Chinese-American doctor from an overbooked United Airlines flight sparked an uproar on social media in China.

The flight waited to depart from Chicago's O'Hare Airport to Louisville, Kentucky, officers grabbed the doctor from a window seat, pulling him across the armrests and dragging him down the aisle by his arms. The passenger was later shown with blood on his face.

The video, posted on social media on Sunday, has been viewed by more than 120 million users in China.

The video sparked outrage across Chinese social media as the airlines' decision to evict the passenger from the domestic flight was condemned as "racial discrimination", Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

"Just kill me, just kill me": appalling new video shows elderly United passenger begging for mercy.

In the incident, the passenger protested that he was on his way to treat patients in Louisville, Kentucky, and that the company's decision to

kick him off the plane along with three others was due to his race.

On Wechat, the popular Chinese social media platform, articles about the incident circulated widely with headlines such as "because he chose United Airlines, he was beaten and dragged off the plane, with blood over his face."

Among the most popular Weibo posts was from Chinese-American comedian Joe Wong, who spoke out in support of the assaulted passenger.

United's booting of a passenger was even steeper than it looks: staff could have flown cheaper on other flights "Many Chinese people feel they are racially discriminated against but don't speak out for fear of losing face, causing Western mainstream media and the public to not take discrimination against Asians seriously," he said.

Another Weibo user, Qian Xian, commented: "If you beat your customers, we will thrash your reputation and your market share around the world, until we hear a sincere apology from your bleeding mouth."

Calls to boycott the United Airlines have been rising among Chinese online users. The airline last year celebrated its 30th anniversary of flights to China, but the incident is likely to upset its ambition to attract more Chinese passengers, the report said.

"At United, we want to be the airline that our Chinese customers choose first," the airline's director of sales and marketing told reporters at a recent meeting.

"They agreed that US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's visit to Moscow this week provides an opportunity to make progress towards a solution which will deliver a lasting political settlement. They also discussed the broader Middle East, including the threat posed by Iran throughout the region," he said.

"The Prime Minister and the press

INTERNATIONAL



Russian President Vladimir Putin talks to Italian President Sergio Mattarella during their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia on April 11. - UNI

US President, UK PM discuss window of opportunity in Syria

WASHINGTON/LONDON, April 11:

US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May have agreed that a "window of opportunity" exists to convince Russia to end its support for embattled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Trump made a phone call to May and German Chancellor Angela Merkel and they discussed America's response to the suspected chemical attack by Syrian regime in which 87 people, including 31 children, were killed.

May and Merkel, in two separate calls with Trump, expressed support for the action of the US and agreed with Trump on the importance of holding Assad accountable, the White House said.

"At this time, there is no US Intelligence Community consensus that Russia had foreknowledge of the Syrian chemical attack," a senior administration official said.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said the US and Russia have common interest in defeating the Islamic State militant group.

"We have a shared interest particularly in the area of ISIS. If we can defeat them and if we can work with them on a plan to defeat them, then we're going to do it," he said. "The President came into office to really focus on two fronts: keeping our country safe and growing our economy and putting people back to work," Spicer said.

"If Russia or any other country can help us achieve those two goals, either through market access on additional products and services from the US into a major marketplace, but more importantly help to keep our country safe through a combined effort to defeat something like ISIS, especially in a place like Syria where they're playing so prominently, then I think we want to work with them," Spicer said.

"The Prime Minister and President also stressed the importance of the in-

ternational community, including China, putting pressure on North Korea to constrain the threat it poses," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the White House refuted reports that Russia had prior information about the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime last week.

"At this time, there is no US Intelligence Community consensus that Russia had foreknowledge of the Syrian chemical attack," a senior administration official said.

We urge you to suspend current and future licenses for aircraft sales to commercial Iranian airlines until your administration conducts a comprehensive review of their role in supporting Iran's illicit activity," they said in a letter to Trump.

"The United States should revoke authorizations and re-impose sanctions on Iranian airlines found guilty of such support, and should bar US companies from selling aircraft to Iran from the Iranian regime ceases using commercial airliners for illicit military purposes," the lawmakers said.

Senate Majority Leader Jack Reed supported the US move of missile strike against the Assad regime.

"It was important to respond to the despicable behaviour of the Syrian re-

gime, Assad regime, but it hasn't changed the facts on the ground, which is that Assad controls significant territory. There's no Russian support," Reed was quoted as saying by CNN. "But in terms of stopping the chemical weapons attacks against the people of Syria, I hope it succeeds," he said. - PTI

then, the President's not going to be disappointed. But we would like to do what he can to work with these individuals to make it happen," Spicer said.

In a letter to Trump, two Republican lawmakers Senator Marco Rubio and Congressman Peter Roskam urged him to suspend aircraft sales to Iran arguing that Tehran is using commercial aircraft to supply its worldwide network of terror proxies, including the Assad regime in Syria.

"We urge you to suspend current and future licenses for aircraft sales to commercial Iranian airlines until your adminis-

tration conducts a comprehensive review of their role in supporting Iran's illicit activity," they said in a letter to Trump.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017

Indian-origin soldier on trial for murder in UK

LONDON, April 11: A 26-year-old Indian-origin soldier in the UK is on trial for killing his ex-girlfriend by slitting her throat from ear to ear after she ended the relationship due to his "abusive" and "manipulative" behaviour.

Lance Corporal Trimaine "Harry" Dhillon is accused of breaking into his ex-girlfriend Alice Ruggles' flat and murdering in north-east England, the Newcastle Crown Court was told.

Dhillon, described in court as obsessive, controlling and manipulative, denied murdering Ruggles in October last year.

"From an early stage the defendant was abusive, controlling and manipulative. Those who knew Alice, knew her as a lively fun-loving girl whose personality changed in a few months before her death as a consequence of her relationship with Harry Dhillon.

She was withdrawn, isolated, deeply troubled by his behaviour after she ended their relationship," prosecutor Richard Wright told the jury.

Dhillon is accused of using his skills as a signaller with 2 Scots, the Royal Regiment of Scotland, to hack the 24-year-old victim's emails, phone messages and social media.

She was found dead in a pool of blood by her flatmate, Maxine, just days after she had told a police officer that she did not want Dhillon to be arrested for harassment.

"Maxine had seen dead in a pool of blood by her flatmate, Maxine, just days after she had told a police officer that she did not want Dhillon to be arrested for harassment.

"Maxine had seen the obsessive and manipulative manner in which Dhillon had harassed and stalked Alice before her death. She had seen first-hand how Alice's happy, bubbly demeanour had changed over time," Wright said.

Ruggles had contacted Northumbria Police after she broke up with Dhillon as she was concerned about his behaviour when he travelled from his Scotland barracks, got into her back yard and knocked on her bedroom window late at night.

Dhillon was ordered by his commanding officer to stay away from Alice but he posted her a parcel containing photos and a letter. - PTI

'Chief Minister's Special Scholarship'-2015.

Ceremonial distribution of 'Chief Minister's Special Scholarship' to the eligible students of Kamrup and Kamrup Metropolitan districts of the year 2015, which was scheduled to be held on the 12th April 2017 at open space of the Sarusojai Stadium at Sarusojai, Guwahati-40, is deferred due to unavoidable circumstances. The next date will be notified later on.

Sd/- Director

Elementary Education, Assam
Khalipara, Guwahati-19

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS (NIT)

The Chief Executive Officer, Assam State Disaster Management Authority invites e-tenders from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or Authorized Dealers for supply of Handheld GPS (Global Positioning System) devices with a 3 year comprehensive warranty for the office of Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

Complete tender documents are available on e-Procurement portal: <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

Date of commencement of issue of Bid documents 12.04.2017

Last date & Time for submission of Bids 12.05.2017 (4.00 pm)

Sd/- Addl. Secretary & State Project Coordinator
Assam State Disaster Management Authority

Janasanyog@100/17
(G/II)

Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
Regional Office Guwahati
(An ISO 9001:2008 Certified Ministry)

Haji No. 7, 2nd floor
Rajahat Road, Chandramari
Guwahati- 781009

Ph. : (0361)2525943, Fax : (0361) 2464169
e-mail : roghy2015@gmail.com

No. RW/GHT/TR/DAVP/2016 Dated, the 3rd April, 2017

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Government of India through implementing agency is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this endeavour, it has been decided to appoint Authority's Engineer for supervision of Civil Construction work for "widening to 2-lane with pave shoulders including geometric improvement from km 318.000 to km 339.940 on Churabari-Agarata Section of NH-44 in Tripura on EPC mode" (Job No. 844/TR/2016-17) on the basis of sealed bid competitive Bidding for the following contracts pending in the state of Tripura.

Sl. No. 1, H. No. : NH-44 (New NH No. 8). Project Stretch : Consultancy service for Authority's Engineer for supervision of Civil Construction work for "widening to 2-lane with pave shoulders including geometric improvement from km 318.000 to km 339.940 on Churabari-Agarata Section of NH-44 in Tripura on EPC mode" (Job No. 844/TR/2016-17) on the basis of sealed bid competitive Bidding for the following contracts pending in the state of Tripura.

Sl. No. 2, H. No. : NH-44 (New NH No. 8). Project Stretch : Consultancy service for Authority's Engineer for supervision of Civil Construction work for "widening to 2-lane with pave shoulders including geometric improvement from km 318.000 to km 339.940 on Churabari-Agarata Section of NH-44 in Tripura on EPC mode" (Job No. 844/TR/2016-17) on the basis of sealed bid competitive Bidding for the following contracts pending in the state of Tripura.

3. Assignment period (months) : 24 months (construction period+ 48 months maintenance period)

Note :

1. The complete BID document can be viewed/ downloaded from e-procurement portal of the Ministry and INFRACON portal from 29.03.2017 to 28.04.2017 (up to 1200 hrs IST). The bids must be submitted online at and INFRACON on or before 28.04.2017 (up to 1200 hrs IST). The bids received through online shall be opened on 29.04.2017 (at 1200 hrs IST).

2. BID received from any other mode shall not be entertained. However, All Sealed documents to be given of Attorney, Joint bidding agreement, all original and original bid documents as per requirements of Clause 4.1 of the Letter of invitation to consultants (Section-II of RFP); etc. shall be submitted physically by the bidder on or before 28.04.2017 (1200 hrs IST) in the office of the Superintendent Engineer, NH Circle, PWD (NH), P. N. Complex, Agartala, Tripura. Pre-proposal conference shall be held at the employer's office on 12.04.2017 at 1200 hrs. Please note that the authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

3. Corrigendum/ addendum, which may be published only in the above website.

4. For any other details and clarifications, bidders may see the official website of the Ministry "[https://northfriproc.in](http://northfriproc.in)" or may also contact the authority mentioned below during office hours.

The Superintendent Engineer, NH Circle
PWD (NH), P. N. Complex,
Guwahati, Assam
Tele-fax : +91-361-232652
E-mail- spewdnih@gmail.com

Sd/- (Samiran Saha)
Executive Engineer

for Regional officer (Civil), Guwahati

M/o Road Transport & Highways

Sl. No. 1, H. No. : NH-44 (New NH No. 8). Project Stretch : Consultancy service for Authority's Engineer for supervision of Civil Construction work for "widening to 2-lane with pave shoulders including geometric improvement from km 318.000 to km 339.940 on Churabari-Agarata Section of NH-44 in Tripura on EPC mode" (Job No. 844/TR/2016-17) on the basis of sealed bid competitive Bidding for the following contracts pending in the state of Tripura.

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E-mail- spewdnih@gmail.com

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for Regional officer (Civil), Guwahati

M/o Road Transport & Highways

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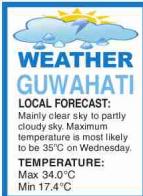
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Sd/- (Samiran Saha)
Executive Engineer

for Regional officer (Civil), Guwahati

M/o Road Transport & Highways



Hahnemann birth anniversary celebrated

GUWAHATI, April 11: The 262nd birth anniversary of Sir CFS Hahnemann was celebrated on April 10 at Swadhi Jyotir Nath Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Panjabari, here with a daylong programme, which started with a cleanliness drive. This was followed by the lighting of the lamp and the garlanding of Hahnemann's statue. Later, a scientific seminar was chaired by Dr U Bordoloi.

A welcome song was sung by Dr Rafiqul Islam. Dr S Ali and Dr D Rajkumar delivered speeches in the seminar. As a part of the programme, the whole college hospital campus was lit in the evening, a press release stated. A meeting in this regard will be held on April 23, the release added.

Get-together

GUWAHATI, April 11: A get-together of past and present boarders of the 117-year-old Krishn Kanta Handique PG Boys' Hostel of Cotton College has been planned, a press release stated. A meeting in this regard will be held on April 23, the release added.

Lower Subansiri project

Call to respect State experts' views

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 11: The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) today asserted that the Government of India must respect the views of the experts of the State on the Lower Subansiri dam project.

In a statement here, the AASU said that the Central Government must hold talks with the State experts. It added that though an eight-member committee comprising four members from the State was constituted to assess the feasi-

bility study of the project and the impact in the downstream areas, the Centre has now overlooked the views of the State experts, which is unfortunate.

The AASU will never accept this, the statement added. The AASU reiterated that it is not against development, but the interests of the State should not be compromised. The student body also reminded the Prime Minister and the Home Minister of the statements that they had made on the Subansiri project before the last General Elections and al-

leged that they had totally changed their stand after being elected to power.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Assam Legislative Assembly, Debarata Saikia has accused the Centre of maintaining double standards on the issue. He said that before the elections, Rajnath Singh took part in an agitation against the project, but now the Centre is supporting the project. He also alleged that the views of the experts of the State on the project were overlooked.

Workshop on municipal solid waste management



Ghanshyam Dass, State Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), delivering a speech in the workshop on Tuesday. - AT photo

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 11: A one-day State-level workshop on 'Municipal Solid Waste Management' was organised by the State Mission Directorate, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Assam, at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Kharapara, here today.

Chairpersons, vice chairpersons, sanitary engineers and engineers of urban local bodies (ULBs) from across Assam participated in the workshop.

The workshop on solid waste management was aimed at reaching out to the ULBs to capacitate them in adopting cost-effective ways of solid waste management.

Solid waste management expert Dr Pradip Baisya from Assam Engineering College, Guwahati, attended the event as a resource person in both the technical sessions along with the open discussions

on the topic. A cost-effective 'on-site drum composting' model was demonstrated in the workshop which can efficiently enable the ULBs in mitigating the grimed pattern of handling solid waste.

Emphasis was given on understanding duties of waste generators as per the Municipal Solid Waste Management and Handling Rule 2016, which states that it is mandatory to de segregation at source and onsite waste treatment for bulk solid waste generators as many establishments like hotels, restaurants, shopping complexes, residential associations with an area of 5,000 square metres, generate bulk solid waste per day without treating it on site.

The technical sessions were followed by an interactive discussion where various concerns of ULB officials in regard to the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission were answered by Additional Chief Secretary (Urban Development Department) MGVK Bhanu, and State Mission Director of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Ghanshyam Dass, along with fellow technical officials and domain experts of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Assam.

Landslide deaths

Kamrup Metro admin asks for FIR against Icon Academy Trust

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 11: The Kamrup Metro district administration has directed the Circle Officer of Dispur Revenue Circle to lodge an FIR against Icon Academy Trust over the incident of landslide which took place at the Icon English School at Bonda last week in which two persons lost their lives.

"...from the report of Circle Officer, Dispur Revenue Circle, it has been observed that the landslide incident took place at the campus of Icon Academy English School, Chajaidang, Bonai, under Dispur Revenue Circle wherein two persons died on the spot while cutting the hill...it has come into the notice that the school authority

was cutting earth without prior permission from competent authority. Several warnings were also issued to the authority not to cut the hill," said an order issued by Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metro Dr M Angamuthu.

It added that the report received from the DFO, Kamrup East Division, has stated that the school authority has constructed a wall by cutting earth without any permission.

"Forest Beat Officer, Narengi Range, has submitted an FIR about the incident to the concerned police station and earlier also two FIRs have been submitted by the Beat Officer regarding illegal earth cutting in the said school compound at Panikhaiti in the

Police Outpost. Such haphazard and unscientific illegal earth cutting not only leads to natural disasters like landslide but also threatens ecological balance."

"As the landslide incident led to loss of life of two persons...direct Circle Officer, Dispur Revenue Circle, to lodge an FIR against Icon Academy Trust immediately. Moreover, the Principal Secretary to the government of Assam, Forest department and Commissioner of Police, Guwahati City, will take disciplinary action against concerned officials of the Forest and Police department for negligence towards their duty with effect to suspension and further disciplinary action," added the order.

SSA Technical Support Group staff move PM

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 11: Against the HRD Ministry's move to close down the Technical Support Group (TSG) of the Sarva Siksha Abhyar for the eight North-Eastern States, the employees of the group have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking his intervention to roll back the decision.

The TSG that caters to all the North-Eastern States, including Sikkim, is crucial for collection of data, supporting the SSA projects, data analysis, field visits for verification of important

information, interaction with the State bodies and providing reports, etc., on behalf of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

HRD Ministry's decision to close down NE unit

According to sources, the decision to close down the unit has been taken up as part of the Ministry's cost-cutting agenda.

The TSG was established by the Ministry with the logistic support of EdCIL (India) Limited, a Central

"Managing the project in

PSU, at Guwahati in July, 2006. The vision of this group was to bridge the gap between the MHRD and elementary education in all the North-Eastern States. This office is directly monitored by the Ministry.

According to the sources, the office is supposed to be closed from June this year and the necessary support for the NE will be given from New Delhi.

"Through the letter to the

Prime Minister, the employees of the TSG have sought his intervention so that the regional office continues to operate for facilitating better services to elementary education in the entire region," said Chandan Sarma, an employee of the TSG, NE.

the North-East by the consultants and other Central Government officials staying in New Delhi is very difficult. Most of the times such officials are reluctant to visit the region, especially the interior areas, in the absence of a local office in Guwahati," the sources added.

"Through the letter to the

Prime Minister, the

employees of the TSG have

sought his intervention so

that the regional office

continues to operate for

facilitating better services to

elementary education in the

entire region," said Chandan Sarma, an employee of the TSG, NE.

A GOODNIGHT'S SLEEP BEGINS WITH THE RIGHT MATTRESS

No matter what you do to ensure a good night's sleep, If your mattress isn't right, your sleep will never be too!

A ll of us spend almost a third of our day sleeping or resting. In light of this plain fact, it stands to reason that the quality and quantity of our sleep is directly related to our choice of mattress.

Medical experts are of the opinion that when we sleep sideways for a long period of time, our body weight causes a reduction in the flow of blood to that side. The brain on sitting this information, messages the body to roll over. This causes a disruption of our sleep. But on the other hand, when we use the right mattress, the blood flow to the lower side of our body is not interrupted or disrupted and this helps avoid the frequent tossing and turning that otherwise happens.

The foundation of good sleep is a comfortable bed. The right mattress can make the difference between a healthy night's sleep that acts as a restorative and poor quality sleep resulting in tiredness and fatigue. Lack of support from a mattress reinforces poor sleeping posture and can prevent you from getting a good night's sleep.

With the vast variety of beds in the market, choosing the right one can be difficult. Here are some tips to help you choose the best mattress for both support and comfort.

- Let value and quality rule over price. Shop around, look for sales and offers, save up, but don't compromise on quality when looking for the right mattress.

• A mattress that provides both comfort and back support will help, allowing the structures in the spine to rest and rejuvenate during the night. A mattress that's too hard or too soft can be uncomfortable and cause sleep problems. Your mattress needs to be firm enough to support your body's weight, but must also conform to your body's contours.

• Try before you buy. When shopping for a mattress, you should lie on it for several minutes to decide if it's a good fit. If two people will be sleeping on the mattress, both should test it at the same time to make sure they have enough space and are both comfortable on the same style of mattress. Some of the better quality mattresses can have two different levels of firmness.

• Know about the components of the mattress and their benefits, qualities and lifespans. Check the

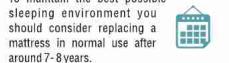
structure and design of the mattress. Understand its warranty details. If the manufacturer is a reputed one, you ought to get a mattress with a 10-year full replacement warranty or a 'non-prorated' warranty.

• You move 40 to 60 times a night, so spend at least 10 to 15 minutes on each mattress. If the mattress is too soft, you will take lots of effort rolling over; if it's too firm, your hips and shoulders will be uncomfortable.

• Maintenance is the best preservative of the lifespan of your mattresses. You need to rotate it every couple of months. If it is a single-sided mattress, switch it from end to end. If it is a double-sided mattress, then flip it over.

Keep the mattress edges supported by installing a bed frame if possible, to prevent it sagging at the lower ends. If possible it is a good idea to have a washable allergen-proof bed casing that keeps dust mites from getting into your mattress.

• To maintain the best possible sleeping environment you should consider replacing a mattress in normal use after around 7-8 years.



To know more, log on to www.sleepat10.com

CHOOSING THE PERFECT SLEEPMATE

• Innerspring mattresses

These mattresses are internally supported by coil springs, in which each coil is individually enclosed. Various materials such as pillow, latex and memory foam are used for added comfort. Especially beneficial for overweight people and those suffering from back pain, these are also the most used variety of mattresses.

• Memory foam mattresses

These mattresses are composed of layers of different foam densities that respond to weight and temperature. They conform to the shape of the body – as the weight shifts through the night – and the help reduce pressure points to relieve pain. If you suffer from chronic fatigue and muscle pain, then it is advisable to invest in a memory foam mattress – a category that is now gaining in popularity.

• Latex mattresses

These mattresses provide firm and bouncy support uniformly throughout the bed. They are made from either natural or synthetic rubber and are the best mattresses to relieve back pain because of the firmness they provide.

Whatever your choice, make sure it is based on your need and personal requirement. After all, it will be conducive to sleep which is nature's best restorative for all your health problems.

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Looking back over a lifetime, you see love was the answer to everything.

— RAY BRADBURY

The Assam Tribune

Need for clarification

Despite the obvious shortcomings evident in the recently held Namami Brahmaputra festival, the people of Assam cannot but concede that the objectives behind it were noble. The festival was conceived with the laudable purpose of placing renewed focus on this majestic river, project it as a corridor linking the east and west to facilitate trade thereby attract investors to this region, as well as to boost tourism by highlighting the river's potential in attaining this. Even the most ardent advocate of the festival will admit that the shortcomings were all too many and, broadly speaking, the rain gods having played the spoilsport, the festival was a washout. The biggest mistake had lain in its timing. It is an established fact that it normally rains in Assam just prior to the Bohag Bihu festival and this year proved to be no exception. While those involved in fixing the timing should be held accountable, it would be wiser to hold the festival during the dry winter season, when the possibilities of thunderstorms are negligible, if in fact the Government is planning to make it an annual event. However, what has been done cannot be undone and now, given the ostentatious and expensive character of the just concluded event, it is incumbent upon the State Government to clarify to the people of the State as to how exactly Assam has benefited from it.

This can perhaps be done through publication of a white paper highlighting the benefits without resorting to spin-doctoring. For instance, it is of no use mentioning the future plans for harnessing the river, including dredging or construction of expressways and the amounts 'committed' by the Centre for the purposes, for these could have been announced without riding piggyback on the festival. As stated prior to the festival, a number of business sessions had been envisaged, with corporate entities participating in the discussions and stating their determination to become stakeholders in the region's economic development. The Government needs to inform the public as to how many sessions were held, which prominent corporate organizations participated, the nature of the discussions and the commitments made. One lacuna in the first edition of the festival had been its inability to attract tourists from outside, including those from abroad. It would be salutary for the proponents of the festival to clarify to what extent this objective was met. Another apparent shortcoming was the failure of the event to receive due publicity in national and international media despite the presence of numerous dignitaries including the Indian President and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The State Government's response to such a 'charge' by the festival's detractors should be made explicit. As earlier stated, the objective in holding the Namami Brahmaputra was laudable, but the public is entitled to know about the specific event-related benefits.

Rural electrification

Two years back, the Centre had announced an ambitious programme for ensuring power supply to all un-electrified villages across the country by March 2017. The deadline has expired and the promise is nowhere near materialization. Another deadline set was uninterrupted power for all by 2019, and given our uninspiring track record in project implementation, it is likely that the deadline will be missed. As of now, the rural power scenario is abysmal in the State, with only 28% of villages having connectivity with the grid. It is almost half of the national average of rural power connectivity. Indeed, the State's overall power scenario remains a matter of serious concern, plagued as it is by lack of availability, reliability and quality. Even worse has been the situation in the villages notwithstanding the implementation of Centrally-sponsored programmes for years. We still have miles to go in addressing the all-important issue of access to power at the grassroots, with thousands of rural households still remaining without power connectivity. Which has now almost become a routine, execution of rural electrification projects is riddled with corruption and anomalies, resulting in below-par implementation and thereby negating the desired benefits to the rural masses.

Rural electrification warrants foolproof execution of the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gramene Jyoti Yojana. With funds no longer a constraint for rural electricity, the need is to put in place a sound power infrastructure that can ensure sustainable energy access to rural households. The quality and reliability of power in rural areas that already have power connection is another serious issue, with the abysmal power availability and poor quality making it a god as non-existent. It is also time we accorded respect on acquiring power from unconventional sources such as solar energy, wind power, etc. This can be particularly effective in remote and difficult areas not connected by conventional grid. In addition, power generated from unconventional sources is renewable, environment-friendly and cost-effective. As access to quality power is integral to any inclusive growth, taking care of the power needs of those living even in the remotest corners has to figure in the agenda of the policy makers. While power is undeniably a basic requirement, at the same time it has to be ensured that the power we generate must be clean and environmentally acceptable, and affordable by the masses. Of late a lot has been said about harnessing the North-east's hydropower potential through big dams but it is highly debatable how feasible it would be to go about tapping that potential by way of large-scale interventions on the geologically and environmentally fragile Eastern Himalayas. Another equally serious concern relates to the possible irreversible damage such as exercise would cause to the region's river systems on which the livelihood of millions depend.

The chai-wallah from Cuttack

By the Brahmaputra
SANJOY HAZARIKA

The unshaven man in a pink shirt and dark trousers took his place in the cavernous auditorium. He looked like any middle-class person; he would not have stood out in a crowd, despite his smile and earnest gaze. When he was called to the stage before the audience at the National Law University, he spoke simply. What he said — and the account of his life — was extraordinary. It silenced, captured and inspired everyone in the hall.

"I am a *chai-wallah*, I sell tea in the morning and evening; it is what I have done all my life after my father started the shop," Prakash Rao began. At the end of his talk, the crowd gave him a standing ovation.

"Such people do exist in the world," I turned to my host, Prof Srikrishna Deva Rao, the thoughtful Vice-Chancellor of the university in Odisha.

Prakash Rao, a modest man of few words, was a part of the TED X talks where 'inspirational' speakers come from countries across the world and address audiences with experiences and stories of compelling change, of overcoming challenges, of transformative decisions, of small ideas with vast impacts when applied. Some of us had been called including myself, earlier at another TED X talks — these are prestigious programmes worldwide, showcased on the TED Talks channel. I recommend you watch at least some of them — they are energizing, funny and powerful.

The speakers were a mixed bunch: a development journalist, a former bonded labourer, a business leader-turned development activist, a former Google innovator. There was a lawyer who gives her time free and inspires other lawyers to do likewise to battle for the survival of child victims of sexual abuse, which must be among the most horrendous crimes on the face of this earth, and a young woman who has developed a network on online counsellors to reach out to the depressed and suicidal. There was me. And there was Prakash Rao.

This is his story.

Born and raised in Cuttack, then the principal city of the erstwhile Odisha, Rao's father was an army man who had seen action in the Burma sector. He returned to retirement in Cuttack, set up a tea shop, pulled on his son's coat and got him to assist at the tea shop, which he set up. The tiny space is located across the street from the sprawling offices of the State's largest Oriya language paper *Samad*. There's just enough space to Rao to stand and make his tea. In one covered pot a tea concoction boils away, in another there's milk. A tea boy assists with deliveries and washing. I couldn't see a sign.

There's no concession to comfort, no chairs, no benches. Even Rao is on his feet most of the time. Those who don't want to stand can sit on the small steps leading up into the upper floors of building where Rao is located. He's on the ground floor

and his home, a two-room set, is just a few hundred meters away. It could be like a *chai* shop anywhere. What makes the difference is Prakash Rao.

Large glass jars packed with local biscuits, a freshly baked cake and freshly filled glasses of water jostle for space on the counter top. The water is for everyone and anyone: school children, random people walking by and even a fellow who looked as if he's an alcoholic wreck. I later learnt there's an illegal liquor den

He keeps Oriya papers, *The Indian Express* and *The Times of India* for customers. I have a feeling this is a recent addition. But let's get back to how what he does and why.

Life's been hard and during one difficult patch, Rao fell very sick. He virtually lost the use of his legs because of a tumour that was located at the lower end of his spine. Down and out, he spent his days lying in bed in a public hospital. On the day of his operation, an extra donation of blood was needed. An unknown donor gave it. The operation was successful: within two weeks, after six months in hospital, the *chai-wallah* was back on his feet. He restarted his stall. And he decided to reorganize his time and his life.

Living in the hospital, Rao realized that many of out-of-town visitors, especially those who were educated and poor, found themselves lost in such large complexes. For many of them, it was the first time in a city, not just a large hospital. They had few friends, were low on funds, couldn't understand where they needed to go and whom they needed to see; the staff were often abrupt and rushed for time.

Rao decided to give back to the hospital where he had regained his life — by volunteering to be a resource. He would give a few hours every day to guiding those who needed to be provided direction. And he would put in their hands a packet of milk biscuits. Free.

He decided to start a school, a nursery in his two-room flat. One of the family's rooms became a nursery for the nearby slums whose parents often would leave in the morning for work, sometimes without feeding them. Each child was given a cup of sweet milk and a biscuit. He has gathered this between his tea shifts — the *chai dukan* would open from 6 am to 10 am and then again from about 4 pm to 8 pm. Then it would be time for dinner — simple fare of rice, dal and vegetables. His two daughters are studying; one has a scholarship in an Australian university, the other one is at a college in Cuttack.

Prakash Rao manages all this on a daily income of Rs 500-600. I don't know how he does it. But it's nothing short of a miracle. He doesn't have a society or registered institution, he should though. He's 59 but looks much older. His grizzled face reflects the decades of challenge. The standing ovation at the TED X talk reflected not just appreciation but also how inspirational his simple story was, packed into a life which was lived off the street, on a small lane, in the heart of Cuttack.

I'm sure that there are tens of thousands of others like him who live their lives for others, who march to the beat of an unseen drummer and whose presence enriches our lives.

It is the Prakash Raos who make our world better, inhabitable space, balancing the ugliness and brutality that we see played out in the media and the streets every day, the hate speech, crimes against those who eat, dress, talk and look different.

(sanjoyha@gmail.com)

The Mandir agenda in UP

■ Bhaskar Phukan

The battle for UP has been won and not just by a simple margin. The BJP has won with an absolute majority. Not just UP, the three other States that of Uttarakhand, Goa and the North-eastern state of Manipur has been added to its kitty.

The critics of Narendra Modi on the demonetization issue have been made to keep their voices low.

There were political analysts and columnists who had seen the beginning of the end of Narendra Modi with his demonetization 'self goal' but the results of the Assembly elections tend to tell a different story. And to prove the old saying 'old habits die hard', the Modi baiters are now crying foul at the selection of Yogi Adityanath as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

One can attribute political manipulations called horse-trading or use of money to change the game in the two States Manipur and Goa but the mandate is clear as crystal in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh where the Modi magic still appears to be in its full active spell. Punjab seems to be an issue to be seen from a different perspective. The BJP's lack of organizational strength in the State was evident even dur-

ing the Lok Sabha elections when a candidate of the stature of Arun Jaitley had to concede defeat to Punjabi Congress强man Captain Amarinder Singh fighting for Amritsar constituency. Punjab was clearly a case of anti-incumbency where Srinivasa Akali Dal had more at stake.

Coming to the Goa results, it was a

a clear case of outgoing Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar's inadequate leadership and lack of administrative and legislative acumen. It was primarily due to his shortcomings that the BJP had to lose out eight seats to the Congress. Manohar Parrikar's reappearance at the Goa politics appeared to be the need of the hour and his presence turned out to be a game changer.

It was the breathtakingly changing situations in Manipur that drew the imagination of the country.

The BJP was never in the political map of the State and its existence was not registered till it emerged as a stakeholder to form a government. The party managed to win as many as 21 seats against 28 of the Congress and yet with political game plan astutely worked out succeeded in forming a Government.

Quite naturally the Congress would not digress from crying foul about the modus operandi that led

to the formation of governments in Goa and Manipur by the BJP having lesser numbers initially and with deserters from the Congress, but the irony of the matter is that the Congress is simply being paid back in their own coins. It is the party that boasts of centuries-old tradition, ethics and party discipline had set such precedents of horse-trading and manipulated game of power.

Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are the States where the mandate was loud and clear, the slogans of Narendra Modi still appeal to the people of the country; the results of the Assembly elections of greater Uttar Pradesh — UP and Uttarakhand combined — proved that.

It's not the Modi magic alone that got BJP a clear mandate (56 seats in a house of 70 in Uttarakhand and 312 seats in a house of 403 in Uttar Pradesh) but there was a mood in favour of something different from what was taking place in the past as politics in these two States, Mayawati with her Dalit politics had the scar of nepotism along with corruption and the Mulayam-Akhilesh dynastic face-off were something the people of the largest State and the heartland of the country was getting ridiculously tired of. More of rhetoric and less of action and also selective and discriminatory attention to regions in matters of pro-

viding funds for development were causes of distrust on the regime. It was a change in the voting pattern and not manipulated EVMs that turned the table on Akhilesh and Mayawati. A section of minorities, Muslim womenfolk in particular, appears to have had a say in the mandate — the triple talaq and uniform civil code having the decisive undertone with a cataclysmic impact on politics of fragmentation long in vogue in UP politics.

Narendra Modi it appears had read the pulse of the population of UP and Uttarakhand and his bogey of uniform development and appeal for departure from age-old politics of caste and creed seemed to have shown results.

But the most amount of surprise was sprung by the BJP in Manipur.

It was *Vini Vidi Vici* for the BJP

where the story started from zero

and ended at forming of a government at the bastion of the Congress — the party that had the State for 13 years in its kitty.

Now the seculars and the liberals, it appears, are aghast at the selection of Yogi Adityanath as the Chief Minister of the State that is said to be the nerve centre of India's political activities.

It is quite obvious that a BJP-ruled State can never have a Chief Minister that would be acceptable to the leftists or the Congress.

The politics in UP despite the presence of the Samajwadi Party and BSP has been guided or inspired by the tenets of secularism. Selective appeasement of the minorities and sanguineering about the Dalit uplift has turned both the SP and BSP unreliable. Yogi Adityanath has vowed to deliver and deliver he must. The 2019 elections are just two years away and the Yogi will have to be a people's Chief Minister and not a BJP Chief Minister to build up confidence. The Chief Minister has more or less laid down his agenda. Law and order has received the topmost priority with an attempt to clear the police department out the rust that it has gathered around its edifice.

One however doesn't have to ponder too deep to relate the issue of Ram Mandir and the Yogi's choice as the Chief Minister of the State because UP is the State from where the Ram Mandir movement sprouted and the massive victory can be attributed partially to the invocation of the Ram Mandir issue. And the fact is that none but the Yogi himself is capable of furthering and executing the Mandir agenda.

It will depend on Yogi Adityanath's dexterity as a leader of the people to strike a balance between his obligations as a Hindutva-professing monk and a *Rajdharm*-abiding Chief Minister.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir — We congratulate the governments of Assam and India for taking initiative in opening a Sankaradeva Chair at Visva Bharati University, West Bengal and the endeavour to open a few more at some other universities in India. It has been a right step taken to raise awareness about the father of our Assamese nation Srikrishna Sankaradeva who was a multi-disciplined genius of the 15th century. In the face increasing violence and inequality, it is very important now that Sankaradeva's philosophy is spread and shared across the globe.

The Assam Sahitya Sabha UK

Establishing Sankaradeva Chair in UK

and the people are all professionals and with busy work schedule. The second generation Assamese diaspora is not very interested in such events to know about our language, literature and culture. Most of them like to attend the Bihu as it is a festive occasion.

The best way to spread the teachings of Sankaradeva is to open a Sankaradeva Chair at Oxford University where there is a very well-established Department of Theology with the study of Hindu philosophy. That will globalize Sankaradeva and will enhance awareness about his life and philosophy. The Government of Assam can help spread our cultural heritage by sending cultural troupes to perform at our events and to perform at bigger venues like the Edinburgh international festivals and the museums in the UK. They can also send visiting professors to deliver lectures on the philosophy of Sankaradeva at several universities in the UK through their respective departments. That will enable a diverse community to appreciate our literary and cultural heritage.

Yours etc., MANJIRA (GOSWAMI) CHOWDHURY, Assam Sahitya Sabha, UK Chapter.

Govt apathy

Sir — The contractual teachers working in the provincialized high and higher secondary schools of Assam have been deprived of their rights and dues for a long time. They have been serving in the schools with dedication for the last seven years with minimum facilities. The previous government had decided to regularize the services of these teachers; the Gauhati High Court directed the Government to regularize the services of these teachers without TET and even the one-man advisory committee of the Education Department constituted by the present Government has advised the department to regularize these teachers on humanitarian ground. Yet the State Education Department has no intention to follow the mandate of the people and the court and has appealed in the High Court against the decision of the High Court against the decision of the previous Government to

regularize the services of these teachers. Through this letter, I request the Education Minister of Assam to do justice with these teachers. Yours etc., ROBIUZ ZAMAN, Bechamari, Nagaon.

Lack of transport

Sir — I wish to bring to the notice of the authorities concerned about the hardships which the common people have to face while commuting to Bordwaha Than. Previously the buses and tempo going towards Dhemaji went via Bordwaha HS School which benefited not only the school children and the local people of the said area but also the pilgrims going towards the Than. But sadly after the construction of a RCC bridge, the tempos, buses and other public transport have stopped travelling via the Bordwaha HS School as a result of which the local people, school children and pilgrims have to face immense hardships in availing public transport. Through your esteemed daily, I would like to request the authorities concerned that if not the other modes of transport, at least the ASTC buses going/coming towards Dhemaji side from

Nagaon should be instructed to go via the Bordwaha HS School for the convenience of the people of the area. Yours etc., DEBOJIT BORA, Janakpuri, New Delhi.

APSC schedule

Sir — This is in reference to the latest tentative schedule of examinations for 2017 notified by the APSC, published in *The Assam Tribune* on April 4, 2017 wherein most of the exams/viva have been postponed compared to the previous schedule. For example, in case of recruitment to the post of Assistant Engineer (Civil, Mechanical and Electrical) under PHE Department, the written exam was held during February, 2017 as per notification, but while the viva voce was earlier scheduled in April 2017, now it has been rescheduled in September 2017. Now the issue is that after the APSC has taken steps regarding transparency and declaration of results early, it is unfortunate to see such type of delays, especially viva-voce. Yours etc., SOME ASPIRANTS, Guwahati.

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

UTHAONI

With profound grief & sorrow,
we inform the sad demise of our respected



Shri Mul Chand Ji Malu

(Son of Late Shri Sohanlal Ji Malu)

• Sardar Shahar • Delhi

on Monday, 10th April 2017

RASAM UTHAONI

will be held on Wednesday, 12th April 2017, 4 P.M. at

Siri Fort Auditorium,

August Kranti Marg, Khel Gaon, New Delhi-110049

- IN GRIEF -

Vikas Malu
& Kuber Family



KUBER

Ajit Baruah an iconic figure in Assamese poetry: Nagen Saikia

DIBRUGARH, April 11: Noted Assamese literature award winning poet Ajit Barua was the iconic figure who brought tremendous changes that were responsible for modernist trend in Assamese poetry.

Delivering the Second Ajit Baruah Memorial Lecture in Dibrugarh University recently, Prof. Saikia discussed the varied thematic as well as stylistic features dominant in Ajit Barua's discourse.

"We have a general tendency to try to evaluate our literature in the light of western

doctrine. But it is a wrong notion to analyse or evaluate our literature only with the Western school of thought and Western literary theories", said the former Assam Sahitya Akademi president.

"We should evaluate our literature with Indian aestheticism and various Indian literary theories. Ajit Barua is the sole literary giant in Assam who was at home with both Western and Indian schools of thoughts", Prof. Saikia claimed.

Stating that the poet successfully weaved in his poetry the magical association of reason and emotions, the former Bezbaroa Chair Professor said,

"it was because of his unique sensibility that Ajit Barua was capable of weaving romantic with classic sensibility that created wonder in his poetry."

The Memorial Lecture was organised under joint collaboration of Ajit Barua Anurag Samaj (ABAS), Guwahati and Dr Bhupen Hazarika Centre for Studies in Performing Arts of Dibrugarh University.

The chairperson of Dr Bhupen Hazarika Centre for Studies in Performing Arts, Dr Pranjit Bora and the president of the Ajit Barua Anurag Samaj Rajib Baruah were present on the occasion at the lecture which was chaired by

Professor Karabi Deka Hazarika, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University.

The lecture was preceded by recitals of Ajit Barua's poems in English, Assamese and Mising languages and also rendering of his popular song *Aakashkar Paar Bhangi Naome* by Bhaskar and Parinama from the music section of Dr Bhupen Hazarika Centre for Studies in Performing Arts of the University.

The lecture session was followed by a poets' meet where a number of poets from different parts of the State read out their compositions. — PTI



Devotees taking part in a religious rally held on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti at Bakaliaghata in Karbi Anglong district, on Tuesday. — UB Photos

Mindset change must for cleanliness: Rihon
ANN Service

Tasa urges people of Jorhat to take up cleanliness drive

CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, April 11: Inaugurating the Swachh Mela at the auditorium of district library here on Sunday, Jorhat MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa urged the people of the city to keep their respective areas, offices and public places clean to maintain a hygienic atmosphere for better health and progress.

The MP and the officials of district administration said that they will never leave any stone unturned to make the city and its adjoining areas free from garbage and litter.

Along with MP Tasa, besides, Budget Commissioner Virendra Mittal asked all the officials con-

cerned of development blocks, gram panchayats to work properly to make the district free from open defecation to prevent many kinds of diseases.

Narrating the significance of the massive cleanliness drive across the district, Mittal said that the mission will be automatically successful if the citizens are motivated for the cleanliness programmes in their areas concerned.

Participating in the cleanliness campaign, the chairperson of Jorhat Municipal Board, Aruna Dutta said that a very significant role in the noble cause. Besides, Budget bhistan of Balwan Shyamgagan, Amritamanta Bhukhi also

appealed to the people of the district to keep their city clean for better living condition.

It may be mentioned that 24,019 sanitary latrines were constructed in various localities of the district in the financial year 2016-17 against the completion of 12,544 sanitary latrines in 2015-16. In recognition of the contributions of many local citizens and workers of various water-supply schemes for better welfare activities, the representatives of six managing committees of water supply schemes, six gram panchayats and six self-help groups were awarded by the DC and the chairperson of Jorhat Municipal Board Aruna Dutta in the function.

World Health Day observed at Naharani Block PHC

ANN Service

NAMRUP, April 11: The World Health Day was observed on April 7 at Naharani Block PHC, a few km away from here under the auspices of its World Health Day Celebration Committee with the year's theme, 'Depression: Let's talk'.

The daylong programme began with the hoisting of flag by Dr Biswajit Borah, SDM & MO, Naharani Block PHC.

The inauguration of a 'medicinal plants' garden by Monimanki Gogoi, a noted social activist. Then the inauguration of an exhibi-

tion and a health camp was done by Dr Nareswar Borah, Deputy Superintendent, Naharani CHC and Dr Sudhir Kumar Chakrabarty respectively. To mark the occasion, a grand awareness procession was also organised and Dr Biswajit Baruah flagged off the same. Moreover competitions like 'Healthy Baby Contest' along with a host of exhibition camps on HIV AIDS, NCD, RCH, NVBDCP, RNTCP etc., were also organised.

The open session held on the occasion was presided over by Monimanki Gogoi and inaugurated by Dr Dhirendra Nath Bangsai, former Joint

Director, Health Services, Dr Hiranya Goswami, HoD, Dept of Psychiatry, AMCH, graced the occasion as the appointed speaker. In his speech, he dwelt at length on the significance of World Health Day and expressed his concern over the increasing rate of depression all over the world. Dr Goswami, his speech lucidly explained the various factors and causes of depression along with its prevention, care and treatment.

Besides, some plays relating to the occasion were displayed to mark the occasion. A host of notable dignitaries including Pitambar Tati, in-

charge, Tingkhong mini PHC, Dr Numal Patra, Naharani PHC, Dr Nitin Bharatia and Dr Himanshu Goswami of Naharkatia State Dispensary, Dr Jyoti Shyam Saikia, Deputy Superintendent, Naharkatia CHC and mediapersons from different media houses graced the occasion with their presence.

It is to be added that this very programme also witnessed inauguration of a souvenir *Naharani Seaworthy Barita* edited by Mintu Sonowal, Amiya Kr Borah and Geeta Rosmini Konwar respectively.

The daylong programme came to an end with a grand cultural programme.

Cattle immunisation drive

KAZIRANGA, April 11: As a part of protective measures to control the sudden outbreak of diseases in domestic animals grazing near the Kaziranga National Park, the authority of the national park with the logistical support of wildlife NGOs, have been conducting massive immunisation of cattle against deadly diseases like HS, Black Quarter and Foot and Mouth Disease at 22 fringe villages. Vaccines viz., Raksha Trovac which has been used against the said diseases. NGOs like WWA, India, Aranyak and Corbett Foundation provided logistic support.

On the first day, more than 800 cattle were vaccinated. It is worth mentioning that since many wild species of herbivores in Kaziranga National Park are also susceptible to diseases like HS, Black Quarter and Foot and Mouth disease (FMD), so it is very essential that domestic animals (livestock) staying at the fringe villages like Khukang, goan, Difflu pathar etc., are carefully vaccinated to the extent that the disease does not take an epidemic form. Sources said that after administering immunisation, the disease process would slow down in the near future and thereby will help check these three dreadful diseases. This will also help in keeping the socio-economic conditions of the fringe villagers intact. It is to be noted that if any cattle die, the particular village has to face a serious economic crisis as they are dependent on their cattle for farming activities. The immunisation drive will continue till tomorrow. — Correspondent

Health check-up camp

TIHU, April 11: A free health check up and awareness camp for pregnant women, children and general people was held at Bali Kalimandir premises on April 8 under the aegis of Bali Gram Unnayan Sammittee. A team of doctors viz., Dr AL Saha, Dr Nilanjana, Dr Priyanka Sarkar, Dr Prabin K. Saikia and Dr Anita Saha from Apollo Hospitals, Guwahati attended the camp and checked the health of nearly 200 patients and distributed medicines. — A Correspondent

Exhibition on banyan lining made from Vrindavani Vastra at UK museum



The Vrindavani Vastra lining of the banyan.

es). What makes it very special, is its lining. This is made from a woven silk textile from Assam. It is one of a group of similar textiles known as 'Vrindavani Vastra', which means the cloth of Vrindavan, — a forested region in north India where Krishna is believed to have lived as a young cowherd early in his eventful life. Dramatic scenes from Krishna's life are woven in these vibrant strips of cloth.

Only about 20 pieces of this type of textile survive today, in collections around the world. Chepstow Museum has invited Rini Kakati, FASS, and an NRI ASSAM Co-ordinator for the UK as a guest to celebrate 'Hidden in the Lining - Krishna in the Garden of Assam'.

In 2016, the *banyan* from Monmouthshire Museums Collections featured in the exhibition at the British Museum 'Krishna in the Garden of Assam: the cultural context of an Indi-

an textile'. That exhibition focussed on the largest surviving example of the Vrindavani Vastra type of textiles, now in the British Museum. At over 9 metres in length, it is made up of 12 separate lengths of cloth woven in Assam, which were stitched together later, probably in Tibet, with strips of damask and brocade along the top.

As it was impossible to display the original British Museum textile here in Chepstow, it has been reproduced by digitally printing onto fabric.

The British Museum textile and the lining of the *banyan*, were probably made in the same workshop and at about the same time. They both have the same brown background colour, the strips of cloth are of similar width, and the same scenes are shown.

The textiles probably date from around 1680 and are associated with the worship of Krishna. They are decorated with the same scenes from Krishna's life that also feature in plays and dance dramas performed to music and with elaborate masks that are distinctive to the region. The exhibition also includes some spectacular masks made in a monastery in Assam where the dramas are enacted at a festival in late October. The monastery is one of a number on the island of Majuli in the Brahmaputra river. Some spectacular films made on the island during the festival will also be part of the exhibition, the release added.

The British Museum Vrindavani Vastra textile travelled from Assam to a Buddhist monastery in Tibet, while the textile that was cut to make the lining of the *banyan* that stars in the exhibition, travelled a different route to the West. Combined with a subtle Chinese blue-green damask silk, the dressing gown was probably made in Calcutta for a European man who had made his fortune in India to wear in the West. New light has been shed on the possible identity of the owner, and how it came to be amongst a collection of 18th century costume in Monmouthshire.... This exhibition at Chepstow Museum explores the origins of these two amazing textiles and their intriguing history. The exhibition opens on Thursday April 13, coinciding not just with the start of Easter, but with the Assamese New Year Festival of Rongali Bihu.

Bibha Bezbara: a tribute



My beloved grandmother, Bibha Bezbara, left us very peacefully on Sunday, the 2nd of April in Pune. Aita was married to my Kaka, Late Nagenandranath Bezbara of Jorhat. They started their life together in Jaipur and moved to Lonavla later where they lived for more than 50 years.

Aita taught me some important lessons in life. She

always taught me to respect my elders and stay connected with everyone, especially family. She was the one who taught me how to speak Assamese. Aita was always beautifully dressed whenever she went out. Even when she was at home, she used to be in a lovely saree, put on perfume and wear her red lipstick. I remember the times she had taken care of me when I had high fever and she always used to be there

when my parents were out of town. Aita was known for her hospitality and loved having people over. Her home was a second home to so many Assamese people from Pune and Mumbai.

Aita used to call me 'majno' and 'my delicate darling'.

I used to always look forward

to hold me tightly to her chest.

Besides a host of grieving

family and friends, Aita has left

behind son Madhuri, daughters Ruma and Jhumma, daughter-in-law Indrani, sons-in-law Debojit Barua and Rajib Phukan along with six grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

Rest in peace Aita. We love you. We miss you terribly. I am sure you are in a happy place now with Kaka.

- Avantika

Kamala Sarma



Our mother Kamala Sarma breathed her last in the early hours on April 3. She was suffering from prolonged illness for quite some years and succumbed to her illness.

Born on July 29, 1941, she completed her matriculation from Kurukshetra Higher Secondary School, Dergaon. After her marriage, she accompanied our father to Kohima,

and was especially invited by various religious organisations. She was the secretary of Mahila Samiti of Garigaon Naamghar, Bongaigaon, Golaghat for some years and was instrumental in taking active part during various activities of the naamghar. Besides her role in the society, she also had a diploma in Homoeopathy and a large number of people came to her for treatment.

She was a pious lady, a caring mother and was loved by all in

167-year-old Charakbanidham Kali Mandir losing its glory

AMBUL NATH SHARMA

GAURIPUR, April 11: The historic Charakbanidham Kali Mandir established in the year 1850 on more than ten bighas of land by the then Zamindar Pratap Chandra Barua of Gauripur Royal Estate is the oldest Kali Mandir in the entire Gauripur area. Due to abolition of Zamindari Estate in 1957 and division of the Zamindar family, the temple has presently lost its glory.

Originally Charak puja was performed in a field at ward No 2 of the town and thereafter its venue was shifted to hospital area of the Gauripur town and it was again shifted to the present site at Charakbanidham in ward No 1.

After the death of Pratap Chandra Barua, his adopted son Prabhat Chandra Barua was looking after the daily puja rituals of the temple and Charak puja was held on the last day of the month of Chaitra with pomp and gaiety. Thousands and thousands of devotees as

sembled in the Charakbanidham field and witnessed the terrifying games played by the Charakiyas.

Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua was the architect of the Gauripur town and during his reign, Gauripur flourished as one of the best residential areas of the undivided district of Goalpara.

Today the temple lacks infrastructure facilities. The Assamese type temple needs renovation as it is too congested to accommodate the devotees and the Charakiyas. There is an urgent need of a 'Bhog ghar' and a hall with all modern facilities for proper display of the games. The devotees of the entire area have urged the Government to popularise the traditional culture of the Charakiyas. The five-day programme includes *adhishobh*, *dhopabhi khela*, *Katabhoga*, *Chandi* dance and the main Charak puja. During the peri-

od, the Charakiyas play a number of dangerous and terrifying games like standing in the burning fire, chewing of tube lights, piercing of the tongue by iron sticks, cycling by a charakiya hanging on the top of a simolu tree post by piercing the skin of his back with a fish hook and so on. Thousands and thousands of people coming from adjoining areas throng the Dham field and witness the games played on the occasion. A big mela is also organised.

The age-old temple lacks infrastructural facilities. The Assamese type temple needs renovation as it is too congested to accommodate the devotees and the Charakiyas. There is an urgent need of a 'Bhog ghar' and a hall with all modern facilities for proper display of the games. The devotees of the entire area have urged the Government to popularise the traditional culture of the Charakiyas. The five-day programme includes *adhishobh*, *dhopabhi khela*, *Katabhoga*, *Chandi* dance and the main Charak puja. During the peri-

'River linking only solution to protracted flood problem in State'

CORRESPONDENT

BARPETA, April 11: The linking of rivers is the only solution to the protracted flood problem in Assam and the BJP-led Central government is seriously working on this issue, said Dr Sudin Jadav, national secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party at a press conference here this morning.

The erstwhile NDA government, led by Prime Minister Atal Behari Bajpayee, had ideated the river linking project, but the subsequent UPA government shelved it, she said and alleged that even

a suggestion of the honourable President APJ Abdul Kalam to this effect was not attended to by the Dr Manmohan Singh government.

Referring to the overwhelming victory of the party in the recently held UP elections, Jadav said the voters in UP rejected politics based on religion, caste, dynasty and appeasement and voted in favour of development of all. She asserted that her party believes in development of all and appeasement of none.

Lauding the able and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP national secretary said the gov-

ernment is committed not only to Vikash and Digitisation, but also to finding solutions to all issues. She also briefed on the development and welfare programmes of the Central government.

It may be mentioned here that as per the directive of party president Amit Shah to its national executive members and Members of Parliament to visit the places facing problems on the spot assessment, Dr Jadav has arrived here on Monday. She had discussions at 4 pm on that day with the district executive members and certain representatives of Barpeta, Nalbari, Bongaigaon and Bajali.



A rally being taken out on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti in Dhemu on Tuesday. — UB Photos

Hailstorm hits Barak tea industry

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, April 11: The tea industry in Barak Valley, particularly in Hailakandi district, has been very badly hit in the recent hailstorm. Damage has been reported in all the tea growing districts of the valley, said Sorodinu Bhattacharjee, secretary of the Barak Valley branch of the Tea Association of India (TAI) in a press release here.

Widespread damage has been reported in some major gardens, such as Roopacherra TE,

Manik Nagar TE, Borojilingah, Pollorbond, Rangpur, Blubandhar, Bickrampur, etc. Hailstorm has caused widespread damages to the plantations of Roopacherra TE in Hailakandi district and Manik Nagar TE in Karimganj district, as most of the mature and young tea bushes have been severely damaged. Extensive damages of labour houses have also been reported in Roopacherra TE.

The valley produced 50 million kg of tea in 2016.

The extent of damage has prompted this TAI to urge the administration to approach the State government to declare this hail damage as a "natural calamity" in garden areas so that some succour is received by the Barak Valley tea industry.

bound to retard the prospect of early flush and dent the overall production this year.

The tea industry in Barak Valley was looking forward to improved production in the year 2017.

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The extent of damage has prompted this TAI to urge the administration to approach the State government to declare this hail damage as a "natural calamity" in garden areas so that some succour is received by the Barak Valley tea industry.

Bihu workshop at Phulaguri

CORRESPONDENT

RAHA, April 11: In an endeavour to promote and preserve Assamese culture and traditions, a 15-day-long Bihu dance workshop was organised at Phulaguri in Raha.

Organised by Phulaguri Anchalik Rongali Bihu Utsav Udayajan Samiti, the workshop dealt with the intricacies of the traditional Bihu dance. This was the fourth edition of the training camp which ended on Sunday.

Altogether 210 participants from various parts of Phulaguri area participated in the camp. Participants were taught hand and body movements at the workshop.

Kongona Konwar, a senior Bihu dancer, trained the participants in the workshop. "The Bihu dance is getting popular by the day. Even young girls have started queuing for the Bihu workshops," the Bihu dance expert added.

"This kind of workshops and programmes help the young generation to remain rooted to their culture," said Masheswar Goswami, a senior citizen and president of the 41st Phulaguri Anchalik Rongali Bihu Udayajan Samiti. The workshop has attracted even the common people of the area.

Grand Opening of 5th BAUKHUNGR FESTIVAL, 2017

Inauguration by
SRI HAGRAMA MOHILARY
Hon'ble Chief of BTC
on
12th April , 2017
at Harinaguri, Kokrajhar
In presence of
SRI KAMPA BORGOWARI
Hon'ble Deputy Chief of BTC
I/c. Tourism Deptt., BTC



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

12-04-2017	8:00 A.M. : Inauguration of 5 th Baukhungi Festival, 2017
	8:30 A.M. : Hoisting of Flag of 5 th Baukhungi Festival, 2017
	9:00 A.M. : Opening of Ethnic Food Stalls
	9:30 A.M. : Opening of Indigenous Games (Khomlaintai, Gila Gelenai, Batha Gelenai etc.)
	10:00 A.M. : Opening of Cultural Programme
13-04-2017	8:00 A.M. : Flag off Hill Trekking Competition
	10:00 A.M. : Cultural Programme, Indigenous Games continues
	10:30 A.M. : Demonstration of Boxing and Archery
	11:00 A.M. : Ceremonial distribution of cash award / Incentive to the Meritorious Students
14-04-2017	10:00 A.M. : Cultural programme and Indigenous Games continues
	1:00 P.M. : Prize distribution and Closing Ceremony

All are cordially invited to come and enjoy the festival

Information and Public Relations, BTC
Kokrajhar



PARK AVENUE

Happy Rongali Bihu



GUWAHATI Fancy Bazar TEZPUR New Amolia Patty Road JORHAT Opp. Prince of Wales Institute SILCHAR Goldighi Municipal Market SHILLONG Police Bazar AGARTALA Akhura Road, Old, RMS Chowmuhani

Shop in Shop 

G S Road, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Naharlagun.

MULTI BRAND OUTLETS: GUWAHATI : Fancy Bazar Beach Fashion, Goenka Readymade, Samrat, Sanskar, Topsens, Warewell Gallery Beltole Wraps, Mega Brand Bongaigaon Milan Tezpur Kaydees, New Pariwar Shopping Center Dibrugarh Mohini's Tinsukia Vandana, Empire Collection, Panwar Dhemaji Dhong Dhubri Prasad Dresses Silapathar Harsh Shillong Infashion, Uncle's Shop, Mohini Store Itanagar Urban Tribe Kohima Gravity Imphal The Icon, Muskaan Alzwal Siamtha Marketing Dharmnagar Bherudan Bhanwarlal Parakh

Manipur Govt-JACAATB talks held

IMPHAL, April 11: The second round of talk between Manipur Government and Churachandpur-based Joint Action Committee Against Anti-Tribal Bills (JACAATB) was held at CM Secretariat here on Monday.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh and his Council of Ministers, Chief Secretary O Nabajhanta, DGP LM Khatai, DC Churachandpur R Sudan represented the government while a 14-member team of the JAC was led by its Chief Convenor Manoharkhupam at the talks. — Correspondent



Please check show timings, language & format-2D/3D from the respective cinema halls.

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At 12.00 & 4.30 pm
NAAM SHABANA (Hindi)

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AIS 4.30 pm

FAST AND FURIOUS 3D(HUA)
AIS 1.30 pm

BAHUBALI THE BEGINNING(HUA)
AIS 1.30 pm

NAAM SHABANA (Hindi) U/A

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AIS 4.30 pm & 7.30 pm

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NAAM SHABANA (Hindi)

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At 12.00 & 3.30 pm

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(2nd Week)

NAAM SHABANA (Hindi)

Stg Taapsee Pannu, Akshay Kumar

Nagaland to implement 7th pay panel award for Govt employees

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, April 11: Nagaland Government today announced the implementation of Seventh Pay Commission for State Government employees.

According to a notification issued by Finance department, the pay and pension of the employees shall be revised corresponding to the recommendations of Seventh Central Pay Commission.

The revision of pay and pension shall come into effect from June 1 for the purpose of notional pay fixation in the revised

pay structure, and for the fixation of monthly pension in respect of the employees retiring from service on or after June 1.

However, actual payments on the basis of revised pay structure will be effective only from January 1, 2018. Accordingly, no arrears of salary or pension will be payable for the period prior to January 1, 2018, the notification said.

Except for pay and pension of employees under the New Pension Scheme, the increased salary on account of revision of pay will be imputed to the GPF accounts of the em-

ployees till February 28, 2020.

The notification also said, a Pay (Fittment) Committee will be appointed by the State Government to examine the matter relating to revision of pay/pensions of employees and recommend fitment of their pay scales/penins vis-a-vis Seventh Central Pay Commission recommendations. Subsequently, a detailed notification for revision of pay/pension will be issued after acceptance of the recommendations of Pay (Fittment) Committee by the State Government.

It said after notional fixa-

tion of revised pay on June 1, 2017, a government servant will be entitled to annual increment (notional) December 1, 2017 subject to the condition that he/she has completed service of not less than six months on that date in the revised pay structure.

The revised pay/pension will be applicable to all categories of work-clad employees, persons paid on contingencies, persons employed on contract, except where the contract provides otherwise and persons re-employed in government service after retirement.

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Mrigre 'witchcraft' victims' family seek re-investigation

BIPLAB KR DEY

victims practicing witchcraft.

In a written complaint submitted to SP and DC of WGH last week, the family members questioned the investigation done by Rongram police.

"We were surprised to see a copy of the statement that I gave to the police which stated that I had stated that my mother practised witchcraft and also that I was not present during the time of their murder. I am a witness to the murders and the statement was not even given by a statement to the police," said the daughter of Halen and Bala T Sangma.

The surviving members of the family have been constantly living in fear in the village where their parents were murdered and even had their property confiscated for a year by one of the villagers. It was only after threat of a police complaint that it was returned.

Police later arrested four persons including the Nokma of the village Lind B Marak, Robson P Marak, Chendal T Sangma and Seminal B Marak. They were later released on bail. Others, however, who had confessed of their role in the murders were not arrested.

A magisterial inquiry by the WGH administration had pointed fingers at the role of the villagers, besides rubbishing claims by villagers of the

5 Bangladeshi youths arrested in Tripura

AGARTALA, April 11: Five Bangladeshi youths have been arrested from Jorhatengnagar railway station here for travelling without valid documents, police said today.

Acting on a tip-off, the Mobile Task Force (MTF) of Tripura police yesterday arrested the five Bangladeshis from the railway station. The arrested youths had come from Chittagong in Bangladesh. They entered through Sonamura, a sub-divisional town, bordering Comilla district of Bangladesh, Police said.

During preliminary interrogation, the arrested youths disclosed that they were on their way to Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh to study in a Madrasa there. Further investigation is on, the SP added. — PTI

WEATHER NORTH EAST

SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY PARKS OF INDIA
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India

Forecast for NE: Light to moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur in a few places over Meghalaya and Assam. Rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura on April 13 and 15.

Temperatures
Max (°C) Min (°C)
Dibrugarh 30.3 19.0
Tezpur 32.2 21.0
Silchar 33.6 21.5
Dhaka 34.2 19.0
Jorhat 30.5 19.7
Shillong 25.2 11.0
Imphal 30.2 16.3
Itanagar 32.8 19.0
Tawang 29.4 27.7
Aizawl 24.5 25.3
Pasighat 26.5 18.3
Cherrapunji 23.7 14.5

Interested vendors/companies/bidders are requested to submit their sealed offer on or before

03.05.2017 upto 14:00 Hrs and received bids will

be open on the same day at 15:00 Hrs. The tender documents can be downloaded from

www.guwahati.stpi.in or www.eprocure.gov.in

and can also be collected from STPI offices in North East between 11:00 Hrs to 17:00 Hrs from

11.04.2017 to 02.05.2017 on all working days.

DIRECTOR
STPI-AIZAWL/TI

Near L.G.B.I Airport, Borjhar,
Guwahati-781015

BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

GOVT. OF INDIA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

(NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

NIT NO. SWTKNIT-55/2016-17

1. Chief Engineer Project Swastik C/o 99 APO invites tender (online) from the eligible contractors for the following works:-

Particulars of work	Cost/Time of work	Details of tender documents
SUPPLY AND STACKING OF STONE AGGREGATES OF VARIOUS SIZES AND TYPES AT WORK SITE BETWEEN KM 49.00 & KM 68.00 FOR GSB AND SAND BLANKETING WORKS, SUPPLY AND STACKING OF STONE AGGREGATES OF VARIOUS SIZES AND TYPES AT WORK SITE BETWEEN KM 49.00 & KM 68.00 FOR GSB AND SAND BLANKETING WORKS ON ROAD DEMODIM ALGARAN	(a) Cost : Rs. 397.00 Lac (b) Period of Completion : 180 days (c) Earnest Money : Rs. 4,72,000.00	(a) Cost of Availability : On or after 15 April 2017 (b) Date of Submission : From 10 April 2017 to 1200 Hrs to 26 April 2017 up to 1200 Hrs
RISHI BETWEEN KM 49.00 AND KM 54.00 UNDER THE PROJECT ALGARAN IN THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL (UOB NO. 310/273)	(d) Date of Submission : From 10 April 2017 to 1200 Hrs to 26 April 2017 up to 1200 Hrs	
Case File No: SWTKNIT-55/R2E9		
Note:- Full notice of tender, any change in above details, tender document (including eligibility criteria) and other details may be obtained from Central Public Procurement Portal (www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app). Bids shall be submitted online only at CPPP website: https://www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app . For any queries, please contact on telephone 03992-259209, 03992-259210, Fax: 03992-259210.		

davp 37102/11/0004/1718

CAPSULE**Mercedes Benz**

NEW DELHI, April 11: German luxury car-maker Mercedes-Benz today reported its best ever quarterly sales in India at 3,650 units, although just a marginal increase from the year-ago period. The sales growth in January-March period this calendar year has been driven by the E-Class sedan and SUV portfolio added by GLC, Mercedes-Benz India said. - PTI

Brabo robots

MUMBAI, April 11: TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a subsidiary of TAL Motors, today launched TAL Brabo Robots in two variants priced between Rs 5 and 7 lakh. The indigenously developed TAL Brabo robots, with payloads of 2 kilos and 10 kilos, are aimed at catering to small and medium enterprises as well as the large-scale manufacturers who require cost competitive automated solutions in manufacturing, the company said. - PTI

NABARD plan

MUMBAI, April 11: NABARD is planning a toray of measures to facilitate finance for the homes built under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (PMAY). It is targeting to disburse up to Rs 10,000 crore under this in the current financial year, a senior NABARD official said. - PTI

Gionee A1 orders

NEW DELHI, April 11: Chinese smartphone maker Gionee has claimed it has received 74,682 pre-orders worth Rs 150 crore for its flagship A1 device in just 10 days. The pre-booking opened for Gionee A1 from March 31 to April 10. The customers were offered a two-year warranty on the phone along with gifts such as JBL headphones or a Swiss military bluetooth speaker. - IANS

LIC Mds

MUMBAI, April 11: Both the new Managing Directors of LIC – B Venugopal and Sunita Sharma, whose appointments were cleared by government yesterday, assumed charge today. Both the MDs will have tenure of nearly two years and will be superannuated in 2019. Venugopal will retire on May 31, 2019 while Sharma will be retiring on March 31 in 2019. - PTI

Dakin target

NEW DELHI, April 11: Japanese air-conditioner maker Dakin is aiming to cross Rs 5,000-crore sales mark here in next two years as it expects a bigger share in the energy-conserving inverter AC segment. Dakin expects expansion in real estate, technological innovations, and stricter eco-friendly norms to drive its growth. - PTI

Volo Auto

NEW DELHI, April 11: Volo Auto will take price of its products across model range by up to Re 2.5 lakh citing rise in input costs. "All the models would undergo an upward revision in the ex-showroom prices by up to 2.5 per cent," the company said in a statement. - PTI

Berger pact

NEW DELHI, April 11: Berger Paints today entered into a pact with Japanese firm Chukuo Marine Paints for collaboration in marine and related paints in India. The two companies have signed an MoU envisaging joint venture, marketing, supplying, and purchasing marine-related industrial paints. Berger Paints said in a BSE filing. - PTI

Micromax

NEW DELHI, April 11: Electronics major Micromax expects its consumer durables vertical to contribute 25 per cent of total revenue in three years and has roped in Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor as its brand ambassador. "Consumer electronics currently contributes about 10 per cent of our revenue and we expect the consumer durables vertical to contribute up to 25 per cent of its revenues by the end of 2019," Micromax said in a statement. - PTI

Hospitality sector body 'exploring' legal remedies

NEW DELHI, April 11: Hospitality sector body FHRAI today said it is exploring legal remedies against the Supreme Court order that had banned sale of liquor near national and State highways as over 1 lakh establishments have been hit.

Stating that over 1 million jobs are at stake, the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Operators of India (FHRAI) said the ban would also result in loss of Rs 2 lakh crore to the exchequer.

"Rs 2,00,000 crore loss to the exchequer and closure of

more than 1 lakh establishments is not a small thing," FHRAI Vice-President Dilip C Datwani said in a statement.

Stating that the ban would not serve the intended purpose, he said, "We would not have minded being sacrificed if the ban were to yield results, but reality is that all the job losses and other damages would be wasted. The object sought was not achieved."

The apex court had ordered a ban on sale of liquor at establishments which fall within 500

metres range of State and national highways.

Datwani said the judgement may "in spirit" be good but it did not holistically look at other related issues. "Statistics prove

Highways liquor ban

that there is a correlation between drunk driving and enforcement, but not between drunk driving and existence of hotels or restaurants," he added.

No country has ever banned

hotels and restaurants to curb drunk driving, he said.

The Supreme Court verdict had come on a PIL claiming that nearly 1.42 lakh people died every year in road mishaps and that the drunk driving was a major contributor.

FHRAI Vice-President Garish Oberoi said the order will negatively affect the entire MICE industry, including weddings, corporate events.

Hitting out at the apex court order, FHRAI Vice-President TS Walia said, "There has been

an unprecedented blanket ban on all national highways across the country without seeing the practical aspect of the topology and terrain of the cities."

He further said it had affected hotels and restaurants, which have "invested crores of rupees towards the development of the tourism industry in the country."

Founded in 1955, FHRAI

is the apex body of the Indian hospitality industry and represents nearly 4,000 members, including hotels, restaurants and source told PTI.

Fastest network ad
Airtel appeals to ASCI for review of order

NEW DELHI, April 11: Telecom major Bharti Airtel today filed an appeal before ASCI seeking review of the watchdog's decision that sought modification or withdrawal of the company's "fastest network" advertisement campaign.

Airtel has filed an appeal before ASCI today for the review of decision with additional material to support the company's advertisement campaign. The company will abide by all guidelines," a company

source told PTI.

Bharti Airtel has come out with a television commercial (TVC) claiming to be India's fastest network based on Ookla's findings. Its rival Reliance Jio had contested the claim and moved the ASCI against the commercial.

The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) found the ad claiming Airtel to be "officially" fastest network as misleading and asked the company to modify or withdraw the commercial by April 11.

Similarly by paying Rs 509, Jio Prime subscribers would be able to avail 2GB of 4G data per day for the next 84 days. Both the offers come with unlimited domestic calling.

The offer, named as Dhan Dhan Dhan, is "limited to one recharge only and not available along with Jio Summer Surprise offer," according to the information on Jio's website.

Bharti Airtel rejected the findings of the Fast Track Complaints Committee (FTCC) of ASCI saying, "We do not agree with ASCI's decision and will file an appeal as per guidelines."

Airtel said that its campaign is based on findings by Ookla – the globally recognised leader

FIEO to engage with NE traders to promote exports

NEW DELHI, April 11: Apex exporters' body FIEO will spread awareness among traders in the North-east about various outward shipment schemes being run by the government and also organise workshops to address their issues.

The seven States of the region hold great potential for exports, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said. "We will increase awareness among the exporters of that region about the government's export promotion schemes. We will also conduct workshops to resolve their issues," new FIEO President Ganesh Gupta told PTI.

FIEO has been made the main trade promotion agency of this region by the Department of Commerce, he said.

The North-Eastern States including Assam, Manipur, and Meghalaya have direct access to the South-east Asian region and from there we can promote our exports," he added.

Products which can be exported from the region include horticulture, paper, textiles, handicraft items and agricultural goods.

Talking about the overall exports of the country, Gupta said shipments are recording healthy growth since September last year and going by this trend, the exports figure may

touch about \$270 billion. During the April-February 2016-17, exports have grown by 2.52 per cent to \$245.4 billion.

Gupta said that demand in certain developed economies such as the US is gradually picking up and it would help in further boosting the country's shipments.

When asked about the impact of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on exports, he said the members are ready for implementation of the new indirect tax regime. "It will make movement of goods hassle-free in the country. It would help in cutting transactions costs and boost exports," he added. - PTI



Union Minister for Railways Suresh Prabhu launching Digital Contracting at the conference on 'Digitisation of railway supply chain - A leap forward in ease of doing business', organised by the Ministry of Railways in association with Assocham and Indian Railway Institute of Material Management (IRIMM), in New Delhi on Tuesday. - PIB

All tax data will be completely secure: GST Network to India Inc

NEW DELHI, April 11: GST Network – the firm which is building the IT backbone of the Goods and Services Tax regime – today assured stakeholders that all their data will be stored in an encrypted form and only the taxpayer and the assessing officer will have access to the information.

Assuaging concerns of data theft, GSTN CEO Prakash Kumar said data will be stored with two layers of security.

Addressing a PHD Chamber event here, Kumar assured the industry that GSTN is applying the "best available security systems for data".

"Only two people can have access – taxpayer himself or his tax officer who is responsible for that. So all role based taxes, others cannot see."

"We are applying best available security systems for data, whether it is movement or in storage," he said.

GSTN, Kumar said, will provide training of 60,000 Central and State officers by mid-May to prepare them for the new IT backbone for GST.

He added that 75.28 per cent of the existing VAT assesses have already migrated to the GST portal, while 31.5 per cent of service tax assesses have enrolled so far.

As many as 56.5 lakh out of an estimated 80 lakh excise, service tax and VAT assesses

have migrated to the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) portal so far.

The portal is all geared up to handle about 300 crore voices per month which will be generated under the GST regime.

GSTN has been set up primarily to provide IT infrastructure and services to Central and State governments, taxpayers and other stakeholders for implementation of the GST.

However, BJP MP Subramanian Swamy has on multiple occasions raised concerns over GSTN's shareholding pattern, and said it might compromise data security. - PTI

prime importance because in-voce, the item cost is also included. We are cognisant of the fact that if your competitor comes to know of it, it will be a big setback for you.

"So all the information which will come to us, it is always in encrypted mode and the best possible security systems we have provided from the perimeter to inside," Kumar said.

He said the database administrator has been designed in a way that no outsider can see the data.

"Only two people can have access – taxpayer himself or his tax officer who is responsible for that. So all role based taxes, others cannot see."

We are applying best available security systems for data, whether it is movement or in storage," he said.

Preferring the firm should be empanelled or worked with regulatory bodies like CBI, SEBI, SFIO, EOW of State Police, etc., IAD said in a public notice.

As part of the forensic audit, shortlisted chartered accountants will have to look at debt analysis, credit appraisal, documentary analysis in foreign trade, foreign trade finance mechanism and SWIFT (remittance) tracking tools.

It is to be noted that a forensic audit was ordered into the alleged irregularities in outward foreign remittances to the tune of about Rs 6,000 crore from a Bank of Baroda branch.

Besides, such firms are required to employ email cracking tools, voice interpreter,

mobile call interpreter, big data analysing tools and lie detecting machine.

Preferably the firm should be empanelled or worked with regulatory bodies like CBI, SEBI, SFIO, EOW of State Police, etc., IAD said in a public notice.

Indian Banks Association (IBA) invites applications from eligible chartered accountant firms for empanelment to take up assignments relating to forensic audit of frauds up to Rs 50 crore and frauds above Rs 50 crore in the banking industry, it said. "The last date for receipt of applications at IAD is April 25," it added.

According to a senior bank official, the move will help banks form a panel of auditors to give them a clue for recovering bad loans. "Since the fraud cases involve the entire

spectrum, including foreign banks, this was very much required," the official said.

It will also help consortiums as lenders can jointly appoint an auditor for particular account, the official added.

As per the criteria, firms conducting forensic audit over Rs 50 crore should have an overall exposure in the area for 10 years.

The gross NPAs of public sector banks have risen to Rs 6.06 lakh crore in December 2016 from Rs 5.02 lakh crore at the end of March 2016.

Last week, the Reserve Bank had said even though there have been a few positives on the bad loans front, the current level of dual loan resolution is untenable as there has been a deterioration in the NPA situation, and promised new measures to tackle the pain. - PTI

IBA looking for forensic auditors to check bank frauds

NEW DELHI, April 11: Wrote over rising cases of fraud in the banking sector, Indian Banks' Association is looking for reputed CA firms to undertake forensic audit of banks with a view to recover money and curb such practices.

IBA (Independent Finance Association) invites applications from eligible chartered accountant firms for empanelment to take up assignments relating to forensic audit of frauds up to Rs 50 crore and frauds above Rs 50 crore in the banking industry, it said. "The last date for receipt of applications at IAD is April 25," it added.

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Passenger vehicle sales to grow 7-9% in FY18: SIAM

NEW DELHI, April 11: Domestic passenger vehicle sales are expected to grow by 7-9 per cent in 2017-18, with 7th Pay Commission payout and better rabi output likely to support growth, according to auto industry body SIAM.

However, increase in raw material costs and oil prices may negatively impact sales during the ongoing fiscal during which the number of new model launches will also remain low with cars likely to see more launches compared to utility vehicles, it added.

"We are seeing an improvement in the economic growth and also

consumer sentiment factors like lower borrowing costs, pent-up demand after demonetisation and a mild budgetary support to incomes will drive consumption growth in 2017-18," SIAM Deputy Director General Sugato Sen told reporters here.

On the passenger vehicles front, he said: "Overall, the segment is expected to grow by 7 per cent to 9 per cent."

The Pay Commission award and better rabi output will support growth in the new fiscal, he said.

Sen said demand will be back as additional production capacity

becomes operational to further help reduce waiting period for many of the popular models.

He, however, cautioned that cost of ownership is expected to rise by 4-6 per cent in 2017-18 for petrol and diesel cars as a result of increasing cost of raw material.

"Moreover, oil prices are also expected to remain higher which would contribute to the increasing cost of ownership and likely to negatively impact sales in 2017-18," he added.

Asks for the PV segment almost similar to 9.23 per cent achieved in

2016-17, SIAM Director General Vishnu Mathur said the increasing base has to be factored in as domestic sales of PVs have crossed three million units in 2016-17.

In the two-wheeler segment, SIAM said it expects motorcycle sales to grow moderately in 2017-18 with demand in economy and executive sub-segments likely to revive gradually once the cash situation improves.

"Majority of demand in these segments is from the rural areas," Sen said, adding that motorcycle segment was the worst hit due to demonetisation.

An expected good rabi crop output will further revive sentiment and boost contribution from the rural side, he added.

For scooters, sales are expected to continue to grow in double digits in 2017-18, Sen said.

"A steady trend of increase in the proportion of females in urban

areas joining the workforce has kept the urban workforce growth rate high, which is a big contributor to scooter sales," he explained.

Overall, while ease in borrowing cost, remonetisation and much improvement in general sentiment are positive

for 2017-18, Sen said. - PTI



Minister of State for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines (Independent Charge) Piyush Goyal inaugurating the 'Rural Feeder Monitoring Scheme', at a function, in New Delhi on Tuesday. - PIB

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders in plain paper affixing Court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and Paisa twenty five) only hereby invited from the intending Contractors /Suppliers/ Firms for Supply of Office Steel Rack 20 Nos. The tenders will be received by undersigned reach this office on or before 17/04/2017 and will be open on the same day at 1300 hrs. in presence of intending tenderers or their authorized representative.

Terms and Conditions

- All tenders must be submitted along with the following documents:
- The Tender must be in **intact** or **sealed**. Any correction in the tender should clearly bear your signature.
- At the tender must be accompanied by an amount of Rs. 3000.00 (Rupee Three thousand) only as earnest money in the form of Bank Draft/duly pledged in favour of the undersigned.
- The Tenderers should quote **inclusive** exclusive VAT and other charge if any.
- The tenderer must be in a position to complete the work within the stipulated time i.e 30 days from the issuing work order.
- The items used in the works should be good quality as per the specification and undersigned may reject any or all items if found inferior in quality. The contractor will have to replace the rejected materials within a week at his own cost.
- The tender accept lowest rates and reserves the right to reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
- The tenderer will have furnished up to date VAT/ PAN/TIN AGST Clearance certificate etc. along with their tenders.
- The articles construction etc. to be supplied should be best quality otherwise the same will be rejected and the contractor will have to replace at his own cost.

Sd/- Commandant
12th Assam Police Battalion
Jamugurhat, Sonitpur

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders in plain paper affixing Court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and Paisa twenty five) only hereby invited from the intending Contractors /Suppliers/ Firms for Supply of Fire Extinguishers. The tenders will be received by undersigned reach this office on 05/05/2017 and will be open on the same day at 1300 hrs. in presence of intending tenderers or their authorized representative.

Terms and Conditions

- All tenders must be submitted along with the following documents:
- The Tender must be written in **intact** or **sealed**. Any correction in the tender should invariably bear signature of the tenderer.
- All the tender must be accompanied by an amount of Rs. 3000.00 (Rupee three thousand) only as earnest money in the form of Bank Draft/duly pledged in favour of the undersigned.
- The Tenderers should quote **inclusive** exclusive VAT and other charge if any.
- The successful tenderer must be in a position to complete the work within the stipulated time i.e 30 days from the issuing work order.
- The items used in the works should be good quality as per the specification and undersigned may reject any or all items if found inferior in quality. The contractor will have to replace the rejected materials within a week at his own cost.
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- The articles construction etc. to be supplied should be best quality otherwise the same will be rejected and the contractor will have to replace at his own cost.

Sd/- Commandant
12th Assam Police Battalion
Jamugurhat, Sonitpur

ADMISSION NOTICE

FOOD CRAFT INSTITUTE, SAMAGURI NAGAON UNDERMINISTRY OF TOURISM AND DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM JOINTLY INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR ACADEMIC SESSION 2017-18 FROM ELIGIBLE PERSONS INTO 11TH YEARS DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES IN:-

COURSE	FEES
A) FOOD PRODUCTION	= 40,800/-
B) FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICE	= 36,000/-
C) HOTEL OPERATIONS	= 36,000/-
D) HOUSEKEEPING	= 36,000/-
E) BAKERY & CONFECTIONERY	= 40,800/-

CANDIDATES WHO HAVE PASSED 10+2 IN ANY STREAM ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS COURSE. CANDIDATES WHO ARE INTERESTED FOR THIS COURSE SHOULD APPLY 22 YEARS AS ON 1ST JULY'2017. (25 YEARS FOR S.C./S.T.)

- * Seats available are available for both Girls and Boys within the campus @ Rs 2000/- per month.
- * State of the art infrastructure.
- * Experienced in-house faculty
- * 20% discount on course fee for BPL student coming from families with annual income less than Rs. 1.00.lakhs

Job opportunities for hospitality sector:-

- * National and International Star Hotel, Restaurants & Fast Food Outlets.
- * Catering Services in Cruise Liners and Shipping.
- * Self Employment through Entrepreneurship.
- * Flight Kitchen Catering.
- * Railway Hospitality and Catering Services.
- * Hospital Catering.
- * Guest/Customer Relation Executive in Hotels & Corporate Sector.

Previous placement records:-

Cidade De Goa, Marriot Hotels, Assam Gas Cracker, Le Meridien, Hotel Sagar, Hotel ITC Fortune, Gujarat, Lords Ecolab, Pobitora, Guri, The Taj Group of Hotels, Pratima Group of Hotels, Prahlada, Hotel Mandovi, Goa etc.
100% Job Assistance on successful completion of training.

Spot admission is going on & session commences by 17th July'2017
Forms may be downloaded from website www.foodcraftinstituteassam.in
Forms can also be taken from Food Craft Institute, Ranagora, Sarragon, Nagaon - 782140, email id - fci@nagao@gmail.com. Contact No - 8472847144, 9854106591 & 9864898844

Sd/- Principal, Food Craft Institute
Samaguri, Nagaon

ADMISSION NOTICE

ADMISSION INTO 1ST SEMESTER CLASS OF MCA COURSE 2017 OF ASSAM ENGINEERING COLLEGE, GUWAHATI AND JORHAT ENGINEERING COLLEGE

Eligible Degree holders interested to take admission in MCA Course for the session 2017-18 at Assam Engineering College, Guwahati and Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat may apply online at www.dteassam.in during the period 25th April 2017 to 25th May 2017.

For those not availing the downloaded Application Form duly signed by the Candidate along with a Bank Draft of Rs.1000/- drawn in favour of The Director, Technical Education, Assam payable at State Bank of India, Kaliyatra may be sent through Speed Post to reach this Directorate on or before 30th May 2017.

Admit Cards/Hall Tickets may be downloaded from the website by putting the Application Number and Date of Birth of Person from 10th June 2017.

Eligibility for appearing the Joint MCA Entrance Examination:

- Age between 20 years to 26 years on 1st day of July 2017
- Recognized Bachelor's Degree of Minimum 3 years duration with Mathematics at 10+2 level or Minimum of 10+2 level or at Graduation.
- At least 50% marks must be scored in the Qualifying Degree Examination (45% in case of candidate belonging to reserved category).

Candidates appearing in their final examination may also apply. Provisional admission shall be permitted provided that the student gives an assurance that he/she shall be able to provide final mark sheet/certificate of qualifying examination within 2 months of taking admission failing which the admission of the student shall automatically stand cancelled. Candidates seeking admission shall have to clear all subjects upto 5th semester in degree level. These students will have to produce all mark sheets up to 5th semester for verification during Counseling.

Mode of Selection

- There will be Joint Admission Examination for Selection consisting of a Single Paper of 3 hours duration, which will consist of following Sections:

- Mathematics : 30 Questions
- Reasoning : 30 Questions
- English : 20 Questions
- Fundamentals of Computing : 20 Questions

- Questions will be MCQ type. Every Question will carry 4 (four) mark each. 4 (four) marks will be awarded for correct answer and 1 (one) mark will be deducted for every wrong answer.

The Joint Admission Examination will be held on 25th June 2017 (Sunday).

Sd/- Director, Technical Education, Assam
Janasanayog/318/17

Women organisations condemn online abuse of rights activist, lawyer

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 11: The recent incident of issue of threat to a rights activist on Facebook has set alarm bells ringing for citizens here. Coming out against the growing intolerance on the social media, a number of organisations and individuals have vehemently condemned the online abuse and threat messages issued to human rights activist Bondu Acharya and advocate Nandita Talukdar.

The messages threatening the due consequences, including murder, rape and acid attack, were posted on Facebook by some individuals after both Acharya and Talukdar voiced their opinion against the arrest of three persons for consumption of beef in Jorhat.

All India Democratic Women's Association, Sisira Sarothi, Asom Mahila Sangha, Asom Mahila Samata Society, Chetana Pravasi Chitr Nari Manch, Dibrugarh Foundation for Social Transformation and North East Network have strongly condemned the incident, terming it as an attack on the freedom of speech, and also a criminal offence against women.

"It is criminal to use sexual and other forms of violence as a tool to suppress the democratic voices of women. We are concerned about the growing intolerance against vocal women and also different forms of violence against women in Assam. Such action is targeted at not only

the two women, but also the entire community of women who have a right to a life of freedom and dignity," a statement jointly issued by the organisations said.

"We strongly condemn the violation of a woman's dignity and threat to her bodily integrity. These growing online abuses are criminal in nature and they violate women's rights guaranteed through the Constitution and laws of India," the organisations added.

While urging the State authorities to take action against those indulging in the online abuse, the organisations and social activists Banamaliika Choudhury and Keteki Baral called upon the civil society and citizens to raise their voice and oppose such acts of abuse against women.

NGO to help patients in treatment outside NE



The Dalai Lama being greeted by the Kamrup Metro DC and ADC at the LGBI Airport prior to his departure, in Guwahati on Tuesday. - AT photo

Public relations society conclave held

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 11: The Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Guwahati Chapter, organised its annual North East Relations Conclave 2017 at NEDFI House here recently.

Ravi Kapoor, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Govt of Assam, who was the chief guest of the event, stressed the need for branding of the North East.

The conclave was attended by dignitaries and speakers having expertise on multi-faceted subjects. They were Father VM Thomas, academician-writer Arup Kumar Dutta, Public Relations consultant Rita Bhattacharjee, Machudhanya Adhikari, chairperson of PRSI, Guwahati Chapter, said that branding of a State is necessary for its progress and the present Government is doing a lot as part of the Act East Policy.

Father VM Thomas from the Don Bosco Group of Institutions, in his keynote address, referred to the North East's

the branding exercise and come up with a concrete plan for the North East.

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"Branding of our nation began practically about two years back with 'Make India' to brand India as a manufacturing hub. In the case of the North East, we still have a long way to go. There is a lot in the region that can be branded, and we need to do it as a team exercise," he said.

Father VM Thomas from the Don Bosco Group of Institutions, in his keynote address, referred to the North East's

resources and said that it could attract a lot of stakeholders to the region. "It is in the hands of the youth and people of the North East to make themselves ready for the push and brand the region as it should be."

In her welcome address, Machudhanya Adhikari, chairperson of PRSI, Guwahati Chapter, said that branding of a State is necessary for its progress and the present Government is doing a lot as part of the Act East Policy.

Dr Abijit Bora, professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University, KJ Hilary, Managing Director of Assam Tourism Development Corporation, innovator Uddhab Bharali, actress Jaya Seal and others.

Advocating collaboration for regional cinema in the subcontinent, he said that the film promotion corporation of Sri Lanka and regional film corporations of India should have regular dialogues and a platform for promoting each other's films.

"I am deeply inspired by Jahnabi Baruah's 'The Catastrophic (Halodihya) Chorayge Baadhan Khay', which changed my perception of filmmaking. Filmmakers like Satyajit Ray and Aparna Gopalakrishnan among others are the people I look up to," he said.

"Any artiste or creative person has a responsibility towards the society to flush the reality, the far-reaching consequences of what is happening in the society, through his works. This, of course, has to be done with simplicity," he added, giving the example of Dr Bhupen Hazarika's ability to connect with the masses. "Simplicity is the most difficult thing in art. How you say the most profound things in the simplest manner, determines your popularity," he pointed out.

Supporting proper ratings and classification system for categorising films, he said that banning films was not a solution for viewers of the future of cinema.

"We just have to find out new means of communicating with our audience and technology can be great help in that.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM FLOOD AND RIVER EROSION MANAGEMENT AGENCY OF ASSAM (FREMAA)

Application are invited from eligible Indian citizens for engagement on contractual basis for the following post in Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) as may be seen below.

SL.	Post	Qualification	Exp.	Remuneration
1	Field Supervisor	Post Graduate in any discipline	03 years of relevant field experience	Rs. 20,000/- per month TADA and other allowances admissible as per FREMAA norms

The detailed advertisement may be downloaded from www.fremaaassam.gov.in.

Sd/- CEO-FREMAA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Under the provision of the Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rule 32 (I) and 33 (I) of 2013, sealed tender affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Paisa Twenty Five) only is hereby invited from the intending tenderers for sale of following Mining Permit Area is hereby fixed on 04/05/2017 upto 3 P.M. (IST) at the Office of the undersigned. The application for Sale Form can be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours in any working day on payment of Rs. 100.00 (Rupees One Hundred) only, which is not refundable. The working period will be 2 (Two) years.

Sl.No.	Name of the MPA	Earnest money	Stipulated Quantity
01	DBR/Khawangpa	Rs 1,20,000.00	7,000 m ² Sand 5,000 m ² O/Clay

Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Dibrugarh Division.

NOTICE

Applications are invited for one post of Junior Research Fellow to work in the Department of Chemistry, Cotton College under the Research Project "Isolation and Characterization of potent antifertility compounds obtained from a few folklore medicinal plants of North East India" funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Duration of the project : Up to three years.

Minimum qualifications: M.Sc. in Chemistry/Biotechnology or equivalent. NET/GATE qualified candidates will be preferred. Candidates should have good knowledge in Computer.

Fellowship :

For NET/GATE qualified candidates: Rs. 25,000/- pm for the first two years and Rs. 28,000/- pm for the third year plus 20% HRA.

For candidates without NET/GATE: Rs. 12,000/- pm for the first two years and Rs. 14,000/- pm for the third year plus 20% HRA.

Applications along with all necessary documents and contact numbers should reach the Head, Department of Chemistry, Cotton College, Guwahati 781001, Assam on or before April 25, 2017.

Sd/- Principal
Cotton College
Guwahati 781001



Sri Lankan filmmaker Prasanna Vithanage at Guwahati Press Club on Tuesday. - AT photo

INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-Tender are invited online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from the intending manufacturer/Accredited Dealers for supply and installation of dental equipments/instruments for use in the Medical College/Hospitals of Assam, under the Health & FW Department, Govt. of Assam. e-Tender in two Bid System affixing Court Fee Stamp Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight point two paisa) only (for local Tenders) or Rs. 16.50 (Rupees sixteen point five paisa) only (in case of Tenders from outside of the state of Assam) in favour of Director of Medical Education, Assam, Srimile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

Important dates of the e-Tender

Sl. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	StartTime	End Date	EndTime
1.	e-Tender Publishing	12/04/2017	11:00 AM	-	-
2.	e-Tender Download	12/04/2017	11:00 AM	15-05-2017	12:00 Noon
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	24/04/2017	11:30 AM	-	-
4.	Bid Submission	25/04/2017	12:00 Noon	15-05-2017	1:00PM

1. Brief Schedule

Sl. No.	Description (Name of the Items)	Bid Security (E.M.D.)	Delivery/ Installation schedule/ Completion period	Tender fees in Rs.	Eligibility
1.	Various Dental items* (Details see in the Schedule - 3 of the tender)	Rs. 3.00 Lakhs	30 days	Rs. 5000/-	Manufacturer/ accredited Dealer

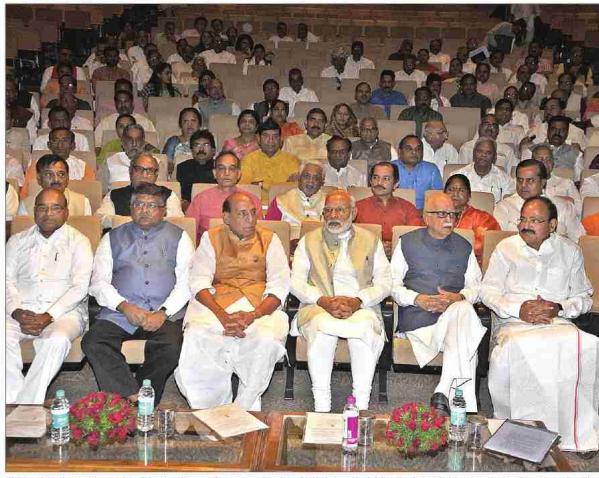
The detailed information of Bidding documents are available in online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in. The bidders would be required to register in the website for submission of the bids. The bidders are required to have Digital Signature (DSC) from any of the Certifying Authorities. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement may obtain the same by registering in the website indicated above. The tender fees is non refundable and payable in favour of the Director of Medical Education, Assam, Srimile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022, at SB-Dispur (Guwahati) Branch.

Sd/- Director of Medical Education, Assam

Srimile, Khanapara, Ghv-22

Dated: 1.04.2017

Janasanayog/318/17



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with senior party leaders LK Advani, M Venkaiah Naidu, Rajnath Singh and others attending the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting at parliament house, in New Delhi on Tuesday. - UNI

SC notice to UP govt on bungalows to ex-CMs

NEW DELHI, April 11: The Supreme Court today sought the response of the Uttar Pradesh government on a plea seeking action against authorities for alleged failure to get the government bungalows allotted to five former chief ministers vacated, a bench headed by Justice Dipak Misra sought the reply from the director of estates of the state government within three weeks as to why the government bungalows allotted to the ex-CMs have not been vacated and posted the matter for further hearing to May 2.

During the proceedings, Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi said that he needed time to reply as to whether respondent 7 (Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh) has vacated the bunga low allotted to him in his capac-

Bir Hanuman followers attend rally ignoring police ban

SURI (WB), April 11: The police made a lathicharge today to disperse a rally which shouted slogans in praise of 'Sri Ram' in Suri, Birbhum district headquarters.

The police set up an iron barrier on J. N. Banerjee Road near the bus stand which the rallyists tried to break through, prompting the law enforcers to make a lathicharge.

At another place on the outskirts of Suri, thousands of people ignored a police ban to participate in a rally taken out demanding the bars of an organisation observing the Bar Hanuman Janm.

The Sun protest had on Sunday left the organisers of Bir

Hanuman Jayanti that it would not allow holding of any rally or meeting at Suri on Tuesday.

Yesterday, the organisers asked the police to allow the rally after assuring that they would not carry arms. However, the police did not budge from its stand.

In the morning, a large crowd assembled at Barabagan in the town prior to take out a rally, but the police dispersed them.

The crowd then went to the outskirts of the town and around 3,000 people walked in a procession raising slogans but did not carry arms like trishul or sword as people

fear they would.

State general secretary of BJP Savantan Basu alleged at a press meet at the police office, "The district administration first had accorded permission, but later withdrew it on order of the TMC bosses."

Meanwhile, two civic volunteers, who were not in their white uniform and were video-recording the protest meet, were heckled by some BJP workers.

Senior officers, including DSP Ananda Sarkar, reached the party office with force and rescued them. District SP N Sudheer Kumar said that these persons were arrested in this connection. - PTI

Turnbull wants TCS to open innovation campus in Australia

MUMBAI, April 11: Impressed by the works of India's largest software exporter TCS, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull today visited the prestigious private sector firm to open an innovation campus in his country.

It had also said that the local laws only gave largesse to former chief ministers without any element of reasonableness". Dealing with the legality of the impugned provisions, it had said, "In our opinion, the 1997 Rules, which permit the former chief ministers to occupy government bungalows for life cannot be said to be valid.

"In the circumstances, respondent no. I (The State of Uttar Pradesh) cannot permit any former chief minister to occupy any government bungalow or any government accommodation after 15 days from the date on which his term comes to an end." - PTI

During the tour, Turnbull was told that the Tata group company does its innovation work out of its dedicated labs in Mumbai and Chennai.

He reportedly requested the TCS management to open such a facility in his country, saying it will create jobs and boost

Malappuram bypoll today

MALAPPURAM (Kerala), April 11: Over 13 lakh voters are expected to exercise their franchise in the tomorrow's bypoll to the Malappuram Lok Sabha constituency.

The main contenders are Congress-LDF candidate P K Kunhalikutty, CPI Union Muslim League, CPIM candidate M D Faizal of ruling LDF and BJP's N Sreeprakash. Six independents are also in the fray.

There are over 110 polling stations in the constituency with a total electorate of 132,693.

The seat fell vacant following the death of former Union Minister E Ahmed.

The high voltage campaign saw workers of UDF and LBJ and BJP engaged in hectic canvassing. The UDF is making all efforts to retain its stronghold while the ruling LDF is trying for an upset win.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, Ahmed had won the seat by a margin of 1,94,739 votes against CPI(M)'s PK Sainam.

UDF sought votes to protect secularism and strengthen secular forces at the national level while LDF attacked BJP on various issues. BJP highlighted the achievements the NDA government at the Centre and the 'anti-peopple' policies of Kerala government. - PTI

"The Australian prime minister showed keen interest in the work TCS does to promote STEM education, especially amongst women and leveraging technology for innovation and global competitiveness that we do for our Australian clients.

"He also discussed the fact that the local laws only gave largesse to former chief ministers without any element of reasonableness". Dealing with the legality of the impugned provisions, it had said, "In our opinion, the 1997 Rules, which permit the former chief ministers to occupy government bungalows for life cannot be said to be valid.

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receiving the award.

On his return to the micro-blogging site, Kumar also shared a mural painted by artist Asif Farooqui.

"So much love from Asif Farooqui. Thank you for this beautiful wall mural on Hill Road in Bandra. God bless you," he wrote.

The mural is a still from the actor's 1970 movie *Gopi*, which also starred Saira Banu.

Kumar was last seen on screen in the 1998 film *Qila*.

The thespian has been honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalak award in 1994 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2015 for his contribution to the Indian cinema.

The Pakistani government also honoured him with its highest civilian honour - Nishan-e-Imtiaz - in

1997. - PTI

The post was accompanied by pictures of him

ASSAM POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED

APPOINTMENT OF SOCIAL SAFEGUARD AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERT

The undersigned invites applications for One Social Safeguard and One Environmental Expert on contractual basis for implementation and monitoring of various activities concerning with Environment and Social safeguard of Lower Kapti H.E. Project (120MW), Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong District, Assam.

Retired Forest Dept officials may also apply. Details may be downloaded from APGCL website: www.apgcl.org.

Last Date of Submission: 4th May, 2017 till 15.00 hrs.

Sd/-
General Manager (HR)
APGCL

APGCL/2017/29

आंयल इंडिया लिमिटेड

OIL INDIA LIMITED (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

Pipeline Headquarters, P.O. Udayan Vihar,
Narengi, Guwahati - 781171, Assam.

e-Tender No.	Material Description	Tender Type	Tender Fee	Bid Closing Date
SGL 4322P17	Bitumen, Hard Grade-30/40	LCL/Local Competitive Bidding	INR 1000.00	11.05.2017
SGL 4323P17	OP Cement, Grade-43	LCL/Local Competitive Bidding	INR 1000.00	11.05.2017

Tender (Non-refundable) as mentioned above; Bid Closing/Opening Time: 11:00 hrs IST/(14:00 hrs) IST; Period of sale of documents till one week prior to bid closing date. The complete bid documents and details for bid document preparation, participation in E-tenders are available on OILS e-procurement portal <http://tender.srm.oilindia.in/> as well as OIL's website www.oil-india.com.

Note: All addenda, Corrigenda, time extension etc. to the tenders will be hosted on above website and e-portals only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Bidders should regularly visit above website and e-portals to keep themselves updated.

आंयल इंडिया लिमिटेड

Oil India Limited (A Government of India Enterprise)

Pipeline Headquarters
P.O.- Udayan Vihar - 781171, Assam, India

Tender No.	Service Description
GCL1410P17	Hiring day to day services for proper functioning of Telecom Business Cell (Dark Fibre and bandwidth) at PHQ, Telecom (Communication Systems) including office upkeep and other related activities under Telecom Section, PHQ, Guwahati.

Interested bidder may purchase the Bid Documents against payment of ₹500/- in the form of Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque/online transaction from Scheduled Bank payable to Oil India Limited, Guwahati from the office of the Chief Manager (Corporation) Guwahati-781171 from 09/04/2017 to 10/05/2017 before 11:00 a.m. & Opening date & time : 18/04/2017 after 11:00 a.m. (<http://e-procure.gov.in/>). Bid documents may be obtained in the same period from 08:00 hrs to 10:00 hrs AM. The Last opening Date (EDO) is 11/05/2017 at 13:30 hrs. at Guwahati and Bid Opening Date (BOD) is 11/05/2017 at 14:00 hrs. at Guwahati.

The NIT is also available at OIL website www.oil-india.com. All corrigenda, addenda, amendments, time extension, clarification etc. to the tender will be hosted on the Oil Website and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Prospective bidders are requested to regularly visit the website.

Indian Oil

Refineries Division

Guwahati Refinery, Noolmati, Guwahati-20

WALK-IN INTERVIEW FOR AUDIOLOGIST AT GUWAHATI REFINERY HOSPITAL ON PART TIME CONTRACT BASIS

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Refinery Hospital invites interested candidates to apply as Audiologist at Guwahati Refinery Hospital on Part Time contractual basis for the following vacancy as per details given below:

Post	Qualification & Experience	Working Hours	Period of Engagement	Remuneration
Audiologist	Qualification : 1. Graduate in Speech and Hearing from a recognized University/ Institute. Experience : Minimum 2 years of post qualification experience	05 days a week @ 02 hrs a day	One year, which may be extended depending upon the requirement	Negotiable

No.: Candidates having higher qualification may also apply Interested candidates fulfilling the above mentioned criteria may appear for a Walk-in Interview at Guwahati Refinery Hospital on Part Time contractual basis for the following vacancy as per details given below:

Post	Qualification & Experience	Working Hours	Period of Engagement	Remuneration
Job Name : Procurement of Vertical pump for drinking water at RWTW.	Qualification : 1. Diploma in Civil Engineering. 2. Experience in rate setting bank. Experience : Minimum 5 years. Job Name : Procurement of Vertical pump for drinking water at RWTW.	24 hours	05 days a week	Negotiable

Bid submission end date & time : 05/05/2017 before 11:00 a.m. & Opening date & time : 05/05/2017 after 11:00 a.m. (<http://e-procure.gov.in/>). Bid documents may be obtained in the same period from 08:00 hrs to 10:00 hrs AM. The Last opening Date (EDO) is 05/05/2017 at 13:30 hrs. at Guwahati and Bid Opening Date (BOD) is 05/05/2017 at 14:00 hrs. at Guwahati.

The NIT is also available at OIL website www.oil-india.com. All corrigenda, addenda, amendments, time extension, clarification etc. to the tender will be hosted on the Oil Website and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Prospective bidders are requested to regularly visit the website.

POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD: ASSAM

BAMUNIMAIDAM : GUWAHATI - 781021

No. WBIG-1283/16-17/245 Date Guwahati, the 11th April, 2017

NOTIFICATION

As per Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement passed in WP(C) No. 375/2012 on 22.02.2017, all existing industrial units which require 'Consent to Operate' should have a fully operational primary Effluent Treatment Plant. Before discharging the effluent, it is necessary to treat the effluent as per prescribed norms of the Pollution Control Board, Assam (hereinafter referred to as 'Board').

Hence, as per the above judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, all such industrial units discharging effluents are hereby directed to make their Primary Effluent Treatment Plant fully operational as per the norms prescribed by the Board. Hon'ble Supreme Court has further directed that aforesaid directions shall be complied with within three months from the judgment dated 22nd February, 2017, i.e. by 22nd May, 2017.

In case of failure on the industrial unit to comply with above said direction, the Board will be constrained to initiate action as per the direction issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court by issuing closure directions to the defaulting industrial unit.

Moreover, as directed in the above said judgment, any private individual(s) or organizations can make a complaint to the Board against the defaulting industrial unit. They may also approach the National Green Tribunal, for appropriate orders by pointing out the deficiencies in implementation of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Member-Secretary (i/c)

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President Pranab Mukherjee, presenting the SCOPE Awards to CPSEs at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi on Tuesday. — UNI

Awasthi appointed PS to UP CM

NEW DELHI, April 11: UP cadre IAS officer Awanish Kumar Awasthi has been appointed as Principal Secretary to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Awasthi was serving as Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment since April 2013.

The Chief Minister had sought the services of Awasthi as his Principal Secretary and had requested the Centre to relieve him at the earliest, a source in the Ministry said.

Awasthi, an IIT Kanpur graduate, has served in different capacities in the Uttar Pradesh government, including as District Magistrate of Lalitpur, Azamgarh, Baduan, Faizabad, Varanasi, Meerut and Gorakhpur, the Yogi's parliamentary constituency.

He was also the chairman-cum-managing director of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) from September 2005 till January 2009.

He has also served as the Secretary of Tourism in the Uttar Pradesh government, Special Secretary (Information and Technology) and Special Secretary (Industries). —PTI

BJP MLA held for murder of Cong leader

DHANBAD (Jharkhand), April 11: A BJP MLA in Jharkhand was arrested today for allegedly being involved in the murder of his cousin and Congress leader Neeraj Singh there, police said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Bokaro range, Saket Kumar said Sanjiv Singh, the BJP MLA from Jharia, was arrested after his interrogation at Saraidheal police station in the afternoon.

Neeraj Singh, the former deputy mayor of Dhanbad was gunned down along with his personal assistant Ashok Yadav, bodyguard Munna Tiwary, and driver in on the evening of March 21 at Steel Gate under Saraidheal police station while he was returning from Jharia coal belt in his car.

Sanjiv and his younger brother Sidharth Singh and three others were named as accused in the FIR filed in the murder case. —PTI

NC wants Mehbooba to quit over poll day violence

SRINAGAR, April 11: National Conference (NC) today sought a "judicial probe" into the death of eight civilians in violence during polling in Srinagar Lok Sabha by-election and demanded that Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti step down for failing to provide a secure environment.

"The incidents in Kashmir, particularly during the elections should be investigated. There should be a judicial probe and those responsible should be taken to task," NC general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar told a press conference.

Sagar, who was addressing the media along with the party leaders Nasir Aslam Wani, Abdul Rahim Rather and also claimed that the killings on poll

day were "target killings" and the chief minister's role too should be probed.

Referring to comments made by Tassadua Mufti, Mehbooba's brother, Sagar said that even had said that the security environment is not right for the polls.

The NC leader claimed that his party had conveyed to the Election Commission (EC) that the atmosphere is not conducive for the elections but it did not listen.

"However, when the ruling party candidate said so, the EC immediately postponed the polls," Sagar said.

The party has conveyed it to the Chief Election Officer of the state that there are question marks over the credibility of the EC, he said. —PTI

The situation in the whole of the state, especially the Valley, is worsening by the day and the government is responsible for that, he claimed add-

ing that there is no moral ground for Mehbooba to continue in the office.

Referring to comments made by Tassadua Mufti, Mehbooba's brother, Sagar said that even had said that the security environment is not right for the polls.

The NC leader claimed that his party had conveyed to the Election Commission (EC) that the atmosphere is not conducive for the elections but it did not listen.

"However, when the ruling party candidate said so, the EC immediately postponed the polls," Sagar said.

The party has conveyed it to the Chief Election Officer of the state that there are question marks over the credibility of the EC, he said. —PTI

Reward for info on saffron leader murder

CHENNAI, April 11: Tamil Nadu Crime Branch CID to-day announced a total cash reward of Rs four lakh to anyone who could provide information about each one of these suspects, a reward of Rs two lakh will be given," the release added.

Auditor V Ramesh, Diabetologist Dr V Arvind Reddy, K Murugan (all BJP), S Velvaiappan, KP Suresh Kumar (both Hindu Munnani and RSS affiliate) were among the leaders of Hindu outfit killed in recent years in Tamil Nadu.

The information will be kept to a secret, police appealed to the public to contact the CB-CID Control Room here or senior officials of Special Investigation Division in Coimbatore who are probing the case.

them despite summons being served at their residences.

"They have not cooperated and did not appear for probe. For information about each one of these suspects, a reward of Rs two lakh will be given," the release added.

Auditor V Ramesh, Diabetologist Dr V Arvind Reddy, K Murugan (all BJP), S Velvaiappan, KP Suresh Kumar (both Hindu Munnani and RSS affiliate) were among the leaders of Hindu outfit killed in recent years in Tamil Nadu.

The culprits and the probe are being conducted by the police, CID police said.

The culprits and the probe are being conducted by the police, CID police said.



Police personnel patrolling as vehicles scattered after clash between two communities in Ranchi on Tuesday. — UNI

Student's suicide: Kerala CM sees political mileage bid

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, April 11: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan today said "certain forces" tried to draw political mileage on the issue of recent agitation by family members of a college student over his suicide."

"Unfortunately the situation in the state was such that certain forces even use the mental condition of a grieving mother for political mileage," he told reporters here.

Vijayan was referring to the agitation here by family members, including the mother of Jishnu Parney, an engineering student of Thrissur-based Nehru College, who committed suicide in January last allegedly due to "harassment" by the management of the institution.

They family launched an indefinite fast

demanding justice for the student, but withdrew it on April 9 after the state government assured that all accused would be brought to book.

Initially they attempted to stage the protest in front of the state DGP's office here on April 5, but police "forcibly" removed them, with the action coming in for criticism from various quarters, including ruling LDF partner CPI.

Giving details of the steps taken in the case, Vijayan said the government had done everything possible and "there is nothing more a government could do". Questioning the position behind the April 5 protest, he said "There was nothing to attain through an agitation and nothing for the government to do. We can say with courage that government has done everything in the case."

On the alleged police "highhandedness" in removing the family members, Vijayan said it should not have happened and action would be taken against police officials, if any lapses were found. Referring to the probe ordered by the government into the police action, Vijayan said the investigation would reveal whether there was any conspiracy behind the planned stir in front of the DGP's office.

On the arrest of K M Shajahan, a former personal secretary of CPI-ML veteran VS Achuthanandan, in connection with the stir, Vijayan said action was taken by the police as he was a part of the agitation.

Vijayan rejected Shajahan's charge that he was arrested due to personal vendetta. "I have no personal enmity

with him," he added.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly Ramesh Chemithala criticised the Chief Minister for questioning the need for protest by the family.

He said Vijayan, by his statement, had not only insulted the family of the student but also the people of the entire state.

Attacking the LDF regime, he alleged that the government had tried to "sabotage" the case from the beginning by "destroying" evidences to write it off as "suicide".

Referring to the arrest of Shajahan, Chemithala alleged that the Chief Minister was behaving like an "autocrat" by ordering detention of those who supported the family's stir. —PTI

No plans to grant special status to any state: Govt

NEW DELHI, April 11: The government has no plans to grant special status category to any state, Minister of State for Planning Rao Inderjit Singh told Rajya Sabha today.

The minister was replying to a calling attention motion of Congress member KVP Ramachandra Rao who wanted convening of a meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) to discuss the necessity for continuance of the concept of special category status.

Members of the Congress, the Left and Trinamool Congress, however, were not satisfied with the minister's reply and staged a walkout.

"There is no proposal for granting special category status to any state," Singh said.

Responding to the attack by the opposition parties, he said, "Instead of criticising the government for not giving special category status (to states), I would suggest they should go to their respective states and ensure fiscal discipline and develop their states by virtue of the extra Rs 1.78 lakh crore that we have given from the Planning Commission."

The last state to be accorded the special category status was Uttarakhand way back in 2001 and no state has been given the status after that, the minister added.

Singh said the basic principle for granting the special category status to a state was the use of funds available with the NDC.

He said he would not deny that former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had announced that they would give Andhra Pradesh the special category status for five years.

The decision to give special category status to 11 states was endorsed by the NDC, Singh

said. "As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned there was no endorsement, approval from the state but it did not do so even when they were in power."

He said after taking over, the BJP government gave 10 per cent extra grant, amounting to Rs 1.78 lakh crore per year, to the states through the Finance Commission to take care of their fiscal requirements.

"The present government, over the past three years, has been thinking and acting out-of-box and following this approach, it has done away with the Planning Commission," the minister said.

"It used to be a humiliating exercise for any state to ask for funds for their own representative states. We have done away with this humiliating experience," Singh said.

The NDC was a body for looking after developmental issues of national as well as states including the special category status to states for plan assistance during the regime of Planning Commission.

Special category status in the past has been given to 11 states including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Manipur among others.

The transfer of resources to states is through Finance Commission. The 14th Finance Commission has, in its recommendation, not made any distinction between general category states and special category states in the horizontal distribution of shareable taxes amongst the states. —PTI

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender is open for award under the Contract No. B-102 (Fluorescent light and Pass Twenty Five) only hereby invited from the intending Contractors/Suppliers/Firms for supply of Fogging Machine and Anti Malaria Articles. The Tender will be received by undersigned reach this office on 08.05.2017 and will be open on the same day at 1300 hrs in presence of intending tenders or their authorized representative.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The Tender must be written in ink or duly typed. Any correction in the tender should invariably bear dated signature of the tenderer.
2. All the tenders must be accompanied by an amount of Rs. 3000 (Rupee Three Thousand) only earnest money in the form of Bank Draft payable in favour of the undersigned.
3. The tenderer should quote their rates exclusive VAT and other charge of any.
4. The successful tenderer must be in a position to complete the work within the stipulated time i.e. 30 days from the issuing work order.
5. The tenderer should declare that the goods should be good quality as per the specification and design and shall be delivered within the stipulated time.
6. The tenderer accept the lowest rates and reserves the right to reject any of the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
7. The tenderer must furnish up to date VAT/TIN/AGST Clearance certificate etc. along with their tender.
8. The articles/construction etc. to be supplied should be best quality otherwise the same will be rejected and the contractor will have to replace the article at his own cost.

Sd/-Commandant
Janasanyog/12617
12th Assam Police Battalion
Jamugurihat, Sonitpur

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender is open for award under the Contract No. B-25 (Fluorescent light and Pass Twenty Five) only hereby invited from the intending Contractors/Suppliers/Firms for Supply of Outdate Testing Equipment for maintenance. The tender will be received by undersigned reach this office on 08.05.2017 and will be open on the same day at 1300 hrs in presence of intending tenders or their authorized representative.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The Tender must be written in ink or duly typed. Any correction in the tender should invariably bear dated signature of the tenderer.
2. All the tender must be accompanied by an amount of Rs. 3000 (Rupee Three Thousand) only earnest money in the form of Bank Draft payable in favour of the undersigned.
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Sd/-Commandant
Janasanyog/11617
12th Assam Police Battalion
Jamugurihat, Sonitpur

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, ASSAM

Tender No. NHM/PROC/DDWH/Racking/3089/2016-17/709 Dated: 11.04.2017

CORRIDENCE NO-1 TENDER FOR ENTERING INTO RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TWO TIER HEAVY DUTY STORAGE RACKING SYSTEM

This has reference to the e-tender No. NHMTender/No. NHM/PROC/DDWH/Racking/3089/2016-17/ 22243 Date: 18.03.2017 for entering into rate contract for "Supply and Installation of Two Tier Heavy Duty Racking System". The details of amendments can be obtained from the website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also in the NHM official website www.nrmasam.in. All other terms and conditions of the tender referred to above shall remain unchanged. The start and end date of bid submission is extended to 24/04/2017 from 10:00 AM & 02.05.2017 up to 2:00 PM respectively. Bids will be opened on 02.05.2017 at 3:30 PM.

Sd/- Mission Director
NHM, Assam

ADMISSION NOTICE

LATERAL ADMISSION INTO 3rd SEMESTER CLASS OF B.E. COURSE 2017 OF ASSAM ENGINEERING COLLEGE, GUWAHATI; JORHAT ENGINEERING COLLEGE, JORHAT; JORHAT INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, JORHAT AND BINESWAR BRAHMA ENGINEERING COLLEGE, KOKRAJHAR.

Eligible Diploma Holders/Candidates passing from Institutions under State Council of Technical Education, Assam interested to take admission in B.E. Course for the session 2017-18 at Assam Engineering College, Guwahati; Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat, Jorhat Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat and Bineswar Brahma Engineering College, Kokrajhar through Lateral Entry Examination may apply online at www.cteassam.in during the period 25th April 2017 to 25th May 2017.

After applying online, the downloaded Application Form duly signed by the Candidate along with a Bank Draft of Rs.100/- in favour of The Director, Technical Education, Assam payable at State Bank of India, Kalihipara may be sent through Speed Post to reach this Directorate on or before 30th May 2017.

Admit Cards/Hall Tickets may be downloaded from the website by putting the Application Number and Date of Birth of the Candidate from 10th June 2017.

Eligibility for appearing the Joint Lateral Entry Examination:

- Recognized Diploma of Minimum 3 years duration from any Polytechnic Institution of Assam under State Council of Technical Education (SCTE).
- A minimum of Overall 50% marks (40% for SC/ST) must be secured in the Polytechnic Course.
- Candidate must be a Permanent resident of Assam
- Candidates appearing in their final examination may also apply but they must have to produce their Original Mark sheet along with Pass Certificate of the Final Diploma on the day of Admission.

Mode of Selection

- There will be Joint Admission Examination for Selection consisting of a Single Paper of 3 hours duration which will consist of the following Sections:

- (i) Mathematics : 30 Questions
- (ii) Basic Computer : 10 Questions
- (iii) Graphics : 10 Questions

- (ii)Branch of Engineering : 50 Questions

- (iii) Questions will be MCQ type. Every Question will carry 4 (four) mark each. 4 (four) marks will be awarded for correct answer and 1 (one) mark will be deducted for every wrong answer.

The Joint Admission Examination will be held on 25th June 2017 (Sunday)

Sd/- Director, Technical Education, Assam
Kalihipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog/326/17

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Buildings), Assam, on behalf of the Government of Assam invites tenders for the following work having experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 16-04-2017 to 24-04-2017.

Shri. Biju Choudhury, Dy. Director, PWD (Buildings), Assam, State Guest House at Khanglai, Guwahati (Providing 50 mm thick BR Resistance Glass with Ballistic Steel Frame at 3rd floor of Horn/Bee Dighi Building, Guwahati) for the year 2016-17. (GROUP-A)

Janasanyog/106/17
Assam, Chordinal, Guwahati-1

Sl. No.	State / Province	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit	E.M.D. to draw in favour of	Tender Cost
1	SMC	Improvement of Brahmaputra State Guest House at Khanglai, Guwahati (Providing 50 mm thick BR Resistance Glass with Ballistic Steel Frame at 3rd floor of Horn/Bee Dighi Building, Guwahati) for the year 2016-17. (GROUP-A)	Rs. 110.172 Lakh	63 (Three) months	Rs. 22,045.00 (for General) or Rs. 11,017.00 (for reserved Category)	Rs. 4,000/-	

The New York Times receives 3 Pulitzers

NEW YORK, April 11: *The New York Times* won three Pulitzer Prizes this year in the categories of Best feature writing, best special reporting and best breaking news photography, as journalism presented its highest honours, the media reported.

On Monday, *The New York Daily News* and *Publico* shared the prize for public service for their joint coverage on the New York Police Department's widespread abuse of a decades-old law to force people from their homes and businesses over alleged illegal activity.

The investigation, which involved the examination of more than 1,100 nuisance abatement cases, found that the Police Department almost exclusively targeted households and shops in minority neighbourhoods.

The reporter of the New York City to examine the nuisance law and pass sweeping reforms. *The New York Post* reported, David A Fahrenthold of the *Washington Post* won the prize for his work in national reporting during the presidential campaign on Donald Trump's charitable foundation.

Peggy Noonan of the *Wall Street Journal* won the commentary award for columns that the Pulitzer board said "connected readers to the shared virtues of Americans during one of the nation's most divisive political campaigns."

Colson Whitehead's brutal and surreal novel "The Underground Railroad" won the prize for fiction.

The novel, which won the National Book Award last year, centres on a young woman who escapes her life as a slave in Georgia and flees via a real subterranean network of train cars. Whitehead, 47, told *The New York Times* on Monday that to be given even more recognition by the Pulitzer committee was "startling and wonderful".

The prize for best explanatory reporting went to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, McClatchy and the Miami Herald for their work on reporting the Panama Papers, discussing international tax havens.

Winning the award for investigative reporting was journalist Eric Eyre, with the Charleston Gazette-Mail, for his coverage of the uncontrolled flow of opioids into the most disadvantaged areas of West Virginia.

The Pulitzers this year come as financial pressure drains many news organisations of the resources to pursue top-flight journalism, according to *The Times*.

They also come in the face of a combative stance from President Trump, who has called the news media "the enemy of the American people". - IANS

Around the WORLD



A zookeeper checks an Asian elephant's teeth at the new Centre for Elephant Care at Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire, Britain on Tuesday - UNI

NASA to reveal new discoveries about oceans beyond Earth

WASHINGTON, April 11: NASA will unveil new discoveries this week that involve alien oceans in our solar system, the US space agency announced today. On April 13, NASA will hold a press conference that will "discuss new results about ocean worlds in our solar system," according to the agency.

The discovery will involve findings from the Hubble Space Telescope and NASA's Cassini spacecraft, which is orbiting Saturn. "These new discoveries will help inform ocean world exploration - including NASA's upcoming Europa Clipper mission planned for launch in the 2020s - and the broader search for life beyond Earth," NASA officials said.

NASA's ocean worlds' press conference will include a question-and-answer session with a panel of scientists from the Cassini and Hubble missions, as well as NASA's planetary exploration and science directorates.

"Members of the public also can ask questions during the briefing using #AskNASA," NASA said. NASA's Cassini spacecraft has been orbiting Saturn since 2004 to make detailed observations of the ringed planet and its many moons.

The spacecraft is scheduled to end its mission on September 15 with a fiery plunge into the planet itself to avoid contaminating the planet's icy moons, NASA said.

The Hubble Space Telescope, meanwhile, has been in orbit around Earth since 1990 and has captured spectacular images of the universe, including of some solar system planets, during its mission. - PTI

Fifty new spider species discovered in Australia

MELBOURNE, April 11: Scientists have discovered 50 new species of arachnids in Australia including a peacock spider which shows "wonderful courtship behaviour like dancing".

The new arachnids include a brush-footed trap-door spider, a large black creature that looks like a funnel web with the added power of being able to walk up glass doors, a new species of swift spider, with fuzzy black and white front legs and several new species of ant spider, said researchers University of Queensland in Australia.

The research expedition was conducted on Quinkan country, near Cooktown, which is currently being considered for national heritage listing. The *Guardian* reported.

The ecological richness of the area, combined with a successful wet season which made the area green and thriving, meant researchers were discovering new species every day, said Barbara Baehr, a research biologist at the University of Queensland.

Researchers are now in the process of describing a number of spiders for formal scientific classification. - PTI

INTERNATIONAL

N Korea vows response to US Navy move

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017

SEOUL, April 11: North Korea denounced Washington's deployment of a naval strike group to the Korean peninsula today, warning it was ready for "war" in a further escalation of tensions.

The Carl Vinson strike group cancelled a planned trip to Australia this weekend to head to the region, in a show of force as Washington signalled it may act to shut down Pyongyang's nuclear capabilities.

"This goes to prove that the USreckless moves for invading the DPRK have reached a serious phase," a spokesman for the North's foreign ministry said according to state news agency KCNA.

"The DPRK is ready to react to

any mode of war desired by the US," he said, using the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

President Donald Trump, fresh from ordering a missile strike on Syria that was widely interpreted as a warning to North Korea, has asked his advisors for a range of options to rein in Pyongyang, a top US official said Sunday.

Trump has previously threatened unilateral action against Pyongyang if China - the North's sole major ally - fails to help curb its neighbour's nuclear weapons ambitions.

But Pyongyang's response suggested the reclusive state is determined to continue on its current path, despite repeated rounds of

United Nations sanctions.

"We will take the toughest counteraction against the provocateurs in order to defend ourselves by powerful force of arms," the foreign ministry spokesman said.

"We will hold the US wholly accountable for the catastrophic consequences to be entailed by its outrageous actions."

Speculation over an imminent nuclear test is brewing as the North marks anniversaries including the 105th birthday of its founding leader Saturday - sometimes celebrated with a demonstration of military might.

Pyongyang is on a quest to develop a long-range missile capable of hitting the US mainland with a nuclear war-

head, and has so far staged five nuclear tests, two of them last year.

Satellite imagery analysis suggests it could be preparing for a sixth, with intelligence officials warning it could be less than two years away from achieving the ability to strike the continental United States.

Seoul and Washington are also currently conducting joint military drills, an annual exercise which is seen by the North as a preparation for invasion.

South Korea's top nuclear envoy said yesterday after talks with his Chinese counterpart that the two nations had agreed to "strong" new measures to punish Pyongyang if it carried out another nuclear test.

The talks came shortly after

Trump hosted Chinese leader Xi Jinping for a summit at which he pressed Beijing to do more to curb the North's nuclear ambitions.

"(We) are prepared to chart our own course if this is something China is just unable to coordinate with us," US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said after the summit.

US National Security Adviser HR McMaster on Sunday criticised North Korea as a rogue nation engaged in provocative behaviour and said denuclearisation of the peninsula "must happen".

"The president has asked them to be prepared to give us a full range of options to remove that threat," he said on Fox News, apparently referring to Trump's advisers. - AFP

Indo-Pak talks on Indus water likely in April

ISLAMABAD, April 11: The secretary-level dialogue between Pakistan and India on Indus Water Treaty will held either by the end of April or beginning of May in Washington, the Pakistani media reported on Tuesday.

Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Asif on March 20 said the talks will be held for developing a consensus in the light of the treaty on the mechanism for resolution of "faulty designs" of 300MW Kishenganga and 850MW Ratle hydropower projects. The News International quoted a senior official as saying, Asif had said the secretary-level talks would take place in Washington from April 11-13 as proposed by the World Bank.

He said Pakistan was prepared for the talks

but India was not ready for the proposed dates. "And we are hopeful that belated talks will take place by the end of current month (April)," the official said.

The official said the World Bank wanted both countries to develop a consensus either on mechanism of neutral expert or court of arbitration mentioned in the treaty for the resolution of issues. A World Bank official would also be part of the meeting and try to persuade both the countries to reach consensus on any mechanisms or find the middle way.

Pakistan wants the World Bank to constitute a court of arbitration to resolve the disputes, but India wants the solution through the mechanism of neutral experts. - IANS



Ground personnel help the International Space Station crew member Sergey Ryzhikov of the Russian space agency Roscosmos to get out of Soyuz MS-02 space capsule after the landing near Dezheznugan in Kazakhstan, on Monday. - UNI

Be ready to face fallout of Jadhav's sentence: Pak media

ISLAMABAD, April 11: The death sentence handed out to Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav for "spying" was today described as "unprecedented" by the Pakistani media, with experts weighing in the diplomatic fallout of the move.

A Pakistan military court sentenced Jadhav to death after he was convicted of "espionage and sabotage activities".

Military's media wing said in a statement yesterday that the sentence was passed by a Field General Court Martial and confirmed by Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Right-wing English-language newspaper *The Nation* in its front page lead "Death to spy" spelt tensions' observed that "a military court on Monday sentenced a high-profile Indian spy to death, ratcheting up longstanding tensions between the nuclear-armed states."

The paper also quoted political and defence analyst Dr Hassan Askari that the decision to execute Jadhav would "further increase tension between the two countries".

"The military has given a severe punishment which is according to Pakistani law," Askari said. "But we will have to see if Pakistan can sustain the political and diplomatic fallout."

The Nation is owned by Nawa-i-Qawt group, which is traditionally

aligned to Pakistani establishment and is known for India bashing.

The story was also published by other leading newspapers, mostly focusing on the sentence given to the alleged spy.

The Express Tribune in the front page headline "Self-confessed Indian spy awarded death sentence" termed the decision as "unprecedented".

It reported that the decision immediately sparked a bitter diplomatic spat

between the two "hostile" neighbours.

It further said that Jadhav has been operating in Pakistan disguised as Hassan Mukhtar Patel. The influential Dawn newspaper termed the decision as a "rare move".

The paper said that the development comes at a time when tensions between Pakistan and India are already running high.

It published a full column on what experts feel about the decision. Some feel the reaction from India will be strong, others maintain there will be no dramatic shift in the relationship, it said. - PTI

PPP against capital punishment

LAHORE, April 11: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari today indirectly opposed the death sentence handed out to Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav for "spying", saying the issue is controversial but his party is against capital punishment "on principle".

"The issue of Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav is controversial. He must not have been here in the first place," Bilawal told reporters. Recalling that his maternal grandfather Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was also sentenced to death, he said his party is against capital punishment on principle."

"In fact Nawaz Sharif government has failed to tell the world about the charge sheet on Jadhav. Had India arrested such a Pakistani spy it would have propagated a lot in the world," he said. Pakistan's former attorney general Anwar Mansoor Khan said Jadhav can file a review appeal before the army chief or the Supreme Court against his sentence. "In case of rejection of his petition, he may file mercy plea before the President," he said, adding this is a long process and it may take more than two years.

Pakistan sentenced Jadhav to death for carrying out espionage and sabotage activities in Balochistan and Karachi, the military's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) had said in a statement. - PTI

3 Indians chosen for Gates Cambridge Scholarship 2017

LONDON, April 11: Three Indians are among 55 most academically exceptional and socially committed scholars chosen from across the globe for the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship this year.

The three Indians in the Gates Cambridge Class of 2017 are Saloni Atal, Akhila Denduluri and Yaikhomma Mutum. The university announced yesterday.

Atal will do a PhD in Psychology which will look at innovative and culturally appropriate solutions to tackle the problem of gaps in access to mental health care in India.

In partnership with local non-profit organisations, her PhD will assess the impact and feasibility of training non-specialists, particularly community health workers, to support the mental health needs of slum-dwelling women.

Denduluri will do a PhD in Chemistry focusing on developing biophysical tools to better understand and elucidate the protein chemistry and associated toxicity in neurodegenerative diseases.

Mutum will do a PhD in Biological Science at the MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit, looking at the mechanism of active proton transport in

Complex I, an enzyme involved in making energy rich ATP molecules.

The new scholars include Leena Dahal from Nepal who will do an MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies which will explore identity and intersectionality in the context of South Asia, specifically how social media helped or hindered nuanced discussion of nationalism and identity in response to the 2015 unofficial border blockade between Nepal and India. The scholars, including 35 from the US, were selected in late January to form the class of 2017, all of whom will take up the most prestigious international postgraduate scholarship at the University of Cambridge this October.

The 90 new scholars represent 34 nationalities and include the first scholars from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Luxembourg – and the first Native American scholar.

Scholarships were awarded to 50 women and 40 men from a wide range of backgrounds.

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship aims to identify and select applicants who are academically outstanding and are likely to be transformative leaders across all fields of endeavour. - PTI

I killed, several hurt in explosion in Turkey

ANKARA, April 11: An explosion inside a workshop where a police armored vehicle was being repaired killed one man and injured a number of other people, Turkish police said.

The blast in the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir caused part of the workshop annex to the city's main police headquarters to collapse.

One repair worker, who was trapped beneath the debris, later died in a hospital, the Diyarbakir governor's office said. It said other people injured in the explosion were being treated in hospitals, but did not provide a number.

The cause of the explosion was under investigation, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu suggested, however, that the blast was caused by the repair work and was not the result of an attack.

"There was no external intervention," he said. The state-run Anadolu Agency said surrounding buildings and cars parked nearby were damaged in the blast. - AP

Govt. of Assam Labour and Welfare Department.

Assam Shops and Establishments Act, 1971

Guarantees welfare of workers working in Shops and Establishments.

IF YOU ARE AN EMPLOYEE of a shop/commercial establishment working in shop & Establishment , You are eligible for the following benefits from your employer:-

- Formal appointment letter from the employer.
- Wages which shall not be less than the minimum wages declared by the Govt. time to time

₹ 453.60/- for an highly Skilled worker ₹ 282.4/- for semi Skilled worker
₹ 352.80/- for Skilled worker ₹ 241.92/- for unskilled worker

Wage and any other dues are payable by the employer only through cheque or through bank account and not in cash.

- Over time wage
- One day weekly holiday
- Privilege leave.

IF YOU ARE AN EMPLOYER of a shop/commercial establishment you must obtain a **Certificate of Registration** from the Labour department.

For more details, please contact the local Labour office.



Janasanyog/342/17

'It's a win for Indian cinema'

The divide between regional and Hindi cinema is uncalled for, actress Priyanka Chopra tells Radhika Bhirani in an interview



Every year, when the National Film Award winners are announced, a tally is drawn between who won more—Hindi or regional films. For actress-producer Priyanka Chopra, they are all after all, Indian.

This divide between regional and Hindi cinema is uncalled for, affirmed Priyanka, whose Marathi film production *Ventilator* won three honours at the 64th National Film Awards.

"I am not a negative person. I'd like to think that finally regional cinema is getting the credit it deserves because there are too many incredible storytellers and filmmakers there. As they get opportunities, and producers back them, regional films are getting more exposure and, of course, they will do well."

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Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! For Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

The most important day in a person's life is the day of birth. It is important to you. To some people, your conventions seem conflicted. Battles often occur as a result of your independence. If you are single, you could meet someone anytime from now until fall. This person will be unique, interesting and perhaps even more independent than you are. If you are attached, you enjoy the one-on-one time with your sweetie more than you might acknowledge, but it is meaningful to both of you. SCORPIO understands your intensity well.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** You are likely to go along with someone else's wishes. Trust your imagination when working on a project or dealing with a group of people who have very different ideas. You could have difficulty maintaining a cohesive conversation. Tonight: Watch your surroundings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 18)

**** You are likely to be in a position where you don't know which way you should go. As you rethink your path, an older associate might offer some words of wisdom. Listen to what this person shares, but know that you don't need to take his or her advice. Tonight: Time to relax!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** You think this might be on a special relationship. The emotional content of your life is very important to you. Emphasize the importance of friendship. If you don't understand what someone is saying, ask a question or two. Tonight: Let the fun and games begin!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Perhaps sparks will be flying. You see the big picture, but you might not understand what someone is saying in reference to the situation. Perhaps the two of you don't communicate the same way. A partner sparks your imagination with just a few words. Tonight: Head home.

VIRGO (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** For some reason, you can't seem to get your message across. You are straightforward and ideas are always practical, but you are not being heard, especially right now. A loved one seems to have an aura around him or her that makes him or her seem ethereal. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

LIBRA (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

**** Your personal goals may go with a personal matter. If you follow your ego and your desires, you could experience a backlash. If you remain open and caring, the response you get is likely to be much better. Confusion surrounds a meeting. Tonight: Where the fun is.

SCORPIO (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)

**** You are soon going to achieve goals that seem somewhat impossible. Understand that you can't always get what you want. Rather than cause a disagreement, it might be better to be quiet and listen. Try to understand where others are coming from. Tonight: As you like it.

SAGITTARIUS (Dec. 22-Jan. 21)

**** You feel the need to take a break from a heated situation where there seems to be a misunderstanding. Clearly, you are not on the same page as someone with whom you want to have a conversation. Let it go for now. Tonight: Postpone any big decisions for now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** You might be feeling as you'd like to be about an emotional relationship. If you have to take a ground-beer attitude when you don't want to talk about feelings, emphasize a friendship and your long-term desires. Have a chat when the timing is right. Tonight: When your friends are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** You will need to approach things directly and consider letting someone else's true intentions, especially with regards to shared finances. Tonight: Be on your best behavior; many people will be noticing you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Deep down, this person feels as if the two of you are not on the same page. Convincing him or her otherwise will take considerable talent. Don't get hung up on details. Tonight: Go where you can be entertained!

That a lie which is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies;

That a lie which is all a lie may be met and fought with outright —

But a lie which is part a truth is a harder matter to fight.

— TENNYSON



Stop E Keu Nei – apart from one in Hindi.

"My reason for setting up this company was to give opportunities where opportunities were denied, or give opportunities where they were not provided... And we only do that based on content and merit," Priyanka explained, pointing out the decision to make a Sikkimese film "because no film has ever been made in Sikkim."

And when not one but three National Awards come along for one of such projects, it is highly encouraging, said the 34-year-old.

Ventilator, an endearing story of a joint family whose eldest member is on a medical ventilator, was the winner in the categories Best Director for Rajesh Mapuskar, Best Editing for Rameshwar Bhagat and Best Sound Mixing for Abok De at the 64th National Film Awards.

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Malala gets highest UN honour for promoting girls education

UNITED NATIONS, April 11: Men should not clip the "wings of women and let them fly", Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai said as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres designated her as the youngest-ever "Messenger of Peace".

"The role of men, fathers and brothers is really important. There were so many girls just like me in Swat Valley who could have spoken out but their fathers did not allow them, their brothers did not allow them to do so," the 19-year-old Pakistani education activist said.

She said her case was different as her father did not stop her, Malala said during a ceremony here yesterday to designate her as the UN Messenger of Peace, the highest honour bestowed by the Secretary-General on a global citizen.

.... All I had was a father and a family who said 'yes' you can speak. It is your choice', I think that is what we

need. We need brothers and fathers and all men in the family to let women be who they want to be."

She said her father always told people not to ask him what he did for Malala, "but ask what I didn't do - I didn't clip her wings."

"Men should not clip the wings of women and let them fly and let them go forward," Yousafzai said, as her father Ziauddin Yousafzai sat in the audience and watched her.

Yousafzai, who was shot in 2012 by the Taliban for attending classes, is the youngest-ever UN Messenger of Peace and the first one to be designated by Guterres since he assumed office in January this year.

With the designation, Yousafzai joins



other current Messengers of Peace including Oscar-winning actor Leonardo Di Caprio for climate change, actor Charlize Theron, whose focus is prevention of HIV and elimination of violence against women and actor Michael Douglas whose focus is disarmament.

"It is for me a very emotional day to be here with you. You are the symbol of one of the most important causes in the world - probably the most important cause in the world - and that is education, education for all, and particularly because we know it is more difficult in many societies - education for girls," Guterres said.

While recovering from the Taliban attack, Yousafzai said she realised "extremists tried everything to stop me (and the fact that they didn't) is clear evidence that no one can stop me. They tried to kill me and they didn't succeed. Now this is a new life, this is a second life and it is for the purpose of education and I'll continue working on (this issue)."

Accepting the accolade, Yousafzai underscored the importance of education, especially education of girls, for advancing communities and societies. "(Bringing change) starts with us and it should start now," she said, adding "if you want to see your future bright, you have to start working now (and) not wait for anyone else."

UN Messengers of Peace are distinguished individuals, carefully selected from the fields of art, literature, science, entertainment, sports or other fields of public life, who have agreed to help focus worldwide attention on the work of the global Organisation. - PTI



Firefighters extinguish shelters during a fire which destroyed many wood houses at a camp for migrants in Grande-Synthe, near Dunkirk, France, Tuesday. - UNI

Hijacked Indian cargo ship rescued, 8 crew members still missing

MOGADISHU, April 11: Somali security forces have liberated an Indian cargo ship from the pirates who hijacked it, but only two of the ten-man crew were rescued, authorities in central Somalia have said.

Abdullahi Ahmed Ali, district commissioner for the pirate-hub region of Hobyo, told local press yesterday that the "Al Kausar" ship had been held off the Indian Ocean coast near Yemen after the hijacking on March 31.

"We have the boat and two of the crew members but eight other members of the crew are



still missing because the pirates took them off the boat," the commissioner said.

Ali said the two rescued crew members from India were healthy and that authorities were seeking their colleagues.

Their abductors are believed to be holding them near Hobyo. The pirates had "refused a call by the local authorities to release the vessel and local forces forcefully engaged them," local security official Qoje Abdulla told AFP by phone.

global economy billions of dollars.

At the peak of the piracy crisis in January 2011, 736 hostages and 32 boats were held. Though anti-piracy measures ended attacks on commercial vessels, fishing boats have continued to face attacks sporadically.

However on March 13, pirates seized the Aris oil tanker and eight Sri Lankan hostages in the first attack on a large merchant vessel by Somali pirates since 2012. - AFP

US governor resigns over affair with top aide

WASHINGTON, April 11: A US state governor has resigned after fighting for over a year against allegations that he used public resources to carry out and conceal an affair with his former top aide, the media reported.



Pressure built on Alabama Governor Robert Bentley to step down over the sex scandal as state lawmakers opened impeachment hearings against him this week and state Republican officials called for him to leave the governor's mansion, *The Washington Post* reported.

Bentley also pleaded guilty on Monday to two misdemeanour charges related to covering up the alleged affair — one for failing to file a major contribution report, and the other for knowingly using campaign contributions for personal use, according to the state's attorney general office.

"I love the people of this state with all my heart," he told the media as he announced his resignation inside the Alabama State Capitol. On his way to officially resign, Bentley

Indian man to be deported over social media abuse

DUBAI, April 11: An Indian man is set to be deported from Dubai after he abused a compatriot woman journalist on social media and posted offensive posts against Islam on Facebook, according to a media report.

Rana Ayub, an investigative journalist based in New Delhi, exposed the vulgar messages on Twitter sent to her by the man, following which some of her followers reported the matter to the management of the UAE company where the Indian worked, Gulf News reported. The 31-year-old employee identified as BB, from Kerala, joined Alpha Paint in Dubai, a sister company of National Paints in Sharjah, in 2015. He worked as a customer service employee. BB sent an abusive message with sexual overtones to Ayub on Facebook messenger, the report said.

"Just a sample of the filth I receive on my Facebook page. Time to name and shame this pervert," Ayub posted a screenshot of the message on April 6.

Under the United Arab Emirates (UAE) cybercrime law, any form of misuse of a computer, smart device or an electronic network could fetch the violator, if found guilty, a lengthy jail term and/or a heavy fine. The company said it terminated the expat's contract and will pay for his tickets and his rights according to the UAE labour law.

The man's visa was cancelled yesterday and he was set to be deported, the report said. Shadi Al Refai, human resource manager of the company, said that they received the complaint by email on April 7 from a man saying that one of the staff members abused a woman on social media. - PTI

Ties with US worst since Cold War, says Russia

MOSCOW, April 11: Relations between Russia and the US are at "their worst" since the Cold War ended, Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

The ministry gave this assessment in a statement released hours before US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was scheduled to visit Moscow on Tuesday for talks on the ongoing Syrian conflict.

Tillerson had said he hoped to work with Russian officials to find "a solution which will deliver a lasting political settlement" in Syria, Efe news reported.

Moscow blamed the prior US administration, headed by Barack Obama, for the deterioration in ties between the two superpowers, said the report.

The Kremlin said that Obama did "everything possible" to worsen bilateral ties, and added that Russia hoped that Tillerson's visit would be productive in this regard. - IANS

Queen employs 'footwoman' to break in her new shoes

LONDON, April 11: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has employed a "footwoman", who will walk up and down the Buckingham Palace corridors when the monarch gets a new pair of shoes to help her in breaking in to them without having shoe blisters.

"The shoes have to be immediately comfortable... She does get someone to wear them. The Queen can never say 'I'm uncomfortable, I can't walk any more'. She has the right to have someone wear them in," revealed designer and royal dress-maker Stewart Parvin, who has designed the Queen's wardrobe for over a decade.

The so-called "footwoman" has the job of walking up and down Buckingham Palace corridors to ensure the 90-year-old monarch's shoes are soft and ready to wear.

The British monarch is known to favour mostly low-heeled black shoes made by shoemaker Anello & Davide. The member of staff in charge of softening her new shoes must wear a pair of beige cotton ankle socks and walk on the palace carpets during the "breaking in" period, the 'Evening Standard' reported.

It is unclear how long the breaking in process lasts but it ensures there is no scope of any new shoe blisters at the end. - PTI



Chinese official demoted for not smoking in front of Muslim leaders

BEIJING, April 11: In an unusual move, China has demoted an ruling committee party official in the volatile Uyghur Muslim majority Xinjiang province for not "daring" to smoke in front of local religious leaders, regarding it as a sign of timidity in fighting against extremism.

Jelil Matniyaz, the party chief of a village in Hotan, Xinjiang was demoted from "senior staff member" to "staff member" on March 25 for his "infirm political stands...And for being afraid to smoke in front of religious figures," a notice posted on the Hotan Daily's social media WeChat account said.

"Smoking is a personal choice, and religious and ordinary people should respect each other, but his behaviour of 'not daring' to smoke conforms with extreme religious thought in Xinjiang," the Global Times quoted a Hotan official as saying.

"As a party chief, he should lead the fight against extreme religious thought, otherwise, he would fail to confront the threat of extreme regional forces," the official said.

"According to local religion customs, smoking is not allowed in front of older or religious

people," Turgunjun Tursun, a professor with the Zhejiang Normal University, said.

However, some religious people force ordinary citizens also to comply with the requirements, a senior official who had been working in Xinjiang for years, told the paper.

The official's demotion is an isolated case.

Tursun said, adding that the local government should balance de-extremist behaviour and local customs in the crackdown on extremism.

The move to demote the official comes as authorities intensified their efforts to curb religious extremism.

Early this month, the province where the



Chinese security forces are battling recurring attacks by Uyghur militants enacted a new law banning a wide range of acts, including wearing veils or growing "abnormal" beards.

In Xinjiang, the Turkic speaking Uyghurs are restive for several years over increasing settlements of Han population from other provinces.

China blames separatist East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), an Al-Qaeda affiliated group for the spate of violent attacks in the province. A number of its members reportedly to have joined the Islamic State militant group to fight in Syria. China believes that they would return to carry out attacks in the country.

Xinjiang issued a regional anti-extremism regulation in March which bans supporting extremism and curtailing religious freedom and activities. The anti-extremism campaign also requires officials to inform local residents about some customs that are used by religious extremists, Tursun said.

Other 96 Hotan officials were also named and shamed in the notice for violating disciplinary regulations, including lax work styles, dereliction of duty and bribery. - PTI

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Neymar will be seeking redemption in Champions League

BARCELONA, April 11: One month after leading the most improbable of comebacks, Neymar earned himself the scorn of Barcelona's fans with a pair of senseless bookings.

He'll get a chance to redeem himself on Tuesday when his team faces Juventus in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals.

Neymar picked up a pair of unnecessary yellow cards on Saturday and got sent off with 25 minutes left and his team trailing by a goal at Malaga.

Without him the undermanned side lost 2-0 and squandered an opportunity to close in on Spanish league leader Real Madrid, which was held to 1-1 by Atletico Madrid.

Neymar's infractions bordered on the absurd. Or tragicomic. The Brazilian got his first yellow card for heading over to tie his boot laces and not giving space for a Malaga player to cleanly take a free kick.

Then, knowing he was one false step from leaving his team with 10 men, Neymar charged into a Malaga player with no real chance to win back the ball.

As if he hadn't hurt his



Barcelona's Luis Suarez, Lionel Messi and Neymar during a training session ahead of their UEFA Champions League quarterfinal against Juventus in Turin, on Monday.

team enough already, Neymar may have made matters worse by sarcastically applauding the assistant referee as he exited the field.

The sending-off meant Neymar will be suspended for the next match against Real Sociedad, but his added dose of bad attitude could earn him an ex-

tended suspension, putting in danger his availability for the match at Madrid on April 23 that will go a long way to deciding the domestic title.

Referee Gil Manzano included Neymar's sarcastic applause in his report to the Spanish federation's competition committee, which will meet on Tues-

day to decide the length of his suspension.

The front page of Barcelona-based sports daily *Sport* on Sunday summed up the incredulity of Barcelona's supporters by splashing the headline "UNFORGIVABLE" over a photo of Manzano showing Neymar his well-deserved red card. — AP

Bauza fired as Argentina coach: AFA

Buenos Aires, April 11: Argentina's football association fired Edgardo Bauza as coach of the crisis-hit national team as it struggles to qualify for next year's World Cup, the head of the body said on Monday.

It was the first big move by the Argentine Football Association (AFA) since it last month picked new executives tasked with ending three years of turmoil in the Argentine game.

"I told him that he is no longer the coach of Argentina," the AFA's new president Claudio Tapia told reporters after meeting with Bauza at the association's headquarters.

The world number two-ranked football nation risks failing to qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1970. — AFP

India's U-17 WC team leaves for exposure tour

NEW DELHI, April 11: The Indian football team for the U-17 World Cup today left the country for an exposure tour to Europe where it will play a series of practice matches in Portugal, France, Hungary and a tournament in Italy.

The 26-member squad, accompanied by seven officials including head coach Luis Norton de Matos, will train in Lisbon till May 15, and will play practice matches against U-17 youth teams of leading Portuguese clubs like Sporting, Benfica, Estoril and Setubal.

The squad would then proceed to Paris to play a practice match against PSG U-17 team. The Indians will also have a match against the Indian U-17 national team in Cup." — PTI

Rome and will also be participating in the Lazio Cup.

The Lazio Cup is a tournament played among 16 teams and the expected teams include Albania U-17, Colombia U-17, a team from CAP Canadian selection, and others like Fiorentina, Lazio, Sampdoria, Cagliari, Pescara, Serie B Italia, Serie C Italia and four local sides.

The Indian team also has confirmed matches against Hungary U-17 and matches against Spanish clubs during their tour to Spain.

All India Football Federation general secretary Kushal Das said: "AIFF wants to provide the best of exposure to the U-17 World Cup team in our quest to field a competitive team for the World Cup." — PTI

Hyderabad has the best of facilities in the business — Warner, Dhawan and Yuvraj. It

also has a motley cast of other serious hitters. It's the only one to have raised 200 plus in this IPL. They need numbers of similar

kind on Wednesday against a side which is good enough for 170-plus on most days.

Hyderabad is in Mumbai and against a side who, if they were actors, would get Oscars for their elastic skills. Most could double up as bowler or batsmen. Stars alone don't throw you in disarray. There are others who could job and disappear. It's a side which is best fronted with a collective stand. Every man must

pull his weight if Hyderabad is to corner the lion in his own den. If they do so, it could well put Hyderabad on a roll in this IPL.

Hyderabad is in news much in all competitions this season, up against Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, with 26 goals from 36 games.

Rashid Khan has honed his skills in death overs too. Hyderabad must eat his quota and use him in dire moments. I won't be surprised if his overs are spread out and not used as a clutch from now on.

Rashid and co. would sure

have a serious examination of their skills. Mumbai openers are like terrors and batting runs so when the best of batsmen are defending and that's saying something about his mystery. Obviously his legbreaks from googly aren't too easy to pick from the hand. His accuracy and variations in pace already has put the rival batsmen on alert. Apparently he

have been getting LBWS when the best of batsmen are attacking and that's saying something about his mystery. Obviously his legbreaks from googly aren't too easy to pick from the hand. His accuracy and variations in pace already has put the rival batsmen on alert. Apparently he

It is a heavy-duty match up at Wankhede

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, April 11: Silchar MP Susmita Dev has urged upon the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of India to extend immediate assistance to Gobha Boro, the national level archer from Assam who is battling for her life sans any financial assistance.

In a letter to the Union Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Vijay Goel, the Congress MP from Silchar has said that a national level archer who has made Assam proud by winning 72 medals in various national and international level archery competitions, is now fighting for her life without any assistance from the government.

"In a country of 1.2 billion people, there are instances where sportspersons have been left to the mercy of the Almighty during their crisis hours. Despite their exemplary performances at the Olympics and other international events, sportspersons quit their love for the game and resort to other professions to earn their living to

to paucity of financial assistance. I hope that the Ministry will look into the matter and extend help to the archer at the earliest," Susmita mentioned in the letter.

Kokrajhar CA post thumping victory

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 11: Kokrajhar Cricket Academy outwitted Guwahati Cricket Coaching Centre by a huge margin of 141 runs in the 13th Golap Hazarika Memorial U-19 Inter-State Cricket Coaching Centre Cricket Tournament.

Batting first at the Dibrugarh Ground today the Kokrajhar boys gathered a mammoth total of 236 in 34.4 overs in the 35-over match. In reply the Guwahati CCC boys were skittled off to a meagre 95 runs in 25.4 overs. Bishal Roy was declared the man-of-the-match.

Brief scores: Kokrajhar CA 236 (Pravit Sen 64, Bishal Roy 56, Bipul Das 35, Joyanta Saha 3/ 32, Debasmita Baruah 2/ 23); Guwahati CCC 95 (Jugal Baroi 19, Waitem Sakia 17, Suvarkrishna 3/ 26, Bishal Roy 2/ 16).

Today's match: Kokrajhar CA vs Tezpur CA

National level kickboxing meet

GUWAHATI, April 11: The Kickboxing Association of Assam (KAA) has proposed to host a national level kickboxing championship here from August 24 to 27.

Stating this in a release, general secretary Hiranya Kumar Baruah said, the decision was taken in a general meeting held here on Sunday. The meeting, attended by over 100 representatives from all over the State, was presided over by KAA president Prasanta Kumar Dutta.

Navarang Club's AGM

GUWAHATI, April 11: The Navarang Club held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at their club house here last evening.

Apart from holding discussions on various plans of the Club, the meeting also set up its new 15-member committee with Rajit Prakash Baruah as president, Sapan Bora as secretary and Naba Konwar as treasurer.

SU DO KU

7		1	2	9				
5		8	2	6				
	3	6	9					
	8	2	3	7	4			
3	4		5	2				
1	5	4	3	6				
	7	3	8					
2	4	9	1	1				
9	1	6	5					

Solution of last problem

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

5	1	8	9	3	6	2	7	4
6	7	3	2	8	4	9	5	1
9	2	5	4	1	7	3	6	8
3	4	7	6	2	1	8	5	9
8	5	6	3	7	9	4	2	1
1	9	2	6	4	5	3	6	7
2	6	9	1	5	3	7	4	8
4	3	5	6	8	9	2	1	7
7	8	1	4	9	2	5	3	6

Solution of last problem

Wenger faces new quit calls after Palace loss

LONDON, April 11: Arsene Wenger faces renewed calls to resign after Arsenal's miserable season spiralled out of control with furious fans turning on his flops during their humiliating 3-0 defeat at Crystal Palace.

Wenger's side hit a new low on a chastening evening in south London as struggling Palace condemned the shambolic Gunners to their heaviest Premier League defeat of the season.

Wenger's side have lost four successive away league games for the first time in his 21-year reign as manager.

Goals from Andros Townsend, Yohan Cabaye and Luka Modric gave Palace their first home win over Arsenal since 1979 and left Wenger in turmoil after his team's fifth defeat in their last eight league games.

With many Arsenal supporters again demanding Wenger

resign, the toxic atmosphere around the north Londoners boiled over as fans refused to give the ball back to Gunners right-back Hector Bellerin when it went into the away section in the second half.

Instead, they berated Bellerin and his teammates with chants of "you're not fit to wear the shirt", with the Spaniard having to be consigned by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain when he was jeered again at the final whistle.

Wenger and his squad were targeted for more abuse when they made their way from the dressing room to the team bus. Arsenal's shocking surrender leaves them in sixth place, lagging seven points behind fourth placed Manchester City.

With Wenger's record of leading Arsenal into the Champions League for 19 consecutive years in severe danger, the belea-

guered Frenchman acknowledged he has to find a way to avoid the mutinous mood wrecking what may yet prove to be his final season in charge.

"I want the fans to support the team, but I can understand they are extremely frustrated, like we all are," Wenger said.

"We came with the desire to

win the game, but in the decisive moments of the game Palace were sharper. To see us lose in that way is disappointing. It's part of my job to build the confidence. We have a week to do it. It's our job. We will try to do it."

Faced with the prospect of missing out on the Champions League for the first time since 1997, Wenger has hardly helped his cause by refusing to confirm if he will sign an extension to the contract which runs out at the end of the season.

The uncertainty over his future has been a major distraction for a team lacking the fighting spirit required to cope with adversity.

Wenger conceded Arsenal's chances of making the Champions League via a top-four finish look bleak, but he refused to draw on whether or not he will stay.

"I think it will be very difficult certainly," he said. "I don't want to speak about me tonight. I'm not in the mood. At the moment, I pay more respect to the fact we had a disappointing result."

Looking shell-shocked and far less defiant than he often is at such downbeat moments, Wenger must have been devastated by the likes of Alexis Sanchez, Mesut Ozil and Theo Walcott went missing when he needed them most. — AFP



Bayern out to be Real's 'bete noire' again

MUNICH, April 11: Bayern Munich host Real Madrid in Wednesday's mouthwatering Champions League quarterfinal, first-leg, with Carlo Ancelotti's Bavarians looking once again to be the Spaniards' "bête noire".

And the subplots to the Allianz Arena clash are fascinating.

Bayern boss Carlo Ancelotti coached Real to the 2014 Champions League crown and is up against his former assistant from that triumph, Madrid's current head coach Zinedine Zidane.

World Cup 2010 winner Xabi Alonso, who also won the 2014 Champions League before joining Bayern, will face his ex-club for the last time before retiring in June.

And Real's Germany midfielder Toni Kroos is another to be coming up against his former employers.

Bayern are looking to recover their "bête noire" nickname, given to them by Real fans after Munich won eight of 2000 and 2012.

All that changed in the 2014 Champions League's semifinal when the team coached by Pep Guardiola was thrashed 4-0 at Munich, crashing out 5-0 on aggregate as Ronaldo and Sergio



Gareth Bale, Luka Modric and James Rodriguez (background) pose for a photograph as they board the plane to Munich, on Tuesday.

Ramos netted twice each.

That defeat remains Bayern's

record home European loss, yet

there is no talk of revenge ahead of Wednesday's clash.

"This is the quarterfinals, but it sounds like a final," said Bayern captain Philipp Lahm.

"We're playing against an ab-

solutor top team, who have top

players in every position. We will

have to play to our potential."

Both sides are missing key

defenders, though Germany's Mats Hummels was ruled out after damaging ankle ligaments on Sunday so Jerome Boateng and Javi Martinez will form the centre-back partner-

ship. — AFP

Mumbai take on formidable Sunrisers

MUMBAI, April 11: Confidence bolstered after an inspirational run chase against Kolkata Knight Riders, it will be a tall task for the defending champions Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League encounter here tomorrow.

It will be a battle of youngsters with the likes of Nithish Rana, Hardik Pandya on one side and the new star in the horizon Harbhajan Singh from the Mumbai team management is the fact that the team under KKR was achieved with contribution from the team's younger lot.

Known for their shaggy starts in previous editions, Mumbai Indians have logged home full points in their very second match thanks to Rana's half-century and brilliant

cameo from Hardik Pandya.

This was after Hardik's elder brother Krunal put up an impressive show with the ball grabbing three wickets.

However the third game of the tournament will be the toughest one for Mumbai as they face an informed Sunrisers squaring off after a couple of comprehensive victories in their previous encounters.

What must have pleased the Mumbai team management is the fact that Rohit Sharma, who had been

overs format.

Earlier, his brother Krunal put brakes on KKR with two quick wickets in the early part of the innings.

Mumbai would now be hoping that their regulars – Rohit, Pollard and Harbhajan – also hit the straps at the earliest.

Rohit will like to get a good score under the belt since he is coming back from injury and got a harsh decision against KKR.

His show of dismissals earned him a replacement also.

TEAMS

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma (captain), Jasprit Bumrah, Jos Buttler, Shreyas Gopal, Krishnappa Gowtham, Asela Gunaratne, Har-

bhan Singh, Mitchell Johnson, Kulkarni, Khejriwala, Siddhesh Lad, Mitchell Marsh, Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Parthiv Patel, Kieron Pollard, Nicholas Pooran, Deepak Prabhakar, Nithish Rana, Ambati Rayudu, Irfan Shah, Lahiru Karunaratne, Lendl Simmons, Saurabh Tiwary and R Vinay Kumar.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: David Warner (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Somdev Henriques, Yuvraj Singh, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Sehwag Natarajan, Tammy Aparajit, Ricky Bhui, Elklayya Dwivedi, Chris Jordan, Kanchan Williamson, Sridharan Keul, Ben Laughlin, Ishant Singh, Mounir, Mohd Nabi, Mohd Siraj, Vijay Shankar, B Srinath and Pravin Tambe. – PTI

Dew made it difficult to put up high score: Binny

will come straight to the bat and we would be able to make a big score," RCB's Stuart Binny, who scored an unbeaten 18, told reporters last night.

"But the dew prevented the balls from coming onto the pitch and the wicket was behaving such that we were being forced to play 18-20 balls at ease to firm up our position on the ground before playing big strokes," he said.

On RCB's explosive

batsman Chris Gayle not being included in the playing eleven and replaced with AB de Villiers, Binny said, "We had no option as de Villiers was found fit for playing the match and as per the IPL rules no more foreign player could be included in the final eleven."

He said RCB was planning to take two wickets of Kings XI Punjab, which was chasing the target of 149 runs, in the first five-six overs to bring them under pressure but it didn't work. – PTI

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Poem of love

Hiren Bhattacharjya

What is it
That burns inside my bosom
My sorrow, my happiness
What makes it expensive?
In each feeling of mine
The humming sound of your love
Burns in me
That its ashes fill up
The inside and outside
Of my bosom.
Probably
The fire of love of yours
Will gradually
Burn me down to ashes.



Spring is spreading

Mitali Habi

In the sleepy morning
I am rubbing my eyes
In front of me
The agitation of Spring
Spreading soft leaves,
If it could have song like this
It is a rare gift given
If it could have flown down
As if it is flowing down from
A thousand jewels of light.
All these days
Becoming small and large
Inside a dream
These days
Moving around inside a sleep
I have just opened a window
That was kept closed.
In the sleepy morning
I am rubbing my eyes



The Assam Tribune

Spring Sonata

BIHU SUPPLEMENT, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017, GUWAHATI



PINTING: CHAMPIKBABU



The fallen leaves

Lufa Hamam Selina Begum

They are searching for
A green path
To go back
To the branches of the trees –
Those fallen leaves.
The birds
Want to turn yellow
Within the eggs.
The river wants
Even the dead fishes
To go back
To the water.
The shadows
Want to turn to trees.



Photos: Ritu Baruah
Poems translated by Surajit Boraon



The advent of Bongali Bihu, signalling the dawn of a new year, instantly reminds me of my village and the observations I had there as a child during each Bihu. One observation, in particular, has worked as a stimulus in my growth as a human being.

During Bihu, the *haat*-or-sing-song team paid visits to each family in my village and it was considered to be a show of honour if the *haat* team did not visit a family. It was considered to be impolite as well as a social boycott of sorts for the family.

The headman, who was also my maternal grandfather, always made sure that all the families in the village left behind their hatred, differences, ill feelings, rivalry, etc., and renewed social unity, peace, harmony, love and compassion for each other. He was a man of great character and his *haat* team did not carry any grudge against others and did not patch up. His rule also stated that a family that continued to harbour any grudge against others and did not patch up, would be honoured with the *haat* team's inaugural visit.

As a child, I used to notice that there were year-long differences just before Bongali Bihu and taking oath in front of the headman that they would never repeat such acts. With these few words, which are my childhood reminiscence, I convey my heartfelt Bongali Bihu wishes to all the readers and their friends for a happy and prosperous year ahead.

— Jatin Barua,
Murti



page 2

Embracing change

Photo: Prabin Hazarika



page 3

Bihu trending

Manish Goswami



page 6
Longings of distant voices

Wargali Das



page 7
Songs of Spring

Udhaba Singh

■ Partha Pratim Hazarika

As a child, what did my then tiny body, my mother would keep me up with her *chador* to prepare me to join the seasonal Assamese *Bihu* *haccheeteem*. A small *dhul* hanging from my shoulder, I would spend playing and dancing to whatever *Bihu Naum* my husband would sing. We rejoiced being a part of *hacchi* in our childhood. Tradition was strong and we used to pay one or two rupees at the end of our *hacchi* performance to the *hacchi* heads, and that was it. Ten rupees was a big thing then. Just a cricket bat was enough for the ensuing year. "Ei *haci* naheba, ei *haci* ponera, ei *haci* taki, ei *haci* jorai, ei *haci* asurhali koris, githakha kusale thak" – it was a solemn, and sincere expression of being of the family. The entire exercise was simple, but the joy we derived from it remained unmatched. Years vividly remembers those magic moments of pure joy, of gatherings in that small, happy neighbourhood at Sivasagar.

People refer to mighty Brahmaputra as the river of life. But in time I always refer to the Dikhow instead, not merely because it is, but no less mystic. In fact, Dikhow remains in my mind as the river that has its own strengths, its own foreshadowed journey, in its own way. I have seen the Dikhow in its most fertile, as well as its most dry, seasons. The Dikhow, like the river is God's gift, for many, the Dikhow is a curse.

So, a lot of water has gone down the Dikhow by now. The neighbourhood I belong to, the town I live in, landed as it was by the grace of the river, the royal Ahoms, has changed tremendously. So has the kind of *Bihu* we celebrated. Not only the *Bihu*, but also the time when six-seven lower primary students would cry by the side of their mothers to get permission to make a *hacchi* for the *Bihu*. They were as shy as *shwari*, and had an unmitigated, never to be forgotten, gala time. *Bihu* then was all about the fun, the gaiety, the heart, the joy of togetherness, the point of simple pleasure. It was simple.

Now we have seen *Bogah Bihu* undergoing an unexplainable metamorphosis, changing into a clear, unmistakable commercial entity. We are now as far as where we came from. We have to look forward, for us, the Assamene, this juggernaut of



Embracing change

So, a lot of water has gone down the Dikhow by now. The neighbourhood I belong to, the town I hail from, lauded as it was by the glory and might of the world's longest ruling royal dynasty, the Ahoms, has changed tremendously. The Ahoms, has changed tremendously,



commercialisation has engulfed the three Bihus. *Bogah Bihu* is the most exploited one.

There was a time when organising a *Bihu* was a task of the public service. People from all walks of life, poor and rich alike, danced with open hands for *Bihu*. Now it is the most opportune time to sell ideas, products, commodities. In the process, the rituals that surrounded *Bogah Bihu* have been lost. And so is the *Bihu* to date. The romance of celebrating *Bogah Bihu* has been lost. The veiled sense of mystery and the purity of expressive body language. The longing for togetherness has given way to the sense of competition and consequent personal, commercial gains.

Bogah Bihu once considered a festival of the masses, has turned into a purely capitalist platform – a platform of interest forces with vested interests conspired to do this. And we have remained mute spectators.

The *Bihu Naum*, very dear to most of the Assamene, have been replaced by the *Surjya* *Bihu* (which is also a *Bihu* in Bihu times). The cross commercialisation involved in the process has destroyed the crest of the *Bihu*. The *Bihu* that we once knew is aghast at listening to sub-standard, rootless and worthless songs with doubtful melody and lyrics. The *Bihu* that we once knew is the beauty of the *Bihu* songs as they once were – gay, joyous and serious. Over-commercialisation have become the order of the day. One can't help but feel that there is something else here. There still is a section of musicians, composers and singers who have passionately and sincerely tried to keep the originality of *Bihu* and its musical forms. But at a time when technology has enhanced our ability to record and share music, a finger tip (click of a mouse) has become obscured by now; every Tom, Dick or Harry has been able to record and upload his music to become a musician. Money plays the bigger role here than the mind.

Bogah Bihu / *Surjya Bihu* / *Holey Bihu* or *mukh Assom* or *ayubhokhi Langhar* or *Sas*. (*Bihu* is not only a season! it is not even a month! it is the strength of the Assamene! it is the strength of the people...) – the Band of the Burha Luit, Dr. Bishnupuram Hora, the *Surjya* *Bihu* band as the lifeline of the Assamene People. Unfortunately, and regrettably, we the people have lost our lifeline. The present scenario makes one very pessimistic, but one can't help being the opposite. One would be happy to prove otherwise.

With never-ending hopes for a better future for us, the Assamene, with all a very happy *Bogah Bihu*.

— partha.hazarika@assamtribune.com

■ Zubee Singh

It is that time of the year again, the time to dress up, strut out in the choicest of Assamese colours and walk down to the local *Bihu* *pandal* for that absolutely essential fix of *Bihu* *naach* and *gaon*. Rongali *Bihu* is the most awaited *Bihu*, the one where *mehela chador* and *gownches* to celebrate the New Year, the musical fraternity has been preparing their gig for them. As Zubee approaches, we see a flurry of activity in the minute scene, there's a palpable energy flowing through it all, a mix of the old school of music, the new school of instruments and the technician – recording studios are chock a block and new artists pushing deadlines to get their albums recorded. The *Bihu* songs are the ones that bring them by. And once the songs are out there, the same melody bunch of artists get into a performance groove, preparing themselves to show how they are passed out over the entire month of *Bihu*.

Veteran singer-composer and singer, one of the oddball *Bihu* crooners, JP Das, has his *Bihu* performance at Shillong, sometime in 1961-62. Then, the capital of Assam, Shillong hosted one major *Bihu* festival. JP Das, a native of Nagaon, Labon and it is here that Das began his long tryst with *Bogah Bihu* functions. "Bhupen Khatua, Dipali Barthakur, Moghul Qabar, they would all perform on this stage and I was privileged to have performed on the stage. I was a guitar player, started out as a guitarist, accompanying singing pair of Rupam Bhuyan and Ridip Datta, Churn Gohain, Samar Hazarika and the likes. He started singing alone after joining All India Radio, sometime in 1961-62.

Another popular artiste who has been on the *Bihu* circuit for a long time now is Zubeen Baruah. "I am a young singer started performing from the time I was in Class II. Rongali *Bihu* has always been a highlight for me. The music is basically the natural and musical forms. But during this time this is simply great. I have never heard such a large number of people start singing. So, I have covered almost all corners of our State and every place and stage is more than welcome for me."

While our *Bogah Bihu* celebration pangs out to just over a week, the musical functions are still on for another month. After all, *Bihu* organises all over Assam have to rope in the biggest of performers and the musicians, on their part, have to be available for the entire month. "I am very little show that they can into their kirti. But too many shows in one season might also lead to burn out, admits Zubeen Baruah. "I am a bit worried about the energy level that this festival demands. It becomes very hectic and stressful. I think doing excessive number of shows might end up deteriorating the quality gradually. I would prefer a maximum of 25 shows in a span of two months. I would prefer a maximum of 25 shows," she says. JP Das meanwhile, recalls performing at least 30 shows in a month. "I have performed as much as 35 shows in a month. He has now cut down on *Bihu* shows, his reasons though are different. "I perform at a few select places now, there are not many places where people want to hear me. Audiences do not want good music. They only prefer fast, party numbers so they can simply dance in abandoned. I avoid those places."

Singer Rupam Bhuyan and his band North East Breeze also plan to do 20 shows this season, with 12 shows in *Rongali Bihu* and 8 shows in *Surjya Bihu*.

Rongali Bihu shows. We have planned to add some new to our performance this time by showcasing our unique musicality and the fusion of Assamene folk music and songs of the legends as a tribute to them. But with our own music of the legends," he reveals.

Zubee, on the other hand, admits to going with the flow. She doesn't really make a list of songs, she says. "I just fix up the first two songs, and then I get an idea of what my audience would like to listen and accordingly

Whether it's the outfit that they wear or the song selection, there is a lot that has changed. "While it is okay to sing one's own original compositions, artists must also remember that *Bihu* is a tradition. If a song is not at least, may be then move on to other songs," he says. He is also unhappy about the on-stage attire of some artists. "I see some artists wearing *gownches* or *chador* or with weird haircuts... that's not Assamene at all."

Zubee, in fact, was in the thick of a storm last year because of her attire. "I was wearing a *gownche*. There was a lot of hue and cry as to what the organisers felt was non-Assamene and how traditional wear must always be a female prerogative. She wants to clean the air once and for all. "Have always loved our traditional attire and being an

Songs of Spring



Playlist

I do not sing *Bihu* Surjya gaad, I sing *Surjya* *Naach*. I sing *Surjya* *Naach* *Surjya* *Naach* *Tundor* – *Zubeen Baruah*

There are a lot of songs which I will sing this year. I am a bit worried about the *Surjya* *Naach* *Tundor* – *Zubeen Baruah*

This season, one song which I will be performing at every show is *Studer doi*, which is from my last album *Tundor*. This song is based on anti-corruption. I do not sing *Bihu* Surjya gaad, I sing *Surjya* *Naach*. I sing *Surjya* *Naach* *Surjya* *Naach* *Tundor* – *Zubeen Baruah*

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There are a lot of songs which I will

pick up the pace. This *Bihu* season, one song which I will

be performing at every show is *Studer doi*, which is from

my last album *Tundor*. This song is based on anti-corruption," she adds. Even JP Das makes his song selection based on the feedback he gets. "I have a few songs which I have not yet sung. *Surjya* *Naach* is one of my time favourite. *Porey Bihu* is one song that he has to sing every time he gets up on stage.

"Artists have to be more fusion to anti-corruption," the *Bihu* star said.

For Zubee, the *Bihu* season has evolved to seal in all that is new and innovative. But everything new isn't noble, or original. "I am not against newness. I am for another level, helping musicians and other artists make more room for the new. While performing the season, there is also the growing fear that this festival is becoming stale," she says.

"Artists now only wish to know how much they will be paid, not how much is due to them. The long-term past has to change. We have to make sure that the artistes are at the age of 86. Music for me is oxygen. I can't breathe without it. That dedication towards music is not there today," she adds.

Das also laments the fact that these days most perfor-

mances do not maintain the traditional decorum of the stage. But with our own music of the legends," he reveals.

artist I know the decorum of the stage. My answer will remain the same. Our *Bihu* is celebrated for seven days. *Surjya Bihu*, I will definitely wear *mehela chador* then, and even after that. But if anyone dictates it's not acceptable, I will follow it. I have a few songs which I have to sing every time he gets up on stage.

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— *budisha.singha@gmail.com*

Longings of distant voices

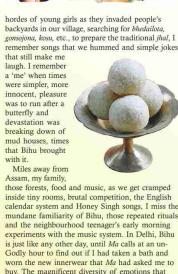
■ Bhargavi Das

I sit down to write from a space and time that is charged with politics v/s ideology, dichotomies, discussion v/s hotheadedness, sensemaking v/s nationalistic sensibilities, the voice of the writing above Bihu is a beautiful respite, pregnant with nostalgia. But the voice of Rongali Bihu is not simply a celebration of a temporary people or culture, it is a unity. A time when people take some time.

So while one satisfies oneself with home-sent food, visiting Bihu pandals at Dilli Haat, wearing that brightly unique mekhela chador or listening to Bihu songs in smartphones, the growing young Assamese diaspora scattered across India and abroad, is somehow quick to recognise

a sense of abiding

out to some that lost with him travel, love and courage to go on in life. When faced notions of modernity slow a tad down to unite with forgotten traditions. A time when Zobita unites with Ashok, geetgauri when we're overwhelmed by the smell of maa's clothes in the air. Sometimes even today I imagine Ma and Bihu in the same sentence. I paint my mind with the colour brown—the colour of warmth, the aroma of gur to my heart, the taste of the arenas of gur to my tongue, the taste of the traditional that transforms them into beautiful objects of pride, and the taste of the taste that is comforting. Papa used to inaugurate every Bihu by forcing down more lemons down our throats while we groaned in pain at the break of dawn. Those journeys when we accompanied the



customary two-word ritual of 'Happy Bihu' to my family members here, and the all-pervasive world of social media.

So when I decided to ask about their memories and feelings about Bihu, their memories of Bihu and what new meanings this festival has acquired in their new territories, I got a lot of responses. There was a sense of longing, that felt as if those were let out after years of careful lockdown in some unknown corner of their bodies. While Ashok, the son of Zobita, who has a long sigh that he relives Bihu by eating left over lassis and jolhas brought from home, Antra, a student of Delhi University, who has been missing the Bihu smells in the air during those few days? Neha, a dear friend from DSE, and Ishani, who stay in Bengaluru, collected a lot of photos and videos and remember how they danced their hearts out. In an evening filled with chat and conversations, Kukdeepa, a P.D. research scholar, who has been away from Assam since the laidback essence of Bihu when time stops being measured in clocks and days are spent watching Bihu competitions, shared his thoughts.

Antra, another native of Barpeta, now in TISS, Mumbai, misses the feeling that comes along with Bihu. She says, "I miss the joy of dancing with others before hurriedly letting out that it's the change in one, in terms of spirit, that Bihu injects, which they miss the most." Ishani, who has been away from Assam since the little Bihu celebration that happened in the Bengal dominated town, while Satalcdez is quick to bring up the fact that he misses the taste of Assam.

So while one satisfies oneself with home-sent food, visiting Bihu pandals at Dilli Haat, wearing that brightly unique mekhela chador or listening to Bihu songs in smartphones, the growing young Assamese diaspora scattered across India and abroad, is somehow quick to recognise that the sense of the rush that creates mini tribbles in the ground, of rhythmic sounds of the cuckoo-ketef, of kogas that throb in the air, the sense of the warmth of neighbours, couples and relatives recovering from days of incessant fights and starting afresh. We feel connected to the people, the land, the roots from the roots, and missing Bihu amplifies that feeling.

As Shravani, after days of coerced to speak up silently, said, "Bihu is the most awaited festival. Hence, as a diasporic entity, uprooted and in search of greener pastures, I often wonder, what if I was born in Assam? Is a bengali girl like me, in terms of higher education, jobs, etc.? Would I have still flown away then?" Unfortunately, such questions are asked by many, with the hope of being mirrored in social reality. And cultural longing as expressed by the diasporic youth, in this write-up, should raise larger questions as to why such a scenario still remains unmet in Assam.

—bhargavidas123@gmail.com

Bihu trending

■ Manish Goswami

"It's not an irony when everyone is busy promoting their own cultural traditions, if at all we the people of the State are still concerned in a time where we busy ourselves, instead of promoting our own distinct culture."

"Come on Bihu, now *Nescient*, pressing whatever the prefix or suffix it might be, the government is trying its best to showcase the littleness of the State—the mighty Brahmaputra," I said.

"What's there to do about Bihu?" I asked. "After all, Bihu is the lifeblood of Assamese culture, an inspiration of social life."



"There you are, even while promoting the mighty river, we are imitating the way the Ganges is being projected. Even those who are not from Assam are denied by someone who is not from the region," Bihu replied sarcastically.

Commenting, Bihu said, "It's high time we did something about Bihu."

"What's there to do about Bihu?" I asked.

"After all, Bihu is the lifeblood of Assamese culture, an inspiration of social life."

"Well, I think it's time we enhanced the appeal of Bihu."

"Appeal of Rongali Bihu? What do you mean? Bihu is the festival which everyone adores. It's a festival of fun, of joy, of peace, of love, of the whole people of this state. It is a festival which is rich in culture, tradition, dance and music. It's a festival which can unite the society without any division of class, caste, class. It is a time when both the

young and old dance in gay abandon to ear catching music and song."

"That's true, but I wish we could project Bihu in a better way."

"Asha, Bihu has come a long way from the time it used to stage itself in now a more refined form for cultural exercises, movement and fun and frolic. Bihu is a boom time for us. Today, culture and art provides an ideal platform for the people to congregate and communicate. No wonder to keep the Bihu spirit alive, the emerging young must be encouraged to wear the traditional carnival in lanes and bylanes even after Syring makes way in summer."

"Culturally, we need not give a long lecture on Bihu. What I meant was that why not make Bihu a popular event nationwide?"

"Right, what are you talking about? Make our famous popular in places like the real regions? I mean, I know you are a very good dreamer. Can the people of the State who take numerous flights, travelling almost anywhere in the world, forget everything else, anything, except tea. It's an irony that we are so very dependent on the outside supplies to carry out our various demands, be it consumer durables or vegetable."

"Yes, it is depressing as well. Once a regional political party of the State tried desperately to promote Bihu, but the government of the State was indeed flooded with gourasikhs, with most of them being won over in the primaries of the North South. Our culture has become so minuscule that just as easily as we can reach out for a state that can't imagine life without imported items."

"Can Bihu ever be popular?" I asked.

"Will you eat it? Bihu replied. "Please consider our presence felt in the global scene, I think it would be better if we project our Bihu in a bigger way."

"Who is that mother?" I asked.

"Well, more often than St. Valentine's when we never get to see our beloved on valentine days. And now the day is not far off when the government is going to declare Valentine's Day as a national holiday."

"Who is that mother?" I asked.

"Bihu, the mother of all. Like I mentioned earlier Smiling Cugoi, who now keeps himself busy by addressing press conferences to promote Bihu, who is a very good brand ambassador to project Bihu. He is a very good break dancer, singer and dancer and with his penchant for playing the harmonium, I think he will be the next Hemanshikha Bhattacharya. And he, Parvati Khatua, with his managerial acumen, can assist him in the regard."

—gmanish@gmail.com

Shades and Style

Four popular designers take us through the trends of the season

■

Bongali Bihu or Rongali Bihu is the most popular Bihu, celebrated the day after Makar Sankranti. New Year! I implorely recommend and follow the traditional wear for a festive season like Bihu. It's a traditional Assamese attire, a unique wear. I would suggest going for designer blouses with the *mehandi-chadar* as it looks very elegant. You can also go for handwoven short blazers or jackets with an Assam silk sari will look very ethnic. As for colour, the shades of yellow are trending this season.

—Kankana Konwar, Silk Souk

This Rongali Bihu, I would suggest one to wear something like the off-white saree with your imagination with palates of blue, green and yellow. The traditional meghali sari and add a variety of motifs with yellow shades of Assamese jewellery. Similarly, we usually go for light colours, so I have crafted a wide variety of traditional motifs in a palette of light colours. Each ensemble is a fusion of contemporary trends, creatively blended with the rich Indian culture.

—Sanjukta Dutta, Silk Souk

Well, Rongali Bihu means people, especially the ladies, wanting to dress up in red and orange. As much as I am a fan of red, I am suggesting trying out substitutes for rouge. Those who have a creative mind and want to design something for themselves can opt for orange. Orange is the colour that is flooded with embroidered fabrics as well. It's quite easy to choose the design and fix it on the blouse. I have crafted a wide variety of traditional motifs in a palette of light colours. Each ensemble is a fusion of contemporary trends, creatively blended with the rich Indian culture.

—Tanjore Chakraborty, Parrot Pink

Always try to wear your own style. Wear clothes that make you feel beautiful and comfortable. Yellow is the colour of this season. For Bihu, I would suggest a yellow saree with a traditional attire, the evergreen *mehandi-chadar*. You could always get innovative with the way you wear it. You can also add a belt to it. Don't forget to wear your smile and your confidence. Shine on and have fun!

—Parvati Khatua, Hemanshikha Bhattacharya

Ask told to Bidisha Singhvi

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Ask told to Bidisha Singhvi

When the heart breaks



It was then that he saw her.
A slight figure in a *mekhela chador*. He had followed her along the village lanes, in dimly lit afternoons and silver *Phagun* nights, until the span of her waist, the length of her legs under the demure cotton *mekhela*, the gentle swell of her hips and the small of her back, and the knobby spine hidden by her thick braid of hair was singed into his simple brain with red-hot tongs of memory and desire.

■ Indrani Palmedhi

Once a year, in the village of Keteijan, all the village folk gathered in the field of the only school. Loudspeakers call out check, check, till it sounds like a metallic tongue, but no one minds, for in the womb of the tent, protected from the sandy winds of the plains, the sun sets early, and by night after night, stories are born, complete, magnificently formed, with pale, sighing women in pink dresses, and men in blue dhotis, the men with handle bar mustaches, the clowns, the oaf, the dancers with their quicksilver limbs.

They sit, they stretch and sighed and laughed and wept tears of gentle compassion, the villagers became one and they chose the most beautiful girl among them, saging above the canal, the chunks of earth that fell with a rumble into the man of the water, the trees that were born from the same machine at the health centre, and the dark effluvia of the plastic factory from far away suddenly came together in the air, as if they are one and the breaths of the men and women fall on each other's faces, and amply gave birth to a single, strong, young boy, by her thermocool window, drooping, alert for the hoots that will carry her beloved from her, the boy who will be the son of the people, the galloping starts in the sound system, there are little cries, and sleeping babies begin to wail, as

their greedy mouths get disengaged from their mother's nipples.

The boy who that cried, as he has been for as long as he can remember, curly-haired, with a broad, open face that spoke of a certain lack of concern. Dhanjeet. He owned one pair of jeans, and was happy to discover that one did not fit him. He had a small, thin, bony spine in the seat of the bottom and was fayed at the edges. He named this precious item of clothing, his *phagun* dress, which carried the fact of an angry bearded man in a peaked cap with a turban. Dhanjeet had never studied in school, but he had a sharp mind, he had attended him to know this angry youth, this Che, had, from halfway around the world, and alone, had come to Ketkijan to find his love, to take lives as easily as if snatching a blotted page from a book, and the small of her back, and the knobby spine hidden by her thick braid of hair was singed into his simple brain with red-hot tongs of memory and desire. In the darkness and the flashing sky, Dhanjeet hurried after her, his eyes like a white saffron, a scalabid by his side, ready to swing down in one fluid movement and carry her.

But Dhanjeet had made a mistake. His gaze had been only on Padma. It was wise of Arizona to have chosen Ketkijan as her destination, Dhanjeet. But Dhanjeet was not the face of prince. In the mire of the storm, he misook the woman he had come to meet, and the two friends. But it was Sutan. Dhanjeet was as he was about to put his timid hand on Padma's shoulder, when he saw her, the slender, tall, raw Phagun. She snatched her dagger away in a trice and in the darkness, her venom seeped into his heart.

"What do you want now?" she snarled. "Have you not done enough?" *

"We want a man," the woman said this flatly, her dark brooding eyes resting on him. Sultan couughed. All day he had worked on the fatty properties of the oil, and he had been asked to thrash Anowa, just enough for her to acquiesce to him, and drift off to a land where no one would ever see him again.

"What kind of man do you want, *Rasid*?" Then there was no mistaking the tight insistence of this flatly, her dark brooding eyes resting on him. Sultan couughed. All day he had worked on the fatty properties of the oil, and he had been asked to thrash Anowa, just enough for her to acquiesce to him, and drift off to a land where no one would ever see him again.

"He must be about 18," he explained. "Strong but so strong, smart but not smart. We don't want a coward. But we don't need a hero either."

"Tell me, *Rasid*," Sultan's forehead was now draped in sweat, his brows furrowed, his skin shuddered from the wind that ominously crawled in and filled the whole womb high up to the roof. "I have some relatives who are jokers, and others. One of them is Amrita. Have you heard of the place? Rana is our younger one. I call him Sone, the golden rose."

Now the speaker spat from the far end of

the room, sunk in a velvet sofa, his face morose. "Tell him what your Sone calls us. Not for decent ears." The man muttered angrily.

Not for decent ears. He got some magic potion and mixed it into his food. And a demon came to stay in my golden one's body."

She had written to Ketkijan. Her husband in his barn among the cows, his body shadowed with soots. Padma's family continued to hate and curse him year after that night. Padma remained silent.

A month later, the family packed the house, bound for a distant city where the life one's demons would be coaxed out. Dhanjeet was suddenly without a job. Sultan was summoned to take his place to Ketkijan. The one was too far inside his madness to be forced to his freed slave. *

It was a seven-hour journey to Ketkijan. Sultan crooked in his seat, grinding tobacco on the palms of his hand and tucking it into his cheek.

"They were strange people," he muttered darkly.

And so began Dhanjeet's strange work among members of a strange family. His master was Sone, a 17-year-old who looked like a madman, his skin and his eyes were oozes among dead ash, alive with madness and anger. He would enter, and Dhanjeet would sit on the red sofa, and under his feet, lay out his metal on his bed, drink dark, sweet liquids with the bottles raised, his throat rippling. He sang, strummed his guitar, cursed his parents who cowered elsewhere in the vast ugly house, played cruel, meaningless games on machines Dhanjeet had never seen.

His bed. "I know you went though much trouble, my boy."

"I did what I could." "No, no," Sultan shook his head. "You deserve a reward, boy. And let me go now."

"I will not release you. They paid me."

"I already have for your next job."

"Another job?" Dhanjeet looked puzzled.

Unconcerned. "Yes — there is a girl in Ketkijan whose father is a notorious criminal for his night and day. Her younger sister is engaged to the hermit is without a gross. I will bring him here."

"Many years ago, you see, this fool of a boy threw a *phuljhari* at her. There's a mark on her that makes her look like a *lal*."

"What do I have to do?" he asked in a foolish voice. "I mean, what is my job?"

"You have to bring her to Ketkijan. That girl is privel. She believes some loves her, and is waiting to carry her away. But the dame fool does not know who she is."

Dhanjeet left the stallion ripple under him,

racing him towards a road lit by the moon's silver.

At that very moment, he knew his penance was finally over.

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