

NEWS CAPSULE

2 killed in Pak shelling

JAMMU, July 8: Two civilians were killed and two others injured today as Pakistani troops shelled and fired along the Line of Control in Jammu's Poonch district. The victims are an off-duty soldier and his wife, police said. — IANS

(Also see Page 12)

Army plan

NEW DELHI, July 8: The Defence Ministry has cleared a proposal for upgrading the Army's armoured fighting vehicles to make them capable of undertaking night operations. The decision was taken at Defence Acquisition Council meet today. — PTI

Cremated

TEZPUR, July 8: The body of Wing Commander MS Vaidya, who was cremated at the cremation ground of Parbat here today with full military honours, he was killed in a helicopter crash in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday while on a rescue mission. — Correspondent

Climate deal

GUWAHATI, July 8: India has decided that it remains committed on the issue of climate change "as per its own values and requirements", days after the US announced its decision to pull out of the landmark Paris agreement. — PTI

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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the leaders of G-20 nations, at Hamburg in Germany on Friday night. — UNI

Flood scene improves in State

● Met office predicts rains ● One more death reported

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 8: There was slight let-up in the overall flood situation of the State today with the number of flood-affected districts being reduced to 19 from yesterday's 20. The death toll in the current wave of floods, however, has shot up to 23 with the report of one more case of drowning from Lakhimpur district during the past 24 hours.

The flood-affected districts are Lakhimpur, Bongaigaon, Jorhat, Golaghat, Cachar, Dhemaji, Biswanath, Karimganj, Sonitpur, Majuli, Barpeta, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sivasagar, Morigaon, Chirang, Hojai, Kamrup and South Salmara, the bulletin said, adding, rain-induced landslides have affected the hill district of Dima Hasao.

The State government has intensified its rescue and relief operations to tackle the prevailing flood scenario. Meanwhile, 19 boats have been deployed by the authorities and the local people in Karimganj and Morigaon districts to rescue the marooned people.

Altogether 89 relief camps are (See page 12)

1,100 electrocution deaths in State in 10 years

SANJOY RAY

posed to similar eventualities.

Worse, deaths due to lackadaisical management of power lines continue to put citizens in a state of shock year after year, Guwahati being no exception.

However, the Power Department claims that not all deaths are due to negligence on the part of the Power Department and many such deaths could be attributed to personal negligence, especially at the household-level.

Records divulged that since 2006, more than 1,100 people have died due to electrocution across the length and breadth of the State, mostly after coming into contact with live wire emerging from unheeded high-voltage transformers, making it more than 100 deaths a year on an average. — PTI

(See page 12)

GUWAHATI, July 8: How many more electrocution deaths do we need to wake up the State Power Department from its prolonged slumber? Or, whether the department itself is in dire need of 'shock therapy' to arouse its conscience? At least, that is what statistics seem to suggest.

Ironically, a State which boasts of improved infrastructure and financial make-over over the years, is virtually incapacitated and mute over more than 1,100 deaths by electrocution in the last 10 years or so, besides leaving many others ex-

Safety advisory for Chinese citizens in India

BEIJING, July 8: China today issued a safety advisory for its citizens travelling to India amid the stand-off between Indian and Chinese troops at Doklam area in the Sikkim sector.

"It is not a travel alert. It is an advisory asking Chinese travellers to be careful," an official of the Chinese Foreign Ministry here said.

The advisory asked Chinese travellers to India to pay close attention to the security situation and take necessary precautions. The advisory was issued through the Chinese embassy in New Delhi. — PTI

PM seeks UK help to bring back economic offenders

HAMBURG, July 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today pressed on his British counterpart Theresa May to ensure UK's cooperation to bring back economic offenders, amidst India working hard for the return of fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya and former IPL chief Lalit Modi.

Mallya has been in the UK for months, escaping arrest warrants against him, while a court in London is also hearing a case regarding his return to India.

Modi today met May during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit here and sought UK's help in this regard. Both leaders also talked about the complete range of India-UK ties.

Vijay Mallya

Lalit Modi

In a tweet after the meeting, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Gopal Baglay said the Prime Minister asked for UK's "cooperation for return of escaped Indian economic offenders".

Asked whether India seeking cooperation from the UK was limited to Mallya or whether Lalit Modi was also mentioned, Baglay told reporters, "I don't want to get into the specifics but the phrase used in the tweet is escaped economic offenders and it is plural."

Baglay refused to comment directly on any question related to Mallya, who is wanted in India for Kingfisher Airlines' default on loans worth nearly Rs 9,000 crore and has been in

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Maharashtra cops to get 'beef detection kits'

MUMBAI, July 8: The Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratories in Maharashtra has developed a portable kit which can determine if a meat sample contains beef or not.

'Cow Meat Detection ELL-SA Kit' can provide results within half an hour, said KV Kulkarni, director of FSL.

The development comes amid controversies surrounding beef ban. The BJP-led government in the state has enacted Maharashtra Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act which bans the slaughter of bulls too, besides that of cows.

"With this kit, officials would be able to examine meat samples on the spot," Kulkarni said.

"We have been working on the kit for the last few months alongwith Hyderabad-based scientist Dr Bhanshali. All 45 mobile FSL vans in the state will have this kit soon," he said.

The kit will help police secure more convictions in cases of beef possession or transportation, he said.

If the meat sample fed into the kit contains beef, it turns yellow. Then it shall be sent for further confirmation to FSL, he said. — PTI



Slum dwellers taking out 'Dhobi Jalao March' demanding availability of Kerosene oil, in Patna on Saturday. — UNT

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Mamata says ready for talks, urges for peace in Darjeeling

KOLKATA, July 8: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today urged the political parties in the Darjeeling hills to return to the path of peace and sit with the government for talks.

"The government is ready for talks with the hill parties, but peace has to be ushered in. The government has shown enough restraint in the interest of the people of the hills. Peace has to return to the hills," she said.

Banerjee said schools and colleges remained closed in Darjeeling, the people there were not getting enough food and other essential commodities and alleged that the leaders of the hill parties, however, were getting their supplies "from Sikkim and Nepal".

The State government, she added, would send food to the people of the hills. The chief minister accused the Centre of "deliberate and total non-cooperation" in the matter and alleged that its refusal to send CRPF personnel, as demanded by the West Bengal government, had led to the current situation in the Darjeeling hills, where an indefinite shutdown, called by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) and backed by the other political parties in the hills, entered its 24th day today.

"The Darjeeling problem had erupted on June 8 and a month has passed since. Had the CRPF personnel been sent in time, this would not have happened," she said.

Banerjee claimed that as the state police did not have enough personnel to tackle the situation in the hills, the assistance of the central forces was sought.

"The Centre sent seven companies out of which three were from the Sasthra Seema Bal (SSB). They have been completely inactive. They can only wield lathis with no power," she said. — PTI

'Bengal sent back central forces'

NEW DELHI, July 8: West Bengal sent back four companies of BSF and four companies of additional paramilitary forces in violence-hit Barakat, Union Home Ministry sources said on Saturday, refuting West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's allegations that the Centre was not cooperating with her government.

Referring to Gorkhaland agitation in Darjeeling, sources said, "Now the West Bengal Chief Minister was saying that (paramilitary) companies were not sent. So far as Darjeeling is concerned, 11 companies have been deployed, one women company and now they want us to withdraw," — IANS

Four arrested

BERHAMPUR, July 8: Odisha Police today arrested four persons including two computer engineers here in Ganjam district on charge of illegally operating SIM Boxes, which are being used by gangsters to divert the ISD/TSD calls by using fake SIMs. Police also seized at least five China-made SIM Boxes, several fake SIM cards and ID proofs from their possessions. — PTI

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Marriage aid scheme likely for minority girls

after availing the government's scholarship, the minister said.

The Rs 51,000 assistance is aimed at helping the parents of girl children, he said. "They say we have to spend on the education of the girl even after your scholarship. So, we are not able to save money for the marriage, for the future of the child. It results in dropouts," he said.

Nagvi said that "Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centres" would be established in 100 districts of the country. A skill development centre is being set up here.

Besides providing various job-oriented skill development courses, the Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centre would also offer a certificate course in GST. After completing the three-month course in GST, the certificate holders would not only be able to help small and medium traders, but also common people," he said. — PTI

The parents of the girl children say that they are not able to save money for the marriage of the girl as they have to spend considerable amount of money on education even

Nearly 30 yrs after Perumon rail tragedy, judicial probe elusive

KOLKATA, July 8: Exactly 29 years after 10 coaches of the speeding Bangalore-Thiruvananthapuram Central Island Express fell into Ashata mud lake in Kollam, leaving 105 dead and hundreds injured, a judicial probe into the tragedy is still awaited.

Despite numerous requests and demands from various quarters, the judicial probe has not taken place. The reason forwarded was that a tornado had hit Perumon bridge over the lake, but later other reasons were also given.

Suganthan, who works in a fishing boat, was on his boat and recalls witnessing the train falling into the river. — IANS

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2 bed room flat on rent near State Tea factory. Contact: 978

'Force' preventing Amchang Sanctuary protection: Pramila

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 8: Forest Minister Pramila Rani Brahma today admitted large-scale encroachment inside the Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary but expressed her helplessness indicating that a 'force' is out to thwart the measures taken to preserve the protected area.

"We tried to carry out a plantation drive, but we were prevented," she said at a press conference here, without naming the 'force'.

She said the forest department is in the process of conducting an eviction and had outsourced the work of conducting a survey in the reserve forest to an agency.

"The agency conducted a survey in some portions, but it was not allowed to survey in one part of the forest," she

said, adding that the survey conducted in the remaining area has detected some 1,000 families who had settled in the protected area illegally.



Pramila Rani Brahma at the press meet. - UB Photos

The sanctuary, spread over an area of 78.64 sq km, is located on the eastern fringe of Guwahati city.

The Forest Minister, however, said that the Chief Minister's 'nod' will be required to conduct the eviction at the

encroachments inside the sanctuary.

In its latest hearing on June 5 last, the Senior Additional Advocate General of Assam has given an undertaking to file the status report regarding removal of encroachment from the Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary within three weeks.

During the last hearing, the forest department had stated that it had sought help from the power department to disconnect the lines providing electricity to the settlers inside the forest area before the eviction can be carried out. It has also sought adequate police protection for the operation.

Science Society campaign

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 8: The Assam Science Society is planning a long-term campaign to create a scientific mentality among the people of the State. The campaign, to be implemented with support from the State science and technology department, will be launched tomorrow at the society's 41 centres throughout the State.

In Guwahati, the inaugural function will be held at the society's head office at Khamaria at 10.30 am. State Science & Technology Minister Keshav Mahanta is scheduled to inaugurate the function.

He said a press release.

Two car lifters held

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 8: The Dispur police today caught two car lifters involved in stealing a Bolero vehicle.

The lifters have been identified as Dipu Terang and Pasan Das. The vehicle has been recovered from Dimapur.

A hellish experience with a flyover

Garbage disposal
The flyover at Six Mile is one of the most important flyovers in Guwahati. Below the flyover, there are numerous commercial establishments and shops which have turned the area into one of the busiest business hubs of the city, frequented by lakhs of people on a daily basis. Thousands of vehicles also pass through the same area each day.

— Labanya Sharma,
Gauhati University

Ambubachi chaos

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to reiterate the message Ranjita Das tried to convey through his letter, published in *The Assam Tribune* on June 29.

There was indeed a lot of chaos in the recently concluded Ambubachi Mela. I did not find any kind of discipline in the entry and the exit routes during the Mela. I can say it was because of God's grace that no tragedy of any kind — stampede, etc., — took place during the afternoon hours on June 24. Surprisingly, the Assam Police personnel deployed there acted as mute spectators. In fact, some of them were busy with their

mobile phones, rather than controlling the crowd.

Inside the main temple premises, the young Scouts and Guides were seen doing their duty with a lot of sincerity and their hard work. The present State government should realise that it has to

citizens' voice

Citizens are requested to express their Guwahati-specific views within 100 words and mail the same to citizensvoice05@gmail.com work sincerely to make things happen.

Simply organising some sports would do help. Perhaps the IAS officers know this and the State's politicians need to listen to them first.

— Rishiraj Adhikary,
Wireless, Guwahati

Traffic woes

Long back, I had written to the DCP (Traffic), Guwahati, offering a few suggestions as to how we can minimise the traffic congestion in the city.

Those suggestions were as follows: Time schedules should

be framed for goods carrying vans/holders/other vehicles to move on the city roads. Time schedules for these vehicles should be from early morning up to 09:00 am, from 12:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs and again from 20:00 hrs to 22:00 hrs. Secondly, no rickshaws should be allowed to ply on the main roads. Thirdly, city buses should not be allowed to stop at any point other than the designated places, for picking up passengers. If they violate the rule, heavy penalty should be imposed on them as well as the passengers who try to stop these buses. Fourthly, more than two city buses should not be allowed to halt at a bus stop at the same time. Traffic police should also be given training accordingly. On most occasions, 7/8 buses are found standing together at Paltan-Bari/Panbari flyover etc., creating heavy traffic congestion. Police should act tough in such cases. My fifth and final suggestion was, the authorities concerned should be very strict to ASTC buses as their drivers never follow any rules while driving. But who cares!

— SP Chakraborty,
Guwahati

Guwahati police today caught two car lifters involved in stealing a Bolero vehicle. The lifters have been identified as Dipu Terang and Pasan Das. The vehicle has been recovered from Dimapur.

Locals launch 'save zoo' initiative

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 8: Anguished at the state of affairs of the Assam State Zoo, conscious citizens residing in its vicinity have come together to protect and promote the same which is in urgent need of a facelift.

Over 160 people attended a convention held at a school near the zoo gate today.

The meeting resolved to form a zoo protection forum, which, as a first step, would draft a memorandum and submit it to the State Government.

"Inmates are dying of lack of proper food and medical facilities. One tiger died a week back and another is in its death bed. No animal suffering from any disease survives," general secretary of the Zoo Protection Forum Rajkumar Baisya told *The Assam Tribune*.

He said the cages are constructed unscientifically and funds meant for developing the zoo are not properly utilized.

"The cage of the greater adjutant stork is smaller than the bird. It hardly fits into it. There is no

expert committee to oversee management plans meant for the zoo. Cages are constructed, but after sometime, they become unusable. In this way, a lot of public money is being wasted," he said, adding that the survey conducted in the remaining area has detected some 1,000 families who had settled in the protected area illegally.

The development plans mean

for the zoo. Cages are constructed, but after sometime, they become unusable. In this way, a lot of public money is being wasted," he said, adding that the survey conducted in the remaining area has detected some 1,000 families who had settled in the protected area illegally.

"There are also allegations of irregularities in the issuance of tickets to visitors. We demand that the procedure be computerised to plug the gaps," Baisya added.

He said as several portions of zoo walls are damaged, inmates like deer often come out to human habitats, thereby risking their safety.

The DFO of the zoo also attended the convention.

**WEATHER
GUWAHATI**

LOCAL FORECAST:
Generally cloudy sky.
Moderate rain expected.
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MEET COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE STRAIGHT IN GUWAHATI OFFICE

Drugs seized, 2 arrested

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 8: The Latsati police today conducted a raid in the house of one Md Mozammil Haque of Islampur, Uzambazar and recovered 312 tablets of Nitrosom 10, 1,820 spasmodoproxy capsules and 69 bottles of Elixipon cough syrup. Police arrested Gauranga Biswas of Kalibari and Boby Singh of Bharalumukh. Haque managed to escape.

Guwahati police today caught two car lifters involved in stealing a Bolero vehicle. The lifters have been identified as Dipu Terang and Pasan Das. The vehicle has been recovered from Dimapur.

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to reiterate the message Ranjita Das tried to convey through his letter, published in *The Assam Tribune* on June 29.

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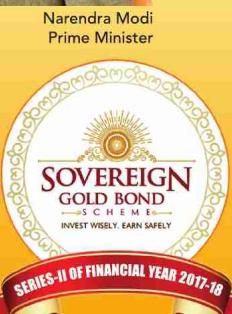
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— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



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MESSAGE FORTODAY

Extreme poverty anywhere is a threat to human security.

— KOFI ANNAN

The Assam Tribune

Summit of discord

Visible chaos outside, invisible chaos inside — perhaps that is how one can describe the happenings in Hamburg, which is hosting this year's G 20 summit! Both idealists visualizing a Utopia and anarchists who love violence are amongst the thousands voicing their anger at the poor-rich divide, climate-change, treatment of migrants and kindred other issues. However, more important are the "sideline" dialogues taking place within the summit venue, as also the primary dialogue between the leaders of the constituent nations. This specific summit testifies to the reality that the world has been never so divided since the Cold War, the only difference being that though Russia today stands truncated and economically debilitated, yet she is attending the summit from a far stronger position than the West. As far as the latter is concerned, the fly in the ointment is the US President Donald Trump, responsible for ensuring that former close allies such as the EU and UK cannot present a united front with the US against rivals like China and Russia. This is a situation the latter countries are certainly taking advantage of; for instance, one outcome of the "sideline" meetings has been a joint call by Russia and China to North Korea to suspend its nuclear programme and to the US to stop its aggressive build up in South Korea!

Trump's stances on trade protectionism as also climate change have been veritable walls preventing the summit from arriving at unanimous conclusions and are responsible for the protracted nature of the discussions without coming to a decidable conclusion. Sideline meetings between Trump and Putin, Trump and Xi Jinping, Putin and Xi Jinping, Angela Merkel with all the three mentioned have been held, but details of the outcome of these meetings have not yet been divulged and perhaps never will! Apparently, differing positions on the climate-change issue is proving intractable, thus the withdrawal of China has enabled China to become the leading player in the clean-energy initiative. Similarly, Trump's America First policy has put him at loggerhead with the EU and hard negotiations are going on in response to the consequent challenges. However, those these are in reality summits of discord, the climate change summit in Paris being one of those rare ones where unanimity was displayed, yet diplomatic niceties make it mandatory that there be handshakes all around! The finest example of this in the G 20 summit was the interaction between Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Despite the fact that prior to the summit China had made it clear that there would be no sideline talks between the two because of the friction currently existing on the India-China border, both met at Hamburg and discussed a "range of issues!"

Poaching of wildlife

Globally the menace of poaching of species has assumed serious proportions in recent decades. Poaching of wildlife is a multi-billion dollar enterprise and involves transnational criminal syndicates, at times working in cahoots with local authorities. India, and our own region of North East, has also in recent times faced the issue of poaching in a big way. A lucrative international demand for exotic animals and animal parts as well as poor economic standard of living among communities residing near forest areas along with lack of enforcement of rules by the government, have contributed significantly to an alarming rise in incidents of poaching. The threat posed to mega species such as tiger, rhino and elephant by the illegal trade in wildlife body parts may be well known and well documented. Now, to make things worse, a number of "lesser" wildlife species including birds and reptiles are targeted by poachers. Illegal trade in the global market for such species has gone up and so they are also coming under increasing threat. But while poaching of tigers and rhinos manage to occupy prime time slot in the Indian media, and especially that of Assam, the same is not similar with regard to lesser wildlife species. Experts and conservationists believe that many seizures made in recent times of live species and body parts of Tokay gecko, lizards, snakes, owl, mongoose, pangolins and of other lesser known species are the proverbial tip of the iceberg and the exact magnitude of the problem is much greater.

So the time has now come to address the problem seriously and save such species. The problem in India is not absence of law. Rather, the problem lies in implementation of existing laws. India has a strong legal and policy framework to regulate and restrict wildlife trade. Trade in over 1,800 species of wild animals, plants and their derivative is prohibited under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. India is also a member of the CITES (Convention International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora) since 1976. But enforcement of legal rules is pathetic. Conviction rates of people arrested under various wildlife protection laws in our country is very low. That has to change.

The Assam Tribune **From THE PAST**
FIRST FLOOD OF THE YEAR IN ASSAM

Through Running Of Trains Disrupted

SHILLONG, July 8: The swift currents of Padigala, an important, tributary of the mighty river Brahmaputra, have breached the river embankment in three places near Nalbari in Kamrup district in Assam today, an official source said here, reports PTI.

The rain-fed waters have inundated a huge area on the North Trunk Road and the railway line of the Northeast Frontier Railway near Nalbari.

The flood waters have overtaken the railway line and the North Trunk Road near Nalbari by over one foot in several points. Road communications have been disrupted in some places. Heavy rains have been continuing for the last two days. Details of the damages, however, are awaited.

The Brahmaputra and its tributaries in Lakhimpur, Sibsagar and Kamrup districts in Assam have been alarmingly rising as a result of continuous rains for the last 24 hours.

More low-lying areas have been submerged by the rainfed waters in various places. The standing alu crops have been threatened in various places of the State.

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 1967

India-Israeli ties**HN Das**

The Indian embassy in Israel is situated at 140 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv. Quite a few other embassies are also located all along this important thoroughfare which runs the entire length of the beautiful Marina beach overlooking the sprawling metropolis of Tel Aviv. But the question which is often asked is: Why these embassies have not been shifted to Jerusalem which became the de facto capital of Israel in 1949? Jerusalem is about 100 km away from Tel Aviv.

The answer to this question is long and complicated. Actually the United Nations resolution No. 181 of November 29, 1947, which partitioned Mandatory Palestine into Israel and Jordan also stipulated an international status for Jerusalem. Neither Israel nor Jordan respected this. Israel occupied the western part of the city when Jordan occupied the eastern part. Then in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli war, which followed the declaration of independence by Israel on May 14, 1948, Israel moved its capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 1949. This was not recognised by many UN member countries. As a protest they retained their embassies in Tel Aviv.

After the Six Day War (June 5-11, 1967) Israel snatched away East Jerusalem from Jordan. Then by the "Basic Law: Jerusalem, the capital of Israel" passed by Israeli Parliament in 1980, Israel tried to give a legal sanction to the occupation of the whole of Jerusalem. However, a

majority of UN members refused to accept this and by the Security Council resolution No. 242 emphasised "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war". In the UN, India has always voted against Israel in the UN. This had to be done, according to the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, because of "our desire not to offend the sentiments of our friends in the Arab countries". It is true that India is home to the second largest Muslim population in the world, next only to Indonesia.

Therefore, the Muslim sentiment cannot be ignored while framing India's foreign policy. However, India has to follow realpolitik and take a pragmatic approach in order to safeguard its own interest. Israel has to ensure that it can help India improve its nuclear capability particularly against Pakistan. It is good that the spy organisations, India's RAW and Israel's Mossad had established a secret relationship long ago. The earlier attitude of opposition to Israel is also declining in India. This attitude seems to be undergoing a sea change now under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new foreign policy. In fact, in the most recent case, India has not voted against Israel for the first time in an international forum in July, 2015.

Meanwhile, trade and commerce took a natural course and flourished between the two countries. One

significant example can be cited. The most remarkable landmark in Tel Aviv's main business square of Ramat Gan is the magnificent Israeli headquarters building of the State Bank of India. It dwarfs the premises of Tel Aviv's numerous diamond merchants and companies. It signifies the importance of India-Israeli ties. Israel has a prosperous diamond trade comparable to those of India and the Netherlands. The SBI office at Ramat Gan provides a direct link between the diamond merchants of Tel Aviv and

India's main interest in the trade sector is on defence equipments produced by Israel. In fact, Israel happens to be the second largest defence supplier of India, next only to Russia. The value of such equipments in the past (1999-2009) had been estimated at \$9 billion. Arrangements have been made recently for obtaining more such supplies.

those of Mumbai and Surat.

India's main interest in the trade sector is on defence equipments produced by Israel. In fact, Israel happens to be the second largest defence supplier of India, next only to Russia. The value of such equipments in the past (1999-2009) had been estimated at \$9 billion. Arrangements have been made recently for obtaining more such supplies. All these are sophisticated and highly secret equipments. One con-

tract valued at \$2.5 billion for developing anti-aircraft system and missiles, signed between the two countries, has been described as the single biggest defence contract in the history of Israel.

Apart from defence there has been tremendous increase in the Indo-Israeli trade of other commodities. Such trade amounted to \$200 million in 1992. It increased to \$4.39 billion in 2013. This is a 20-fold increase. The commodities exported by Israel include precious stones, metals, chemicals, minerals, transport equipments and chemical products. India's exports include precious stones, metals, machines, minerals, plastics, chemicals, textiles, and agricultural products. This shows that there is complementarity between the commodities traded by the two countries. A free trade agreement is also under consideration.

It is well known that the Indians excel in science and technology. More than a hundred Jews, including Albert Einstein, have been awarded the Nobel Prize. The atom bomb, for example, was built under the supervision of Robert Oppenheimer, who was himself a Jew. These scientists belong to the Jewish diaspora and live in different countries. But they all enriched Israel's scientific advancement. India's collaboration with Israel in research on nanotechnology, information technology, water technology, and biotechnology have yielded significant results.

The most important collaboration, however, is in the field of space. Besides the interest shown in India's Chandrayaan mission, Israel got its spy satellite, TecSAR, launched from an Indian launch pad an Indian launch vehicle.

In the cultural field also Indo-Israeli collaboration has been increasing in recent years. The Israelis are very highly cultured people. Yehudi Menuhin on violin and Ravi Shankar on sitar produced the most wonderful duet in the United Nations which enthralled millions of listeners for generations. Zubin Mehta led the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra for several years. The musicians in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa display rare paintings and sculptures. The place where I stayed, Marina Hotel at 167 Hayarkon Street, is very close to the embassies of Tel Aviv and is like a museum. It possesses 200 original paintings by 80 artists of different countries, including India.

While India has been voting against Israel in the UN, ever since 1947, many Indian leaders exchanged visits with their Israeli counterparts. Hindu religious leaders took special interest in visiting Israel to meet Jewish religious leaders. Even Narendra Modi once visited Israel while he was Chief Minister of Gujarat. President Pranab Mukherjee has visited that country in October, 2014. In the background of the close collaborations between the two countries in different sectors, Prime Minister Modi's visit to Israel has brought the two countries closer to one another.

(The writer was Chief Secretary, Assam, during 1990-95.)

Startup Assam**SMS Bordoloi**

It is time now for the budding entrepreneurs and the youth of our state aspiring to become successful entrepreneurs to loudly say with an echoing sound, powerful enough to transcend to every nook and corner of the state, *Startup Assam, stand up Assam!* If 11 entrepreneurs from Assam could get their entities recognised as startups by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India, why not 1100 more? "Startup India", the most ambitious and flagship initiative of Prime Minister Modi, intended to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and Startups in the country that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities, was launched by the Prime Minister himself on January 16, 2016 in presence of a huge gathering comprising global and Indian startup founders, angel investors, bankers, policy makers and incubators at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The "Startup India" action plan is based on three pillars i.e. simplification and handholding, funding support and incentives, industry-academia partnership and incubation.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), the implementing authority of the initiative, has set up a "Startup India Hub" as the key stakeholder working in a hub and spoke model collaborating with central and state governments as well as other stakeholders of the ecosystem. In the last 16 months the startup India hub has handled over 45000 queries and emails out of which, as on April 30, 2017, 798 entities have made it to the coveted list of DIPP approved startups. This flagship initiative, however, has not consumed much media space in our part of the country and so far the "startup" buzzword has been trending only in the campuses of a few educational institutes like IIT, IIS, ONGC and OIL India.

An entrepreneur, aspiring to get startup recognition for a venture from DIPP has to simply ask himself/herself three basic questions i.e. what problem my product or service will address to? Is there a vast market for my product or

service? And how innovative is my business concept. If he/she gets positive and encouraging reply for these questions then he/she should simply contact a government of India recognised incubator and I am pretty sure your road to recognition will not be very tough. It is worthwhile to mention here that the Government of India will soon notify a new definition of startup which goes beyond innovation. An entity targeting to get recognition as startup may have to declare job creation target and meet certain financial norms.

I often come across people asking me about the nitty-gritty of the startup initiative. DIPP has laid down certain clear cut guidelines which are available in www.startupindia.gov.in. The website also contains exhaustive list of initiatives and policy reforms brought about by the Central government to make "Startup India" a grand success. Any entity registered as a private limited company or limited liability partnership (LLP) registered under Indian Partnership Act, 1932 is eligible to apply for recognition up to 5 years from its date of incorporation / registration. Secondly, the entity should not have been formed by splitting up or reconstructing a business already in existence and fourthly, the entity must be working towards innovation, development, deployment or commercialization of new product, processes or services driven by technology or intellectual property.

The vital policy reforms brought about by the central government in order to encourage growth of entrepreneurs include income tax exemption on capital gains and on investments above fair market value, self certification for certain labour laws and environmental laws, 80% rebate for filling patent, complete relief from experience and turnover certificate for participating in government tenders and above all a Rs 10,000 crore fund for investment in startups through alternative investment funds and Rs 2,000 crore credit guarantee fund through National Credit Guarantee Trust/SIDBI have been

created. The recognised startups are also given preferential treatment in government procurements such as to participate in government tenders the entity need not submit turnover certificate and experience certificate.

Invest India in collaboration with UpGrad has developed and launched an extensive 4-week long free online entrepreneurship programme. The aim is to help entrepreneurs get their ideas and ventures to the next level through structured learning. It is worthwhile to mention here that "Startup" is not the most trending buzzword in India alone the startup fever is heating across the globe. There are large number of angel investors and incubators in Silicon Valley which are incubating and funding entrepreneurs from India as well. Startup 500, and Kombinator are two major global startup platforms. Seven Indian startups have made it to the Y combinator demo-day event in March, 2017. According to NASSCOM and Zimmo, India is the third largest startup spot in the world. The Central government has launched end number of schemes and initiatives in the last three years for fast economic development of the country but the onus for taking them forward completely lies on the state governments. In case of Startup India, the non-BJP ruled state governments were very prompt to realise the potential and magnitude of the initiative and were first to come up with state specific startup policies in sync with the Startup India initiative. So far 15 states of India have announced state specific startup policies.

The obvious question often comes to people's mind, why there has been so much of buzz about skill development and entrepreneurship in the country? Well, India has more than 50% of its population below the age of 25 and more than 65% below the age of 35. It is expected that in 2020, the average age of an Indian will be 29 years, compared to 37 for China, 47 for Europe and 48 for Japan. It would not be surprising to witness a much larger number of job seekers in Assam in 2020 with the average age falling to 29 years! Our prime minister often referred to this phenomenon as "demographic dividend".

"So the Govt of India took a deliberate policy decision to achieve self-sufficiency in this vital sphere of national economic development and a crash programme was launched and the results became apparent in 1981 when the euphemistic slogan Garibi Hatao emerged. A mid-term appraisal of this slogan revealed that it was a runaway success with 82.93 per cent of the population slipping under the absolute poverty line. Heartened by this success, the govt adopted a bold strat-

egy for taking the country on the road to self-sufficiency in the manufacture of hi tech slogans with minimum capital investment - a classic example of macro-level economic and development planning." The aim of this national mission is to take the maximum number of gullible common people for a deluxe ride. A case in point is the slogan The Prime Minister's New 20-Point Programme. More number of people are pinning their faith to a mirage than the national economic planners ever

thought was possible.

PIB official continued his briefing. "However, we're not resting on our laurels and we're constantly upgrading our capabilities to manufacture state-of-the-art slogans lest the gullible masses get wise to the fact that they're being conned by their political masters and a case in point is in 1980 we coined the slogan *The Govt that Works Faster*."

PIB official concluded, "Right now the Govt has on the anvil a slogan that's a potential block buster - *New Delhi for 2025 Olympics*."

Voices of the WEEK

Courtesy: THE HINDU

"This is a good day.... you and I can change the world.... Our relationship is made in heaven and we are doing the implementation part." — BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, Prime Minister, Israel

★ ★ ★

"India is a vast country with diverse culture, ethnicity and way of life. But now, attempts are being made to communalise the atmosphere in the name of religion, food practice and way of life." — MEIRA KUMAR, Presidential candidate, UPA

★ ★ ★

"North Korea has just launched another missile. Does this guy (Kim) have anything better to do with his life?" — DONALD TRUMP, President, USA

★ ★ ★

"Governor insulted me. He is behaving like a block president of BJP. He should understand that he has been nominated to the post... We have been elected by people." — MAMATA BANERJEE, Chief Minister, West Bengal

★ ★ ★

"All this cow, Ram Mandir (issues) are part and parcel of the BJP (agenda). Basically, the aim and objective is to make India a Hindu Rashtra." — ASADUDDIN OWAISI, AIMIM chief

★ ★ ★

"Our machines are evolving with new technologies, and currently we are producing third generation EVMs. By 2018 we will have 'tamper detect' M3 machines in place." — NASINE ZAIDI, Chief Election Commissioner

★ ★ ★

"The fact that these young players have won this tournament makes it a historic achievement. It's unique in Germany's history, it's outstanding." — JOCHIM LOEW, coach, Germany

★ ★ ★

"Everyone knows Kovind is going to become the next President. The allies of the NDA who are in power in 17 States of the country have already agreed to support Kovindji." — RAM MADHAV, general secretary, BJP

★ ★ ★

"Anyone calling for a boycott of Chinese goods in Assam is acting at the behest of India, China and Assam are friends and inimical behaviour towards each other would benefit our enemies." — ARUNODOY ASOM, publicity secretary, ULFA(I)

Self-sufficiency

The last word
S RAGHUNATH

It is a matter of pride that the country has achieved near total self-sufficiency in the manufacture of slogans. An official of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) has been chat-ting with newsmen about this nota-ble milestone in India's progress. "Western capitalist countries were having a monopoly stranglehold on slogans," he said — the United States with its New Deal and the Great Society and Britain with its Let's Put Britain Back to work — and poor developing countries of the third world were denied means with which to con the common man."

"So the Govt of India took a deliberate policy decision to achieve self-sufficiency in this vital sphere of national economic development and a crash programme was launched and the results became apparent in 1981 when the euphemistic slogan Garibi Hatao emerged. A mid-term appraisal of this slogan revealed that it was a runaway success with 82.93 per cent of the population slipping under the absolute poverty line. Heartened by this success, the govt adopted a bold strat-

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A reliable Matrimony Centre "Sandhani" Guwahati (AIDC), Jorhat (Uniraj Bhawan), Dibrugarh (Chirang Chapiro), Golaghat (Near Court), Nagaon (J.D. Nursing Home). 9707107771 (WhatsApp No.) 801630847. www.sandhani.in. Mat/GP/13744/1

"BORGATRI" ASSAM FIRST 100 % SUCCESSFUL MATCHMAKING SERVICE ON MONEY TRANSFER. CONTACT : 7670033300. www.borgatri.in. Mat/GP/2450/1

GROOM WANTED

Wanted service holder groom for Bengali girl 34/5'. M.B. Ed, High School TET qualified. Direct contact : 9101685687/ 7896795008. Mat/GP/1328/2

Assamese, Hindu, General, 28+, 54", 2/B, Music, MA, pursuing MSW, working in Don Bosco Organisation, fair and slim, own Sattriya Dance school, father pensioner, Guwahati own house; seeks suitable match. Contact directly No. 9435049183, 813396152. Mat/GP/1355/1

Assamese Muslim girl M.Sc, 27 fair 53" Grownup working in Pvt Organisation seeks-matching Assamese Muslim professional with good family background. Directly contact parents 9476615087. Mat/GP/1363/1

Wanted suitable groom working at Kolkata preferably Assam based boy for Bengali Kayastha General Cast girl, B.Tech, aged 26 years working in TCS/ Kolkata. Contact directly at M/ No. 9435348210.

Alliance invited for Assamese Brahmin girl, M.Sc., DoB 22.03.86, ht. 5'3", wt. 58 kg, service at Guwahati, Gorai Bharadwaj, Karak Rashti, Debaragon, Ashlesha Nakshatra. Contact directly : 9857173825. Mat/GP/12718/2

33 yrs Brahmin girl, working in Multinational company seeking groom from Metros. Call directly 8135018602. Mat/GP/1364/1

Cute Assamese girl 30 yrs, staying in Bangalore, seeking groom. Call direct 8135018602. Mat/GP/1367/1

Alliance invited for Kalita girl 38+, 58", B.Sc., LL.B in Metrcity. White complex. Suitable match from Metro and Nalbari may apply. Caste no bar. Contact : 9570728603. Mat/GP/1366/1

Bengali girl Kayastha 28+, 5 feet 4 inches, working in H.S School Guwahati. Karkat Rashti, Debaragon, B.Sc., Ed, M.Ed. Contact No. 9864024131, 9435549752. Mat/GP/1366/1

SUITABLYMATCHED FOR KALITA GIRL 27+, MTECH, PARENTS HIGHLY QUALIFIED, GOVT. SERVICE HOLDER. CONTACT FATHER : 8133036939. Mat/GP/A09/93

Looking for a within 37yrs must be Graduate gosai/ Kayastha Assamese boy well settled & posted permanently at Guwahati for Assamese Mahanta higher educated Meen Rashi, Feb 85 born girl from Guwahati. Can contact directly : 9864103047. Mat/GP/1364/1

Assamese/ Brahmin/ 27/ 55"/ BDS/ Dental Surgeon at Govt. Hospital. #9613435785. Mat/GP/A2419/1

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

Muslim Assamese girl 27, 54", fair & good looking, B.Arch, Architect Engineer, Guwahati residence. Father Engineer. Contact (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1361/71

Alliance invited for Assamese Hindu girl General Caste 28 yrs, very fair & pretty, BDS, Father Doctor. Contact (M) 9854203706. Mat/GP/1361/81

Brahmin (Suriya Bipra), 29, 54", B.Com, MBA, Slim, fair good looking, working Reserve Bank of India. Contact (M) 9401469135. Mat/GP/1361/91

(1) Kalita 27, M.Sc (HRDM) working Bangalore (2) Assamese Hindu 26, B.Tech, working MNC, Pune/ Bangalore (3) Kalita 26, BE, MBA, working Bangalore, Matchmaker (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1362/01

(1) Kalita 28+, M.Sc (HRDM) working Bangalore (2) Assamese Hindu 30, 55", BE, Engineer Bangalore (3) Kalita 29, B.Tech, M.Sc, Engineer MNC, Mobility, (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1362/1

(1) Kalita MS from UK working in Canada (2) Kalita 27, B.Tech MS, working in USA (3) Assamese Hindu 30, BE, Engineer USA, "Matchmaker" (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1372/01

25, Assamese, Brahmin, BE (Bangalore), Engineer in (MNC) Metrocity. 9127023992. Mat/GP/1372/1

Tall, slim & pretty Assamese Hindu 29, M.Sc, in Biotech, NET Pass/GATEqualified. Seeks suitable match. Contact (M) 9854203706. Mat/GP/1362/3

Assamese Hindu General Cast 26 yrs, fair & good looking, B.Tech (Electrical & Electronics) seeks suitable match. Father Engineer (M) 94104169135, 9854063196. Mat/GP/1362/4

(1) Kayadhu 25, MBA (Business Economics) from GU (2) Kalita 26, B.Com, MBA, English Teacher (3) Assamese 30, MBBS, MD, Doctor Guwahati "Matchmaker" (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1362/5

(1) Brahmin 29, MBBs, MD, Doctor (2) Brahmin 26, B.Tech Engineer Metrcity (3) Brahmin 27, BE, Assam Engineering working (4) Brahmin 29, B.Sc, working, "Matchmaker" (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1362/6

ASSAM DIBURGARH DIOCESE SUITABLE ALLIANCE INVITED FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC GIRL (28/9) WORKING IN AN IT COMPANY IN BANGALORE CONTACT : 7032/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 30/ 54"/ M.Tech/ Asstt Professor at Govt. College - Caste no bar. #7032/4383. Mat/GP/A2420/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ Kalita/ 27/ yrs/ Banking/ profession/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 88980-78445. Mat/GP/A238/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ Kashyap/ 34/ yrs/ divorced/ issueless/ M.Sc/ working as a Teacher/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 8822243823. Mat/GP/A238/4

Hindu/ Assamese/ Bengal/ Kayastha/ 30/ yrs/ honour degree in Science/ lives in Karinganji. Contact : 889807445. Mat/GP/A238/51

Hindu/ Assamese/ Brahmin/ 34/ yrs/ BE/ working as Mechanical/ Production Engineer/ lives in Jorhat. Contact : 889807445. Mat/GP/A238/61

Hindu/ Assamese/ Brahmin/ 33 yrs/ divorced/ issueless/ B.A/ Arts/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 8253960545. Mat/GP/A238/71

Hindu/ Assamese/ Brahmin/ 24/ yrs/ BE/ working in a leading Bank/ lives in Guwahati. Contact : 889807445. Mat/GP/A238/71

Age 42, Kalita Graduate, Govt. job, divorcee, Ghy (2) 35, Ahom, MA English Teacher, divorcee, Ghy (3) 31, Brahmin, Graduate, Teacher, divorcee, Ghy. Sandhani, 8011630847. Mat/GP/1373/1

Age 35, Bengali, HS pass, unemployed, Ghy (2) 34, Bengali, Masters Lecturer, Ghy (3) 38, Bengali, Graduate, Central Govt. servant. Contact (M) 9436353811. Mat/GP/1373/81

Age 34, Bengali, 55 pass, working as Assistant Professor in a Central Govt. Institute (IIMC), originally from Upper, permanent resident at Guwahati seeks suitable match for early marriage. Parents Rtd. Central Govt. servant. Contact (M) 9436353811. Mat/GP/1373/1

Age 35, Bengali, 55 pass, unemployed, Ghy (2) 34, Bengali, Masters Lecturer, Ghy (3) 38, Bengali, Graduate, Central Govt. servant. Contact (M) 9436353811. Mat/GP/1373/1

Age 34, Bengali, 55 pass, unemployed, Ghy (2) 34, Bengali, Masters Lecturer, Ghy (3) 38, Bengali, Graduate, Central Govt. servant. Contact (M) 9436353811. Mat/GP/1373/1

Age 27 ST, B.Tech, MNC, Delhi (2) 27, Kalita, M.Tech, Service, Jalandhar (3) 28, Father B.C.E, Mother Kalita, B.Tech/ MNC, Metro (4) 32, Kalita, B.Tech, MNC, Bangalore (5) 28 Ahom, B.Tech, MNC, Bangalore (6) 27 Koch, MBA, MNC, Delhi (7) 27, Kalita, B.Tech/ MNC, USA, Sandhani, 8011630847. Mat/GP/1373/1

Aliance invited for Assamese Hindu girl General Caste 28 yrs, very fair & pretty, BDS, Father Doctor. Contact (M) 9854203706. Mat/GP/1361/81

Brahmin (Suriya Bipra), 29, 54", B.Com, MBA, Slim, fair good looking, working Reserve Bank of India. Contact (M) 9401469135. Mat/GP/1361/91

(1) Kalita 27, M.Sc (HRDM) working in Mumbai (2) Kalita 25, B.Tech, working MNC, Pune/ Bangalore (3) Kalita 26, BE, MBA, working Bangalore, Matchmaker (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1362/01

(1) Kalita 28+, M.Sc (HRDM) working Bangalore (2) Assamese Hindu 30, 55", BE, Engineer Bangalore (3) Kalita 29, B.Tech, M.Sc, Engineer MNC, Mobility, (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1362/1

(1) Kalita MS from UK working in Canada (2) Kalita 27, B.Tech MS, working in USA (3) Assamese Hindu 30, BE, Engineer USA, "Matchmaker" (M) 9854063196. Mat/GP/1372/01

25, Assamese, Brahmin, BE (Ahom), 26, B.Tech (Chennai), Engineer (HCL), Pune, 9854082854. Mat/GP/1372/1

Assamese Hindu 31, 58", BE, B.Tech, working Reserve Bank of India, Ghy (3) 30, OBC, Graduate Govt. job, Ghy (5) 27, Kalita, Masters, Service, Ghy (6) 43, General Masters, TEFL, Teacher, Ghy (7) 33, Kalita, LLM, Lecturer, Bongaigaon, Sandhani, 8011630847. Mat/GP/1373/1

Beautiful Assamese, OBC (Ahom), 26, B.Tech (Chennai), Engineer (HCL), Pune, 9854082854. Mat/GP/1373/2

Assamese Hindu 31, 58", BE, B.Tech, working Reserve Bank of India, Ghy (3) 30, OBC, Graduate Govt. job, Ghy (5) 27, Kalita, Masters, Service, Ghy (6) 43, General Masters, TEFL, Teacher, Ghy (7) 33, Kalita, LLM, Lecturer, Bongaigaon, Sandhani, 8011630847. Mat/GP/1373/1

(1) Assamese Hindu 31+, MBBS, MD (Medicine) (2) Assamese Hindu 33+, MBBS, MD (GMD) (3) Ahom 33+, BE, Engineer Govt. (4) Ahom 40+, Engineer Govt. "ADAMS" (M) 9854203706. Mat/BP/1363/1

(1) Kalita 34, BE, Engineering, own property & business in Guwahati (2) Kalita 38, MA, Ph.D., MBA, Asstt Professor (3) Assamese Hindu 45, MBBS, Govt. Doctor, "ADAMS" (M) 9854063196. Mat/BP/1363/5

(1) Brahmin 30, MS, working in London (2) Brahmin 29+, B.Tech, MNC in Delhi. Own house at Delhi (3) Brahmin 33, BE, Tech, MBA, Engineer Metrocity. 9127023992. Mat/BP/1363/1

Assamese/ Brahmin/ 24/ 54", MA (Philosophy), Prvt. Job in Guwahati. Residence Ghy. #73975723. Mat/GP/1363/2

Beautiful/ Assamese/ B.C/ 54'/ 54" BE, Tech, Working in Metro. Ghy. residency. 801164568/ 70873069. Mat/GP/1363/4

Bengali/ General/ 25/ 54", B.Sc/ MBA, School Principal, Casteno bar. #8822230669/ 7576026601. Mat/BP/1363/7

Alliance invited for Kalita boy 29+, BE from Assam Engineering College, Engineer working Govt. Department in Guwahati. Contact : 9854063196. Mat/BP/1363/81

(1) Brahmin 36, English News Paper Reporter, Nagara (2) Brahmin 38, B.Tech, M.Tech, Engineer (3) Brahmin 40, COM, MBA, own business & service. "ADAMS" (M) 9854203706. Mat/BP/1363/1

(1) Brahmin 30, MS, working in London (2) Brahmin 29+, B.Tech, MNC in Delhi. Own house at Delhi (3) Brahmin 33, BE, Tech, MBA, Engineer Metrocity. 9127023992. Mat/BP/1363/1

Assamese/ Brahmin/ 24/ 54", MA (Philosophy), Prvt. Job in Guwahati. Residence Ghy. #73975723. Mat/GP/1363/2

Assamese/ Brahmin/ 24/ 54", MA (Philosophy), Prvt. Job in Guwahati. Residence Ghy. #73975723. Mat/GP/1363/4

Age 34, Bengali, 55 pass, working as Assistant Professor in a Central Govt. Institute (IIMC), originally from Upper, permanent resident at Guwahati seeks suitable match for early marriage. Parents Rtd. Central Govt. servant. Contact (M) 9436353811. Mat/GP/1373/1

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(1) kalita 29+, B.Tech, MBA, Engineer Delhi (2) Kalita 32, B.Tech (NTT), Engineer Delhi/ Bangalore (3) Kalita 34, B.Tech, MBA, Engineer Bangalore, "(M) 9854063196 (ADAMS). Mat/BP/1362/1

Assamese Hindu 31, B.Tech, MBA, Engineer Mumbai (2) Kalita 33, B.Tech, Engineer Pune/ Hydembud (3) Hindu 37, B.Tech, MBA, Engineer Metrocity. 9854063196 (ADAMS). Mat/BP/1362/1

(1) Muslim Assamese, BE, M.Tech (IIT- Kharagpur), Engineer Assas (2) Muslim 30+, B.Tech, (NTT), Engineer Metrocity (3) Muslim 34, BE, Govt. Officer "ADAMS" (M) 9854203706. Mat/BP/1363/01

(1) Muslim Assamese, BE, M.Tech (IIT- Kharagpur), Engineer Assas (2) Muslim 30+, B.Tech, (NTT), Engineer Metrocity (3) Muslim 34, BE, Govt. Officer "ADAMS" (M) 9854203706. Mat/BP/1363/1

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Hindu/ Assamese/ 33/ 59'/ working as an Engineer in Metow own house in Ghy. 8478187825. Mat/BP/1372/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ 31/ 5' 9"/ working as a Event Manager in Jorhat. Contact : 9508008145. Mat/BP/A238/01

Hindu/ Assamese/ 33/ 5' 9"/ working as an Engineer in Ghy. 8478172292. Mat/BP/1372/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ 33/ 6' 0"/ working as a Event Manager in Jorhat. Contact : 9508008145. Mat/BP/1372/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ 33/ 6' 0"/ working as a Event Manager in Ghy. 8478172292. Mat/BP/1372/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ 33/ 6' 0"/ working as a Event Manager in Ghy. 8478172292. Mat/BP/1372/1

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Hindu/ Assamese/ 33/ 6' 0"/ working as a Event Manager in Ghy. 8478172292. Mat/BP/1372/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ 33/ 6' 0"/ working as a Event Manager in Ghy. 8478172

Presidential poll a battle of ideology: Meira Kumar

PATNA, July 8: The presidential election is a battle of principles and ideology, opposition candidate Meira Kumar today said and dismissed remarks that she has been made a "scapgoat".

Rounding off her three-day Bihar visit, Kumar asserted that she was fighting for the poor and the downtrodden "whose voice otherwise would have gone unheard".

"Seventeen parties have chosen me unanimously as their candidate for presidential poll which is not a small thing. The opposition unity is based on principles and ideology and I am fighting for its victory," Kumar said at the Congress headquarters in Sadaqat Ashram here.

The former Lok Sabha speaker referred to comments by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's support to NDA's pick Ram Nath Kovind. The Bihar chief minister, who had gone to Rajbir on July 6, has



Meira Kumar at press conference in Patna. - UNI

not returned to state capital due to health issues.

With the scales tilted heavily in Kovind's favour, Meira Kumar said, "I have written to all the MPs and members of electorate college to hear voice of their conscience before casting vote." She described RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav as "a hardcore supporter" of forces against communalism. "Lalji is steadfastly standing with the ideology of secularism despite numerous challenges," she said. - PTI

Couple killed, daughters hurt in Pak shelling

JAMMU, July 8: An Army jawan and his wife were killed and their three daughters injured when the Pakistani Army targeted forward posts and hamlets along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, police said today.

The Pakistan Army violated the ceasefire and initiated indiscriminate firing from small arms, automatic weapons and mortars from 6.30 am today on Indian Army posts along the LoC, a defence spokesperson added.

Indian troops returned fire strongly and effectively; he said. Sepoy Mohammad Shaukat of the Territorial Army, who was on leave, and his wife Sufia Bi were killed when a mortar shell fired by the Pakistani Army exploded near their home in Karmara, a police officer said.

The couple's three daughters, Zaida Kousar (6), Rohina Kousar (12) and Nazia Bi, and another person were injured. Pakistani troops rained mortar bomb shells and resorted to heavy firing, targeting civilian villages.

"Very heavy shelling is going on areas like Khadi, Karimara and Gupkar," he said.

The Pakistani Army is firing and shelling heavily from eight different posts or villages and forward posts along the LoC. They have fired at five to six hamlets, the officer said.



Security personnel patrolling at Nalla Mar road in downtown Srinagar, as curfew is imposed as a precautionary measure to prevent any law and order problem, on Saturday. - UNI

CBI raids:
Cong supports
Lalu; JD(U)
keeps mum

PATNA, July 8: Congress leaders today met RJD supremo Lalu Prasad to express solidarity with him in the wake of a series of CBI raids at the premises of the former railway minister and his family members, but Nitish Kumar's JD(U) continued to maintain a silence on the issue.

After seeing off the opposition's presidential nominee, Meira Kumar, who wound up her three-day Bihar visit yesterday at the airport, Bihar minister and state Congress chief Ashok Choudhary and Congress Legislative Party leader Sadamand Singh visited the 10, Circular Road residence of Rabri Devi to meet Prasad.

Congress ministers in the Grand Alliance government Awadhesh Kumar Singh and Madan Mohan Jha also accompanied them to meet the RJD president.

Choudhary said that it was a "personal" visit and "not a political one." He, however, attacked the BJP for yesterday's CBI raids at 12 premises of Lalu Prasad and his family members across the country.

"Since they (BJP) have failed to defeat us (Grand Alliance) through the people's mandate, they are now misusing the government machinery to target us," alleged Choudhary. - PTI

Amarnath yatra suspended

JAMMU, July 8: The Amarnath yatra was suspended from Jammu today due to law and order situation in the Kashmir Valley under curfew for the death anniversary of militant commander Burhan Wani.

Authorities clamped curfew in three towns, including Tral and Baramulla and imposed restrictions on the movement of people in the rest of the valley.

"The yatra has been suspended from Bhagwan Nagar base camp in Jammu due to law and order situation in the Kashmir Valley," a senior police officer said.

Police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in strength across Kashmir to handle any security challenge.

The number of pilgrims paying obeisance at ice lingum of Lord Shiva at the 3,880-metre high cave shrine of Amarnath in South Kashmir has crossed the one-lakh mark as nearly 1.15 lakh devotees had darshan at the shrine.

The yatra is continuing from Baltal and Pahalgam base camp. A total of 25,294 pilgrims and sadhus have left Jammu for Amarnath in eight batches since the yatra began.

Nine people including a security official have died in the ongoing Amarnath pilgrimage, "a senior police officer said.

Police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in strength across Kashmir to handle any security challenge.

SHORT QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed quotation affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (non refundable) only are invited from intending firms for supply of essential Surgical items (list to be collected from the office of the undersigned) for GMCH. The tender along with necessary documents as per Govt. rules are to be submitted to the undersigned on or before 13.07.2017 upto 2.00 PM and open after 2.30 PM on same day.

Sd/- Superintendent,
Gauhati Medical College Hospital
-cum-
Member Secretary, HMS
Gauhati Medical College Hospital
Guwahati-32

Janasanyog/1663/17

1,100 electrocution deaths

(Contd from page 1)

While over 1,000 deaths by electrocution were reported between 2006 and 2013, the figure continues to pile up with nearly 150 deaths reported since 2014.

Forget about other interior locations, even Guwahati, which is now being projected as a 'smart city' is not a safe zone either.

The recent string of incidents of deaths by electrocution of a daily wage earner and a boy, followed by another

death on the RG Baruah Road,

once again exposed the hollow claims, or that for matter, the utter inefficiency of the authorities," said a resident of the RG Baruah Road area.

Puru Gupta, Chairman of the Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) when contacted said the department realises the gravity of the problem, and hence, a multi-pronged strategy has been devised to address it and a structured maintenance guideline is being prepared

with the help of experts.

"Regular maintenance of electrical lines, especially before the onset of monsoon, is a must. The wires and trans formers which are lying low also need to be raised," Gupta pointed out, adding, "As this is a growing sector with the number of consumers fast increasing, the problems cannot be solved overnight, although immediate rectification measures

which we would take immediately, which include identification of vulnerable areas and taking appropriate measure to fix the problem," Gupta said.

Flood scene improves ...

(Contd from page 1)

operating in Karimganj, Chirang, Nagaon, Cachar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Sivasagar and Sonitpur districts with 16,705 inmates, while 99 relief distribution centres have been set up in Lakhimpur, Karimganj, Golaghat and Biswanath districts.

Meanwhile, the Regional Meteorology Centre (RMC) here has stated that during the next 24 hours widespread rainfall activities are very likely to occur over Arunachal Pradesh and Assam-Meghalaya meteorological subdivisions, while fairly widespread rainfall activities are very likely to occur over the Nagaland-Manipur-Mizoram-Tripura meteorological subdivision during the same period.

The RMC has also warned of heavy rainfall at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh on July 9 and 10. Similarly, there is very likelihood of heavy rains at isolated places over Assam-Meghalaya on July 10 and 11.

Shortage of ...

(Contd from page 1)

royalty in advance was there in the Act, but was not adhered to. Now we are enforcing it. We can't allow anyone to bypass the rules. The contractors can clear the royalty and take the materials," she said, in response to claims by contractors that the newly enforced rule to collect the royalty in advance has been causing inconvenience.

Interestingly, according to figures provided by Forest officials at the press conference, there are 455 quarries of minor minerals in the State, of which only 250 are functioning as on date.

In a written statement, the Forest Department said that to make stone easily available for development purpose an additional 57 quarries are under process of sale. Also, forest clearances have been sought from the Central government for operating another 23 quarries falling under the reserved forest area.

The minister, however, admitted that there is a crisis for private individuals and organisations in and around Guwahati requiring the minor minerals, because material from Meghalaya have stopped coming due to NGT issues.

As part of measures to tide over the crisis for the general public, she said stone materials have been stocked near Boragon in the city and people requiring them may contact the ranger or the DFO.

PM seeks UK help ...

(Contd from page 1)

the UK since March.

In April, he had attended a central London police station for his arrest and was released on conditional bail a few hours later after providing a bail bond worth £650,000 pounds, assuring the court of abiding by all conditions associated with extradition proceedings, such as the surrender of his passport and a ban on him possessing any travel documents.

Lalit Modi, the former chief of Indian Premier League (IPL), is wanted by the Indian authorities with respect to a money laundering probe and he is said to be in the UK. The former cricket administrator has maintained that he has not done any wrong in any of the IPL deals.

(Tender & conditions apply)



When in a trance...

A study decodes what happens to the brain during hypnosis

When the brain is affected by hypnosis – a trance-like state with focussed attention and reduced peripheral awareness – it faces an extreme reduction in its activities, although simple perception still takes place, according to new study.

The findings showed that the hypnosis influences specific regions of the brain while it receives a visual stimulus and greatly impairs the brain's deeper processing operations, such as counting.

"In our study, we are looking at how the brain makes hypnotic states possible," said Wolfgang Milner, Professor at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, Germany.

For the study, detailed in the journal *Scientific Reports*, the team looked more closely at the processing of visual stimuli and asked participants to look at a screen which had various symbols, such as a circle or a triangle. They were then given the task of counting a particular symbol.

At the same time, they were also told to imagine that there was a wooden board in front of their eyes. As a result of the suggested obstruction, the number of counting errors rose significantly, the researchers said.

"When we look at the neural processes that take place in the brain while processing the symbols, we see that around 400 milliseconds after the presentation of the to-be-counted symbol, there is an extreme reduction in brain activity, although it should normally be very high," explained Barbara Schmidt, from the Friedrich Schiller University.

"However, a short time before this – up to 200 milliseconds after presentation of the stimulus – there are no differences to be seen," Schmidt added.

This suggests that although simple perception still takes place, deeper processing operations, such as counting, are greatly impaired, the researchers noted. – IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, July 9, 2017:

This year you go back and forth with your opinions. Though you are generally reliable, you could drive some people a little wild with frustration. Learn to empathize with others and understand where they are coming from. If you are single, you attract many people. If you are opposite sex finds you to be very appealing. If you are married, your relationship is likely to experience many ups and downs. You and your significant other need to accept your differences and understand that both can be right, even if you have different approaches. CAPRICORN helps guide you to alignment.

Star: Show the kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-Cool; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ This Full Moon could encourage you to do more, or you might decide to withdraw and hide out. You will be well-advised to choose your words with care. Avoid controversy with those in charge or with those who dominate your life. Tonight Just say "yes."

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Your optimism that you quickly will discover that many people around you have common concerns and ideas. Consider their views, and willing to rethink your own perspective. Tonight: As like it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ A disagreement could arise between you and someone else. Learn how you feel about a recent conversation. Try to keep the discussion a conversation, not an argument, and the resolution will appear much faster. Learn to respect others' views. Tonight: Stop debating!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You'll opt for a quiet day at home. You could be in a position where you might want to cancel any activity that throws you into a group setting. Tonight: A lot on your mind. A child or loved one might approach you. Tonight: You can say "no" for only so long.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ A new friend might steal center stage and want to take control. You could feel as if an important matter needs to be handled, but you need to come to an agreement with this person first. A lover could be full of surprises. Tonight: Be a little naughty.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Defer to the person in charge. This person might be telling you what you are involved with. You want to know where others are coming from. Why not wait until later? Temps are close to the surface right now. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Make a point of calling a friend whom you have not seen for a while. You might be surprised by this person's news. Conversations are likely to be importunate than you originally had thought. If you avoid a problem, do. Tonight: Happiness at a favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ All eyes turn to you. You seem to be somewhat of a force in other plans, even if you don't realize it. Avoid an argument, and just let things play out as you have not met an expectation of his or her. Discussions will help solve a problem. Tonight: You call the shots.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ A lot is happening around you, but you might not want to participate. You are trying to work through a problem and process some anger that arises. A relationship or a new person in your life could be the root of the emotions you are feeling. Tonight: Lie low.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Your friends might be more instrumental to your well-being than you realize. Say "yes" to going to a game of softball or a get-together. Others depend on your presence. Relax and maintain a sense of humor, but observe what is happening around. Be the party's plus.

*** Thought to the day

He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much; who has enjoyed the purity of pure women, the respect of intelligent men, and the love of little children... whose life was an inspiration, whose memory a benediction.

— BESSIE ANDERSON STANLEY

Kids



Entertainment



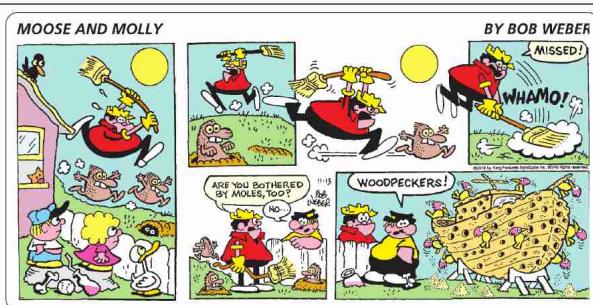
Movies



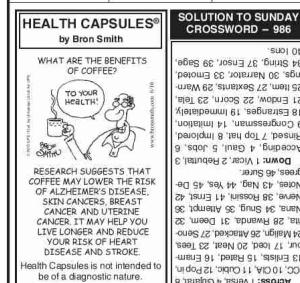
Infotainment



Regional



SOLUTION TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD – 986



UN adopts global treaty banning N-weapons; India skips talks



India and other nuclear-armed nations – the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel – did not participate in the negotiations.

ISIS owns up Sinai attack that killed 23 soldiers

EL-Arish (Egypt), July 8: Islamic militants attacked a remote Egyptian army outpost in the Sinai Peninsula with a suicide car bomb and heavy machine gun fire, killing at least 23 soldiers in the deadliest attack in the turbulent region in two years.

After nightfall, the ISIS issued a claim of responsibility, saying in an online statement that it had carried out the attack as the Egyptian army was preparing an assault on ISIS positions in Sinai.

The coordinated attack yesterday suggested the Sinai-based militants are among the region's most resilient, after ISIS in Iraq and Syria, where the so-called caliphate is now witnessing its demise. And it underscored the struggles Egypt's forces face in trying to end the insurgency.

Egypt has for years hatched militants in Sinai, where the jihadis have exploited the vast arid and underdeveloped region and its disgruntled Bedouin population as an ideal incubator for Islamic militancy even before the ISIS affiliate has emerged at the forefront of the insurgency.

Yesterday's assault began in the early morning, when a suicide bomber rammed his vehicle into a checkpoint at a military compound in the village of el-Barth, southwest of the border town of Rafah.

Dozens of masked militants then descended on the site in 24 Land Cruiser SUVs and opened fire on the soldiers with machine guns, according to security officials.

The shooting lasted nearly half an hour, the officials added, speaking on condition of anonymity because of regulations. The troops at the compound were estimated to have numbered about 60.

When the attack subsided, the militants apparently looted the checkpoint, snatching weapons and ammunition before fleeing, the officials said. A number of militants were killed in the shootout, indicating the soldiers had fought back, and some of their vehicles were abandoned at the scene.

The suicide blast at the start of the attack likely disabled the checkpoint's military communications system, prompting one of the officers to use his own cellphone to record an audio message and send it to a colleague via WhatsApp, seeking help and asking for prayers. The message was later widely circulated on social media.

"This might be the last seconds in my life," a man's voice calmly says in the recording. "Quickly, oh men, anyone who knows how to reach the command center, notify them to use artillery as we are still alive."

He then praises God and ends by saying "we will either avenge them or die," referring to his fallen colleagues. In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the United States strongly condemns the Sinai attack and continues "to stand with Egypt as it confronts terrorism." – AP

UNITED NATIONS, July 8: Over 120 countries have voted in the UN to adopt the first-ever global treaty to ban nuclear weapons, even as India and other nuclear powers including the US, China and Pakistan boycotted the negotiations for the legally binding instruments to prohibit atomic weapons.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the first multilaterally legally-binding instrument for nuclear disarmament to have been negotiated in 20 years, was adopted yesterday amid cheers and applause by a vote of 122 in favour to none against (Netherlands) and one abstention (Singapore).

India and other nuclear-armed nations – the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel had not participated in the negotiations.

A substantive session was held in March this year to negotiate the legally binding instrument aimed at prohibiting nuclear weapons.

In October last year, more than 120 nations had voted on a UN General Assembly resolution to convene a conference to negotiate the legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

India had abstained from voting on the resolution.

In its Explanation of Vote (EoV) given for its abstention on the resolution in October, India had said that it was "not convinced" that the proposed conference could address the longstanding expectation of the international community for a comprehensive instrument on nuclear disarmament. India also maintained that the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the single multilateral disarmament negotiation forum.

It had further said that it supports the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention, which in addition to prohibition and elimination also includes verification.

Underlining that international verification was essential to the global elimination of nuclear weapons, India had said it feels that the current process did not include the verification aspect.

In line with its position that India had decided not to participate in the negotiations for the treaty.

The treaty will be open for signature to all States at UN Headquarters in September and enter into force 90 days after it has been ratified by at least 50 countries.

A number of countries stayed

out of the negotiations, including the United States, Russia and other nuclear weapon States, as well as many of their allies.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) did not join the talks either.

In a joint press statement, the Permanent Representatives of the US, UK and France, all veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council, said they "have not taken part in the negotiation of the treaty and do not intend to sign, ratify or ever become party to it." This initiative clearly disregards the realities of the international security environment." – PTI

US reviews ties with UNESCO over Hebron decision

engagement at UNESCO."

Hebron, which is holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians, is the largest city in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territory of the West Bank. It's home to more than 200,000 Palestinians and a few hundred Israeli settlers.

A committee of the UN's cultural arm voted 12 to three – with six abstentions – to give heritage status to Hebron's Old City.

The area includes the site known to Jews as the Tomb of the Patriarchs and to Muslims as the Ibrahim Mosque.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu slammed the vote as "another delusional decision" but the Palestinian foreign ministry said UNESCO had recognized the right to register "Hebron and the Ibrahim Mosque under Palestinian sovereignty." – AFP

The United States stopped funding the UN agency in 2011 after it admitted the Palestinians as a member-state, but it remains a member of UNESCO's 58-member executive board.

Haley said however that following the vote, "the United States is currently evaluating the appropriate level of its continued en-



Pope warns of 'dangerous alliances' among G20 powers

ROME, July 8: Pope Francis said today that the G20 summit in Germany "worries" him because of the vote for "very dangerous alliances" among world leaders, with particularly dire consequences for migrants.

"I worry about very dangerous

alliances between powers which have a distorted vision of the world: America and Russia, China and North Korea, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and (Syria's Bashar al-) Assad over the war in Syria," the pope said in an interview with Italy's La Repubblica newspaper.

"This is why the G20 worries me: It mainly hits immigrants," he said. Concerning Europe, the "richest continent in the whole world" which has faced an influx of hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees since 2015, the pope warned its leaders not to fall prey to the illusion that it is

possible to seal its borders.

On Friday, Francis had urged G20 leaders to work toward "more inclusive and sustainable global economic growth," while also highlighting the plight of some 30 million people trapped in conflict and famine, especially in Africa and Yemen. – AFP

JMB ultra wanted in Burdwan blast case arrested in B'desh

DHAKA, July 8: Banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen's top explosives expert, wanted in India in the 2014 Burdwan blast case, was today arrested in Bangladesh, a year after the deadly Dhaka cafe attack for which he allegedly supplied grenades.

Sohel Mafuz, said to be one of the top planners of the 2016 Dhaka cafe attack, was arrested along with three other suspected members of the neo-JMB by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit from Chapainawabganj district in northern Bangladesh last night, police said.

Sohel is the top explosives specialist of Neo-JMB and a key arms and explosives supplier for the banned outfit, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

According to investigators, Mafuz supplied explosives used in the Dhaka cafe attack. It is also believed that he is one of the founding members of the old JMB.

Mafuz was wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for the blast at Khagragarh in Burdwan.

wan district of West Bengal on October 2, 2014, the daily said. Police said the three others identified as JMB chief coordinator Jamal alias Mustafa, its IT expert, Hafizur Rahman alias Hasan and Jewel alias Ismail. They were arrested from an orchard in Kansat under Shibganj upazila.

"Acting on a tip-off, a CTTC team was able to arrest them on Friday night," CTTC Additional Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune.

On July 1, 2016, Bangladesh witnessed the deadliest terror attack in its history as armed militants entered an upscale eatery in Dhaka's diplomatic hub and killed 22 people, including 17 foreigners and two policemen.

The ISL claimed responsibility for the Dhaka attack but authorities blamed JMB, Mafuz, who lost a hand while making bombs, thereby earning him his title 'Hatka', has managed to evade arrest for almost two decades. – PTI

Philippine airstrikes target high-rise snipers

MANILA, July 8: Snipers in high-rise buildings are the main problem facing Philippine forces battling to crush pro-ISIS fighters who have occupied a southern city for more than a month, a military spokesman said today.

Lieutenant Colonel Jo-ar Herrera said this was the reason the government was using air strikes against the militants despite the massive damage it may cause in the city of Marawi.

"If we do not use air strikes, we will incur more casualties of our troops," he told reporters in Marawi, which was overrun by hundreds of militants on May 23. Despite more than a month of fighting with hundreds of government troops, militants flying the black flag of the Islamic State group are still entrenched in parts of the city.

The military has used jet fighters, attack planes and helicopter gunships, armed with bombs and rockets, to attack areas where the gunmen are hiding.

"We have identified key defensive positions. These are being subjected to surgical air strikes now. They are still occupying high-rise buildings. We need to take them down so we can facilitate a swift offensive of our troops," Herrera said.

"One reason we are using air assets... Is this the advantage we need to neutralise the snipers' positions," the regional military spokesman added.

"They occupy high-rise buildings so we have to go higher. So we use air strikes."

While hundreds of fighters rampaged through much of Marawi in the early days of the siege, Herrera said there were now around 80 gunmen still active in the city.



in the "main battle area" comprising around 800 buildings.

"These are the tall buildings. This was the centre of commerce of Marawi City," he explained.

However the buildings also needed to be cleared of improvised bombs and other booby-traps as the troops advance, he said.

There are also about 300 civilians trapped in the area, Herrera said, adding that some were being used as hostages, bearers of supplies and even being forced to help in looting the city. – AFP

Pak summons India's envoy over LoC firing

ISLAMABAD, July 8: Pakistan today summoned India's deputy high commissioner here over alleged ceasefire violations during which the senior Indian diplomat lodged a strong protest over the use of mortars in firing by Pakistani troops.

The Indian diplomat also told the Pakistani side that there have been more than 223 ceasefire violations and around 50 infiltration bids this year alone.

Deputy High Commissioner J P Singh was summoned over the alleged firing by Indian forces in Chirkot and Satwal sectors, Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman Naibaz Zakaria said in a statement.

The Foreign Office said that Director-General (South Asia and SAARC) Mohammad Faisal summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner and "condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations" by Indian forces.

During the meeting, Singh conveyed to Faisal that the concerned areas were under the control of Pakistani troops in Poonch and Krishnaghatti sectors today and the Indian forces only responded appropriately, the Indian High Commission here said. A strong protest was also lodged over the death of two Indian civilians in today's ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops, it said.

India's serious concerns over attacks on civilian areas increased movements of militants and infiltrators attempts across LoC, which also continued during the meeting, the Indian mission said. Pakistan also accused India of violating the ceasefire along the LoC in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in which two persons were killed and three others injured, the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson said.

The Director-General urged the two sides to honour the 2003 ceasefire arrangement; investigate this and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC," the Pakistan Foreign Office said. – PTI

UNESCO declares China's Hoh Xil nature reserve a heritage site



WARSAW, July 8: UNESCO today declared the Hoh Xil nature reserve in China's Qinghai Province a natural heritage site in a controversial decision challenged by pro-Tibet

activists.

The Hoh Xil nature reserve, located on the Qianghai-Tibet Plateau, is home to over 200 animal species. More than 20 of them are state-protected, including the Tibetan antelope. It is China's largest world natural heritage site, covering an area of 45,000 square kilometres.

"Just inscribed as #UNESCO #WorldHeritage Site: Qinghai Hoh Xil, #China," the UN's cultural arm tweeted during its World Heritage Committee meeting in Krakow.

A handful of pro-Tibet activists protested earlier this week while the International

Campaign for Tibet (ICT) advocacy group warned that giving Hoh Xil heritage status could have consequences for Tibet.

"The Hoh Xil nature reserve on the Tibetan plateau is in the middle of nowhere, far removed from the outside world. It is a place where nomadic herding, situated as the sole agency of control, and encourage mass tourism," the ICT said in a statement yesterday.

"The inscription of Hoh Xil without further detailed assessment would effectively signify endorsement from the international cultural heritage body of China's ambitious policies including the displacement of Tibetan nomads from their land," the group added.

China has invested billions of dollars into

resetting Tibetan herders, who have for

centuries led a nomadic life, moving regularly to seek fresh grazing for their animals.

Beijing says the policy is aimed at improving nomadic living standards, creating markets for their livestock and the traditional herding culture, gather as well as curbing rampant environmental degradation on the roof of the world.

But while some Tibetans welcome the changes, many worry about the disappearance of a lifestyle that has endured for hundreds of years, and see the resettlements as part of a broader erosion of Tibetan culture in China.

China's representative insisted at the UNESCO meeting today that Beijing would never engage in forced resettlement on the Hoh Xil reserve, according to the Polish news agency PAP. – AFP

Muguruza, Kuznetsova in 4th round; Dimitrov advances



Spain's Garbine Muguruza returns the ball to Romania's Sorana Cirstea during the third round match at the Wimbledon on Saturday.

Ronaldinho paid hefty amount for friendly matches in Pak

KARACHI, July 8: A deluge of former international football stars, including Brazilians Ronaldinho, Roberto Carlos along with Manchester United legend Ryan Giggs are being paid hefty amounts from USD 300,000 to USD 600,000 to play a couple of exhibition matches in Pakistan.

Along with them, some of the other big stars, who will be joining are Nicolas Anelka, Robert Pires, David James, George Boateng and Luis Boa Morte.

The players arrived in Karachi early on Saturday morning on a private jet manned by the Pakistan military.



The two exhibition matches will be held in Karachi and Lahore under the auspices of the Leisure Leagues and World Group who claim they want to promote the sport in Pakistan.

According to a report in the *Nets International*, the organisers are paying Ronaldinho around USD 600,000 for the short visit while the other players are getting paid between USD 300,000 and USD 400,000.

Interestingly, the Pakistani players who will play alongside the international stars of the exhibition games, have complained that they have not been promised any payments from the organisers for the matches.

The organisers are selling tickets for the exhibition matches priced between 2,000 and 30,000 Pakistani rupees. - PTI

Venus driving 'lawfully' at time of fatal crash: Police

MIAMI, July 8: New evidence shows Venus Williams was driving "lawfully" when she was involved in a deadly car crash that sparked a lawsuit against the tennis star, police in Florida said on Friday.

An initial police report on the June 9 crash in Palm Beach Gardens described Williams as being "at fault" in the incident.

On Friday, Palm Beach Gardens police issued a statement saying new video obtained of the collision showed that "the vehicle driven by Venus Williams lawfully entered the intersection on a circular green traffic signal and attempted to travel north through the intersection to BallenIsles Drive."

She was forced to halt in the intersection when a south-bound vehicle turned in front of her, police said. Once that car passed, Williams began to proceed through the intersection, also in accordance with traffic laws.

By that time, however, the light had changed and a vehicle driven by Linda Barson, traveling west on an intersecting street, collided with



Williams' car.

Barson's husband, 78-year-old Jerome Barson, died on June 22 of injuries sustained in the crash. Barson's family filed a lawsuit against Williams in Palm Beach County claiming she "negligently operated" her vehicle.

She has not been cited for any violation, and police said on Friday that their investigation continues.

Michael Steinger, a law-

intersection at a red light, violating the Barsons' right of way," Steinger said.

"There is nothing that disputes Ms Williams was in the intersection on a red light, and the witnesses clearly confirm the Barsons' had a green light and lawfully entered the intersection."

Williams, 37, reached the last 16 at Wimbledon on Friday. Earlier in the week at the All England Club, she broke down in tears during a press conference when asked about the crash.

Lawyers for both sides were in court on Friday in Palm Beach Gardens, where Williams' attorney wanted a judge to set guidelines on how both parties could inspect the cars involved and retrieve data from on-board computers.

Williams' lawyer had obtained an emergency court order preventing the Barson family from unilaterally inspecting the vehicles. - AFP

Inzamam hits back at critics on cash-award row

KARACHI, July 8: Former Pakistan skipper and current chairman of selection committee Inzamam ul Haq today slammed the criticism of the government to award him 10 million rupees for the country's Champions Trophy triumph.

The questions raised by former players is due to the gulf in the incentive received by Inzamam compared to his colleagues in the selection committee.

Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif gave the special 10 million cash prize to Inzamam and a million each to his fellow selectors at a reception held for the Champions Trophy winners.

"It was the selection committee which had suggested Sarfraz Ahmed's name as captain.

Inzamam reminded critics that it was his committee that suggested Sarfraz Ahmed's name as captain.

"It was the selection committee which had suggested the cricket board to make Sarfraz, the captain of the national one-day team,

"We didn't ask to be given these awards. But it is disappointing, it is being made into an issue for no rhyme or reason," said Inzamam said.

"The selection should be given credit for their work. Teams picked by this selection committee drew Test series in England last year, won a series in the West Indies for the first time in 70 years and now also lifted the Champions Trophy," he added.

Inzamam reminded critics that it was his committee that suggested Sarfraz Ahmed's name as captain.

"It was the selection committee which had suggested the cricket board to make Sarfraz, the captain of the national one-day team," he added. - PTI

Harinder Sandhu wins South Australian Open title

ADELAIDE, July 8: India's Harinder Pal Sandhu beat Rhyd Dowlng of Australia 11-8, 12-10, 11-4 in the final to lift the South Australian Open squash title, here today.

Sandhu was down 1-7 after winning the first game comfortably as the Australian fought back strongly.

He mounted a comeback to win it on extra points. The third game was a non-contest as the Indian, a former national champion, shut out Dowling's challenge 11-4 to wrap up the victory, according to information received here.

He had yesterday caused an upset defeating top-seed Pedro Schwerdt of the Netherlands 11-9, 14-12, 7-11, 11-9 in

the semifinal of the PSA World Tour event. "It has been a tough week as playing in cold climate is never easy. I have to be Australia a couple of times and it feels good to win a PSA tournament here for the first time," Sandhu said after the triumph.

"Had a tough semi-final with the top-seed and managed to stay strong and get the win. And just stayed composed and focused today," he added.

It was Sandhu's eighth title at the PSA level and the third this season after winning two in Malaysia in the month of May. He had reached the quarterfinals of the Asian Individual Squash Championship in Chennai in April. - PTI

Murray bemoans state of Wimbledon courts

LONDON, July 8: Defending champion Andy Murray added his voice to the growing list of players unhappy at the state of Wimbledon's grass courts, even claiming the halved Centre Court has developed divots.

World No.1 Murray said the courts were not in as good a condition as they have been in the past. Other players have criticised the state of Court 18 with France's Kristina Mladenovic claiming that a hole had appeared in the surface.

Weeks of hot weather and little rain have left many surfaces stripped of grass after just five days of the two-week long tournament.

"The court I don't think is in as good of condition as previous years," said Murray after beating Italy's Fabio Fognini 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 on Centre Court on Friday to reach the last-16

land Club.

"Grass is a natural surface and it is usual for the baselines and the baseline, where there's quite big lumps of grass, sort of almost like little divots there, which I don't remember really being the case."

Fognini agreed, saying the court "was really bad".

On Court 17 on Thursday, American star Bethanie Mattek-Sands suffered an horrific right knee injury after her leg buckled. It was not clear, however, whether the state of the surface was a contributing factor in the 32-year-old's accident.

Earlier on Friday, Wimbledon officials dismissed concerns over the state of the courts.

"The colour of the court, the fact that there's no more grass, the fact that the baseline where

we are running, it's very slippery. There's no grass," said Mladenovic, who was beaten in three sets.

"There was a huge hole on

the side. It was not even flat."

Swiss 19th seed Timea Bacsinszky had similar complaints after beating Olympic champion Monica Puig on the same court on Tuesday -- just the second day of the event.

"I'm pretty disappointed about the quality of the grass, especially on Court 18. I'm not saying it's dangerous, but it was the second day of the tournament, and it was already ruined," said Bacsinszky.

"Sorry, Wimbledon, it's not against you, but there are improvements to do on this thing."

Seven-time champion Roger Federer said that if both players complained about the state of a court then their concerns should be taken seriously.

"It's been extremely hot. You should always take the players' opinion seriously, especially when both say it," said

the Swiss.

The players found support from retired stars including Paul Shriver, who won five women's doubles titles at Wimbledon in the 1980s.

"The footing on grass when I played was good unless wet, but now they are rolling it so plays like a hard court, the footing will be worse," the American tweeted.

French 21st seed Caroline Garcia, who downed Madison Brengle on Court 18 on Friday, said the surface played differently depending on the day.

"My previous match I played over there, and I thought the court was very bad for second round. Today at 11:30 was okay," Garcia said after making the third round.

Wimbledon courts are no stranger to injury controversies. - AFP

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2	4	7	9	5	8	6	1	3
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2 WOMEN PLUS

Sonali J. Chatterjee discovers dramatic talent.

3 MY SPACE

Mayuri Borgohain is steeped in nostalgia.

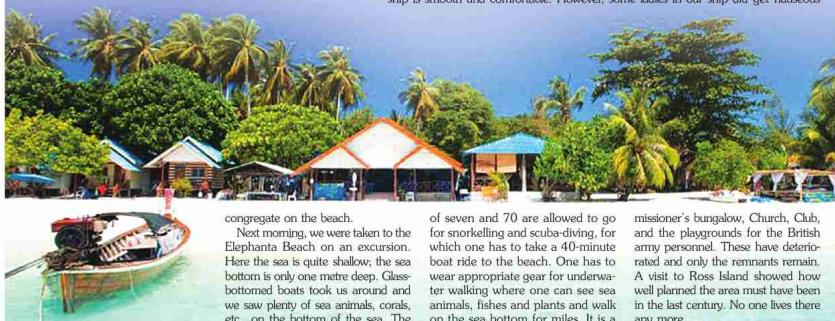
4 THIRD EYE

Indrani Raimedhi opens doors.

The Assam Tribune Sunday

READING Islands in the sun

H. N. DAS enjoys the unique charm of the Andamans.



while the vessel negotiated the difficult run between the Havelock Island and Neil Island.

After landing at Havelock, we were taken almost 30 kms by jeep to our hotel. The hotel was very good and comfortable, located close to the Radhanagar Beach. According to *Time* magazine, Radhanagar is one of the best beaches in Asia. It is wide and sprawling. The sunset scene in the beach is wonderful. Lots of people

congregate on the beach.

Next morning, we were taken to the Elephanta Beach on an excursion. Here the sea is quite shallow; the sea bottom is only one metre deep. Glass-bottomed boats took us around and we saw plenty of sea animals, corals, etc., on the bottom of the sea. The boatman-cum-guide reeled off the names of the sea animals and fishes. These included starfish, sea urchins, feather star, giant clam shells, cowrie, sea cucumbers, sea anemones and many varieties of crustaceans. We could not distinguish between different types but remembered the colourful animals. The coral reefs are of different shapes. It seems that more than 50 varieties of coral reefs grow here.

Those who are between the ages of seven and 70 are allowed to go for snorkelling and scuba-diving, for which one has to take a 40-minute boat ride to the beach. One has to wear appropriate gear for underwater walking where one can see sea animals, fishes and plants and walk on the sea bottom for miles. It is a unique experience of seeing sea animals and coral reefs, as also of walking on the sea bottom.

Soon after the declaration of the Andamans as a penal settlement in 1858, the administrative headquarters of the islands was set up at the Ross Island. It continued there until the Japanese occupation ended on March 25, 1942. The British constructed beautiful buildings, including the Com-

misioner's bungalow, Church, Club, and the playgrounds for the British army personnel. These have deteriorated and only the remnants remain. A visit to Ross Island showed how well planned the area must have been in the last century. No one lives there any more.

Tourist amenities in the Arambamaman are generally well-maintained. Hotels are good. Transport and food seemed adequate and reasonably priced. In 2014, a total of 3.02 lakh tourists visited the islands as against 1.93 lakhs, in 2010. This number can go up with minor improvements in the facilities available at the tourist spots and amenities.

(The writer was Chief Secretary, Assam, during 1990-93.)

Glass-bottomed boat ride

This one is for those who are really afraid of water. It is an easy ride and gives you a good view of the corals beneath with proper safety gear. It is good for kids as well.



Swimming with elephants

Here, you get a chance to swim with Rajan – the star elephant. The 60+ elephant loves the company of people and is very friendly. However, you need to book your swim with Rajan in advance.

Mangrove kayaking

Mangrove kayaking in Majahunder is a must try. The lush green mangroves of the Andaman comprises of one-fifth of India's total mangrove cover.

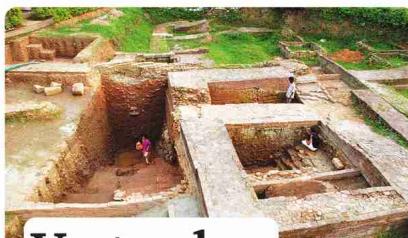


Things to do



Witnessing Bioluminescence at Havelock Island

Picture this – tiny lighted stars and galaxies floating under your feet instead of the blue sky above. Watch this happen on the beach at Havelock Island, where water glows as you row your boat through them. This happens due to the presence of phytoplankton in the sea waters.



Yesterday once more

UNALITA PHUKAN explains the vital role of Archaeology in discovering the past.

Like a jigsaw puzzle, the ancient past comes to us in bits and pieces. The material bits are taken care of by Archaeology, the branch that does scientific study of the past materials. As a subject, Archaeology is still evolving around the world and in the Northeastern part of our country, it is still at an infant stage.

It is worth mentioning, though, that prior to the coming of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the State Directorate of Archaeology, along with the department of Anthropology, and Gauhati University, were the nodal agencies diligently excavating, protecting and conserving pre-historic and historic sites all over the region, particularly the famed Ambani site. Works on the pre-historic period gained much attention as early as the 1800s. The best pre-historic sites that have been minutely worked upon lie in the Garo Hills that still take us by surprise by yielding new sites and materials. With the establishment of the ASI's Guwahati Circle in 1983, they have been looking after the centrally protected

monuments of all the seven states. Very recently, in February 2016, the Aizawl sub-circle was set-up to look after the sites of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. ASI has introduced four Braille books on archaeological sites in North-East India, which is a first of its kind in the region that will certainly help the visually-challenged persons to understand the essence of these sites.

There are a few instances of some major sites being turned into religious centres, as well as residential plots, which have made it difficult for scholars and the official departments to survey and study those sites. Apart from human disturbances, the extreme nemesis of the archaeological sites in North-East India is the tectonic movement. Since the region is in the high seismic zone, the monuments and artefacts always remain in grave danger. The monuments of the ancient periods were of dry masonry, which get affected badly even with the slightest tremor.

At this juncture, a very pertinent question arises as to how Archaeology can contribute to the greater cause of this region. In case of North-East India, the story is too sketchy due to paucity of evidences. This region is culturally rich and potent; however, it lacks the adequate human resources to work upon. The ancient historical period of this region, not to mention, lacks literary evidences which are considered the only reliable source to study a period of archaeological evidences. What is worth mentioning here is the discovery of the remnants of a probable fortified commercial harbour at Aligachia-Tengnani of Barpather in the

Golaghat district. The area has a potential of unearthing an untold history, which could be unique in its own ways.

Researchers of the Nagaland University have identified sites in Nagaland, simply on the basis of oral tales and folklores. Of late, Nagaland happens to carry out pre-historic archaeological works outstandingly, despite the internal turbulences occurring on a daily basis. Also, Archaeology can give a major boost to the once vibrant and pioneering organisation known as the Kamrupa Anusandhan Samiti to resurrect from its deep slumber and refurbish its conclusive identity.

Forget the Amazon tribes, many unknown tribes are still lingering in the hills of North-East India, which remain in the verge of getting lost due to certain reasons. Before they are lost, they should be properly documented for further study. This might also bring to light the genetic and morphological similarities we have with the Southeast Asian people.

Interestingly, the well-known archaeologist late Tarun Chandra Sharma of Gauhati University had once observed that the stone tools found in Garo Hills were similar to that of the Hoabinhian culture, which used to be a dominant stone axe industry in Southeast Asia. Here, another inevitable question arises as to how possibly a stone tool or a potsherd can become so vital and relevant in the contemporary context. The answer simply lies in our quest, to delve into our identities that trace back to some unknown era in time and to get hold of our roots in an apparently rootless universe.

UP CLOSE
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Bold is beautiful!

PLABITA BORTHAKUR talks about her soon-to-release film *Lipstick Under my Burkha*.

Plabita Shrivastava's *Lipstick Under my Burkha*, as the name suggests, is not your typical Bollywood fare. And thank God for that! Having won several awards at international film fests, including the Oxfam Award for Best Film on Gender Equality, its judgement came to a thundering halt at the doors of the CBFC when it was denied certification on grounds of being too "lady-oriented," whatever that means. Pehlej Nihalani and his 'sonskaari' mentality couldn't really accept the fact that four middle-class women in a small town like Bhopal could talk about sex and get away with it. As always the Appellate Tribunal butted in and this bold film on female sexuality will now see an all-India release on July 21.

While that's good news, there's also the Assam connection to this film that makes it a must watch for people down here. Dulajan girl Plabita Borthakur plays a major role alongside stalwarts like Ratna Pathak Shah and Konkona Sen Sharma. After a bit role in Aamir Khan's *PK* and with several advertisements in her kitty, this is Plabita's coming-of-age film. And she can't get better and bigger from hereon.

Excerpts from an interview:

How did *Lipstick Under my Burkha* happen?

Priyangi (my sister) referred my name to someone in her network. They called me in, and after a long, long audition process, I was asked to be part of the workshops. And while all of this was happening, I wasn't even sure if I was part of the film. Thankfully, they thought I fit the bill, and bingo!

Do you share screen space with Konkona Sen Sharma and Ratna Pathak Shah? How was it acting with stalwarts like them?

Yes, I do. And that is only one of the many, many intimidating factors I've faced in my head, while going into the film.

As we know, they are artistes of immense stature, be it their body of work, their repertoire, or their ability to just look in the eye and convey a message stronger than a thousand words. All this, while a camera is pointing at you! Despite all this, their greatness lies in being humble and grounded, and being able to make newcomers like me feel at home, so we can give our best. There is just so much to learn from them!

What are your expectations from this film?

The film gallantly deals with a very important subject – that of women's status in our country (even today), and the inherent tradition of judging them at every step. I hope the film will help bring in new perspective about the contribution of women in the society, and the way they need to be looked at.

Going back a little, from Dulajan to Mumbai... how did it all pan out?

I grew up in the quaint little township of Dulajan where I've had some of the best memories of my life until now. After completing my higher secondary there, I moved to Mumbai to pursue higher studies, at the Jai Hind College.

And how did acting happen?

I knew acting was my calling, since I was a child. I still remember getting in front of the mirror every now and then, and enact scenes from popular movies to myself. I am full of melodrama. I love drama. It's so colourful!

Tell us about your sisters. **Parineeta is herself a major actress...**

Parineeta is the eldest one who is now an established actor in Mumbai, and is a popular face on many primetime soaps. She has also released Assamese music albums and acted in acclaimed movies like *Poley Poley Ure Mon* and *Geane Ki Aane*.

Priyangi, meanwhile, has worn many hats. She has assisted some of Bollywood's biggest names such as Sriram Raghavan, Soojit Sircar, Ram Gopal Varma, amongst others. After a long stint in the industry, she has recently started an Assamese food delivery kitchen in Mumbai, and people are loving it!

You are also part of a band called Manu and Chow... aren't you?

Manu and Chow is the other side of me – the side that explores and indulges in making music, singing, grooving and performing. And I can tell you, there is no high as performing live!

Pranab Ghosh and I formed the band a couple of years ago while casually jamming at a friend's. It sounded sweet enough for us to instantly decide to get serious about it.

What other work are you looking forward to?

I am currently shooting a film with an equally amusing cast, set in Rajasthan. It is scheduled for release, early next year. Apart from that, I am on the regular ad assignments and concerts with my band, which keep me on my toes.

What about working in Assamese films? Have you received any offers yet?

Yes, I have. And I am very open to working in them. The transformation that Assamese films have gone through in the last five years is incredible! Maybe it's just about getting the right script, and at the right time.



WOMEN PLUS
Sonali Jha Chatterjee

The world as a stage

AARUSHI THAKUR is bringing hope to the Kashmir Valley through theatre.

Lately, Jammu and Kashmir, unfortunately, has been in the news for turmoil and disarray. Amidst all this, however, creativity flows, too, in different forms. Theatre person Aarushi Thakur, 27, of Jammu, thinks that the urge to create often gets more powerful than giving in to despair about conflicts around.

Her plays are often adapted from the English classics and are enacted in English for a primarily Hindi and Dogri audience. This audience has not only accepted it, but are clamouring for more too.

Daughter of well-known theatre director Balwant Thakur, Aarushi, however, never had plans to enter the stage, though she often travelled with her father's theatre group, Natrang. In fact, it was the travelling that attracted her more than acting. While studying International Politics in London, she attended a theatre workshop at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA). "I realised then that I liked theatre after all. In fact, I could work 24 hours without getting exhausted. Theatre consumed me," she recalls.

What about the absence of any formal theatre training? "Well, it would have been a good idea to be formally trained, but I feel that this lacuna has made me more cautious and led me to work doubly hard since I didn't have the backing of any formal coaching. My father did introduce me to various books on theatre but didn't coach me."

Since then she has acted and directed unique productions which pushed her prowess to the limits, way beyond what she thought possible. She began with *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, which, she feels, is her best production. This play performed by amateurs, not very comfortable with English, received widespread appreciation.

What Aarushi achieved was unique in Jammu. No one had performed from the Classics in English for the stage. The encouragement she received from the theatre fraternity spurred her and she picked up her next production, *Roshomon*. It wasn't surprising that she was discouraged from taking up this work. "I was not concerned about the success of my play. I had no yardstick to measure myself. I simply believed in what I was doing. That led me to take up unconventional topics, I suppose," she says, recollecting those days.

She chose Jammu's Amar Mahal, a beautiful building located on a hillock as her venue, with the summer breeze adding to the magic. The play's success went beyond her imagination, especially so when some remarked that the play was good enough to be performed in Broadway.

After this success, Aarushi staged Dickens' *Oliver Twist* and Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, both with children. She consciously moved away from

I had no yardstick to measure myself. I simply believed in what I was doing. That led me to take up unconventional topics.


LET'S CREATE

Recently, as the floodwaters in the city receded, and the civic authorities got down to clearing the drains, they scooped out several hundred plastic bottles from these clogged waterways. While the writing is on the wall, we tend to ignore the fatalistic possibilities of this human fascination for all things plastic. And when it comes to plastic bottles, they are all pervasive; we cannot avoid them. In such a scenario, rather than dumping them into drains that lead to severe waterlogging, re-introduce them into your life in various ingenious ways. Here are a few ideas on how to reuse plastic bottles around the house:

Magazine rack

Cut up old plastic bottles to make functional newspaper and magazine organisers. All you need are – a pair of scissors, paint, tape and a way to mount them, and


Kitchen storage containers


Make repurposed containers out of old bottles; it is fun and super easy. Take two big Coke bottles; cut off the neck from one bottle and the bottom of the other. Now, use the latter as the lid and store away.

A fence for your garden


If you can see the picture, you can see how bottles can be used to create a pretty little fence around your garden, or simply to demarcate a particular area that's off limits for pets or kids in your garden.

Creative sweet gifts


Cut out those finely-shaped Coke bottles and use them as gift boxes or chocolate packets. Simply wrap them in beautiful ribbons and see how pretty they look.

Snack bowls


Cut off a bottle in the size of a bowl and smoothen the edges by placing them on a hot iron. You can even paint or design them in different ways.

Water nestling vegetables


This is the simplest and most effective way to give back to the environment. Why waste money on big planters when you can reuse bottles (in all sizes) for all your plants.

Vertical wall storage organisers


Storage is a major issue in modern homes, especially if you have children at home. Toys, stationery, magazines, etc., create a lot of clutter. Cut out plastic bottles and pin them onto a wall and store all your knick-knacks in them.

Biscuit fridge cake
Ingredients:

- Marie biscuits 2 packets
- Butter 200 gms
- Icing sugar 200 gms
- Cocoa powder 40 gms
- Vanilla essence 1 tbsps
- Egg (optional) 1
- Walnuts, finely chopped ½ cup
- Whipped cream 1 cup, to decorate
- Strawberries and flaked chocolate to decorate
- Brandy 2 tbsps
- Coffee powder instant 2 tbsps
- Boiling water ¾ cup

Method:

Grease an 8 x 4-inch loaf tin and line it with cling wrap.

Place the butter and sugar into a bowl and beat until light and fluffy.

Add the cocoa powder and vanilla and beat well. Then add the egg and beat until well incorporated.

Mix the brandy with the coffee and boiling water in a shallow dish.



Dip the biscuits, one at a time, into the coffee for approximately three to five seconds.

Arrange a layer of biscuits in the loaf tin and cover with a layer of the butter cream mixture.

Press down firmly with a wooden spoon and cover with the cling wrap.

Place in the freezer till firm, then turn out.

Whip the cream and spread over the top of the cake.

Decorate with strawberries and flaked chocolate.



Sharmin Pasha is a food writer currently based in Dubai, UAE, where she teaches privately-organised cooking lessons on different techniques of cooking. She also hosts an informative page featuring Assamese recipes on Facebook, which was created to showcase the culinary treasures of Assam to the world and to preserve ethnic recipes for generations to come.

Chicken cutlets
Ingredients:

- Pousses (large), boiled and peeled 2
- Chicken cubes, boneless 500 gms
- Turmeric powder 1 tsp
- Pepper powder ½ tsp
- Ginger paste ½ tsp
- Garlic paste ½ tsp
- Cinnamon stick 1
- Onion, minced 1
- Green chilli, chopped 1
- Coriander powder or curry powder 2 tbsps
- Nutmeg powder ½ tsp
- Coriander leaves, chopped 2 tbsp
- Egg 1
- Eggs, lightly beaten 2
- Milk ½ cup
- Flour ½ cup
- Seasoned breadcrumbs 2 cups
- Vegetable oil for deep frying
- Salt to taste

Method:

Place the chicken cubes in a pot. Add enough water to cover the chicken.

Add ginger, garlic, salt, pepper, cinnamon

and a pinch of turmeric and cook until done.

Cool and grind the chicken to a coarse mince.

In a large bowl, mash the potato to a smooth paste.

Add the minced chicken, onions, coriander, green chilli, coconut powder or curry powder and nutmeg and one egg. Combine well.

Using wet hands, form into heart shapes or any desired shape and refrigerate until chilled.

Whisk the eggs with the milk and place the flour and bread-crums on separate dinner plates.

Roll the cutlets in the flour, dip into the egg mixture and cover in crumbs.

Heat oil in a deep pan over moderate flame and fry, until golden.

Garnish with some onion rings and serve hot with ketchup or dip of your choice.


STYLE FILE
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Curb appeal

First impressions give an insight to your home.

First impressions are everything. When it comes to real estate, the tone of the house is set right from the minute you enter the front gates. A well-manicured front lawn or a riot of blooms welcoming you as you drive down the driveway to a perfectly decorated front porch gives your guests insight to your home and family. A little bit of love on the front yard and the overall outdoor experience will go a long way in impressing your guests. However, don't start overcrowding the lawn or the driveway as it might end up a dash messy, which you would want to avoid. Use seasonal flowers as well as all-year-round plants that work for your terrain and help accentuate the curb appeal. Let us discuss some of the key elements for a perfect entrance:

Front yard landscaping

Whether you are one of the lucky few boasting of an expansive front lawn or someone with a tidy little green patch, planning the landscape of your lawn or garden could be very exciting. Think lush, bright coloured blooms bursting in merriment clustered together or lined in perfect symmetry across a lovingly tended lawn. Use a combination of seasonal as well as all-year-round plants and shrubs that will make your garden sing throughout the year. You could also smother the lawn with an exotic waterbody. Place garden benches providing perch spots, strategically across your gorgeous lawn.


Driveway blooms

Make the drive from the entrance gate to the front door a sensational one by flank the driveway with gorgeous and aromatic blooms. It also provides a great walkway, where one can take a stroll through the sweet smelling passage in the summer evenings. Light up the pathway with accent lights, creating a magical ambience.

Porch power
Front porches

Front porches are great spots for relaxing and to literally take time to smell the roses. Whether you want to create a cosy and intimate space or provide an elaborate entertainment-ready space, there are multiple ways of styling the porch to cater to your specific needs. Bring in a large coffee table stacked with magazines and a cluster of comfy chairs to create a warm and inviting feel. You can also place a large farm-style bench, which would provide for maximum seating and smatter it with brightly coloured cushions. Don't forget to add lots and lots of plants. A swing is also a great seating option for a porch.



A warm and inviting porch design, replete with ample seating and house plants.

Front door design

Front doors are the easiest ways to draw attention to your home. Be it a simple, no-frills modern door to complement the modern architecture of your home or an elaborate hand-carved wooden door, it definitely has an impact on the overall design of your home. If you have enough space, opt for a double door for a grand entrance.



A modern door design emphasising the urban and contemporary style of the home.

Accent walls

As we meticulously plan the outdoors of our homes, creating accent walls in strategic spots are extremely important. There are a zillion ways of decorating these spaces. If you would like to ring in the zen feel, a waterbody with waterfalls and a floating Buddha statue will do just the thing. If you prefer a more Indian ambience, opt for a couple of ancient hand-carved temple columns right at the entrance or even an intricate, vintage Rajasthani door. This will surely make for a 'wow' entrance.



A stylish accent wall right at the entrance of the home exudes a calming vibe.

Indian ambience, opt for a couple of ancient hand-carved temple columns right at the entrance or even an intricate, vintage Rajasthani door. This will surely make for a 'wow' entrance.

FICITION
Navamalati Chakraborty

"Will you have tea, *Mensahib*?"
"No."
"But I'll have some, *Mensahib*. My throat is dry."
"Have, Ramesh. But was the saucerman properly washed?"
"I always wash it well. Don't I?"
"Yes you do. But you don't do it well enough."
"Oh *Mensahib*, you know I feel tired."

Mon sat on a rocking chair, reading a book. There was a smile on her lips. This little boy had, in fact, brightened her life. He had joined her services a year back, when he was just eleven. Malnutrition had stunted his growth, but within one year, he had grown taller and healthier. Her job at the residential army school often left her on the brink of an aching loneliness. The boys from the hostel often visited her and she did feel great about serving them whatever she could. Being young and uncomplaining, they ate whatever she served. Young boys are always hungry. This is a real blessing.

Whenever Mon found time these days, she taught Ramesh to read and write. The boy had also shown an inclination towards sketching and was really good at it. Mon encouraged him and requested the art teacher to have a look at the boy's sketches. Mr. Sahni did so, but at times, he wondered how could an untrained hand be so good! He would tell Mon not to be so enthusiastic.

"Madamji, be careful. These type of boys shouldn't be indulged."

"Which type? I really didn't get you."

"These type... these, I mean the servant class."

Mon decided to change the topic. Ramesh was looking at her.

"Okay, fine. Now tell me Sahni, will you prefer tea or coffee?"

It was Ramesh who promptly replied, "Have tea. Have tea, I'll make it very nicely."

His eager face made Mon smile. The constant drizzling that Sunday morning had left her feeling feverish. She had a sore throat too. A cup of tea would be welcome.

As Ramesh went in, he asked Mon if he could fry some fritters too. Mon volunteered to make them but Ramesh told her to sit and talk. "I'll make, you don't worry."

When Mr. Sahni heard the fritters, he too felt good. His wife had come to her mother's place as she was expecting their first child. This morning, he was particularly hungry. He smiled and told Mon that he, indeed, marvelled at the boy's art works. But she wanted to take care, for the boy may run away anytime.

Mon ignored his warning but thanked him for his comments on Ramesh's art.

"Yes," she said. "He is a bright boy. He is picking up all that I teach very fast. I would really love to admit him to a proper art school."

"Arre Madam, why are you taking *bekaar ka trou-*

3 A cup of tea

ble? These people should always be suppressed else we will soon run out of servants."

Mon asked him not to have such a mentality. Besides, she mentioned that Ramesh was not with her as a servant. "My maid does all the work and Ramesh does just a few odd things around the house."

Mon laughed and added, "Ramesh just loves to have tea! He was once walloped mercilessly by his father when he drank up the last drop of tea from his father's glass in a roadside stall. In fact, in his eagerness, he had dropped the glass which broke. He was so afraid that he would be beaten afresh, that he quietly ran away."

"After that, he joined the service of a couple, where the wife was an airhostess and the husband was a businessman. There too he did not get a good bar-



gain. The husband, being unable to have a hold over his beautiful wife who was often dropped home by her male colleagues, would take it out on Ramesh. He was not only beaten but was also made to starve. Can you imagine how inhuman people are?"

As Mon spoke on, her eyes had a distant look. She vividly recalled the day when she had gone to fetch a few things from the local grocery store. The walk had made her feel breathless. She sat down and hurriedly opened her bag to take out the inhaler and take a few puffs. She closed her eyes as she took the puffs. She did not notice that as she did so, a few currency notes fell out. It was only when she felt the tug at her bag that she opened her eyes. A little boy had the notes in his hand while with the other hand he was trying to push back the bag. His eyes were on her face. Although he saw her looking at him, he neither tried to run away, nor did he excuse himself.

He merely said, "Aap thik toh ho? Tabiyat kharab hain?"

Mon was deeply touched to see his concern. As she set up, the boy handed her the money as well as her cell phone that had fallen down.

He then smiled and asked her not to hand him to the police as he was trying to help her and not steal.

He then noticed that she was still having breathing trouble. He forgot his fear.

"Mera naam Ramesh hain. Apko to sans leng me takeef ho raha hain. Main kuch madaf karoon?"

Something touched Mon's heart deeply. This little boy could have run away with her money and phone. Why was he wringing his hands at Mon's despair? How was he so concerned? She noticed that he had a stammer. He was offering to accompany her home. Without any hesitation, he took the cash and the phone and put it inside her bag.

"Bast!" he said. He then asked her what she wanted to buy. Mon took out the list and Ramesh went and got everything in a polythene bag. He went and paid the money. As he noticed that Mon had a carry bag in her hand, he placed the polythene bag in it. He then told her as though it was the most natural thing to do and said, "Chaliye, hum apko ghar chod avengae."

Ramesh not only dropped her home, but also stayed back. He was the little man in Mon's household... caring and responsible.

As Mon asked him about his home, he smiled and said, "Mera to ghar hain, par nahi hain. Mere pitaji bahut maante hain. Woh glass tootne ka baad mein ghar se bhag aaya."

Mon asked him about his mother. He said that when his father starts beating him and his brothers, she starts crying. Now there would be no need for her to cry.

Mon was initially watchful. But she soon liked the boy. He settled in her house so well that very soon it seemed that he had always been there.

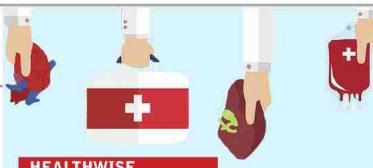
He liked her to read news snippets for him.

One day, she read to him about a nine-year-old boy at East Lake Tohopekaliga, in Florida, who had gone for a swim. He felt a sharp painful pull on his backside. It was an alligator. The boy cried open the jaws of the alligator by hitting hard and slipped out of its grasp. There were 30 tooth marks and scratches on his back, stomach and buttocks. In one of his wounds, there was embedded a tooth of the alligator. The boy wanted to preserve it, but the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission took it away to identify the alligator.

As Mon read such news, Ramesh would listen intently. One day, he told her, "Madam, aap ne bhi to humme alligator se bachaya. Mere peeth me bhi bahut maa'r kri nishan hain."

Mon's eyes filled with tears. This little boy was a godsend. She would see that he received proper education. On life's path God had sent him to her.

She brushed off her tears, he said, "Madam, aap chai piyenge? Hum toh piyenge bhai!"



HEALTHWISE

Dr. Dharmakanta Kumbhakar

drdharmakanta@yahoo.com

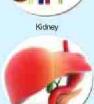
Organ and tissue donation

Organ and tissue donation involves removing organs and tissues from people who are alive or from a deceased donor, and transplanting them into someone who, in many cases, is very ill or dying. Organs that can be transplanted include the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, intestine and pancreas. Tissues that can be transplanted include heart valves and other heart tissue, bones, tendons, ligaments, skin and parts of the eye such as the cornea and sclera.

Heart Donation: Some people with heart failure, viral infection, or a congenital heart defect require a heart transplant to survive. Heart transplants are performed when all other forms of medical treatments have failed. Artificial hearts can be used temporarily until a human heart is available. If the whole heart cannot be transplanted, heart valves can still be donated.

Lung donation: Lung transplants are often needed by people with cystic fibrosis or emphysema, whose own lungs cannot provide enough oxygen to their bodies. Many people believe that smoking will prevent lung donation. However, there are tests that can be done to check how well the lungs work and their results determine suitability for donation.

Kidney donation: If both the kidneys are damaged or diseased and are not able to filter the blood properly, one needs a kidney transplant to stay alive. The two kidneys can be transplanted together into one recipient, or separated and transplanted into two people.



Liver donation: People with metabolic liver disease, hepatic failure and congenital liver defects such as biliary atresia may require liver transplants to stay alive. The liver is a unique organ as it can regrow. This means that an adult liver can be reduced in size and transplanted into a child where it can then grow with the child.

Pancreas donation: At present, the majority of pancreas transplants are performed on people who have Type 1 diabetes, which can also cause kidney failure. For this reason, the pancreas is often transplanted with a kidney from the same donor.

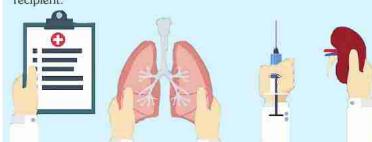
Pancreas islet donation: There are times when it is not possible to transplant the pancreas as a whole organ. However, the insulin-producing islet cells of the pancreas can be transplanted separately as a treatment for diabetes.

Eye tissue donation: Donation of eye tissues can allow transplantation of the cornea and the sclera. Corneal transplants restore sight to people who are partially or completely blind due to corneal damage, following a genetic condition, illness or injury.

Bone donation: Bone tissue can be grafted to replace bone, which has been lost as a result of tumours or through other disease or accidents. It is also used to aid fracture healing, strengthen hip and knee joint replacements, and to repair curvatures of the spine (scoliosis), in children and teenagers. Depending on the type of transplant required, over 10 people can benefit from a single bone donation.

Bone marrow donation: Bone marrow donation is one of the two methods of collecting blood forming cells for bone marrow transplants. Bone marrow donation is a surgical procedure that takes place in a hospital operating room. Donor will be given anaesthesia and he/she feels no pain during the donation. After donation, the donor's liquid marrow is transported to the patient's location for transplant.

Skin donation: People who have suffered extensive trauma, infection, damage to the skin, or severe burns can require skin grafts to become healthy again. When skin is donated, only a thin layer is retrieved, somewhat like the skin that peels during sunburn. It is usually retrieved from the person's back and the back of their legs. On an average, skin from three donors is needed for one recipient.



We spend more time with our smartphones than we do with our close ones. We have thousands of virtual friends, but not a single one to unwind with on a lazy weekend over a dinner of home-cooked food... I racked my brains to remember the last time I watched the stars ('watched', not 'seen'), or had a cup of ordinary coffee over an extraordinary conversation with someone who cared to listen. It seems my city has more hidden spaces now, where more hidden lives live with hidden emptinesses, and I can see more darkened windows where shadow people pass fleetingly and out of sight...

Just like me, my city's past changes according to the route it has followed...

Perhaps, I am proprietary towards my city. I love its harlequin-esque panorama. In the green hills that guard my home, the world is a coax-

MONEY SMART
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The right choice

THINGS TO AVOID WHILE CHOOSING A MUTUAL FUND

was great again.

Nowadays, the primary question I get from my readers is - which mutual fund is good or in which mutual fund one should invest. This is a difficult question to answer, not because there are almost 12,000 mutual fund schemes in India, but if you take the variations in each fund the number

will go up several times. Why are there so many mutual funds? What is the purpose of having so many? Sometimes even I fail to understand why!

But every fund is different and it has a purpose. Therefore, not indulging on the merit of each, let us discuss how not to choose a mutual fund. Just like the way my mother gave

me the list of what not to have during my bachelor days.

- Since investing in mutual funds has become hot, some beginners have started to invest without a single clue. Before you start, learn the basics. Forget the name; learn the composition of the product. It is a must.

● Not understanding your own risk profile is another problem. I have seen senior citizens in their 70s and 80s with high risk / high return products in their portfolio.

● Looking for top performers is another mistake. Rather, you should choose one or two schemes in line with your risk profile.

● Going for unnecessary tips or trends, especially into a sector or thematic fund, is risky and often new investors do so in a hurry. Avoid it at all cost.

● Finally, making a clutter of your portfolio is another mistake. One makes too often. With too many schemes, you will lose track of their performances and buying more than one scheme in the same category will increase the chance of having a duplicate holding. Four to six funds is good enough for almost any investor.

MY SPACE
Dr. Mayuri Borgohain
drmayuri.13@yahoo.co.in

I was after nearly a gap of two decades that I took a 'leisure drive' around the city I call 'home'. As I meandered past the riverside road in Uzbari, the surroundings looked unfamiliar, and the city revealed itself like a person holding his varying personalities.

There was a new eatery, there were benches where people sat and chatted, or just gazed at the sunset sky. The road looked freshly paved, and the trees were bathed clean by the showers from the previous night... A few hundred metres ahead, as the road snaked upwards, towards the Raj Bhawan, there appeared a sight which was a fantasy scarcely touched by the twenty-first century - the same old rusty gate lay untouched and unattended, open-

ing to a mossy lane to a dilapidated structure (which must be some 'protected area', I always wondered).

Mine is a city of doers and dreamers; it was once trod by invading armies and learned men. Serene Assam-type houses glowed pristine and fresh, with silver or carmine tin roofs that housed simple minds with small dreams... The front yards had *loporna*, with the bamboo cut to perfection by the neighbourhood daily wage earner. The wind carried the memory of evening prayers, of a revolution of passion to protect the mother-tongue, of violin and sitars, and the bard and the rockstar, and the same cobble lanes meandered outside, like a sentinel standing witness to the rhapsody that is my city.

The sun still sets in the Brahmapu-

tra. Sitting on the concrete blocks on the sides of the 'Bellevue' road, and feeling my own insignificance in front of the mighty river, I watched the waters turn golden... The 'har ek maal dia toka' (which is 'dua toka' now) loitered on street corners, and wet clothes hung in windows of the houses, making the whole city seem like a cine-screen with unseen puppets crouched behind rattling curtains. I looked around, my tired eyes straining greedily to take in as much light and love and colour and detail as they could...

Now, we have evolved to live in lonely apartments where we bump into strangers in the corridors, we are threatened by them on the dark streets, we sit next to them in the bus, and we give them the finger in traffic jams.

Opening doors

Look at it this way. You are about two years old. You are just about able to stagger from point A to point B. Gravity is the constant enemy and to your annoyance and indignation, most things are too high for you to reach. But toddlerhood has its compensations. Once in a while your dad, or an uncle, will play a game with you. He will pop and vanish behind a wooden contraption that swings open and shut. When the person disappears, your mouth does a drooly O. Then, before your disbelieving eyes, the figure pops its head in and reappears. You cackle so hard that you fall on your butt. The game goes on, depending on how candle-worthy you are. But this piece is not so much about the cute, idiotic pleasures of toddlerhood. It is a meditation on doors – what they mean to us, the associations they trigger, the symbolism inherent in them. We open them, shut them, lock them, knock at them, hammer at them, kick at them, break them down, peep through keyholes, eavesdrop behind them, wait to be let in, crane to be let out. Looks like an entire finite lives revolve around doors. And dieses like Elizabeth Taylor often said there were many doors to open, and she was not afraid to look behind them. Emerson, poet and mystic said we must be the opener of doors. It is all too easy to wait for others to open doors and shy away from the light or darkness that lies beyond. We take for granted those whose doors are always open, and we put a premium on a door that will not let us in.

Doors are never always utilitarian fixtures, part of the architecture of a building. A door or doorway symbolises the transition and passageway from one place to another. Doors are seen as passages to another world in religion, mythology and literature. Just as an open door stands for welcome and acceptance, a closed door means rejection, secrecy, hostility and even imprisonment. Every door is a call to discover, to find out, to know. They say that in dreams, an outward opening door means you need to open up and connect to others. But an inward opening door implies you need to clue in on your inner self. Seeing closed doors in your sleep may mean your subconscious frustration at opportunities being denied to you.

When you talk of doors, you also talk

of doors of perception, which we have in the mind. You are fearful of cellar doors, which are a fixture in the horror flick genre. And think of the number of door idioms. We beat paths to doors, get a foot in the door, see someone to the door, close one door only to have one open, and think fondly of the girl next door. In totalitarian regimes people cover at mid-night for the knock on the door.

Not surprisingly, doors play a serious

THIRD EYE

Indrani Raimedhi



At some point in my life when my age was still in single digits, some kind adult let on that ghosts don't need doors because they can easily glide through them. I had relied on a bolted door to keep myself and my kid brother safe from ghouls at night and all along they could saunter in without a by your leave? I don't remember how many nights I lay staring at the bolted door in the faint streetlight, waiting for apparitions. Things got better when Mehmood, the comedian, trying to get his screen dad Om Prakash to finance a horror film, did a rip-roaring impersonation of a door cracking open. That helped me loosen up.

The movies have lavished a lot of care on doors. Remember the round Hobbit Door set on a hill in *The Rings*? The fire doors of *Ghostbusters* exist for real in the Manhattan Fire Department building. But the most unforgettable is the frail door in *The Shining* into which a deranged Jack Nicholson is clubbing an axe. It is a bathroom door, and Wendy, his wife and victim is trapped. Trust Stephen King and Stanley Kubrick to have us cringing in our seats.

At a romantic level who can forget the blue door of the modest house in *Notting Hill* where Hugh Grant lived, and Julia Roberts visited as she fell in love with him?

The famous actress and the modest bookseller made a pair that raised the film to stratospheric heights: blue door and all.

I end with our colonial legacy. Bill, a true blue Brit, arrives in India completely ignorant of Hindustani. Tom, his more experienced friend, helps him out. "Look mate, when you want a door closed, you say, 'Darwaza bandh karo'. If that's tough, just say, 'There was a brown crow.' If you want that door opened, you are supposed to say 'Darwaza khol day'. You could just say 'It was a cold day'. That's how they ruled us for two hundred years.

role in unlocking minds. The colour of a door you choose in a test may actually reveal what is going on in your life. Your choice of a certain type of door may reveal your entire personality. Carl Jung designed a test in which one had to express emotions felt on being in a white

room without doors or windows. Spoiler alert... the white room represents what you will feel like when you are about to die.

For die-hard *Game of Thrones* fans, there is the celebrated Door No 9 actually located in Belfast's Ballygally Castle Hotel. This door depicts the famous battle between House Stark and House Bolton in the penultimate episode of Season 6. This beautifully carved door displays the crests of the two houses, Bolton's hungry dogs and Winterfell Castle. The door opens not to dark intrigue and passion, but to a restaurant.

At some point in my life when my age was still in single digits, some kind adult let on that ghosts don't need doors because they can easily glide through them. I had relied on a bolted door to keep myself and my kid brother safe from ghouls at night and all along they could saunter in without a by your leave? I don't remember how many nights I lay staring at the bolted door in the faint streetlight, waiting for apparitions. Things got better when Mehmood, the comedian, trying to get his screen dad Om Prakash to finance a horror film, did a rip-roaring impersonation of a door cracking open. That helped me loosen up.

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FORECAST

JULY 10 – 16, 2017



ARIES

Don't get absorbed in any melodrama. Set the record straight and bring out the truth as you see it. Don't let others hide behind façades, and don't do the same.



TAURUS

This week is a wonderful and productive time for you. Don't hog the limelight. Let other people feel like they're being heard, too. You might get into trouble if your head gets too big or your attitude too stubborn.



GEMINI

Stand back and let someone else take the reins. Trust in others. There are many helpful hands out there to guide you. The most important thing is to let go and have confidence that others will direct you.



CANCER

You have quite the juggling act on your hands this week. Things may fly at you from all directions, all demanding your attention. Give equal weight to your needs. You will be on an important road.



LEO

Tension may build from all directions. Everyone may seem to be operating as a great conspiracy against you. Don't get paranoid. This scenario is most likely far from the truth of the matter.



VIRGO

Spread your ideas out to the world. Now is a great time to go on a long trip, or at least begin planning one. Exploring the far reaches of your space, literally and figuratively.



LIBRA

Take time out to change the things in your life that need restoring. Explore your emotional needs and find ways to satisfy them. You may need to adopt a radically different approach.



SCORPIO

This week may be quite emotionally intense. Your greatest gifts may get you into trouble on a week like this, but that doesn't mean you should stop being yourself for even one minute.



SAGITTARIUS

You may need to make some distinct mental adjustments in order to fit in with the energy of the week. Try to tune into these energies and see what kind of balance they can bring to your life.



CAPRICORN

There's likely to be a bit of tension regarding your position in society. Maybe you're running into issues that stem from your involvement in the collective versus your focus on your personal issues.



AQUARIUS

There's a bit of rigidity in the air that might leave you feeling as if you're butting heads with everything you come in contact with. Try not to get too bent out of shape if people disagree with your opinions.

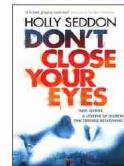


PISCES

Your ruling planets are Jupiter and Neptune. Your best day of the week is Thursday and you are all set to begin an exciting phase of your life.

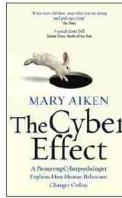
PAGE TURNER

Bringing you books the chattering are talking about.



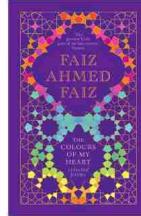
Don't Close Your Eyes

A powerful thriller featuring two sisters, Holly Seddon reveals shocking family secrets shared by the twins. It is a novel full of psychological twists and turns.



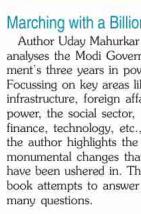
The Cyber Effect

An expert in cyber-psychology, Mary Aiken explains how technology is shaping our children, our behaviour and our values – and what we can do about it. The study on addictive behaviours online is of great importance.



The Colours of My Heart

Faiz Ahmed Faiz is one of the greatest Urdu poets of the 20th century and here, after a long time, is a new edition of his revolutionary poetry. Barak Farooqi's remarkable translation is a tribute to Ahmed's genius.



Marching with a Billion

Author Uday Mahurkar analyses the Modi Government's three years in power. Focusing on key areas like infrastructure, foreign affairs, power, the social sector, finance, technology, etc., the author highlights the monumental changes that have been ushered in. The book attempts to answer many questions.

5 THINGS/ Ruling the air waves

'The best pictures are on radio!'

Award-winning AIR broadcaster BASUDHA BANERJI loves the air waves.



1 Radio is a long playing story

Broadcasting in India is 90 years old; having taken its first toddling steps on July 23, 1927 when the Bombay station of the Indian Broadcasting Company started beaming organised radio programmes. I am fortunate to have hitched my wagon onto this magical journey, joining on July 25, 1991 at All India Radio, Guwahati. Twenty-six years of roaming with a microphone, the wanderlust undiluted!

2 Radio has no threat

I do not believe radio is threatened by the rapid spread of the internet in India. The internet is instead harnessed as a supporting development for stations to launch websites and live stream content. Future radio will make the most of content.

3 It is an intimate story-telling medium

Radio is the true inheritor of the oral tradition. Of childhood evenings when we huddled around a grandmother who spun magic with her words and transported us to bewitched worlds far away with her stories. This grandmother used music too. And sound effects. She mimicked

the voices of giants and trolls. She created the sound effects of a storm in the ocean. She was the original broadcaster.

4 Radio builds bridges

There is an invisible yet invincible bond between the radio producer/presenter and the listener. The first challenge of the producer is to grab the attention of the listener. And the ultimate challenge is to create an impact. Make someone smile. Or weep. Move someone. Galvanise another. Act as a catalyst. We do all this by an ingenious creation of visuals with sound, a refined craft.

5 Broadcasting is about passion

I remember interviewing a senior journalist once who spoke of his boarding school days and the "little red transistor" which he smuggled under the quilt after "lights out", only to listen to Komal GB Singh present her popular Western Music show – *A Date with You*. The middle aged journalist's voice carried old echoes of the young boy's crush on the presenter – "only because of her rich, warm voice".

(As told to Indrani Raimedhi)

SCREENSHOTS

Shoma A. Chatterjee



As her 300th film *Mom*, a home production, released recently, Bollywood goddess Sridevi shares the experience. Excerpts from an interview:

■ This is your 300th film. How have things changed since the time you were ruling the industry as a leading lady?

I am happy with the way things have changed. But I also hold on to the sweet memories of my *Hindi*, *Tamil*, *Telugu*, *Malayalam* and *Kannada* films way back so many years ago. The nostalgia of old films is directly linked to memories of my mother who would always be by my side – since I made my debut as a child artiste. Even when I sometimes chance upon an old film on television, it takes me back to those years and I enjoy the feeling.

■ How much is your role in *Mom* close to your real life role as a mother?

I do not think an actor needs to compare between real life and screen characters. The two are very different. But it helps in internalising the character as it did for *English-Vinglish*, in which I also played the mother of two kids.

■ This is a woman-centric film and so was *English-Vinglish*. Bollywood films are now portraying strong women characters as protagonists. What is your take on this?

Today, we have many wonderful films like *Kahani*, *Queen*, *Neerja*, *NH10*, and so on.

Mom's the word

But in the past, too, I have done quite a few women-centric films or very challenging roles in films like *Mr. India*, *Chandni*, *Nagina*, *Chaalaabaz*, *Lamhe*, *Gumraah*, *Laadla* and *Judaai*. I am happy because my recent films are in keeping with this change.

■ Is *Mom* mainly about a mother and her relationship with her daughter?

It is not just about a mother and the issues that crop up between her and her teenage daughter. Let us say that it goes much beyond that. It also probes into issues teenagers face while growing up, with problems of adolescence where they feel their parents do not understand them, and so on. It is basically about family relationships tweaked differently.

■ How different is your relationship with your daughters – Jhanvi and Khushi, compared to your own relationship with your mother?

I was an extremely obedient child and my mother used to say I was shy. Her word was the gospel for me and she practically held my hand, took me through the lanes of life, which includes my career. But today, I find that my daughters have very determined mindsets. We do have a give-and-take relationship where they often give suggestions and I accept them when I find they are interesting. They always ask me before deciding on something serious and that is a strong point. They are independent, but they also need me around.

■ Since *English-Vinglish*, your screen image has changed from what it was before in films like *Himmatwala* and *Tohfa*. Is this a conscious decision?

I believe that one needs to keep up with the changing times. Earlier, I had a glamorous image because the films projected me so. Today, I wouldn't fit into those roles any more. I am happy that I am now doing films that are offering me a platform that matches my age, and the audience, too, has liked me doing this.

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