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NEWS CAPSULE

Tripura probe

AGARTALA, March 18: An investigation is underway ordered by the PWD after its personnel were caught in a row with locals in Tripura over killing of three civilians who had protested alleged molestation by some paramilitary personnel. — PTI
(Also see Page 10)

Tax defaulters

NEW DELHI, March 18: Tightening the noose on major tax defaulters, the Income Tax Department on Saturday made public the names of individuals and corporates who owe Rs 448.02 crore in taxes to the government. — IANS

Agra blasts

LUCKNOW, March 18: Two low-intensity blasts were felt in Agra on Saturday. The explosions came close on the heels of a terror attack in State that it will attack the Taj Mahal, after which security was beefed up at the historical monument on Friday. — IANS

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



Dalai NE visit not to hit Sino-Indian ties

DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, March 18: His Holiness the Dalai Lama is an honoured guest of India and he is free to visit any place of the country. This is the view of the Government of India on the ensuing visit of the Tibetan spiritual leader to the Northeast.

The Chinese government

has objected to the visit of the Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh and warned that the visit would affect the relations between India and China. But the Government of India has a very clear stand on

the issue and played down the Chinese threat.

Highly placed sources in the Government of India told *The*

Tibetan spiritual guru is honoured guest of India

Assam Tribune that no restriction would be imposed on the movement of the Dalai Lama within India. Sources also expressed the view that the visit of the Dalai Lama

would not affect the relations between India and China.

As the Government of India considers the Dalai Lama as an honoured guest of the country, he is free to visit any part of the country. Tawang is an integral part of India and the Dalai Lama is free to visit Tawang. Moreover, he is not visiting Tawang for any political function. He is only visiting for religious functions and there is no reason for China to object to the visit," sources said.

Sources added that earlier also, China had objected to the visits of the Dalai Lama to Tawang, but such objections

(See page 13)

Land patta for indigenous people soon: Sonowal

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: The indigenous people who have not been able to get land patta even after staying on the same plot of land for decades would be provided land documents in the first phase itself. Rest of the indigenous people would get land patta in subsequent phases. This was announced by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal here today.

The Chief Minister's announcement came following a meeting with chairman of the Committee on Protection of Land Rights of Indigenous People Hari Sankar Brahma and other

members of the committee here, an official press release stated.

Asserting that without protecting the land rights of indigenous people, their language, culture and literature cannot be protected, Sonowal said that the State Government is committed to safeguard the interest of the people of the land and hence, steps like initiating reforms in land laws have been taken in earnest. "The government will act on the recommendations of the committee that has been formed for the first time to ensure land rights of the indigenous population," he added.

(See page 13)

State body to address pay-related grievances

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: The State Cabinet has decided to constitute an anomaly committee to address the pay-related grievances of the State Government employees that may arise after the implementation of the recommendations made by the Seventh Pay Commission.

This was informed by State Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma while speaking to media persons this afternoon.

The minister also released the Assam Services (Revision of Pay) Rules, 2017 which would facilitate the employees of

all grades to view their revised pay structure at the click of the mouse (www.finance.assam.gov.in).

"The Cabinet has authorized the finance department to constitute the committee and depending upon the number of grievances, we will constitute the committee by first week of the next month before which the employees with any grievance can file their petition," he said.

Stating that this was the first time when the recommendations of a pay commission have been implemented in time, Sarma further informed that pensioners henceforth will be categorized into two slabs.

"While the pensioners aged between 60 and 80 years would be put in one slab, those exceeding 80 years of age would be entitled for an additional pension amount which would be equivalent to nearly 20 per cent of the basic pay," the minister said.

"In case of the death of a government employee in harness, the family member would now be entitled to full pension till 67 years or 10 years whichever is earlier. After attainment of 67 years, the family member will receive only the family pension amount," Sarma said.

(See page 13)



Maleyam writer K Satchidanandan (second from right) presenting the Assam Valley Literary Award to Dr Arupa Patangia Kalita in Guwahati on Saturday. — AT photo

Assam Valley Literary Award presented

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: The Assam Valley Literary Award for year 2016 was presented to prolific writer and a vocal supporter of gender equality, Dr Arupa Patangia Kalita by accomplished Malayalam writer Prof K Satchidanandan at a programme at the Pragjyoti Cultural Complex here today.

A recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award, Dr Kalita has an immense body of work to her credit. She has authored several novels and collections of short stories, a number of which have been translated into English, Hindi and Bengali. Works like *Mrigambodhi*, *Ayonika*, *Arinmivi Swadeshi*, *Felani*, *Jaltarangar Sur* among others have made her immensely popular among the readers. Her writings have also been included in textbooks.

The Assam Valley Literary Award was instituted in the year

(See page 13)

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Festivals of Assam!
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Yogi Adityanath to be new UP CM

LUCKNOW, March 18: Yogi Adityanath, the controversial mascot of hardline Hindutva, will be the next Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He will be the 21st Chief Minister of the state.

In a move that surprised many, the 44-year-old five-term MP from Gorakhpur was elected the BJP legislature party leader at a meeting of the newly elected MLAs, a week after BJP won a resounding three-fourth majority in the key Hindi heartland state, making a comeback to power after 15 years. State BJP chief Keshav Prasad Maurya, who was himself in contention for the top job, first announced Adityanath's election. Maurya, the MP from Phulpur in Allahabad, will be the Deputy Chief Minister apart from senior BJP leader and Lucas Mayor Dinesh Sharma.

Later addressing the media, Union Minister M Venkiah Naidu, who along with BJP general secretary Bhupendra Yadav was present at the meeting as central observer for the election, said that Adityanath's name was proposed by Suresh Khanra, an eight-term MLA, and seconded by 10 others. — PTI

Fisheries dept to look after natural water bodies

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

water bodies.

The State fishery department had only 141 government farms as its asset and they were primarily engaged in fish seed production and distribution. The Assam Fisheries Development Corporation has 185 *bheels*, comprising around 10,000 hectares of land. There are around one lakh hectares of *bheels* (430 registered and 767 unregistered) in Assam under the State revenue department. Dereket water bodies comprise around 1,16,444 hectares of land.

"Such natural bodies shall be administered by the fishery department through its directorate/district/subdivisional level offices," a government notification stated.

(See page 13)



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Sec 144 imposed, Internet services suspended in Haryana

CHANDIGARH, March 18: Prohibitionary orders under Section 144 of CrPC were imposed and Internet services suspended in many 'sensitive' districts of Haryana today in the wake of the Jat body's plan to gherao the Parliament on March 20.

Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), prohibiting unlawful assembly, has been imposed in many sensitive districts, including Rohtak, Jhajjar, Bharatpur, Charkhi Dadri and Hisar, where Internet services have also been suspended for an indefinite period, official sources told PTI.

Restrictions have been imposed on the movement of tractor-trolleys from one district to another, they said, adding that the Army has been called in to manage the situation.

Meanwhile, All-India Jat Association Sanghar Samiti (AJASS), the body spearheading the agitation for reservation, remained firm on laying a siege to the national capital from March 20 as they alleged that their demands had not been met.

Jat stir

Reacting to Khattar's statement that the Jat body was 'freely shifting the goal posts' and that Malik had made unilateral announcements in Panipat that they (Jats) were to have a meeting with the CM in Delhi yesterday," the AJASS president said attempts are being made to weaken their agitation.

"This Government looks utterly confused. Their statements are only complicating the situation," he added. "We wanted the Chief Min-

ister to take a final call on our demands. It was decided that he will meet us in Delhi and discuss all issues with us. But the CM skipped the meeting despite being in Delhi," he claimed.

"Therefore, we have decided to continue with our agitation and we will now move to Delhi on March 20," he said. On the imposition of prohibitory orders in the state, Malik said, "We have been doing so for the last so many days in a peaceful manner. The law of the land does not prevent us from going to Delhi to raise our point in a democratic manner."

Besides seeking quota, the demands of the Jats include release of those jailed during last year's agitation, withdrawal of cases slapped during the protest and government jobs for the kin of those killed and injured while taking part in the stir.

The Jats have been sitting of dharnas in various parts of Haryana since January 29. — PTI

5 Naxals killed in Dantewada encounter

RAIPUR, March 18: Five Naxals were killed while two armed personnel were injured in an encounter in the Maoist violence-hit Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh today.

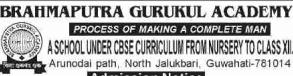
Officials said the encounter took place early today in the Birav village of the district when a joint squad of the CRPF and the District Reserve Group (DRG) of State Police was out for operations.

"The encounter is still on. Five Naxals have been killed and their bodies are with the forces. An AK-series assault rifle has also been recovered," a senior officer said. Two DRG men have been injured and have now been evacuated, he added.

The officer said the exact details of the operation would take time to emerge as the encounter spot is deep inside the jungle area and cellular phone and wireless connectivity is extremely poor. Reinforcement teams have been rushed in, the officer said.

The 111 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is leading the operation, they said. — PTI

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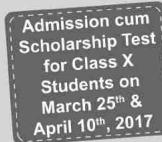
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Land rights for indigenous people demanded

GUWAHATI, March 18: Demanding land rights for the indigenous people of Assam, the Ason Jatiyatibadi Yuva Parishad (AJYP) asked the Government to formulate a clear-cut land policy.

"Land right is our birth right. Why has the Government which came to power vowing to protect the community, land and foundation, failed to provide land *pattas* to the indigenous people," questioned AJYP working president Pradeep Kumar Bhuyan here on Friday.

The organisation's president Kanak Hazarika and general secretary Kanak Chandra Bharali also slammed the new directives issued for obtaining land *pattas*. "The new directives will infringe on the birthright of the people."

According to the new directives, an applicant will have to give an undertaking that he has no land in the State," they said, demanding withdrawal of the notification. — Staff Reporter

Ganja seized

GUWAHATI, Mar 18: GRP personnel today seized 10 kg of ganja from a person travelling in the Rajdhani Express at the Guwahati Railway Station. GRP OC Pankaj Kalita said during checking, an Uttar Pradesh youth Rohit Singh (27) was caught with the ganja at 7.10 am today. He was transporting the ganja from Dimapur to Alibabad. The accused has been forwarded to judicial custody. — Staff Reporter

IN THE CITY TODAY

- Condolence meetings to mourn the death of Kalachand Tamang Sunder, Gopal Sarma at Uzambazar Jor-pukhuriapar Ankurjyoti Club at 3 pm, and also at Rajgarh conference hall of the Guwahati Management Association at 5 pm.

Storm leaves trail of destruction

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: A storm lashed Guwahati last night at around 9 pm, leaving a trail of destruction.

A 19-year-old youth was burnt alive when a garage at Sonapur caught fire following a short-circuit during the storm, police said.

Reports of trees and electric poles being uprooted and damage to houses and other infrastructure were reported from various parts of the city. Commuters were left stranded at several places during the calamity. Vehicular traffic was greatly affected.

A huge tree got uprooted near GMCH, blocking the road for several hours till it was cleared. A portion of the roof of the Fishified office was

also blown away by strong winds.

Prolonged power cuts were reported from many areas due to damage in poles and other distribution infrastructure.

Kamrup Metro Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamuthu said a good number of trees were uprooted. "Road blocks were reported in at least 10 places. But we have cleared them now. No major damage has been reported. Power supply has also been restored," he said.

The Kamrup Metro administration has formed a committee to assess and evaluate the storm damage and various causes of damage to private and public property.

"It has been reported by various agencies and public that a good number of house-

es, public facilities like electric poles were damaged by the storm. A number of trees were uprooted. The district disaster management authority and circle officers have been asked to assess the damage within a week," he official statement said.

People have been advised to approach the circle office for any assistance.

Meanwhile, the Regional Meteorological Centre at Baruipur has issued a 'watch' for thundersquall likely at isolated places over Morigaon, Sonitpur, Karbi Anglong, Golaghat, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Cachar, Karimganj, Dhubri, Baksa, Kamrup and Kamrup Metro.

The Kamrup Metro DC said a general storm alert will remain for the entire month.

Children's Film Fest in Guwahati

GUWAHATI, March 18: The Children's Film Society of India has extended its ongoing National Children's Film Festival (NCCF) and is hosting a three-day film festival for children from Northeastern States at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra here from March 21 to 23.

Dr Shrawan Kumar, CEO of Children's Film Society of India, said, "The Northeastern States have a rich history of filmmaking and has produced many noted directors and artists in the industry. With filmmaking so very embedded in the culture of these States, we are happy to host the three-day National Film Festival in Guwahati, with an objective to sensitise the children of the region through meaningful films and film-related workshops and facilitate ingraining of the cultural richness and precious heritage values of these States among the children through the pow-

erful medium of films."

The CFSI has been organising the Festival in different parts of India since long. Earlier, it was held in New Delhi, and in Jaipur in November last.

The CFSI with Smile Foundation will host the Festival in the city. This time, the festival would consist of different capacity building activities and workshops on filmmaking,

script writing and animation for children. Value-based films like *Tora's Love* (Assamese), *The Prince and the Crown Stone* (English), *The God* (Manipuri), *Pappu ki Pugandi* (Hindi), *Kaphal-Wild Berries* (Hindi), *Happy Mother's Day* (Hindi), *Paari* (Manipuri), *Kina's Lodge* (Mizo), *Ebegetiya* (Assamese), etc., will be screened.

WEATHER GUWAHATI

LOCAL FORECAST: Generally cloudy sky. Rain/thundershower is very likely to occur. Maximum and Minimum temperature is most likely to be 29°C and 16°C respectively on Sunday.

TEMPERATURE:

Max 26.0°C

Min 14.0°C

Brahmaputra Board to face technocrat crisis soon

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, March 18: From next year, the Brahmaputra Board will face a severe technocrat crisis.

By then, all its senior engineers, barring four, will retire. And by 2019, these four senior engineers will also retire. This will automatically reduce the Board into a defunct body and will thus affect the process of updating the masterplan it has initiated for all the rivers of the North Eastern region.

It needs mention here that the Board had prepared masterplans for all the rivers of the region in the 1980s and the 1990s and the process to update these master plans started in 2016. The retirement process of these senior engineers, around 57, started in 2016.

These senior engineers were recruited in 1982-83. Around 15 of these engineers have already retired and around 38 of them are retiring by 2018. The senior engineers will also not get any scope to train up their juniors for the purpose of updating the masterplans, said knowledgeable sources. It is

worth mentioning here that in 1983, the process of recruiting engineers in the Board had come to a halt.

It is learnt that a process has now been initiated by the Union Government to recruit four engineers. Further, going by the official grapevine, a move may be soon initiated to fill up the remaining posts with engineers hired from other organisations on 'loan basis.' This is sure to make the Board function on an ad-hoc basis, said the sources.

The Brahmaputra Board also conducted surveys and investigation for 14 multi-purpose projects, besides preparing 62 masterplans. The detailed project reports (DPRs) of five of the multi-purpose projects have been completed and handed over to the Union Power Ministry by the Centre. Four other projects were taken up by the Power Ministry while their DPRs were under preparation.

Meanwhile, the DPRs of the Nao-Ding in Arunachal Pradesh and Kulsil along the Assam-Meghalaya border have been completed and submitted to the Union Water Resources Ministry. Survey and investigation of the killing along the Assam-Meghalaya border, Jadhial in Arunachal Pradesh and Simsung in Meghalaya's Garo Hills are on, sources said.

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Things to remember

Children in the age group of 10-19 years should take IFA tablet once in a week provided by Government free of cost

Get your Haemoglobin level checked at the nearest health centre time to time

If the Haemoglobin level is less than 11mg it is considered to be anaemic

Those suffering from anaemia feel weak and thus cannot concentrate and excel in education, sports etc.

Kindly contact your nearest ASHA and ANM to know more

Resonance | NMJ | 2017

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Justice is truth in action.

— BENJAMIN DISRAELI

The Assam Tribune**Unsullied image**

The Judiciary, like Caesar's wife, must be above suspicion. As far as India is concerned, given the prevailing level of corruption in other segments of society, such an axiom has become even more relevant. In recent years the Indian Judiciary has been forced to pass directives on numerous scams and monetary scandals and unless it retains an unsullied image, it loses its moral authority in the eyes of the people. Thus a hint of impropriety on the part of any constituent of the Judiciary needs to be examined firmly and promptly and necessary steps taken. It has to be conceded that there might be a certain degree of corruption in the lower rungs of the Judiciary but in public perception in general, the higher judicial authorities have so far been able to retain their image of probity. One notes that during some actions of the political and bureaucratic level, say during the process of ministry formation, not everything is done above the board, which rouses suspicion of corrupt deals in the minds of the people. But in the case of the Judiciary a trial takes place in an open court and the judges have to give detailed reasons for their verdict. Thus there is an intrinsic transparency in the process which contributes to its broadly clean image.

This is why the imbroglio involving a Calcutta High Court Judge needs to be judiciously examined by the Indian Supreme Court and any hint of impropriety removed. Apparently Justice C. S. Karan, the judge in the thick of the controversy, had written to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as well as other functionaries alleging corruption amongst judges in the Madras High Court as well as a judge in the Supreme Court. The Apex Court had sought a response from Karan as to why he should not be charged with Contempt of Court for making unsubstantiated allegations and, on not getting any response, issued a bailable warrant for his arrest. The determination of the Chief Justice to deal firmly with the recalcitrant judge can be gauged by the fact that he had formed a seven-judge full bench of the Apex Court to examine the matter and directed no less a person than the Bengal Director General of Police to personally implement the arrest warrant. The proper course for Karan, after he had made his allegations, would have been to respond to the Supreme Court summons and offer proof to the full Apex Court Bench. But the defiance shown by him, as well as his calling a press conference to claim he was being victimized because he was a Dalit, entails that the Apex Court deal firmly yet fairly with him in order to retain the Judiciary's image.

Oil exploration

In a development that augurs well for the State's oil sector, ONGC has struck liquid gold at two locations in its Jorhat basin. According to estimates, the total oil reserve in the area is in the range of ten million MT, with the two wells already producing around 51 tonnes daily. This is indeed a significant development, coming against the depressing backdrop of dwindling production in the region in recent years. However, it should be borne in mind that the diminishing trend in oil production has more to do with factors other than depletion of the natural oil and gas reserves. Even the Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry had acknowledged a couple of years back that the North-east was witnessing a decline in oil and gas production due to less exploration activities. The developments were attributed to law-and-order problems as well as infrastructure and technical issues. Now, the discovery of a large oil reserve should be a boost for oil majors like ONGC and OIL, stimulating them to go for sustained exploration.

In recent years, the realization that most of the oil reserves across the world are getting depleted has spurred aggressive exploration activities by global oil giants for discovering new reserves. Given that we still have vast oil reserves in our backyards – something testified to by the Jorhat basin discovery – we have to exhibit greater alacrity in finding out more reserves. The Centre in particular needs to take serious note of the developments and do the needful to facilitate discovery of the reserves for exploration to take place. The State governments on their part must ensure proper law and order, especially in the militancy-affected areas. Another disturbing aspect concerning oil extraction in Assam has been the inability to put to good use the associated natural gas which is simply flared up. At nearly six per cent of the total production, this is certainly a huge wastage and calls for adoption of appropriate technologies for harnessing it. The days ahead are sure to bring in stiff challenges before Indian oil companies, and how they cope with the emerging challenges will have a definite bearing on not just meeting the country's growing energy needs but its economy as a whole. The issue of auctioning of oilfields in the state to private parties which has drawn a lot of flak has also to be sorted out if the government is seriously considering to take up oil exploration in the coming days.

The Assam Tribune**From THE PAST****CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS TO BE RESPECTED****President's Address To Parliament****NUMBER OF GOVT. PROPOSALS ENUNCIATED**

NEW DELHI, March 18: President Radhakrishnan today assured the States with non-Congress Governments that the Union Government would respect the provisions of the Constitution in letter as well as spirit without discrimination and endeavour to strengthen in the arrangements for a co-operative approach to national problem, says UNI.

The President said that the Planning Commission would be reorganised and the working of control would be reviewed. Those controls which were found unnecessary would be withdrawn and others readjusted so as to make them more purposeful and efficient.

Inaugurating the First Session of the fourth Parliament in the high-domed Central Hall, the President made a series of announcements.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1967

Prospect of biofuel in NE India**PK Kakoti**

So far, fossil fuels specially petroleum is the main energy source for the highest fuel consuming transport sector in our country. The current consumption of petrol in the country is around 22,000 metric ton (TMT) per year. The same with diesel is around 75,000 TMT. With the industrial growth in the country the fuel consumption is bound to grow. The growth in petroleum consumption in India results in increase in import of crude oil. To increase energy security of the country, import dependence is to be reduced. Towards this, use of biofuel in India can play a significant role. Also biofuel can contribute in lowering greenhouse effect, atmospheric pollution and balancing carbon footprint.

While first generation biofuels are made from sugars and vegetable oils found in crops used as food, second generation biofuels are manufactured from various types of biomass. Biomass is a wide-ranging term meaning any source of organic carbon that is renewed rapidly as part of the carbon cycle. Biomass is derived from plant materials, but can also include animal materials. Recently bamboo plant has been identified as a viable source of biomass for producing biofuel i.e. Ethanol. The bamboo is considered to be a sustainable source of biomass because it is grown without pesticides or chemical fertilizers, requires no irrigation, rarely needs replanting, produces 35% more

oxygen than an equivalent stand of trees, sequesters carbon dioxide and is carbon neutral, is a critical element in the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and is an excellent soil erosion inhibitor. Also bamboo grows in a wide range of environments. It's the fastest growing plant in the world and can grow 1 to 4 inches in a day and regrows quickly after being cut down, making it the best renewable resource. Since the plant's health is improved by cutting, bamboo can be re-harvested every three years without any harmful effects on the environment.

North east India has 54810 sq km of bamboo coverage which is 40% of the total in the country and with this huge source it has the current capacity to produce bamboo biomass to the tune of 3600 TMT per year, considering 3 years re-harvesting cycle. However, with proper plantation and species the yield can be increased by 10 to 20 times. Approximately 1 MMT of bamboo biomass is consumed in manufacturing 500 litre of ethanol. At this rate north east India can produce 1400 TMT of ethanol with current bamboo coverage. However, entire bamboo plantation cannot be used for ethanol production as bamboo is used

in almost every sphere of life in the north east India.

It is planned to go for ethanol blending in petrol up to the tune of 22.5% in our country and for that the country currently requires around 5000 TMT of ethanol. The requirement of ethanol for blending with petrol in the north east will be 110 TMT with current level consumption of 500 TMT of petrol per year. Therefore, north east can not only meet its own requirement but

therefore, with ethanol-blended fuel the fuel efficiency is less and so fuel consumption increases to compensate for the decrease in energy output. On the other hand, ethanol has a greater octane rating than petrol so it can be used in higher compression engines for better power output. With introduction of engines with higher compression one can derive the benefit of higher octane number of ethanol. In the engines now being run on petrol the reduction in power and increase in fuel consumption will be more prominent in higher blend of ethanol and petrol like E85 (85% ethanol) and with E10 (10% ethanol) blend the difference is not very significant. In an engine, ethanol produces 30% less carbon dioxide (CO_2) compared to petrol. Apart from that, CO_2 produced by ethanol-blended petrol use is countered by the CO_2 consumed by bamboo plants used to produce the ethanol. So ethanol blends will be carbon neutral and will be capable of reducing

greenhouse effect. The ethanol can be blended with diesel also with beneficial effect of reducing dependence of petroleum fuels, reducing particulate emission and reducing oxides of nitrogen and sulphur. However, ethanol has lower cetane number compared to diesel and in higher blends there may be ignition delay which can be taken care of by mixing suitable ignition improver additives in ethanol diesel blends. Since diesel consumption is around 3 times more in our country than petrol, the use of ethanol blend in place of pure diesel can have major impact on use of petroleum fuels and also can contribute much in protecting the environment. In India there is a plan to introduce diesel blended with up to 15% of ethanol. Therefore, use of ethanol-petrol or ethanol-diesel blends are possible in the current engines, new engines with better compression ratio or improved fuel system can be introduced in future to pass on benefits of biofuel to users. Moreover the retail price of blended fuel can be fixed based on production and marketing cost and benefits of reduction, if any, can be passed on to consumers.

A biofuel refinery with production capacity of 49 TMT per year of ethanol is coming up in Numaligarh in Assam.

This will be able to cater to the demand for ethanol to produce E10 for the north east. With introduction of ethanol blended diesel in the north east having a diesel consumption of around 1600 TMT per year, the demand will go up multiple times and there will be scope for setting up more biofuel refineries based on bamboo in north east India in future.

also can supply to other parts of the country. Also, apart from supplying bamboo biomass, the present bamboo coverage of north east will be sufficient to meet the requirement of bamboo in cottage industry construction purpose etc.

We need 1.4 litre of ethanol to achieve the same amount of energy as burning 1 litre of pure petrol.

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(Writer is a Deputy General Manager with IOC.)

Hope**Anupee Perlmutter**

It was a dark and cloudy wintry day, with the winds whistling against the window panes, as if begging for my attention. But, what got my attention was this man named Daryl Davis. His relaxed confidence had a way of making you feel at ease. He was the son of William B Davis, a Foreign Service Officer and grew up in Europe and Africa until they moved to America around the age of 10.

This was about the time Daryl Davis had an experience which led him on a lifelong journey looking for answers. When he was just 10 years old, he was beaten up with stones and empty bottles while marching in a cub-scout parade. When he got home all bruised, his mother saw his bruises and took him aside and for the first time explained some of the harsh realities of his race. She explained he was a black boy who went to an all-white school. Daryl refused to believe his mother and asked the question: "How do you hate me when you know nothing about me?" This question took him on an odyssey for an answer in an unorthodox way.

Daryl Davis graduated from Howard University with honors in Jazz music in the sixties. He won the Grammy Award winner and was an RB and Blues musician known for his energetic style that brought the crowd to its feet with his "Boogie woogie" and talent playing the piano. He played with great artists like Chuck Berry, Jerry Lewis and other legends... but his mind was always set on finding out the answer to the question he had asked his mother. In 1983, Daryl Davis was playing in a country western music in a "white" bar and the crowd was wild with his music. He was the only non-white member in the band. After a show a patron approached him • and put his arm around him to say that it was the first time he had "heard a black man play the piano as well as Jerry Lee Lewis." Daryl Davis explained: "Jerry Lee learned to play from Black Blues and "Boogie woogie" piano players and that he was a close friend of Jerry Lee." The patron asked if he could buy him a drink to which Davis humbly said he does not drink alcohol but would love

some cranberry juice. The patron then told him it was the first time he had a drink with a black man. Davis laughed and said what are you talking about? I have been to so many lunches and dinner with white folks. The patron responded by handing him his KKK membership card. Davis was stunned to meet a man in his forties still trapped in a mindset of slavery in this era...

The men spent many years together becoming great friends and eventually providing introductions to many KKK leaders. He had a lifelong curiosity to better understand where does racism begin? Where are these prejudices coming from since nobody is born a racist?

After contemplating his experiences and meeting so many people of various backgrounds via his music he decided to document them in a book. Davis decided to interview Klan members with no intentions to convert them but rather to try to understand them. Davis had a white secretary and asked her to set up meetings with KKK members for interviews for his book – without ever mentioning that the interviewer would be black. Hearing his secretary's voice on the phone, they never guessed they would be interviewed by a black man. Some of the meetings were productive while some of the Klan members walked out... The first meeting was with Roger Kelly Grand dragon (equivalent of President) KKK member. It was quite intense. Roger Kelly arrived with armed body guards while dressed in military attire. Roger Kelly started the conversation saying that he hated blacks because they carry a gene of violence.

Daryl Davis gave it thought and after pondering asked him: "Do you know that white folks carry a gene in them that makes them serial killers?" And that Roger Kelly carried that gene too but it was latent. So, please name three Black men who are serial killers..." Roger struggled and couldn't answer Davis. Finally, Roger said that it was absurd. Daryl Davis responded that it was absurd on both ends. At this point

Roger Kelly was taken aback by a black lady who was like his second mother. She was a loving, warm and kind person who Roger loved. But this time with the KKK caused him to dismiss her and become estranged. Roger's new life began by meeting with her – to apologize for his mistakes.

Roger Kelly, who had gone through the ranks of KKK, became introspective about his mistakes. He left the KKK organization and started his own journey. Not only Davis's life had a mission, so also Roger Kelly the White Supremacy's journey began his own quest to destroy ignorance... He felt remorse and wanted to extend his apologies to all – once at a time.

Roger Kelly was raised by a black lady who was like his second mother. She was a loving, warm and kind person who Roger loved. But this time with the KKK caused him to dismiss her and become estranged. Roger's new life began by meeting with her – to apologize for his mistakes.

Voices of the WEEK

Courtesy: THE HINDU

"Our intention was never to oppose Nahid or anybody else. Our sole objective behind making the appeal was to protect the sanctity of religious places. We regret any hurt caused to artiste community as the same was inadvertent and unintended." — MAULANA ABDUR RASHID QASIMI, general secretary, Assam State Jamiat Ulama

★ ★ ★

"Floods and erosion have become a bane for farmers. They also face droughts from time to time. On top of that, they are not getting adequate support price for their produce." — BADRUDDIN AJMAL, chief AIUDF

★ ★ ★

"We have opposed the government's move to hand over the oil fields to private companies... failing which we will build up mass resistance against such companies and close the oil fields." — AKHIL GOGOI, KMSS

★ ★ ★

"I am speechless. I never thought this could ever happen to me. I think my music is God's gift to me. ... will never leave singing." — NAHDAD AFIRIN, singer

★ ★ ★

"Yes, everything happened with my knowledge. Call it horse trading or whatever you like.... But BJP talks about morality. Why are they doing this?" — TARUN GOGOI, ex-Chief Minister, Assam

★ ★ ★

"We should not shy away from revocation of AFSPA. When things improve, why not?" — MEHBOOBA MUFTI, Chief Minister, J&K

★ ★ ★

"Navjot Singh Sidhu doesn't believe in becoming a power centre. This is why he suffered in the past because he doesn't believe in groupism." — NAVJOT KAUR SIDHU, former MP

★ ★ ★

"Neither will I rest nor will I let you (BJP partymen)." — NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister, India

★ ★ ★

"It is very clear that Congress cannot alone take on the BJP." — MANI SHANKAR AIYAR, senior Congress leader

Interior decoration**The last word**

S RAGHUNATH

Walking down a dingy bylane in the old city of Bengaluru I ran smack into a pushcart vendor selling a medley of *objets d'art* which is the blue stocking figure which looked like nothing on earth caught my fancy. A brisk bargaining, or rather haggling ensued, a tenner changed hands and the grotesque what – not was mine.

Returning home I was faced with the familiar problem of finding a suitable 'niche' for the latest addition to my art collection consisting mostly of gaudy prints of assorted gods and god-

esses snipped out of calendars put out by beedi companies. I gingerly hammered a rusty nail into the lime mortar wall and hung the weird figure and stepped backwards to view it critically from a 45 degree acute angle like visitors to the Louvre museum in Paris to view the Mona Lisa painting. I was not satisfied with the position of the wooden stool and ratten chair in my room of 18th century Chippendale. I dragged them along the floor to the left of the occasional table which in any case was a haven for nif-

ty mice and cockroaches. Even I moved the box, a large well-fed cockroach scampered up the mud wall and with a dexterity amazing in one of my age I whipped out my slippers and gave the cockroach a resounding thwack causing a large spreading stain on the wall which I could have framed and

palmed it off as a large 16th century, pre-Mogul Kangra miniature without which no interior decoration scheme is complete.

I decided that the room needed a velvet Persian carpet into which I moved the broken lampstand with its handkerchief shade more to the right to give the room the right ambience. My handwork was complete in all respects and haven't been telling you all along? I am a High Society Interior Decorator!

Majuli Press Club's biennial meet held

A CORRESPONDENT

MAJULI, March 18: The Majuli Makumma Press Club's 14th biennial conference was held at the Sri Sri Adi Alegi Satra of Namami Majuli, on Thursday.

The conference began on March 15 with the general representatives' meeting at the office of Majuli Makumma Press Club and concluded with the open meeting held at Sri Sri Adi Alegi Satra.

The programme began with the plantation in the morning and the flag was hoisted by the press club's president Arun Bora. The open meeting began with the performance of "utaya" by artists of Adi Alegi Satra and was anchored by Press Club's secretary Sejnih Kumar Dutta.

As chief guest, a senior sub editor of *Dainik Jyotiabhumi*, Diganta Buragohain attended the programme and delivered a speech on the role of rural correspondents in the emergence of village society.

Three awards were distributed in that programme, the Durdadeva Goswami Memorial Assam Rural Journalist Award by Sri Sri Aumati Satra to Manoj Kumar Gogoi, Disangmukh's correspondent of *Amar Asom*, Nityananda Bharali Memorial Journalist Award by Majuli Makumma Press Club to Dibaker Saikia, Dakpathar correspondent of *Dainik Jyotiabhumi* and Kumud Dutta Memorial youth Journalist Award to Rabin Bhuyan, a senior sub editor of *Amar Asom*.

In the programme, the programme was also a boregat by Bapdhan Gayan, Jhumur and bhortal dance by the child artists of Adi Alegi Satra mesmerised the people. Hundreds of people including journalists, Rajendra Boruah public relation officer, Boibhob Nimbalkar, Majuli SP, Dr Debjit Saikia, Principal of Majuli College and several other dignitaries attended the programme.

Cash looted

CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, March 18: Two unidentified youths, dressed in college uniform of a local college, reportedly looted cash of around Rs 30,000 from the micro credit and thrift branch under Assam Gramin Vikas Bank (AGVB) located at Chepti here on Friday afternoon. The duo entered the bank on the pretext of opening a bank account, and when the female employee of the bank was busy giving them the forms, the duo snatched and fled away with the bag with the cash. A complaint was immediately lodged with the Rangiya police and investigation is on in this regard.

OBITUARY

Dev Kumar Banerjee

GUWAHATI, March 18: Dev Kumar Banerjee, a retired Assistant Engineer and a resident of Bhamra Nager Tilla died on March 17 at 10 pm at his residence. He was 69.

Late Banerjee was the present secretary of Rami Krishnamission, Tezpur and was involved in developing the mission. He was also associated with various other organisations.

His funeral was largely attended and his death was widely mourned by various organisations. He leaves behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives.

Uttara Devi: a tribute



Uttara Devi, wife of Dwijendra Nath Sarma of Jyotinagar, Bamunimadam Guwahati expired on March 9 evening at the age of 71. She was suffering from diabetes since the last few years. She was associated with many religious institutions like the Bamunimadam Durga Mandir etc. She was an amiable woman with a pleasing personality.

One of her sons, Kulen Sarma, is an administrative officer working as additional deputy commissioner, Sonitpur district. She rendered service to religious and social organisations in many places in the company of her son.

Today, on the occasion of her *adysashradha*, we pray to the Almighty for her eternal peace.

—Dwijendra Nath Sarma



Women tea workers busy plucking fresh tea leaves at a tea estate in Marijan, on Friday — UB Photos

Patacharkuchi farmer's success with strawberry cultivation

ANN Service

PATACHARKUCHI, March 18: Gauri Deka, a sexagenarian, innovative and successful horticulturist near Patacharkuchi in Barpeta district is at present very busy in harvesting strawberries in his first experiment of such a cultivation. People from various corners including from Agriculture Department have started visiting his field to witness the rare kind of cultivation and have praised his effort. He informed that a number of people from outside the State, who are working here, also come to his field and encourage his endeavour.

Prerna Sarma, IAS, Subdivisional Officer, Bajali subdivision was surprised to witness his horticulture garden. Deka with his unique skill of agriculture has proved that there is ample scope for strawberry cultivation in the locality which is very profitable compared to other kinds of cultivation. At the beginning, he was not interested in it and was unaware about the high demand of the fruit in the market. But now he is selling the fruit from the field as the traders rush to his field to collect fresh strawberry at a price of Rs 300 per kg. Now he is harvesting 7 to 8 kgs of strawberry after an interval of three days. He informed that till the filing of this

report, he has earned about Rs 25,000 from his experimental cultivation.

He also informed that he got the opportunity to cultivate strawberry from the State Agricultural Department. Although at the beginning, he thought that this type of cultivation may not be successful one but after this attempt he got positive results. He received the offer of cultivation and help from the Agriculture

Deka needs no introduction



strawberry cultivation procedure from the internet, Deka said. Although he had received a large number of seedlings from the Agriculture Department, due to lack of proper knowledge he could save only a thousand of the strawberry saplings, which he planted in one-and-a-half kathas of land. He is very interested to carry on the cultivation in the near future which has proved to be a profitable one.

Deka does not introduce

Awareness programme on protection of plant varieties

GUWAHATI, March 18: A daylong awareness programme on 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Act 2001' was organised at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Barpeta on March 17.

The meeting was attended by Dr Ajay Kumar Singh, Deputy Registrar, PPV & FRA, Guwahati branch who narrated the act in detail. He opined that farmers who are the saviours of the traditional crop varieties for generations should come forward to register their varieties to safeguard their rights. Dr Singh also said that although a good number of farmers from Assam have already applied for registration at the Department of Agriculture, Barpeta. He expressed his concern over the extinction of so many age-old traditional crop varieties due to lack of prop-

erty along with sappings of the strawberry and now he is very happy to harvest the fruit which has turned his garden into an attractive one. The ripe strawberries and their flavours make him spend most of the time of the day in the field so that he can guard the fruits from the birds as well.

His son Khenagen is also extending his assistance and enjoying the cultivation. Khenagen collects information about

since he has earned a lot of accolades at various levels earlier. Now in his garden, there are chestnut plants, pears and various breeds of palms, mangoes and vegetables. Earlier, he had also received a number of trainings in the field of agriculture at different levels. After all, at present he has turned his garden into an agricultural research field from where any interested farmer can earn knowledge of farming.

The training programme was inaugurated at the APPL ITI-GTET Joint Skill Development Center Rowatah by NRL officials M Handique, CM (PR), PK Sarma, SM (CSR), MA Choudhury, SM (Corp Comm).

Also present on the occasion were SN Bhattacharya and Pinku Deka from GTET and Saroj Borah from APPL ITL.

The speakers encouraged the participants to make the most of the opportunities offered to them and hone their skills so that they would not only earn their own livelihoods but also contribute in building a skilled India.

There are innumerable crop varieties, Assam being the most prominent agro-biodiversity hot spot, Saptaweeda Bhattacharjee, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Breeding & Genetics), KV, Chirang was also delivered a lecture on the DUS test of plant varieties and formalities to be accomplished while applying for registration. This was stated in a press release.

Bipul Saikia, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Agriculture), Barpeta attending the programme as the chief guest called upon the farmers to register their varieties with the help of KVK or the Department of Agriculture, Barpeta. He expressed his concern over the extinction of so many age-old traditional crop varieties due to lack of prop-

erty awareness. At the outset, an exhibition displaying a number of farmers' crop varieties was inaugurated by the ADC (Agric), Barpeta, Dwijen Neog, Assistant Director, Agriculture, Barpeta and Jibun Kumar Deka, Assistant Director, Sericulture, Barpeta also spoke on the occasion. They expressed satisfaction over the response shown by the farmers joining the exhibition with their own crop varieties. Earlier, Dr Arup Kumar Deka, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Barpeta welcomed the participants of the programme. Haridra Sharma, SMS (Agril. Extension), KVK, Barpeta extended the vote of thanks. The programme was attended by about 150 farmers of the district along with all the scientists and staff of KVK, Barpeta.

The workshop was sponsored by the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, and National Academy of Sciences India, Ahmedabad.

The inaugural session was presided over by Dr Hemkanta Hazarika, Chairman of the Kakojan College governing body. Dr Archana Bhattacharjee, coordinator of IQAC, opened up the session and felicitated the guests. Principal of Kakojan College Dr Ruprekha Bordoloi delivered the welcome speech.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Shrimanta K Saipadur, former VC of the Karnataka University,

who was also the convenor of the workshop. In his speech, he laid stress on motivation of biology teachers and students towards

Piyali Baruah Smriti Rakhya Samiti plans slew of measures

CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, March 18: The Piyali Baruah Smriti Rakhya Samiti (PBSRS) had decided to take up a few measures to keep the martyr's memory alive and renew the memory about the immense contributions he had made during India's first struggle for independence in 1857, followed by his ultimate sacrifice a year later.

In an executive meeting held at Chalodihora here a couple of days back, the Samiti adopted a few resolutions to revive the memories of Piyali Baruah through a slew of measures. The Samiti has resolved to work for installation of his statue near the western bypass of Jorhat and organise memorial lectures as part of academic activities, according to the secretary of PBSRS.

Devajyoti Sutikar.

The Samiti will also organise a public meeting soon to discuss the proposed renaming of the Tarun Phookan Road as Swahid Piyali Baruah Path. It is pertinent to mention that this arterial road was previously known as New Road Chalodihora, before being named after Phookan.

Piyali was hanged along with Maniram Dewan at Jorhat on February 26, 1858, on the charge of inciting Hindustani sepoys against the British. Piyali, the trusted lieutenant of Maniram, had gone to the camp of the sepoys stationed in a village called Nogora, located about 12 km south of Golaghat, to convince them about the ulterior motives of the British imperialists, and motivated them with fiery speeches. The attempts of Piyali, Maniram and their associates to over-

throw the British from Assam, however, did not succeed.

There is neither a road named after Piyali in his home district Jorhat, nor has a Government programme ever been held in his memory since Independence. Though the State Government, well over a decade ago, had decided to set up a statue in his memory in Jorhat, the project has remained incomplete.

Assembly Speaker and local MLA Harendra Nath Goswami and MP Kamalaksha Prasad Tasa have extended support to the Samiti for initiating the works to keep Piyali's memory alive. Two academic lectures will be organised in May next in this regard, where former president of Indian History Congress Dr Rajen Saikia and historical researcher Dr Soumitra Pujari are likely to deliver lectures in Piyali's memory.

CM to lay foundation of three new projects at Nalbari

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, March 18: The foundation stones of three ambitious projects of Nalbari town will be laid by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on March 21. Besides, the Chief Minister will inaugurate a digital library and a RCC bridge on the Baghda river at the three different occasions on March 21. Besides, the Chief Minister will lay the foundation stone of a guest house of Nalbari Sri Hari Mandir at the manager's premises. The State Government has provided a sum of Rs one crore to Hari Mandir to construct the guest house. The foundation stone of a railway flyover will also be laid by Sonowal. A sum of Rs

49 core has been sanctioned for the proposed flyover under CRF.

Sonowal will also visit Nalbari College and formally inaugurate the digital library to be constructed at the college. Finally, he will inaugurate the RCC bridge over Baghda river at Kamarkuchi ghat under Barkshetri constituency. The MLA further informed that the Chief Minister will be accompanied by PWD minister Parimal Sikhdabady and Industry and Commerce minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, among others.

Common people urged to work for peace in society

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, March 18: Urging the common civil society to work for the establishment of peace in the society, noted artiste Sudakshina Sharma said at the Tezpur University

one, yet we blindly follow the 'bad sides' of the other's culture. We will have to be sincere in delving deep into our culture and heritage, then only besides our culture and heritage, our dignity will be saved," she said.

The function conducted by HoD, Centre for Assamese Studies, TU, Prof Ranjit Deva Goswami was graced by Prof Madan Sharma, Prof Chandan Bhattacharya, Pallab Bhattacharya, president, Sonitpur Slipi Samaj, Birendra Kr Bora, secretary, Tezpur Sahitya Chora, Akshay Kumar Misra, noted litterateur and Manik Bora among others.



Villagers of Medhipara in Tangla of Udaguri district, busy in repairing a road, on Friday. — UB Photos

Workshop on biodiversity conservation

GUWAHATI, March 18: The International Quality Assurance Cell and Science Club of Kakojan College, Jorhat, organised a lecture-cum-workshop on 'Evolution, biodiversity and its conservation' on the college premises on March 13 and 14, a press release said.

The workshop was sponsored by the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, and National Academy of Sciences India, Ahmedabad.

The inauguration session was

presided over by Dr Hemkanta Hazarika, Chairman of the Kakojan College governing body. Dr Archana Bhattacharjee, coordinator of IQAC, opened up the session and felicitated the guests. Principal of Kakojan College Dr Ruprekha Bordoloi delivered the welcome speech.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Shrimanta K Saipadur, former VC of the Karnataka University, who was also the convenor of the workshop. In his speech, he laid stress on motivation of biology teachers and students towards

scientific works. He also put emphasis on acquiring specific knowledge about evolution of biodiversity and conservational strategies in the North East. He informed the gathering about the initiatives taken by the national science academies in creating awareness on evolution and biodiversity among teachers and students.

Dr Hemkanta Hazarika, in his speech, called for taking up the emerging issues of biodiversity and conservation for research work.

There were eight technical sessions during the workshop, which were chaired by eminent scientists Dr SK Saipadur, Dr KR Shiva and Dr RR Rao. Over a hundred teachers, scholars and students of biology from different colleges and organisations attended the workshop.

Principal Dr Ruprekha Bordoloi, Bobita Phukan Bordoloi and Dr Nivedita Gogoi also spoke in the concluding session. The workshop was concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Archana Bhattacharjee, the release added.



WEATHER NORTHEAST

Forecast for NE: Rain/thunderstorms is very likely to occur at most places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

Temperatures:

	Max (°C) Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	21.6 14.0
Tezpur	24.2 15.3
Silchar	26.4 16.2
Dhubri	25.3 16.8
Johnhat	24.3 14.6
Jorhat	21.1 14.2
Guwahati	19.0 8.1
Imphal	19.8 9.8
Nongkraingarh	22.2 13.4
Aizawl	24.9 8.4
Agitatola	29.1 21.7
Kohima	21.8 14.8
Itanagar	18.7 14.8
Cherrapunjee	14.8 10.9

Protest observed against killing of non-Manipuri

IMPHAL, March 18: All shops owned by non-Manipuris in Thangal bazaar here remained closed on Saturday in protest against the killing of a youth in Imphal East.

Ajay Kumar Salu, 24, was found shot dead yesterday on a road side near Lengi village under Lamphel Police Station. The deceased, a pao shop owner, was originally from Bum-

A joint action committee (JAC) organised a sit-in protest demanding justice in the killing of the youth. The JAC president Sitaram Sahu told media, "We want the government to give compensation of Rs 20 lakh and a government job to the next of kin." "Culpable should be brought to book within three days. The body now lying in the mortuary will not be claimed until the government fulfills all demands," Sitaram demanded. — Newman News

Bengaluru IISe attack suspect nabbed in Tripura

BENGALURU, March 18: The suspect in the 2005 terror attack at Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science (IISc), was arrested near Agartala yesterday. He will be brought soon to the city police said here today.

In a joint operation yesterday, Karnataka Anti-Terror Squad and Tripura Police had arrested Habil Mia (37) from Jognedanga area near Agartala.

On December 28, 2005, suspected terrorists had barged into the IISc campus and opened fire, killing a retired professor of IIT Delhi and injuring four others.

Prof Munish Chandra Puri, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Department of IIT Delhi, had fallen victim as the gunmen sprayed bullets from an AK-47 rifle when delegates attending an international conference were proceeding for dinner at around 720 pm. The IISc attack was suspected to have been planned by Pakistan-based banned terror organisation LeT. — PTI

Manipur MLAs to take oath today

IMPHAL, March 18: The oath-taking ceremony of the newly-elected members of Manipur Assembly will be held at Assembly hall here on Sunday at 11 am according to Assembly sources. More than a dozen BJP MLAs who were reportedly camping in a hotel in Guwahati are likely to return here on Sunday to attend the oath-taking ceremony.

Meanwhile, MLA-elect V Hangkanian has been appointed as Protein Speaker. State Governor Dr Najma Heptulla issued an order on this regard on Saturday. — Correspondent Manipur to frame transfer policy

IMPHAL, March 18: Manipur Cabinet on Saturday discussed on the working of government employees in the hill and remote areas of Manipur and decided to frame a new transfer policy for effective functioning of government offices. CM Nongthombam Birendra Singh presided over the meeting which also appointed Th Biswajit Singh, Cabinet Minister as Government Spokesperson. — Correspondent



BSF jawans in row over death of 3 tribals in Tripura

AGARTALA/NEW DELHI, March 18: An inquiry was today ordered by the BSF after its personnel were caught in a row with locals in Tripura over killing of three civilians who had protested an alleged molestation by some paramilitary personnel.

The BSF said that the three civilians, including a woman, were engaged in cattle smuggling and had attacked the jawans who opened fire in "self-defence", a claim rejected by the locals, who alleged that the paramilitary jawans were trying to molest a tribal woman at Chittagum.

Stepping in, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has sought a detailed report from BSF chief KK Sharma on

the incident, officials said in New Delhi.

In a statement, BSF claimed that its personnel were caught along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura Frontier yesterday observed 30-40 smugglers including men and women, trying to smuggle cattle from India to Bangladesh through an unfenced gap near BOP Bhungamara. The local police has denied it.

The BSF claimed that its personnel challenged the group and fired two warning shots in the air to disperse the smugglers, who instead encircled the paramilitary party and "attacked them with 'dah' and 'lathis'".

"Sensing their life in danger, the BSF party fired in self-defense, in which three smug-

glers died. Firing was the last resort available to troopers."

The statement claimed that the cattle were recovered after the scuffle in which its personnel also sustained injuries.

However, SP control room Bhopalda Chakraborty quoted an FIR lodged by villagers in which it was alleged that three BSF jawans attempted to molest a young woman at Chittagum when she was on her way back home last evening after working in a rubber plantation.

When she raised an alarm, villagers rushed to the spot. A clash ensued and the BSF jawans opened fire, killing the woman and two other villagers on the spot, besides injuring two others, the FIR said.

Normal life was paralysed in Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar discussed the matter with DGP K Nagraj and Chief Secretary Sanjib Ranjan immediately after the incident and asked them to collect all relevant information pertaining to it.

The ruling CPI (M) has condemned the incident as "inhuman and barbaric" and said it was "a clear attempt to molest the poor tribal woman". — PTI

Khandu meets 'wonder boy' who created goggle for blind

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, March 18: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday met Anang Tadar, a class XI student of New Galaxy Academy, Nirjuli, who had left everyone stunned with his innovation.

Appreciating the brilliant innovation that is intended to make the life of visually impaired people easy, the Chief Minister offered full financial support to him to develop the gadget for Blind (G4B).

The invention was adjudged the most innovative idea in the recently concluded Regional Level Science Festival at Arunachal Science Centre at Guwahati and was awarded the Dimanant Pandey Smart Idea Innovation Award.

Impressed by his innovation, the National Ignition Facility (NIF) and UNICEF are willing to launch G4B in the market

and had asked Anang for creating few prototypes to test on the blind people. To develop these prototypes, Anang who comes from a poor family, approached the CM for help.

Appreciating the brilliant innovation that is intended to make the life of visually impaired people easy, the Chief Minister offered full financial support to him to develop the gadget.

"We will set up proper institutional mechanism to encourage innovation and support innovators in the State for a 'New Arunachal,'" said Khandu.

The CM assured that there will be no lack of support and that he could fully devote his time and energy to develop the machine that would bring joy to visually impaired people.

PHE Minister Barnam Feix who spotted the boy helped in arranging today's meeting with CM so that he could find all possible support and encouragement from the State.

Toward his innovation, Anang was accompanied by his elder brother and Sports Authority of Arunachal chairman, Barnam Tago.

Anang has always been interested in technology and has been building robots and other gadgets for a really long time.

He has participated in many technical events organised by renowned technical colleges before also, securing the first place most of the time. In the future, he plans to build an Exoskeleton which will help people lift heavy objects.



A Cabinet meeting of BJP-led Manipur Government underway at Old Secretariat in Imphal on Saturday. — Newmanai

NPCC for conduct of Nagaland polls with ballot papers

KOHIMA, March 18: The Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) president has asserted that the State Congress will approach Election Commission to conduct the 2018 State Assembly election through ballot papers and not EVMs.

On the recent results of Assembly polls in five States, the State Congress president expressed apprehensions that the elected representatives of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were "tampered". "EVMs can be tampered and manipulated and the voter will never know where the vote is cast even if he/she presses the right button,

but ballot papers will carry the right stamp chosen by the voter," he said.

The State Congress president K Therie was speaking at the introductory programme of the newly-appointed office bearers of Nagaland Pradesh Youth Congress at Congress Bhawan here on Friday. He also alleged that the elected representatives of the emerging Naga People's Front (NPF) Government have "no dreams and vision" for the people of the State.

He alleged that if the NPF is allowed to continue to run the government, the special rights of the Naga people guaranteed under Article 371(A) of the Constitution of India "will be taken away by

200 Bengaluru students protest attack on Arunachali student

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 18: Over 200 students in Bengaluru protested the brutal treatment of an Arunachali student here.

Higio Gunchte, a student from Arunachal Pradesh studying at Christ University was brutally assaulted by his drunk landlord over a trivial matter of water usage on March 6.

"The landlord, Hemant Kumar entered Gunchte's room abruptly at night, locked the doors and repeatedly hit him for an hour, despite Gunchte bleeding profusely. In doing so, he not only abused Gunchte physically but caused him severe mental and emotional trauma as well," a statement from the organisers of the protest said.

Following this incident, an FIR had been lodged against Hemant Kumar, but no action was taken against him. "It was felt that over 200 students came together in front of the steps of the Town Hall in Bengaluru and made their stand. The protesters also made a clarion call to end the alienation of and discrimination against people from the North East in their own country," it said.

UNC receives invitation from MHA for tripartite talk

NEWMAI NEWS

IMPHAL, March 18: United Naga Council (UNC) has received a written invitation this evening from Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for a tripartite talk involving Manipur Government, UNC and Government of India representatives. The talks will be held over the new district creation issue which triggered the indefinite economic blockade since November 1 last year.

MUNC sources said that the talks will be held on March 19, at Semapati district headquarters.

Meanwhile, the new BJP-led coalition government in Manipur hopes of ending the economic blockade imposed by UNC on National Highways and is set to hold fresh talks with the agitating Naga body on Sunday. The ensuing meeting over the blockade will be the first litmus test for the BJP Government.

Tripartite talks were earlier held over the district creation issue, which had ended without any major breakthrough. From the side of the State Government, Additional Secretary Dr Suresh Bahadur and Commissioner (Works) KR Radhakumar are likely to take part in the tripartite talks.

Former Arunachal Minister dies

ITANAGAR, March 18: Former Arunachal Pradesh Minister Nurang Zapad died at a Guwahati hospital today.

He breathed his last after prolonged illness, his family said. Zapad, who represented Doinmukh Assembly constituency, is survived by his wife and four children.

He served as Deputy Minister of Rural Works Department as well as PWD Minister during 1990-95 under the Geogong Apang Ministry. Chief Minister Pema Khandu has condoled the death of the veteran Congress leader. — PTI

the BJP Government in the Centre."

Nagaland and North East cannot allow our identity to be submerged with the ideologies of BJP which is trying to rule the country by dividing the people on religious lines, he alleged.

"Unless we change the government, Naga people will continue to suffer," he said. On the vexed unresolved Naga people issue, Therie alleged that the BJP Government is not "sincere" to resolve the issue because of which even the contents of framework agreement signed between Centre and NSCN(IM) is yet

to be made public. — PTI

Judiciary should be accessible to all'

CORRESPONDENT

level courts is on the rise. The High Court has taken a bold step to organise Mega Lok Adalat to ensure speedy disposal of cases including motor accidents", he said.

Noting that Bar and Bench are two wings of judiciary, Justice Gogoi said the registry has also a role to play in ensuring speedy justice delivery system. "High Court of Tripura will continue to live up to the people's expectation in the days come," he concluded.

Law Minister Tapan Chakraborty and Chief Justice of High Court of Tripura Justice T Vejpal also spoke on the occasion. Chakraborty said, "Despite financial constraint, the State Government has sanctioned Rs 19.17 crore for setting up of the Administrative Building", he said.

No. RMSA/Sc. Math. Kits/214/2014/169
Pre-Bid Meeting Notice

With reference to this office's Short Notice Inviting e-Denter (NTT) vide No. -RMSA/Sc. Math. Kits/214/2014/169 dated 15th March 2017 for selection of Manufacturer/Firms for supply of Science and Mathematics Kits, it is inform to all that a pre-bid meeting will be held on 20th March 2017.

Therefore, all interested bidders are requested to attend on the meeting at Conference hall, State Mission Office, RMSA, Kahilpara-19, on 20th March 2017 & 12:30 pm.

**Sd/- Mission Director,
RMSA, Assam**

MISSING INFORMATION

The above is photograph of Miss Priyanka Das (19 Years), DO Sri Niranjan Das, Vill-Genec, PS Kalabagan, Dist-Udalguri, Assam who has been missing since 30-01-2017 from her home. This reference is made to PS/DOE No. 637 Dc, 31/01/2017 and this office Man Missing Register Entry No. 43 (B)-12 Dtc. 01/02/2017.

Descriptive Roll of the Missing Person:

- 1. Complexion : Swarthy
- 2. Age : 19 years
- 3. Height : 4' 6' Feet
- 4. Build : Medium
- 5. Language : Assamese & Bengali
- 6. Wearing apparel : Chundur
- All efforts may be made to trace and recover the above noted missing person at the earliest and necessary information may be communicated to this office at the following helpline numbers for further necessary action: 8134825259/985942762 (Cell phone).

**Sd/- Superintendent of Police,
Udagur, Assam.**

MISSING INFORMATION

The above is photograph of Smiti Bahari Rejigar (28 Years), W/o Sri Chiranjit, Vill: Botangjuli, PS: Dhemukuchi, Dist. Udagur, Assam who has been missing since 26-01-2017 from her home. This reference is made to PS/DOE No. 590 Dc, 29/01/2017, and this office Man Missing Register Entry No. 43 (B)-08 Dtc. 02/02/2017.

Descriptive Roll of the Missing Person:

- 1. Complexion : Fair
- 2. Age : 24 Years
- 3. Height : 5' Feet
- 4. Build : Medium
- 5. Language : Assamese
- 6. Wearing apparel : Sarie
- All efforts may be made to trace and recover the above noted missing person at the earliest and necessary information may be communicated to this office at the following helpline numbers for further necessary action: 8134825259/985942762 (Cell phone).

Janasanayog/10260/16

MISSING INFORMATION

The above is photograph of Smriti Modak (24 Years), WO Lt. Goulam Modak, Vill -Rejimar, PS: Orang, Dist. Udagur, Assam who has been missing since 28-01-2017 on the way from Orang to Nagaon. This reference is made to PS/DOE No. 590 Dc, 29/01/2017, and this office Man Missing Register Entry No. 43 (B)-08 Dtc. 29/01/2017.

Descriptive Roll of the Missing Person:

- 1. Complexion : Fair
- 2. Age : 24 Years
- 3. Height : 5' Feet
- 4. Build : Medium
- 5. Language : Assamese
- 6. Wearing apparel : Sarie
- All efforts may be made to trace and recover the above noted missing person at the earliest and necessary information may be communicated to this office at the following helpline numbers for further necessary action: 8134825259/985942762 (Cell phone).

Janasanayog/10282/16

ASSAM STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Applications should be with Prescribed Application Form, attested copies of all Certificates, Marks Sheets, recent passport size photo etc. are invited from intending candidates, who are Indian Citizens, for engagement on contract basis under ASDMA. Specific application forms have to be applied for the concerned post. All applications should be submitted on or before 31/03/2017 and along with testimonials should be submitted on or before 31/03/2017 and along with application.

**The Chief Executive Officer,
Assam State Disaster Management Authority,
Assam Secretariat Campus (Opp. SBI Sectt. Branch),
Disaster Ghatbandha — 781005, Assam.**

Application form can be obtained from Assam State Disaster Management Authority after the deadline will be summarily rejected. No application will be received through e-mail/ fax.

The applicant should clearly mention the name of the post applied for on top of the envelope containing the application form. Further details may be seen at ASDMA website <http://assmda.gov.in>. All other details may be seen at ASDMA website <http://assmda.gov.in>. Sd/- State Project Coordinator, Janasanayog/1703/16 Assam State Disaster Management Authority

Yogi Adityanath: from Hindutva votary to UP CM

LUCKNOW, March 18: A five-term Lok Sabha MP, Yogi Adityanath is a fiery Hindutva mascot who has developed a reputation of being controversial's favourite child over a period of time. Named as the next Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh today, 44-year-old Adityanath, a priest-turned-politician, is known for his provocative speeches and mass following across the State and never shies away from making controversial remarks, be it about Islam or Pakistan.

Clad in his trademark saffron-coloured robe, Adityanath, a Gorakhpur MP, has been seeking greater power and is expected to give a push to the BJP's Hindutva-wrapped agenda of development with the emergence of a separate power base for the party in eastern UP.

Born Ajay Singh, the diminutive shaved headed politician is known for his powerful oratory, though most of his speeches hinge on divisive lines and has been in the forefront in keeping communal politics alive in the country.

Adityanath, who is a strong votary of the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya, drove the BJP's Hindutva campaign in eastern UP in the just concluded Assembly polls in the politically crucial State where it won a three-fourth majority.



Adityanath has rebelled against his party on several occasions, but because of the sway he holds over the 'Hindu' voters, the BJP apparently could not ignore his 'leadership qualities'. He had floated the Hindu Yuva Vahini (HYV), a right-wing outfit, in 2002.

Ever since, the HYV has been largely instrumental in his meteoric rise - from a student leader to five-time MP. Right from comparing Bapuji's work, Shah Rukh Khan to Pakistani terrorist Haifaz Saeed during the intolerance debate in India to asking people to leave India if they don't practise Surya Namaskar in 2015, Yogi has been at the centre of several controversies.

Playing the religious card during the pre-poll campaign, the firebrand leader had said that controversial issues like 'love jihad' and 'Kairana Hindu' exodus have always been on his party's agenda. He had also said that the hurdles on the path of construction of a grand Ram temple would be gradually removed and its construction would soon start in Ayodhya.

Born on June 5, 1972, Adityanath was the youngest member of the 12th Lok Sabha at 26. He has been elected as an MP from Gorakhpur to the Lok Sabha in the 1998, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014 elections.

In 2005, Adityanath allegedly led a publication drive which involved the conversion of Christians to Hinduism. In one such instance, 1,800 Christians were reportedly converted to Hinduism in the town of Etah in Uttar Pradesh. -PTI

New Punjab Govt undertakes to fulfil poll promises

CHANDIGARH, March 18: Two days after taking over the reins of power in Punjab, the new Congress Government under Chief Minister Amarinder Singh today started work on the State's developmental agenda at its first Cabinet meeting, taking several key decisions.

The first Cabinet meet of the new Government adopted the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee manifesto as its work programme for the next five years, and took more than 100 important decisions aimed at fulfilling one-third of the electoral promises in the 2013 election, an official spokesperson said.

To meet some of the expenses involved in taking the work programme forward, the Cabinet decided to recall the unutilised funds, amounting to thousands of crores of rupees, which had been granted by the previous SAD-BJP regime to various government departments in the run-up to the polls.

It was also resolved that the Government would pursue all legal and administrative measures on the SYL canal issue to protect the State's waters.

Rawat and his ministerial colleagues were administered the oath by Governor KK Paul at a ceremony which was attended among others by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president Amit Shah, Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Uma Bharti, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, among others.



DEHRADUN, March 18: Trivendra Singh Rawat, the man with deep RSS roots who also enjoys the trust of the BJP brass, was today sworn in as the 9th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

Nine other MLAs also took oath of office and secrecy along with Rawat as part of the two-tier ministry, which is a mix of old and new faces.

Rawat and his ministerial colleagues were administered the oath by Governor KK Paul at a ceremony which was attended among others by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president Amit Shah, Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Uma Bharti, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, among others.

Apart from Rawat, seven MLAs were

sworn in as Cabinet ministers and two as ministers of state. The seven Cabinet ministers are Satpal Maharaj, Prakash Pant, Harak Singh Rawat, Yashpal Arya, Subodh Uniyal, Madan Kausik and Arvind Pandey. The two ministers of state are Dhan Singh Rawat and Rekha Arya.

Five former Congress MLAs, who had defected to the BJP after a bitter fight with the previous Congress Chief Minister Harish Rawat in May last year, Mahajan had joined the saffron party soon after Rawat was made the Chief Minister.

Five of those sworn in today are first-time ministers, including Subodh Uniyal, Arvind Pandey, Rekha Arya, Dhan Singh Rawat and Satpal Maharaj. Yashpal Arya, Harak Singh Rawat, Prakash Pant and Madan Kausik had been ministers in the past too.

An effort to strike a regional balance was also evident in the choice of ministers, with five of them from Garhwal and four from Kumaon.

Trivendra Singh Rawat, 56, was elected the leader of the BJP legislature party yesterday after the party's landslide win in the hill State on March 11. The BJP

bagged 57 of the State's 70 seats, defeating the Congress.

Rawat, a former RSS 'pracharak', was apparently rewarded for his unfailing loyalty to both the Sangh and the BJP as also his organisational skills which were put to test in Jharkhand where he came out with flying colours, guiding the party to a resounding electoral victory in the Assembly polls in 2014 as the BJP's in-charge.

Rawat has also considerable administrative experience as he was minister in the BJP governments led by BC Karmadev and Ranesh Pokhraila Nishank.

The party, which swept to a massive win in the hill State relying completely on Narendra Modi's magic was looking for someone who had the energy and calibre to translate the Prime Minister's vision of development, and many felt Rawat was the most suitable candidate.

"With a huge mandate like this the party could not have taken chances. The leadership was keen on giving the reins of power to someone who could deliver on the promises made to the people of the State by the Prime Minister and Trivedi, with his organisational skills and ministerial experience, filled the bill,"

Uttarakhand BJP spokesman and newly elected MLA from Vikasnagar Munna Singh Chauhan said. -PTI

5th All India Meet of State Legal Services Authorities

Saturday, the 18th March, 2017 at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi

→ by →
Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.S. Khehar
Chief Justice of India & Patron-in-Chief, NALSA

In the august presence of

Mr. Justice Dipak Misra

Chief Justice of India & Executive Chairman, NALSA

Sri P. P. Chaudhary

Hon'ble Minister of State for Law & Justice, Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India

Hon'ble Ms. Justice Sudhir Banerjee

Judge, High Court of Delhi & Faizabad, Allahabad



Chief Justice of India JS Khehar and Minister of State for Law and Justice PP Chaudhary at the 15th all-India meet of State Legal Services Authorities, in New Delhi on Saturday. -UNI

Make 2017 a year for providing relief to victims of crimes: CJI

NEW DELHI, March 18: Chief Justice of India JS Khehar today asked legal volunteers to work for the victims of crimes this year, saying he wondered what happens to the victims of rape or acid attacks or those who lose their bread earners, while the criminals get access to justice till the very end.

Calling upon legal volunteers to reach out to them to ensure they get due compensation, he said in India, a convict in a terrorist crime has all possible access to justice as permissible under the law, even after exhausting all legal remedies up to the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice was apparently referring to the case of the 1993 Mumbai blast, lone death row convict Yakub Mehmood, whom the petition challenging his capital punishment was rejected on July 29, 2015 by the

Supreme Court, but some activists lawyers had moved another plea the same night for re-examination of the verdict as the guilty was to be hanged on the morning of July 30.

The apex court had agreed to the request and accorded urgent hearing and, in a special sitting of bench, heard the plea for more than two hours from 0200 hours on July 30 as well as Memorandum of counsel at length to reiterate its decision upholding the death sentence.

"Ours is a strange country. The bigger the criminal, the bigger is the outrage. As we have seen before that the convict in a terrorist crime who has failed up to the Supreme Court will also in his review, get access to justice in a manner that we extend."

I have wondered over the years, what about the victims, the acid attack victim who has been defaced and cannot survive in the society. I think about rape victims and their lives and I wonder why we don't reach out to them.

"I wish to make an appeal to you today as a patron of the organisation. Let us reach out to the victims. Make 2017 a year of the victim," Justice Khehar said in his inaugural address at the 15th all-India meet of the State Legal Services Authorities.

The CJI asked the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Service Authorities to send their para-legal volun-

JKLF chief Yasin Malik arrested

SRINAGAR, March 18: A day after separatists asked voters to desist from participating in the polls in Srinagar and Anantnag, Parliamentary constituents, JKLF chief Mohammad Yasin Malik was today arrested from his office here.

"A posse of policemen raided the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in the heart of Srinagar and arrested Malik to desist him from spreading the poll boycott campaign," a JKLF spokesman said.

Activists of the JKLF and

a constituent of hardline Hurriyat Conference headed by Syed Ali Shah Geelani had yesterday started a joint election boycott campaign by holding a protest rally here. They also visited various areas in Ganderbal and Budgam districts and distributed pamphlets, urging people to remain vigilant and boycott the upcoming elections.

The polls to Srinagar and Anantnag parliamentary constituencies are slated for April 9 and April 12 respectively.

"Casting or boycotting

vote is a democratic right of every human being but when election process is facilitated and pro-boycott people are terrorised, raided, arrested and put in jails, this process is reduced to a military operation." Malik had said in a statement yesterday.

Terming the participation in the election process and voting as "disrespecting the sacrifices," the JKLF chief said the elections for Assemblies and Parliament have been used to "hoodwink international opinion"

on Kashmir. -PTI

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No. NHM/EMRI /Boat Ambulance/2016-2017/2225 Date: 18/03/17
CORRIDUMENDUM 1
e-TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF BOAT AMBULANCE

This has reference to the e-tender No: NHM/EMRI /Boat Ambulance/2016-2017/21703 Date: 14/03/2017 for "Procurement of Boat Ambulance". The following amendment should be taken note of prior to submission of bid.

A. Point no 3(B)
Average Annual Turnover of the bidder in the last three financial years! i.e. 2013-14, 2014-15 & 2015-16 shall not be less than **Rs 20 Lakhs (Twenty Lakhs only)**. All other terms and conditions of the tender referred above shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No: NHM/FP/PRINTING/3077/2016-17/22195 Date: 17/03/2017
NOTICE
e-TENDER FOR PRINTING & SUPPLY OF ITEMS ON FAMILY PLANNING MATERIALS

e-Tenders in Two Bid System affixing Court Fee Stamps of Rs 8.25 (or IPO of Rs 10.00 in favour of "State Health Society, Assam" for bidders located outside Assam) are invited from reputed Govt. Regd. printers/printing firms for printing & Supply of Items on Family Planning Materials. The tenders should be submitted online on the website: <http://assamtenders.gov.in>. The participating bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal: <http://assamtenders.gov.in>. The tender should be submitted on-line in the portal <http://assamtenders.gov.in>, on or before 03/04/2017 up to 2:00 PM. e-Tender Notice may also be seen in the NHM official website: www.nhmassam.in. The Bidder shall also submit the proof for payment like non-refundable tender fee of Rs 2000/- and EMD worth Rs 2.00 LAKHS only in the term of Demand Draft/Bill and Proof of payment for EMD. The original Demand Draft/Bill should be submitted to the Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam, Sakha Commercial Complex, Shringar Path, Christian Basti, G S Road, Guwahati-781005, Assam on or before the last date 03/04/2017 at 2:00 PM of submission of the tender.

Important dates of the tender:

S/N	Scheduled	Start date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1	Tender Publishing	20/03/2017	10:00 AM	03/04/2017	01:00 PM
2	Tender Download	22/03/2017	01:00 PM	03/04/2017	01:00 PM
3	Pre-bid Meeting	24/03/2017	03:00 PM		
4	Bid Submission	28/03/2017	02:00 PM	03/04/2017	02:00 PM
5	Bid opening	06/04/2017	04:00 PM		

Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No: NHM/PROC/DDWH/Racking/3089/2016-2017/22243 Date: 18/03/17
e-TENDER FOR ENTERING INTO RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TWO TIER HEAVY DUTY DRAFT/BILL SYSTEM (NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

e-Tenders in Two Bid System (sealed envelopes) and A/Price bid as B/QC (to be uploaded online), affixing court fee stamp of Rs 8.25 (or IPO of Rs 10/- for bidders located outside the State of Assam) only, are invited from manufacturers or authorized distributors/dealers for entering into rate contract for "Supply and Installation of Two Tier Heavy Duty Draft/Bill System" to head offices in different districts of Assam, including Seven Districts located only in the State of Assam. Draft/Bill System (National Competitive Bidding) is payable at Guwahati. The Original Demand Drafts for Tender Fee, EMD and Court Fee Stamp IPO along with the hard copy of technical bid only should be submitted to the Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam, Sakha Commercial Complex, Shringar Path, Christian Basti, G S Road, Guwahati-781005, Assam on or before the last date and time of submission of the tender.

Important dates of the tender:

S/N	Scheduled	Start date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1	Tender Publishing	20/03/2017	10:00 AM	20/03/2017	10:00 AM
2	Tender Download	22/03/2017	03:00 PM	20/04/2017	01:00 PM
3	Pre-bid Meeting	24/03/2017	03:00 PM		
4	Bid Submission	18/04/2017	02:00 PM	22/04/2017	02:00 PM
5	Bid opening	24/04/2017	03:00 PM		

Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

Date: 17/03/2017
NOTICE FOR INTERVIEW

This is to notify that the candidates who have applied in response to the advertisements vide NHM/HRD/NHM/PP/2016-17/Part-I/8015 dated 09/01/2017 and No. NHM/HRD/Adv/25/2016-17/20699 dated 11/1/2016 for the following contractual posts under NHM, Assam, that the date of interview for the shortlisted candidates has been fixed as per schedule below:

Name of Post(s)	No of Provisionally Shortlisted Candidates	Date of Interview	Reporting Time	Time of Interview
Programme Officer, NHM	8	22/03/2017	11:00 AM	11:30 AM onwards
Speech Therapist, DEIC, RBSK	30	23/03/2017	10:00 AM	10:30 AM onwards
District Programme Coordinator, NCD	114	28/03/2017	10:00 AM	10:30 AM onwards

Venue: Office of the Mission Director, NHM, Assam, Sakha Commercial Complex, Christianbasti, Guwahati. Candidates are requested to visit the website www.nhmassam.in for the lists of shortlisted candidates and other instructions for interview. The provisionally shortlisted candidates shall have to bring all original testimonials with self attested photocopies of the testimonials to appear for the interview. No separate call letter will be issued and no TADA will be paid for attending the interview. Please visit the website www.nhmassam.in for details.

Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

CAPSULE**OFB aim**

KOLKATA, March 18: Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has drawn up plans to make India self-sufficient in production of arms and ammunition with the twin objectives of reducing imports and meeting nation's requirement. "We are currently adding capacity in the production of T-90 tanks and Pinaka rockets at the various ordnance factories," SK Chowdhury, member, OFB, said. –PTI

Future Group

KOLKATA, March 18: Future Group, one of the major retailers in the food and fashion segments, plans to grow the latter by 30 per cent year, CEO of the group Kishore Biyani said today. "The fashion business of the group across the various retail brands will grow 30 per cent every year," Biyani said here. –PTI

Welspun India

NEW DELHI, March 18: Textiles firm Welspun India today announced inauguration of a new facility in Anjar, Gujarat, building an investment of over 150 crore. "Welspun India... Has forged into new technologies in its technical textile business with its state-of-the-art needle-engulfed advanced textile plant in Anjar.... the company said in a regulatory filing. –PTI

ITC foray

NEW DELHI, March 18: Having diversified into FMCG and other businesses, tobacco giant ITC on Friday got shareholders nod to enter the health care and plans to set up multi-speciality hospitals across the country. The company had sought approval... to include 'healthcare' through a special resolution on January 27. The resolution had been passed by the members "by requisite majority", ITC said in a regulatory filing. –PTI

VECV sale stake

NEW DELHI, March 18: VE Commercial Vehicles, the 50:50 joint venture between Eicher Motors and the US-based company, has divested the entire stake in its US-based subsidiary to Spain's Segula Technologies Espa馻 for \$1.85 million. The company has sold 100 per cent shares in its wholly-owned subsidiary Eicher Engineering Solutions Inc to Segula Technologies Espa馻, it said in a statement. –PTI

Marico

NEW DELHI, March 18: Consumer products maker Marico has bought a strategic 45 per cent stake in Zed Lifestyle, a India-based Zed Lifestyle for an undisclosed sum. Marico said with this the company taps into the fast growing online male grooming segment, the company said in a statement. –PTI

Allahabad Bank
NEW DELHI, March 18: State-owned Allahabad Bank has raised Rs 300 crore by issuing Basel-III-compliant additional tier-I bonds. "The bank has raised additional tier-I capital through private placement of Rs 150 crore aggregating up to Rs 300 crore (including green shoe option of Rs 100 crore)," the bank said in an exchange filing. –PTI

Agri to be sunrise sector of 21st century: Rajnath

It's time for reverse brain-drain: Ambani

FARIDABAD, March 18: Union Minister for Home Affairs Rajnath Singh said here today that agriculture is going to be a sunnier sector of 21st century.

The minister was addressing second Agri Leadership Summit, organised by the Haryana Government at Surajkund in Faridabad.

Singh said that some people, including farmers and scientists, believed that there was no future for farming and agriculture in India, there was a change in that perception now.

"They now believe that there is a bright future for agriculture and farmers by adopting new methods of farming with advanced technologies."

Haryana despite being a small state despite being a sunnier sector of 21st century.

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Revealing the Centre's goal, he said Union Government has set a target of bringing more than 76 lakh hectares under irrigation by 2019.

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Singh said the Central Government is working on reducing the input costs so as to make farming profitable.

"The government has ensured availability of urea and other fertilisers at lesser rates without any hurdle. The government has also decided to produce neem-coated urea for

the benefit of farmers... This urea is required less in quantity and gives higher crop yield by minimising the investment cost," he said while spelling out the pro-farmer initiatives.

While backing the river-linking projects as proposed under former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, he said the government is serious about it and efforts are being made for betterment of the farming community.

The government has made a provision of Rs 8,000 crore for the promotion of dairy, poultry, fisheries and allied sector in 2017-18, Singh said. – Agencies

MUMBAI, March 18: Days after terming the protectionist bent of the Donald Trump regime as a "blessing in disguise", Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani today said it's "high time" we promoted reverse brain-drain wherein our brightest talent come back and serve the homeland.

"It's high time that our brightest and the best work for the benefit of India and Indians," he said as he sees a reverse brain-drain, he quipped "without doubt".

"By whatever fate they are brought back to this country, they can help improve the lives of 1.3 billion citizens and put together a new developmental model... There cannot be a better blessing in disguise than that," Ambani told the India

Today conclave here.

He said of late RIL is getting many Indians who have held leadership roles in other countries in the past, RIL is getting at least two-three such talents every month, he said.

"We have more talent knocking at our doors because at the end of the day, 'har ek ka dil hain Hindustani'. People want to do things for India," he said.

Addressing the annual Nasscom summit last month, Ambani had said the Trump administration's protectionist policies like limiting the number of H-1B visas, could prove to be a blessing in disguise for the country.

"Trump can actually be a blessing in disguise. Our IT industry can focus on solving the problems right here, which is a huge market," he had said.

Ambani today said we are fortunate to be an open market with a leader who understands technology. He recalled how Prime Minister Narendra Modi spent an entire dinner meeting with the last American President Barack Obama discussing how technology could resolve many of the problems the world is steeped in.

The recent note-ban exercise will lead to greater proliferation of digitisation and take the country from a cash-based economy to a "cash optimal" one, he said.

He also said we should aim to be the largest economy when we celebrate the first

century of our Independence in 2047, with a GDP of over \$40 trillion from the current \$2 trillion-plus. – PTI

Govt mulling FDI norms relaxation

NEW DELHI, March 18: The government is weighing the option of permitting over-50s retailers to open stores for selling 'Made in India' products in the country; these mandatory rules may not be imposed on them, sources added.

Opening the retail sector, the government last year permitted 100 per cent FDI in domestic trading of food products. Food Processing Minister Arun Jaitley in the Budget for 2017-18.

Multi-brand retail policy

Harsimrat Kaur Badal has recently indicated that the government is actively considering a proposal to allow FDI in non-food items, along with food products, under the multi-brand retail policy and a decision may be taken ahead of the mega food world event here in November.

The move assume significance as the government is also expected to announce relaxations in the FDI policy in more sectors, including single brand retail.

The FDI policy also imposes several conditions for foreign players like mandatory sourcing of goods from MSMEs and a certain percentage of investment in the back-end infrastructure.

These conditions have actu-

E-vehicle promotion under FAME to continue beyond March 31

CHENNAI, March 18: The pilot scheme for promotion of electric and hybrid vehicles will continue beyond March 31 as the modalities for subsidising clean vehicles under FAME India are yet to be worked out, a top official has said.

"The new scheme is not coming. We are extending the old scheme for a few months. The pilot will continue for a few more months till we finalise our new policy."

"We have not decided about the funding pattern but it has been agreed to by every stakeholder that we must go for the public transportation where the frequency of use of vehicles is higher, so that the impact (on lowering pollution) is much more," Secretary in the Department of Heavy Industries, Girish Shankar, told PTI.

He was here to participate in the International Engineering Sourcing Show organised by EEPC India. National Inter-

"With the launch of these refreshed BS-IV-compliant models, all, two-wheelers from the stable of Suzuki Motorcycle India have now become Bharat Stage-IV compliant versions of its Let's scooter and Hayate EPI motorcycle models.

While the Let's comes at a starting price of Rs 47,272 and the Hayate EPI is tagged at Rs 52,754 (ex-showroom Delhi), the company said in a statement.

The scheme has been in a pilot phase, and a nation-wide rollout was scheduled from April 1.

FAME India – Faster Adoption

and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles in India – is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan.

In Budget 2017-18, Rs 175 crore has been earmarked for the FAME India scheme as against the revised and budgeted estimates of Rs 122.90 crore for the current financial year.

However, experts believe that the provision of funds is insufficient to incentivise the use of electric vehicles. – PTI



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh lighting the lamp to inaugurate the 2nd Agri Leadership Summit-2017 at Surajkund in Faridabad on Saturday. – UNI

Paswan rules out separate law to regulate MRP of packaged items

NEW DELHI, March 18: Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan today ruled out bringing a separate legislation to regulate sale of packed water and soft drinks above MRP (maximum retail price), saying the existing law has provisions to curb this unfair trade practice.

To strengthen legal metrology enforcement, Paswan said it has been decided to provide technological support to States to prevent unfair trade practices in weights and measurements, set up a facility in gram panchayats where people can crosscheck the quality of weighing instruments, besides

mobile vans with labs to reach out to remote areas.

MRP of products is fixed by private firms. But there have been complaints of charging more than MRP and declaring dual MRP. Recently consumer court NCDRC had imposed a penalty on a multiplex for selling water above MRP.

"There is no need to have a new law to regulate MRP. The existing Act is sufficient and we have enough powers to take action against violators," Paswan told reporters after the national consultative meeting on legal metrology.

The State governments have been asked to be more

vigilant and take prompt action against violators. They have also been asked to create consumer awareness, he said.

Besides the MRP issue, Paswan expressed concern over "inaccuracy" in critical instruments like thermometer and sugar-testing devices used in daily life.

"Wrong and imprecise measurement builds mistrust and is often a source of safety hazard... There are doubts expressed sometimes regarding the accuracy of petrol pumps, and weighing machines used in agricultural mandis," he said.

In the wake of growing trade and commerce, Paswan said there should be more efforts to build consumer confidence in the system and stop manufacturers from indulging in unfair practices and pushing substandard products in the market.

Issues of legal, administrative, operational challenges were discussed at the national consultation meeting and a strategy for a more coordinated and focused approach for the future was agreed upon.

It was decided to give awards to three States for best legal metrology administration, earmark funds for creating consumer awareness programme and set up national and regional museums on legal metrology. – PTI

Replace FIPB with business-friendly mechanism: House panel

NEW DELHI, March 18: The government should replace the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) with a simple and business-friendly mechanism at the earliest, a Parliamentary panel has suggested.

The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in its report said it was informed that once the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) is dissolved there is a possibility that concerned ministries overseeing sectors that require government approval for FDI would be authorised to approve the investment.

The committee notes that low private investments have been one of the constraints flagged by various credit rating agencies in raising the business ratings of the country.

Talking about ease of doing business, the report suggested that the Commerce and Industry Ministry should address the

regulatory and technical issues impacting the operation of the e-biz project.

The e-biz portal serves as a one-stop shop for delivery of convenient and efficient services and addresses the needs of investors and businesses right from the inception through the entire life cycle of the business.

Noting that technical glitches are being faced by the project, the committee recommends the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) to take concrete steps to address the "regulatory and technical reasons affecting the operation of the e-biz project". – PTI



Christian Schneider (L), Managing Director, Schneider Schreibgeräte (Germany) launching Rorito Teramax and Rorito Robomax pen products at a press conference, in Chennai on Saturday. – UNI

India's solar power capacity to cross 20GW in next 15 months, says Goyal

NEW DELHI, March 18: India's solar power generation capacity would cross 20,000 MW in the next 15 months from the current level of 10,000 MW. Power Minister Piyush Goyal said.

"On 10th of March this year the installed solar power capacity in India has crossed 10,000 MW, four times the installed capacity three years back, which in next 15 months would cross 20,000 MW," a Power Ministry statement quoted the minister as saying.

"India could not have completely focused on 'Making in India' in the last three years as being in the nascent stage, its solar power sector needed technological and financial boost from

abroad to rapidly expand its horizons," Goyal said at a media event.

The sector has reached certain maturity level which will lead the country becoming self-reliant in meeting its green energy needs. The proof is the drastic reduction in costs of solar power, becoming comparable with thermal power in India, he said.

India solar power generation capacity stood at 2,650 MW on May 26, 2014.

As much as 14,000 MW (or 14 gigawatt) of solar projects are currently under development and about 6 GW is to be commissioned soon.

In 2016 about 4 GW of solar capacity was added, the fastest pace till date.

According to Power Ministry estimates, another 8.8 GW capacity is likely to be added in 2017, including about 1.1 GW of rooftop solar installations.

The government is targeting 100 GW of solar and 60 GW of wind energy capacity by 2022. Total renewable energy generation capacity is envisaged at 175 GW by 2022.

Earlier last month, lower capital expenditure and cheaper credit had pulled down solar tariff to a new low of Rs 2.97 per unit in an auction conducted for 750 MW capacity in Rewa Solar Park in Madhya Pradesh.

The auction was conducted by a joint venture of Madhya Pradesh government and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

The country has shown it to the world that India is a big market place for manufacturing in solar power sector and international investors and manufacturers have started setting up manufacturing units in the country, Goyal noted.

Goyal also encouraged the industry stalwarts present at the event to ramp up the silicon wafer manufacturing industry and the manufacturing of solar cells in India.

He also talked about devising strategies to combine solar power with electric vehicles, which have three times the energy efficiency on engines that run on fossil fuels. This would be a revolution in the transportation sector, he added. – PTI

30 terrorists, 9 security men die in Pak operation

ISLAMABAD, March 18: More than 30 terrorists and nine security personnel have been killed in Pakistan since the army launched a major operation last month, the military said on Friday.

The military announced on February 22 the start of the country-wide operation codenamed *Rodd-ul-Fazail*, ("Reject Discord"), after a series of terrorist attacks that killed over 100 people in the country.

According to the army's Inter-Service Public Relations, the security forces also foiled a number of terror attacks during the operation, which still continues across the country.

Nine security personnel have lost their lives in the operation.

In one of the major raids, five terrorist were killed on March 7 when they were planning to attack a judicial complex in Swabi, a district in north-western Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. The intelligence-based operation targeted sleeping cells of the militants who were using their hideouts to facilitate the bombers for terror attacks. - IANS

Suspected ultra shot dead in Dhaka

DHAKA, March 18: A suspected militant was shot dead in Dhaka on Saturday after Bangladesh police failed to attack on a second check-post.

A Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) official told *Xinhua* news agency that the suspected militant riding a motorcycle tried to enter the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), an anti-crime and anti-terrorism unit of the Bangladeshi Police, check post in Khilgaon area with explosives around 4.35 a.m.

"He was shot dead on the spot," he said. The man carried explosives in his bag, said the official, adding "we've called a bomb disposal unit."

The incident comes a day after a suicide bomber detonated himself near a temporary RAB camp also in Dhaka.

A high alert was issued across the country following Friday's "suicide blast".

Friday's blast took place a day after security forces stormed a militant hideout in Chittagong city. - IANS

US, China agree to jointly address threats posed by NKorea

BEIJING, March 18: China and the US today agreed to jointly address the threats posed by North Korea's provocative nuclear and missile programmes as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned that tensions in the region have spilt to "dangerous levels".

"We noted the efforts made in the last 20 years have not succeeded in curbing the threats posed by North Korea's illegal nuclear weapons programmes," Tillerson, who is on his first official visit to China, said after talks with his

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi here.

During his visit to South Korea yesterday, Tillerson had cautioned North Korea that all options are on the table to deal with Pyongyang's provocative actions.

US President Donald Trump had also put a two-week criticising Beijing's role in dealing with North Korea.

"North Korea is behaving very badly. They have been 'playing' the United States for years. China has done little to help,"

Trump's tweet said.

Both Tillerson and Wang avoided direct response to Trump's tweet.

"We renewed our determination to work together to convince the North Korean government to choose a better path and different future for its people," Tillerson said.

He said Wang has agreed to work together with the US to see whether "we can bring the government in Pyongyang to a place where they want to make difference and a make course correction and move away from their development of nuclear weapons".

He said the common view is that tensions in the Korean peninsula are very high and things have reached "dangerous levels".

Tillerson affirmed China and the US' commitment to prevent further escalation of tension in the region.

He said issues related to the disputed South China Sea where Trump administration has criticised Beijing's island building were also discussed. - PTI

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Plane makes emergency landing after midair brawl

LAHORE, March 18: An Ethiopian Airlines plane today made an emergency landing here when a mentally ill Chinese man attacked his medical attendant and other co-passengers on board and injured them.

Upon landing at the Allama Iqbal International Airport here, the crew called in officials from the Chinese Consulate and handed over the passenger and his attendant.

The crew described the passenger to be "mentally deranged".

"The Boeing 777 carrying more than 300 passengers was heading to Beijing from Addis Ababa when a Chinese passenger had a brawl with more than five passengers. He and a couple of other passengers also suffered minor injuries," an official of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) told PTI.

He said the Chinese passenger got out of control after having a scuffle with more than five passengers, mostly Chinese.

"He got violent and started punching the fellow passenger. Those tried to intervene he also lashed them," he said.

The official said as the crew failed to handle the "mentally deranged" Chinese passenger, the pilot contacted the CAA authorities and requested for emergency landing.

"Upon emergency landing at Lahore, the Airport Security Force officials took unruly passenger into custody. A couple of passengers with minor injury were also provided with medical aid at the airport," he said.

The official further said the Chinese Consulate officials were called in and the Chinese passenger was handed over to them for further investigation. - PTI



Briain's Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, pose for photographers with school children from the British Council's Somme project at the Trocadero square in Paris, on Saturday. - UNI

UN urges Kabul to tackle 'alarming' extremist threats

UNITED NATIONS, March 18:

The UN Security Council has called on Afghanistan's government to tackle the "alarming threats" posed by the Taliban, al-Qaida, Islamic State affiliates and other extremist groups which threaten the security and stability of the country.

A resolution adopted unanimously by the Security Council extending the UN political mission in the country until March 17, 2018 expresses serious concern at the presence and potential growth of IS affiliates which pose "serious threats to the security of Afghanistan and the countries of the region."

The Security Council yesterday reiterated its support for the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces "in securing their country and in their fight against terrorism and violent extremism." It called on the Afghan government, with international assistance, to continue tackling threats from "terrorist groups."

Council members called for strengthened international and regional security cooperation to deal with violence in the region and attacks by the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, al-Qaida, IS, other extremist and armed groups, criminals and "foreign terrorist fighters."

The Taliban, who have been waging an insurgency against the US-backed government in Kabul for more than 15 years, advanced on a number of fronts

in 2016. Afghan forces have struggled to combat the militants since the US and NATO formally concluded their combat mission at the end of 2014.

The government is also facing an Islamic State affiliate, which is seeking to expand its footprint in the country beyond the eastern Nangarhar province, as well as attacks by al-Qaida and other groups.

The UN's most powerful body expressed "deep concern" at the record number of civilian casualties reported in February and condemned suicide attacks, often in populated areas, and the deliberate killing of women and girls, including those promoting women's rights, and journalists. - AP

The Taliban, who have been waging an insurgency against the US-backed government in Kabul for more than 15 years, advanced on a number of fronts

Secret Service laptop with Trump Tower info stolen

NEW YORK, March 18: A laptop containing highly sensitive information about the Trump Tower was stolen from a Secret Service agent's car here in Brooklyn and has not been found, media reports said.

ABC News, citing law enforcement sources, said the laptop contained floor plans for Trump Tower, details on the criminal investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server and other national security information, the *Guardian* reported.

The *New York Daily News*, citing police sources, said authorities had been searching for the laptop since it was stolen on Thursday morning from the agent's vehicle.

Some items stolen with the laptop, including coins and a black bag with the Secret Service insignia on it, were later recovered, the newspaper reported. CBS News, also citing law enforcement sources, said that some of the documents on the computer included important files on Pope Francis.

"Secret Service-issued laptops contain multiple layers of security, including full disk encryption, and are not permitted to contain classified information," CNN quoted Secret Service spokeswoman as saying.

As its orbit or other objects around it.

They define a planet as "a sub-stellar mass body that has never undergone nuclear fusion" and that has enough gravitational pull to maintain a roughly round shape.

This definition differs from the IAU definition in that it makes no reference to the celestial body's surroundings. That portion of IAU's 2006 formulation – which required that a planet and its satellites move alone through their orbit – excluded Pluto.

Otherwise, Pluto fit the IAU definition: It orbits the Sun and is massive enough that the forces of gravity have made it round.

The proposed new geophysical definition omits stars, black holes, asteroids and meteorites, but includes much of everything else in our solar system. - IANS



People attend a demonstration against the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Baden-Baden in Germany, on Saturday. - UNI

Pluto a planet, and so are over 100 others'

NEW YORK, March 18: Is Pluto a planet or not? Giving this debate a fresh angle, Johns Hopkins University scientist Kirby Runyon wants to make one thing clear: Regardless of what people say, Pluto is a planet.

So, Runyon says, is Europa – commonly known as a moon of Jupiter – and so is the Earth's Moon and so are more than 100 other celestial bodies in our solar system that are denied this status under the prevailing definition of "planet".

The definition approved by the International Astronomical Union in 2006 demoted Pluto to "non-planet," thus dropping the consensus number of planets in our solar system from nine to eight.

"The change – a subject of much scientific debate at the time and since – made no sense," said Runyon, lead

author of a paper set to be presented next week at a scientific conference in Texas.

Icy, rocky Pluto had been the smallest of the nine planets; its diameter under three-quarters that of the moon and nearly a fifth of Earth.

Still, says Runyon, Pluto "has everything going on its surface that you associate with a planet... There's nothing non-planet about it."

Runyon led a group of six authors from five institutions in drafting a proposed new definition of "planet," and a justification for that definition.

All the authors are science team members on the New Horizons mission to Pluto, operated for NASA by the John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

In the summer of 2015, the New Horizons spacecraft became the first to fly by Pluto, some 4.67 billion miles from Earth, passing within 8,000 miles and sending back the first close-up images ever made of Pluto.

Runyon and his co-authors argue for a definition of "planet" that focuses on the intrinsic qualities of the body itself, rather than external factors such

as its orbit or other objects around it.

They define a planet as "a sub-stellar mass body that has never undergone nuclear fusion" and that has enough gravitational pull to maintain a roughly round shape.

This definition differs from the IAU definition in that it makes no reference to the celestial body's surroundings. That portion of IAU's 2006 formulation – which required that a planet and its satellites move alone through their orbit – excluded Pluto.

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The proposed new geophysical definition omits stars, black holes, asteroids and meteorites, but includes much of everything else in our solar system. - IANS



Package No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs.) in million	Bid security (Rs.) in million	Cost of document (Rs.)	Period of completion of work
ASRP/P1S1/NCB/SH-46/1A	Improvement & Upgradation of SH-46/1A from Dibrugarh (8.00 km) to Matia Junction (8.90 km) including RCC Bridge in Goalpara district under Assam State Road Project (ASRP)	267.03 [Rupees Two Hundred Ninety Seven million and three hundred thousand] only	5.94	10,000/-	18 months
ASRP/P1S1/NCB/SH-46/1B	Improvement and Upgradation of SH-46/1B from (Matia Junction (8.90 km) to Dubapara(21.150 km) in Goalpara district under Assam State Road Project (ASRP)	291.88 [Rupees Two Hundred Ninety One million and Eight hundred Eighty thousand] only	5.84	10,000/-	18 months
ASRP/P1S1/NCB/SH-46/1C	Improvement and Upgradation of SH-46/1C from Dubapara(21.150km) to Goapara BOC (31.400km) in Goalpara district under Assam State Road Project (ASRP)	306.56 [Rupees Three Hundred and Six million and Five hundred sixty thousand] only	6.13	10,000/-	18 months
ASRP/REH/NCB/25A	Rehabilitation of Ka-M- 8 (Diphu, Dili, Saranah) (1st to 13th km) Dili, Leke Leke in Karbi Anglong district under Assam State Road Project (ASRP)	210.52 [Rupees Two Hundred Ten million and five hundred twenty thousand] only	4.21	10,000/-	12 months

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German Chancellor Angela Merkel (3rd L) and US President Donald Trump (R) hold a roundtable discussion on vocational training at the White House in Washington, on Friday. — UNI

Around the WORLD

'Wouldn't be here right now if not for Twitter'

WASHINGTON, March 18: US President Donald Trump has said that he has reached the position where he is now because of Twitter and the social media platform helps him get around the media.

"(I) probably wouldn't be here right now, but very seldom. We have a tremendous group of people that listen and I can get around the media when the media doesn't tell the truth, so I like that," Trump told reporters at a joint White House news conference with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Trump was responding to a question if he ever regretted his tweets.

"By the way, my second question, are there some time in time tweets that you regret?" a German reporter asked.

Sharing the dais with Merkel, Trump said that he and the German leader probably shared something when it came to the previous Obama Administration. — PTI

US man takes off pants as cellphone catches fire

WASHINGTON, March 18: In an embarrassing moment, a man in the US was forced to take off his pants while shopping as his cellphone caught fire in his pocket.

The incident took place at a Costco shop in Puyallup city, 35 miles south of Seattle. "He had taken the pants off and tied the jacket around his waist. And I thought that was unusual, and I looked down, and then there was what looked like to be what's left of a cell phone," said Everett Tyrrell, an eye witness who had gone to the shop.

"That was very weird to me. I'd never seen anything like that in my life. It's amazing how much heat must have been generated to cause all that smoke from that small item," Tyrrell was quoted as saying by kiro7.com, a CBS-affiliated television station in Seattle.

He said the LG phone was barely recognisable and smoke had billowed through the hardware aisle. — PTI

New gene silencer drug

LONDON, March 18: A new class of gene-silencing drugs may halve cholesterol levels in patients and reduce their risk of heart attacks and stroke, researchers including one of Indian origin have found.

The technique, known as RNA interference (RNAi) therapy, essentially 'switches off' one of the genes responsible for elevated cholesterol.

Researchers from Imperial College London in the UK and colleagues, who conducted the trial, said the twice-a-year treatment could be safely given with or without statins, depending on individual patient needs. The drug infusion could help to reduce the risk of heart attacks and stroke related to high cholesterol, researchers said. — PTI

Ready to come out of the woods: Hillary Clinton

Washington, March 18: Hillary Clinton has said she is ready to "come out of the woods" and help the "divided" nation find common ground, five months after her shocking defeat in the US Women's 19th annual St Patrick's Day Dinner.

"Our country seems so divided right now. I do not believe that we can let political divides harden into personal divides," Clinton said yesterday in her keynote address to the Society of Irish Women's 19th annual St Patrick's Day Dinner.

"And we can't just ignore, or turn a cold shoulder to someone because they disagree with us politically," Clinton said in her few public appearances after her defeat to Trump in the presidential elections. — PTI

'Radicalised' Muslim shot dead at Paris airport

PARIS, March 18: The man

shot dead after attempting to steal a soldier's gun at Paris Orly Airport on Saturday was a "radicalised Muslim" known to security services and was also involved in another shooting incident hours earlier in the day, French authorities said.

Security forces opened fire, killing him during the attack at the airport, the *Telegraph* reported.

The attacker assaulted a patrol of three soldiers including a woman, who he wrestled to the ground as he tried to grab

her weapon at the airport, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said.

Two other soldiers then opened fire "to protect her" and the public at the airport.

French Interior Minister Bruno Le Roux said at a press conference that the man was known to the police and intelligence services.

The man had earlier fled the suburb of Stains on Saturday in a car stolen from a woman at gunpoint after opening fire on officers, injuring one, during an identity check.

Evacuation of last rebel-held district of Syria's Homs begins



including any who chose to stay.

The first wave of three green buses pulled out of Waer carrying dozens of fighters, their rifles slung over their shoulders, and civilians including children.

Between 400 and 500 people are expected to leave today, Syrian state television reported.

Rebels will be bussed to opposition-held parts of Homs province, the town of Jarabulus on the Syrian-Turkish border or the northwest province of Idlib.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group estimates that a total of 12,000 people, including 2,500 rebels, will leave under the deal.

Syria's government has agreed "reconciliation" deals in several rebel-held areas, and touts the local agreements that grant safe passage to surrendering fighters as key to ending the country's war.

But the opposition says it is forced into such deals by siege and bombardment.

Three waves of rebels and their families have already quit Waer under an agreement first reached in December 2015, but the deal has stalled since then.

Over the past month, government forces have stepped up bombardment of the district, killing dozens of people, according to the Britain-based Observatory.

And no aid has reached the area in at least four months, with a UN convoy that attempted to reach Waer in February seized by gunmen who diverted the assistance and ensure the safety of residents. — AFP

The car was later found abandoned. According to its report, it contained a bloodstained T-shirt.

Meanwhile, Paris Orly Airport was evacuated while it was searched by bomb disposal squads.

No explosives were found, said the report. An investigation was underway while the airport remains under maximum security alert.

Some 3,000 people were escorted out of the airport terminals. Passengers in planes that had landed following the shooting were being kept

aboard the aircraft until the airport was declared secure, said the officials.

The CEO of Paris Airport Operator said Orly's south terminal, where the incident occurred, may remain closed until Saturday night. The airport's west terminal may reopen soon.

This was the fourth attack

against security forces deployed as part of France's *Operation Sentinel*, said the French defence minister. The national security operation was launched following the Paris terror attacks in Janu-

29 killed in pro-Houthi strike on mosque in Yemen

ADEN, MARCH 18:

About 29 pro-government soldiers were killed and 89 others injured when missiles fired by Shiite Houthi gunmen struck a mosque in Yemen's northern province of Marib on Friday, a military official told Xinhua.

According to the local official, the pro-Houthi forces fired ballistic missiles and struck the mosque inside a military base of the Saudi-backed anti-government forces in Marib.

Witnesses said that huge fire and smoke were seen rising from the Kowfai military camp where the attack happened and many ambu-

lances rushed to the area.

An army commander said the missile attack occurred while scores of soldiers gathered to perform Friday prayers inside the mosque.

The oil-producing northern province of Marib was controlled by Yemen's legitimate government and thousands of Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces stationed there.

The Shiite Houthi group

repeatedly fire ballistic missiles against government-controlled provinces but most of the attacks were aborted by air defence systems of the Saudi-led coalition.

Yemen has been suffering



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) gestures while shaking hands with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson before a bilateral meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, on Saturday. — UNI

Kids who play outdoors likely to protect environment



TORONTO, March 18: Children who spend more time outdoors express a continued love of nature as young adults and are more likely to help protect the environment, a new study has found.

Researchers from University of British Columbia Okanagan in Canada, interviewed about 50 students between the ages of 18 to 25. Of the group, 100 per cent of females stated that they loved and 87 per cent of males responded the same.

The study found that 87 per cent of the respondents who played outside as children expressed a continued love of nature as young adults. Of that group, 84 per cent

said taking care of the environment was a priority.

"Developing positive experiences in nature at a young age can influence our attitudes and behaviours towards nature as adults," said Catherine Broom of University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus.

Environmental awareness programmes like Girl Guides or Boy Scouts may help develop children's environmental awareness and action, according to researchers.

"Our findings imply that providing positive childhood experiences in nature, such as outdoor school programmes, may help to develop care for the environment in adults,"

Broom said.

"However, these may not be sufficient unless programmes are building knowledge and self-awareness of environmental stewardship," she added.

Schools and early childhood classroom activities should connect positive experiences in nature with mindful learning and reflection that help empower students to take a personal role in protecting the environment by recycling, turning off the lights, and using alternative transportation methods, researchers said.

The study was published in the Australian Journal of Environmental Education. — PTI

As far as wiretapping, I guess, by this past administration, at least I and Angela have something in common perhaps

by a very talented lawyer on Fox. And so you shouldn't be talking to me, you should be talking to Fox," he said.

Fox News said it could not confirm the allegations.

"Fox News knows of no evidence of any kind that the now President of the United States was surveilled at any time in any way, full stop," anchor Shepard Smith said, reading an official statement on-air.

Trump has accused Obama of ordering wiretaps at his Trump Tower in New York, but two weeks after the extraordinary claim, he has not delivered any evidence.

The claim has led to investigations in Congress and by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but so far no one has provided any evidence to substantiate it.

Top Republicans and Democrats on the House and Senate Intelligence Committee have all said they have seen no evidence.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has remained quiet, however.

Yesterday the Justice Department said it had complied with requests from the Intelligence and Judiciary Committees in both houses of Congress for information related to surveillance during the 2016 election.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes confirmed yesterday evening that the DOJ had "fully complied" with his panel's request for information regarding potential surveillance of Trump or his circle during the presidential race. He did not elaborate on the details of the information. — AFP

11 candidates confirmed in France prez polls

PARIS, March 18: Eleven candidates have been approved to run for French President, the country's Constitutional Council said today, a month before the vote.

The eleven received the 500-plus signatures from mayors needed to compete in the first round of the election on April 23, the council's president Laurent Fabius said.

With no candidate expected to win an outright majority at the first round, the two top contenders will go through to a decisive run-off on May 7.

On Monday evening, five main candidates will go head-to-head in the first of three TV debates.

They are: far-right leader Marine Le Pen, centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron, Republicans nominee Francois Fillon, the Socialist Party's Benoit Hamon and Communist-backed candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon. — AFP

Bharara was probing Trump aide when fired

WASHINGTON, March 18: Indian-American attorney Preet Bharara, who was recently fired by the Trump administration, was investigating into allegations of trading of health-related stocks of Secretaries of Health and Human Services Tom Price, an investigative news media outlet has claimed.

New York-based independent and non-profit ProPublica, which is known for its investigative reporting mostly on health-related issues, in its latest report claimed that at the time of being fired, Bharara was overseeing an investigation into health-related stock trades made by Price.

The story is based on sources and the White House has not commented on the allegations.

Bharara was fired this month after he refused to resign as being asked by the Department of Justice along with 45 other US attorneys, all of whom were appointed by the previous Obama Administration.

ProPublica, however, in its investigative report has not concluded that Bharara was fired because of this investigation against Price. — PTI

Shahzaib to challenge PCB's spot-fixing charge

KARACHI, March 18: Discarded Pakistan batsman Shahzaib Hasan has decided to challenge the Pakistan Cricket Board's charge against him relating to the spot-fixing scandal in the Pakistan Super League.

Shahzaib, who played in the 2009 World T20 Cup in England that Pakistan won, has filed a detailed reply to the notice issued to him through his lawyer.

The Karachi-based batsman has been charged under different clauses of the anti-corruption code of the PCB with having contacts with bookmakers, trying to induce other players into spot-fixing and setting up terms between players and bookies.

"I am innocent and I have done nothing wrong. I reported the offer made to me to the Board. I will fight this case," he said. — PTI

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Kuznetsova, Vesnina set up all-Russian Indian Wells final

INDIAN WELLS, March 18: Twice grand slam winner Svetlana Kuznetsova and Elena Vesnina posted hard-fought, straight-set wins in Friday's semifinals to set up an all-Russian final in the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells.

Kuznetsova played exceptional defence and used her strong serve and a varied groundstroke attack to edge third seed Karolina Pliskova 7-6 (5), 7-6 (2) in a tense showdown following Vesnina's 6-3, 6-4 win over Kristina Mladenovic.

The 31-year-old eighth seed Kuznetsova rose to the occasion in the tiebreakers, storming out to a 2-lead in each.

Nerves struck in the first-set decider as she netted two backhands and produced an embarrassing double fault that made it 6-5 before riling a fore-



Elena Vesnina of Russia celebrates after winning her BNP Paribas Open semifinal against Kristina Mladenovic of France at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in California, on Friday.

hand passing winner to end it.

There were no dramas after taking the big tiebreak lead in the second set and she raced along the base-

line for another retrieval that induced a wide forehand from the disgusted Czech, who flung down her racket as Kuznetsova rejoiced. — Agencies

Lanka-Bangla Test tantalisingly poised

COLOMBO, March 18: Mustafizur Rahman and Shakib Al Hasan shared six wickets between them but Sri Lanka fought back through a fighting century of Dimuth Karunaratne in the second Test here today. Karunaratne held one end for a long period to score 126 before a dogged unbeaten inning of Dilruwan Perera helped Sri Lanka reach 268-7 at stumps on the fourth day to stretch their lead over the visitors to 193 runs.

This much lead looked a distant possibility once Mustafizur and Shakib triggered a collapse in Sri Lankan innings in the post lunch session but Karunaratne hung on to bowl out Perera hit an off 126 balls.

Perera received support from tail-enders Rangana Herath (94 off 122 balls) and Suranga Lakmal, 11 not out as the hosts were hoping to expand their

lead to give their bowlers something to fight with.

Bangladesh struck in the day's second over through off-spinner Mehedi Hasan, who spun sharply to bowl out opener Upul Tharanga for 26 after Sri Lanka reached 100-0.

SCORECARD

Sri Lanka 1 Innings: 338 Bangladesh 1 Innings: 467 Sri Lanka 2 Innings: Karunaratne c Somwary Sarker Shahid Al Hasan 126, Tharanga c Mehedi Hasan 26, Herath c Shakib Al Hasan 5, Perera not out 26, Herath b Taijul Islam 9, Lakmal not out 16. Extras: 10. Total: 268-7. Sri Lanka 3 Innings: 268-6 wickets: 1-57, 2-143, 3-165, 4-176, 5-177, 6-190, 7-143, 8-165, 9-180, 10-190, 11-200. Bowlers: Subashis Roy 16-4-96-0, Mehedi Hasan 22-0-94-1, Musafir Rahim 19-0-94-1, Shakib Al Hasan 30-61-3, Mosaddek Hossain 3-0-10-0, Taijul Islam 10-131-1. PTI

lead to give their bowlers something to fight with.

Bangladesh struck in the day's second over through off-spinner Mehedi Hasan, who spun sharply to bowl out opener Upul Tharanga for 26 after Sri Lanka reached 100-0.

According to police sources, the car in which the two were travelling caught fire after it hit a roadside tree. Sunar and his wife were charred to death inside the vehicle, the police sources said.

The burning of the car was

streamed live on Facebook which instantly went viral on social media.

Police officials claimed that the racer's over speed was the reason behind the crash.

Fire and rescue services personnel from Mysalore also rushed to spot but it took around half-an-hour to put out the fire.

FMSI chief Akbar Ebrahim and former Indian F1 driver Karun Chandhok wrote condolence messages on Facebook.

Sunder had won the national title in car racing and two-wheeler events on several occasions. His wife Niveditha was a doctor in a private hospital in Chennai. — PTI

Meghalaya beat Services in Santosh Trophy

VASCO, March 18: Meghalaya scored a goal in each half to get the better of Services in the final round of the Group A league match of the Santosh Trophy football tournament, here today.

Meghalaya's goals were scored by Dibinroy Nongspung (8th minute) and Bishal Kharunnud (76th).

With Goa splitting points against Chandigarh today, West Bengal, who have seven points, are through to the semi-

finals from Group A.

The second place from Group A will be decided between Goa, Services and Meghalaya when they play their last matches.

Meghalaya, who opened their account with today's win, have a chance to qualify for the semi-finals, having garnered three points from as many matches.

Services, the defending champions needed a win to stay in contention for a berth in the semi-finals. — PTI

'Myanmar will be a difficult team'

MUMBAI, March 18: Ahead of the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers' final round match against Myanmar, Indian football coach Stephen Constantine termed their opposition as "favourites at home" but expressed hope of getting a positive result in the away match on March 28.

"I think we have a good opportunity. We need to win our home games. Myanmar will be a very difficult game. They are favourites at home, they went to the Suzuki Cup final. India struggled against Myanmar in Myanmar. I would like to change that and we will go and give whatever we have, as we always do and hopefully we can get a result in Myanmar," Constantine told reporters here.

Myanmar had emerged winners in the last meeting between the two sides – in the 2014 edition of AFC Challenge Cup.

Constantine was speaking after the camp which was going on here to prepare for the March 22 international friendly against Cambodia in Phnom Penh followed by the March 28 AFC Asian Cup qualifier final round match against Myanmar in Yangon.

"So far, so good. We had a few players who have come in injured, we have tried to help. I have to thank I-League for giving me that extra week to prepare we needed," he said about the preparations. — PTI

Former racing champ dies in mishap

CHENNAI, March 18: Former national racing champion Ashwin Sundar and his wife Niveditha died in a mishap at MRC Nagar here today.

According to police sources, the car in which the two were travelling caught fire after it hit a roadside tree. Sunar and his wife were charred to death inside the vehicle, the police sources said.

The burning of the car was

streamed live on Facebook which instantly went viral on social media.

Police officials claimed that the racer's over speed was the reason behind the crash.

Fire and rescue services personnel from Mysalore also rushed to spot but it took around half-an-hour to put out the fire.

FMSI chief Akbar Ebrahim and former Indian F1 driver Karun Chandhok wrote condolence messages on Facebook.

Sunder had won the national title in car racing and two-wheeler events on several occasions. His wife Niveditha was a doctor in a private hospital in Chennai. — PTI

Federer to face Sock after ailing Kyrgios withdraws

INDIAN WELLS, March 18: Roger Federer reached the 10th Indian Wells Masters semifinal of his career by walkover as Australian Nick Kyrgios withdrew from their highly anticipated quarterfinal with food poisoning.

Federer, a four-time champion in the California desert, will take on 17th-seeded American Jack Sock, who toppled fourth-seeded Kei Nishikori 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

"Unfortunately I am unable to play today due to sickness," Kyrgios said on Twitter. "At this stage we think it's food poisoning, and I'm praying it's nothing more."

Kyrgios had been due to face Federer after knocking out Novak Djokovic in the last 16 on Wednesday. The Australian's illness is a cruel twist of fate for the talented 21-year-old, who has shown signs of finally starting to deliver on his promise in recent weeks after a young career marred by controversy.

His stylish win over Djokovic was the second time in as many weeks he had beaten the former world number one after also defeating the Serb in Acapulco. — AFP

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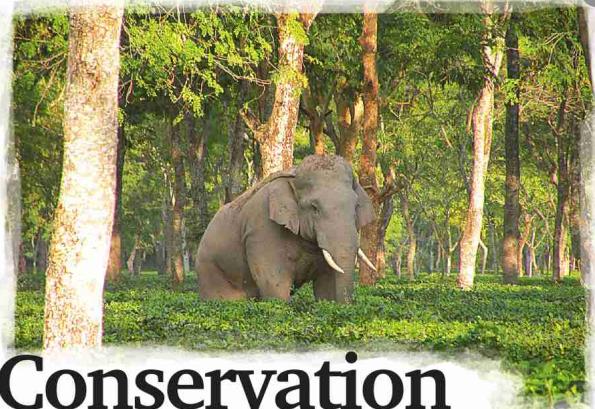
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Sunday

3 FICTION

In custody - I



Conservation insights

PARINITA DATTA catches up with Robin Eastment and Saurav Malhotra of the Balipara Foundation, Assam.

The Udalguri district of Assam, bordering Bhutan, is among the worst affected regions as far as human-elephant conflict is concerned. Between 2014 and 2015, 40 humans and 15 elephants have lost their lives. As worse as this may seem, the psychological toll of this day-to-day conflict is much more than figures can indicate. But how can conservation organisations help? Robin Eastment, who is a Programme Executive with the Balipara Foundation, Assam, recounts - "A person once told me that 'there are more humans than elephants being killed in Udalguri. If anyone needs help, it's us - not them.' What do you say to that?"

Wanting to understand and learn more, Robin and Saurav Malhotra (Project Executive, Balipara Foundation) started camping out in the heart of Udalguri Elephant Country. "It was not easy to sleep at all, with elephants on our minds. Every little noise startled us. Anyway, we did it for two months and we see elephants very differently today," adds Saurav, who has been with the Foundation for a few months now.

But the experience also offered them some clarity of action. "The only thing worse than an elephant breaking your house is getting compensated 12 to 36 months later. That's insult to injury," maintains Robin. "Whenever we have spoken to people as to how we could help, most often than not, the issue of 'timely compensation' has been raised. We are exploring models of CSR Bridge Funding to enable this, aligned with in-

surance schemes. Low Cost Solar Powered Fencing is another priority item; aided by the WWP NBL team (read World Wildlife Fund North Bank Landscape)," informs Saurav.

Robin quickly adds, "Elephants, however, are not the most pertinent issue in Udalguri. Social mobility is, by far, the bigger challenge." He explains that long-term and meaningful conservation outcomes cannot be achieved by a handful of conservationists going out there and preaching 'conservation'. Neither can it be attained by 'stand alone' laws and policies. "Do you think that fate of our forests and wildlife are dependent on government policies or conservation projects? No. It, in fact, lies in the hands of the people that live alongside these forests and have a day-to-day relationship with the wildlife living in it - the

forest fringe communities," he states. This leads us to the core concept of the Udalguri Landscape Mission (ULM) Project. "Everyone talks about community participation in conservation projects, but how can you expect the community, bounded by elephants, to participate in the saving of elephants, when the much bigger issue for them is accessibility to water, and we are not even talking about drinking water, just water," adds Saurav.

Robin explains that community participation can never be achieved by the current conservation narrative that is laden with 'Nature nostalgia' and 'romanticism'. "That can only take you so far," he adds quickly.

Along with the elephants, accessibility to water is a major issue in Udalguri. "Having gone through the whole



trouble of fetching water from a well one km. away, daily, during our two-month camp-stay in Udalguri, we realised that we could make a huge difference," exclaims Saurav. And that was how we conceptualised the 24x7 Water Project. Government investments through water supply schemes, in most cases, simply close down in a few months due to design flaws and lack of community ownership.

When one travels around Udalguri, one will see a lot of abandoned water supply schemes, rainwater harvesting units and rural toilets - all built by the government. However, they have been rendered as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). One of the project's long-term goals is to work with government departments to improve the service delivery of these assets by introducing engineering and design elements that are technology-driven.

"Why should it be so audacious for a forest-fringe dweller to demand water 24x7 when his urban counterpart takes the same service for granted?" questions Saurav.

Robin and Saurav also spoke very keenly about having an exit strategy. They pointed out that traditional conservation projects always lack one. Therefore, they invariably run out of steam once funding is exhausted. Their strategy is built around partnering with grassroots agencies as their primary project partners. The Kharlingduar Eco-Development Committee (EDC) is a result of that endeavour. The EDC is represented by 12 forestfringe communities who have organised themselves to undertake an ambitious 500-hectare afforestation project, besides the Kharlingduar Reserve Forest along the Indo-Burman border. "Two major nationalised banks have come forward to fund the EDC and the first tree will be planted with the onset of monsoons in March-April, 2017."

"The future of conservation lies in the hands of people who are unfortunately underprivileged, and hence, are not in a position to participate meaningfully. This can only be reversed through the social mobility of these communities. The poacher or the logger is not a 'conservationist' - not because he/she chooses not to be, but because he/she hasn't had the opportunity to be one. The reverse is true. We are said for the conservationists!" signs off Robin.

Ranjit Borhalukar, the Chairman of Balipara Foundation, which came into being in 2007, would like to term the entire exercise more as a concept rather than a project. He sums up: "Rather than just projecting Assam as a rhino land only, we should divide it into five-six zones - 'Elephant Country', 'Rhinoceros Country', 'Tiger Country', 'Buffalo Country', etc. We are also trying to create patches so that tuskers can move freely without human habitats and tea gardens coming in their way."

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As World Water Day falls on March 22, I couldn't help but remember the two most famous lines from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's lyrical ballad *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, which reads,

Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.

Liquid wealth

**On the eve of World Water Day,
ZEBA ZOARIAH AHSAN appeals
for a ban on water wastage.**

If there indeed is so much water all around us, what if it was made usable for performing some daily chores? Especially since this year's 'World Water Day' theme is "Water and Waste-water". The world is making huge efforts in spreading awareness amongst masses on why and how wastewater can be used. With such themes, the global water crisis, which, according to some professionals is actually a crisis, however, can be solved over time. Common

people should be introduced to the concept of grey water, so that they are not apprehensive about reusing it. Not only that, flagship programmes like 'Toilet to Tap', 'Clean India Mission' can be turned into a reality all across the country.

With burgeoning population and increasing water stress, us-

ing of wastewater would definitely provide a huge respite from the prevailing water scarcity, help in building social capital and provide a better understanding of the hydraulic properties. This will, in turn, make the second green revolution possible in the near future, further enhancing food security and promoting sustainable practices over the generations.

Why wastewater?

The ongoing climate change has affected the hydrological cycle tremendously, with some

parts of the globe facing droughts and an acute shortage of water. For example: South Australia suffered a decade long drought, also known as the Millennium Drought from 2001-2009.

Such incidents call for tapping wastewater and reusing it. The wastewater generated from homes (grey water) could be treated and used for irrigating agricultural farms. Similarly, wastewater generated from industries known as 'black water' could be treated and reused. The use of wastewater should be thought of and talked about as we work towards creating a sustainable future. It goes without saying that sustainability would also imply survivability in the long run.

In the summer and rainy seasons of 2015, Leptospirosis, a dangerously neglected tropical disease struck multiple cities of India. It is a zoonotic disease, also known colloquially as 'rat fever' for its association with the urine of rodents, among several host species. It spreads under the condition of stagnant water, floodwater and humidity. With 2017 facing the prospect of er-

ratic monsoons and no major improvements nationwide in wastewater and floodwater management, the possibility of the spread of Leptospirosis needs special attention.

The rapid urbanisation has fur-

ther added to our water and sanitation woes across the towns and cities of India. Hence, managing wastewater would play a vital role in accomplishing various government initiatives and also fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Good governance matters

At the 2000 World Water Forum in The Hague, it was stated that 'water crisis is often a crisis of governance' and identified making water governance effective as one of the highest priorities for action. Institutional reforms are needed to turn poor governance into good and effective governance, thus making it more accountable and transparent, involving the civil society, the various stakeholders, planners and policy makers.

In these regards, one must not forget the dimensions of gender as women play a huge role in

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4 ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

An en masse migration



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Hola, Latin America!

Very few of us are fortunate enough to come across opportunities to do things out of our comfort zone and get out of life's monotony. I had one such occasion last October, when a travel buff friend of mine pitched the idea of a visit to Latin America. Within a span of a month, after several iterations of prospective countries, I finalised Ecuador and Colombia, with Panama coming as an added bonus, owing to a long layover. So, itineraries were finalised, accommodations reserved and backpacks stuffed for a ten-day long trip! Even Hurricane Matthews could not dampen our spirits and all four of us made it to Quito over the weekend.

Quito, the capital of Ecuador and a world heritage site, is a beautiful city nestled in the Andes mountain ranges. A walk along the cobblestoned roads led us to our first stop, the city's Old Town, packed with majestic plazas from the colonial era like the Plaza Grande, artsy cathedrals like the Cathedral of Quito and numerous shops and restaurants. Our next stop was Cuenca Mitad del Mundo or the Equator Monument. It is a small museum of sorts - with a guide explaining the local tribal culture and also demonstrating the significance of the location with a couple of experiments on the equator. Early next morning, we started off to the Cotopaxi National Park, around 50 km. south of Quito. Cotopaxi is one of the highest active volcanoes of the world and its last recorded activity was in January, 2016. Tourists were allowed to hike up to the base camp located at an altitude of 4,800 metres.

The next city in our itinerary was Banos, around three hours from Quito, a lush green valley hidden among the Andes lined with waterfalls and thermal springs and the active Volcano Tungurahua standing tall nearby. This town is the ultimate destination for various adventure sports: bungee jumping, white water rafting, canopying, waterfall chasing, you name it! Just a 45-minute drive from the heart of Banos, is the Waterfall Route. This drive ending at the famous Pailon del Diablo is a treat to sore eyes and consists of over a dozen waterfalls.

Soon, we bid adieu to Ecuador and moved on to explore Panama City. Panama Canal was our first stop. This architectural marvel has been serving as a connection for maritime trade between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans since 1914! It has three locks, Miraflores on the Pacific end, Pedro Miguel in the middle and Gatun on the Atlantic end. The Miraflores Locks, which is open to tourists, has a museum and theatre narrating the history and operation of the canal. Our city tour ended with lunch at the Amador Causeway and a quick drive through the Old Town before heading back to the airport for our connecting flight to Medellin, Colombia.

Once the heart of Pablo Escobar's drug cartel, Medellin today is a vibrant city sprawling with high rises and industries attracting tourists from all over the world. Our adventure in Colombia began with paragliding over the Medellin Valley and then a trip to Guatape, a small town around three hours from Medellin. Next, our hostel arranged for a tour of San Cayetano, one of Colombia's numerous coffee farms. This two-hour drive offered majestic vistas with the road winding up green hills and canyons. Our final stop was Bogota, the capital city of Colombia. Bogota is a culturally rich city with quaint little alleys, colonial style homes and vibrant artwork splattered all over the city walls. Although our stay here was just for a day, we still managed to get our daily dose of adrenaline rush with a cable car ride along a steep hill to a cathedral and then back on a train along the same route. We also squeezed in a visit to a gold museum, the largest of its kind in the world, before packing our stuff for a midnight flight back to the USA.

We started on this trip with just a rough to-do list, relying mostly on backpackers we met at hostels for advice, and probably a bit on the internet, which made it a much more rewarding experience. High points of our trip: the warm and friendly peoples; the well-maintained roads and spotlessly clean cities; and the Bajaj Pulsars, Discovers and auto-rickshaws we spotted on the streets of Colombia!

WOMEN PLUS

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Bit of plainspeak

Dr. Akashitora Dutta is one of the most dynamic and interesting personalities I have met. A multiple award-winning actor, media personality, author and Rotary fellow, she has her pulse on the contemporary society and is full of plans about engaging in it in new and interesting ways. Excerpts from an interview...

The best thing about being a woman?

Quoting author William Golding, I think women are foolish to pretend they are equal to men. They are far superior. And always have been.

What are the challenges of modern women?

In a recent speech in the Billboard Awards, I saw pop diva Madonna speaking at length about how society judges a woman with an opinion and names her with adjectives. Every woman has been a victim of so called moral judgement by her peers. Despite strict laws, women in work sectors have to face the ugly truth of being objectified by some menfolk. Be it in Bengaluru or in Assam, women have been the soft target of moral censure – her dress, her free movements, her right of expression have often been challenged.

What have been your personal milestones?

I will name my selection as Rotary Peace Fellow in 2016 – to join 19 other world scholars from all over the world to study for three months at the Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, as a rare honour.

I am indebted to Rotary International for having given me the chance to study Gender Studies, Disarmament, International Law and Peace Cultivation. This has not only opened vistas, but also broadened my horizons.

How do you see yourself as an author?

You will always find me writing, as books are my first love and I have to carry the legacy of my journalist father. My first novel *Xei Prem* and a sequel *Dwitiyo Priyasthar Xei Prem*, and my novel on LGBT – *Nattha*, have won a loyal readership. Then there is *Bidisha* which has been translated into English this year.

Mur Priyo Puruxbur Aru Ityadi will be a bold revelation on different aspects of my perspective on various issues. I am also

working on my novel in English – *Voice of Silence* – with 20 Facebook stories.

My poetry anthology – *Me and my Love*, will have a sequel.

How can we ensure safety for women?

Being bold for a change is the answer. Efficient governance, an alert police and social force are needed. Also, training girls on self-protection should be made compulsory in schools. Girls should be encouraged to be more vocal about any kind of oppression and torture.

What factors are now creating conflicts in relationships?

From my experiences, what I have noticed are the following –

After my return from a month-long Europe tour, I was shocked to discover that six of my friends had got separated from their spouses. All of them felt that they were not respected by their men.

Times are changing and women today no longer look up to a man to buy her grocery or her lipstick. Most of them are economically empowered. So when the emotional quotient seems missing in their relations, women quit.

We actually need the menfolk to join us to eradicate gender discrimination. Most relationships suffer because the male still refuses to accept his counterpart as equal.

What has your reality shown achieved?

In the year 2009, when I had presented a live show – *Ekanto Bokkigoto*, Indian television was not very aware of it.

Satyameva Jayate came two years later, in 2011. My own personal trauma and conviction that sharing is caring brought about a sea change in the perceptions of people. We have completed 100 episodes, with 60 success stories. We have women like Sabita Medhi, who won justice after years of negligence by her spouse. My serial *Ji Kom Hosa Kom* could give Gunung, an autistic baby, a new life. I have dedicated six long years of my life to this effort, to give service and strength to victims and spreading awareness about existing laws. I even faced threats while helping women victims, but this could not deter me from doing so. It won the Laddi Media Award as the Best Show of eastern India. What I value equally has been the love of my people.

Quoting author William Golding, I think women are foolish to pretend they are equal to men. They are far superior and always have been.



LET'S CREATE

We all know how women love their crockery, be it ceramic, glass or porcelain. So when these kitchen gems get chipped or cracked, it's heartbreak time all over again. But no fret, there are many ways in which these prime possessions can be worked around your life and home. Just a little bit of imagination and a few basic supplies can give a new life to that vintage tea cup or plate. Let's find out how:

Chalkboard plate

A chalkboard plate makes for a fun and unique kitchen decoration. Set it on the counter using a plate stand or hang it on the wall. You can announce dinner time, let everyone know what is for dinner, or just write a fun message. Simply clean the plate surface, use a fine paintbrush or a foam brush to apply thin layers of chalkboard paint on the centre of the plate. Let each layer dry completely before you add the next.



Let the chalkboard paint cure for as long as the package recommends. Before you use the plate for the first time, you should rub the side of a stick of chalk on the paint and then wipe it off.



Organising jewels

We are often left with one or two bowls from a set of six or eight that have perished over the years. While we might feel that they are of no use, they can surely be used around the house to store knick knacks, especially your jewellery. You can sort your earrings, bracelets or necklaces into them and store them in your dresser. A pretty sight they make.



Bird feeder

If you see the image on your left, you get the idea. There's nothing much you need to do. Simply stick together a cup and a saucer and hang them on a tree in your backyard or even in your balcony by the creepers. Even old teapots can be used for this purpose.

Treat stand

Treat stands are the centre of attraction at any tea party or birthday. As these are still quite expensive, we don't see them in most Indian homes. But these can be easily made at home: just you need to be creative. Use few plates, candle sticks and some strong glue. Reuse those dinner plates that you feel are 'out of trend', glue them together with the candle sticks, and voila! You could use plastic or resin plates for a more casual look or go fancy with some pretty ceramic or china ones!

Planters

Why waste money buying colourful planters when you have a pile of old, unused crockery at home. The bigger bowls (slightly chipped, faded and unused) can be used in the garden, while the teacups can be used in your kitchen as herb planters.

Create a mosaic

Chips of old crockery can be glued to almost about anything to create exquisite mosaic patterns that can then be displayed anywhere you wish. You can make mosaic planters, mosaic flooring, stairs, wall art, jewellery, etc. Simply wake up to the possibilities of what can be done with these pretty old things and you will be more than surprised.



Planter

Create a mosaic

Black sesame rice



Method:

Wash and soak rice. Drain the rice after 15 minutes and set aside.

Heat a small frying pan over medium heat.

Toast the sesame seeds, until a few sesame seeds begin to pop and emit a nutty aroma.

Remove immediately and grind the warm sesame seeds to a paste.

Paste mustard oil in a cooking pan over a medium heat.

Add the bay leaf and stir in the onion and garlic paste and sauté, until the onions are translucent.

Stir in the sesame seed paste and turmeric and fry the paste until aromatic.

Mix in the washed and drained rice.

Add the water and salt. Stir once, reduce the heat to low, cover and cook, without stirring, until all of the water has been absorbed and the rice is tender.

Carefully remove the lid and fluff rice with a fork.

Spoon the rice into a warmed serving dish.

Serve immediately with pickle, curry and mashed or fried potatoes.

- Ingredients:**
- Water 1½ cups
 - Small grained rice 1 cup
 - Black sesame seeds 2 tbsp
 - Onion paste 3 tbsp
 - Garlic paste 1 tsp
 - Vegetable or mustard oil 2 tbsp
 - Bay leaf 1
 - Salt to taste



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.

Fried fish balls

Ingredients:

- Feather back fish (*chitol* or *goda*) 500 gms
- Corn flour 2 tbsps
- Baking powder ¼ tsp
- Pepper powder ½ tsp
- Onion paste 4 tbsps
- Ginger paste 1 tsp
- Garlic paste 1 tbsp
- Coriander, chopped 4 tbsps
- Green chilli, chopped 1 tsp
- Soya sauce 2 tbsps
- Garlic 10 cloves
- Green chillies 2
- Salt to taste

Method:

Clean the fish and rinse with cold water, pat dry with paper towels.

Place the fish paste on the cutting board.

Roll a sharp knife down the backbone, cutting fish cleanly away from the skeletal frame, keeping knife close to bone. Turn the fish over and repeat the process.

Using a metal spoon, scrape in the

direction of the bones. Retain the fish paste and discard any bones.

Place the fish paste in a bowl.

Mix in onion, ginger and garlic paste, salt and pepper.

Cover with plastic wrap and place in the freezer for two hours, or until the fish paste is firm but without freezing.

Take the fish paste out of the freezer, and grind in a food processor or manually, until sticky.

Mix in the corn flour, baking powder and soya sauce and knead until the mixture is smooth.

Add the chopped coriander leaves and green chillies and mix until the ingredients are well-combined.

With greased hands, form small balls and roll over high heat.

Bring a large pot of water to a boil over high heat.

Gently drop the fish balls into the boiling water and cook until the fish balls float to the top.

Remove and drain on paper towels.

Serve immediately with chilli sauce or a dip.

BEAUTY

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The natural way

All skin types require extra care and hydration, especially in this season. Our skin tends to become patchy in this season, so exfoliating with natural ingredients is important. Nothing works better for the skin or hair than a proper diet and good exercise. What you eat is more important than what you apply.

Drink lots of water during the day. Also, drink green tea, twice a day. It acts as a stimulant or energiser, aids in the process of weight loss and also gives your skin a glow. I believe there is nothing like an egg to give the right amount of bounce to your hair (and glow to your skin). Eat lots of eggs and also use them on your hair. It will improve the texture and quality of your hair tremendously.

During this season, the hair feels rough and dry. Coconut oil will help combat the dryness and will condition your hair. Mayonnaise, a natural conditioner, can come to your rescue, too. It softens the hair. Use a mild, herbal shampoo later.

Apply any kind of thick oil, not only on your skin, but also on your hair. You can use either olive oil or any seed oil and mix sandalwood oil, as these are thick and create a natural sunscreen.

Start home facials with natural ingredients. Here's how:

Cleanse: Start by cleansing your face well with rose water. Take two teaspoons yoghurt, mixed with two teaspoons mashed papaya and massage well. This works wonders as it has cleansing enzymes and reduces blemishes.

Scrub: Make a scrub of two teaspoons orange peel, mixed with a tablespoon oatmeal. Mix with a combination of milk and rose water. Apply to skin. Leave on for ten minutes and then scrub when it becomes semi-dry.

Steam: Steam your face using a warm towel and make a smooth, thick paste of honey and rice flour. Apply on the oily, open pores and affected areas of the skin. Always keep the forehead, nose and chin oil-free. Rinse off, when dry, with cold water. This will give your skin a beautiful glow.

Refreshing skin mask: For combination skin, take two teaspoons sandalwood powder, one teaspoon honey, a few drops of lemon juice. Mix all the ingredients with rose water and apply to clean skin. When dry, rinse off with normal water.

For oily skin with lots of whiteheads and blackheads: Take equal quantities of sandalwood powder and fuller's earth. Then mix in rose water. Make a smooth paste and apply, scrubbing off gently. Rinse off with cold



water. Avoid heavy creams and oily products. Keep your skin clean. Use exfoliating granules on your skin regularly. You can also use dried orange peels.

A hair care routine begins with massaging your hair with a combination of pure almond oil and castor oil, twice a week, and following it with a steam therapy. *Henna* can be used to thicken and condition the hair. It acts as a natural dye and is safer than harmful chemical dyes.

Make a softening hair conditioning pack with two teaspoons each of *amla* powder, *shikakai* powder, fenugreek powder, liquorice powder and two eggs. Apply this from the root to the ends. Leave on for half an hour, then wash with a mild, herbal shampoo.

For treating dry, rough hair, take two teaspoons honey, *amla*, two teaspoons *triphalas* and add half a cup of yoghurt. Mix all the ingredients well and apply to the scalp and hair. Leave on for half an hour, then shampoo. This should be done once a week.

Remove with a slotted spoon, set aside until cool. Then using a sharp knife, make a cross-shaped slash on top of each fish ball.

Heat oil in a wok or deep pan and add the garlic and green chillies and fry, until golden.

Gently add the fish balls to the oil.

With a spoon, pour warm oil over the fish and fry the balls, until golden brown.

Remove and drain on paper towels.

Serve immediately with chilli sauce or a dip.

In custody - I

FICITION

Keerthana Suresh

It was the third time that day Malini clenched her teeth and turned away angrily. Her elder brother was overprotective towards her and made her furious every time. Sure, he was elder to her, but it was her parents who had to parent her and not her elder brother, Prateek.

Malini was 18 years old, Prateek was 24. Though she was an adult now and her parents didn't seem to have much problems with the way she wanted to live her life, Prateek seemed to be a control freak in her life. And their parents never stopped Prateek from being one.

"Malu? What took you so long? It's 8.30 already and it's not safe. It's not good to be alone at night."

Malini controlled her anger and turned to her brother. "I am sorry, I'll come home early from next time."

"But I asked – what took you so long?" His voice got a little demanding.

Malini was about to give a gruff answer when her mom entered and told Prateek to change the subject.

Next morning, at the breakfast table, she found her dad quietly working on his laptop. Her mom gave her breakfast and joined them at the table. Malini found it very awkward because theirs was a chirpy family and always discussed everything that there is on the planet while eating and today both her parents were too quiet. Maybe they had fought? Or maybe not? Maybe Prateek would know what the matter was and that instance she noticed Prateek was missing.

"Maa, where is Prateek?"

"He is at a friend's place."

"So early? He was not at home from 6.30 because I was awake by then and he was not there."

Her mom seemed to get restless and exactly at that moment her dad spoke up. "What happened to your novel, Malini? Any word from Yagnesh – with confirmations from any publishers?"

"No, Papa."

"Get me a copy of it now, will you? I'll contact my other friend who knows people from Jaico publishers."

She nodded and went to her room. From a young age, books fascinated



her and she always wanted to be a writer. Recently, she put to work her young dream and had written a book, which was a collection of stories that had inspired her. She had put in a lot of hard work and had given the script to her English professor who had helped her correct the mistakes and had given her moral support. He had even told her that it was an excellent piece of work for a debut writer. She had been!

She put a copy of the novel in a pen drive and gave it to her dad. Her mom told her that she had to go somewhere and her grandma would be coming home in the afternoon and she had to take care of him.

Malini was shocked. "Grandpa is coming to Bangalore? Why? And why was I never informed?"

"I am in a hurry, Malini. Take care," she said and left.

Grandpa came home in the afternoon. Malini was glad to see him after a long time. She served him lunch and was telling him about her novel.

"Yes, Malini. Your dad was talking about it yesterday."

"Yesterday? You came here yesterday? Why didn't you..."

"No idea, Grandpa. Oh Mom! I have a party to attend in the evening. I'll be going out in the evening, okay?"

Her mother nodded. She seemed lost.

"Dad? Any word from the publishers?"

"No. They all are a little hesitant to try a debut writer who has had no past experience."

"Okay. We'll see, Dad. We'll find

a way," she said.

In the evening, Malini got ready and was about to leave. She found Prateek with another man in the hall. Prateek looked at her and smiled. "Ah, Malini! Here you are. Meet Mr. Mukesh here."

"Hello, Sir," she said. He smiled at her. Her mom came in with a tray of biscuits. "Okay, Mom. I'll leave now, bye."

"Malini?" Prateek said. "Can you stay home and talk to Mukesh? He might help you..."

"Prateek, I have a party to attend. I already told mom about it."

"Ya, I know. But just today stay back because..."

"Because what, Prateek?" She was furiously now. "Because you don't want me to have any fun? Why are you always doing this to me, hub?"

"Malini, listen dear..." her mom started.

"Maa, I am getting late. Bye!" She said and left.

Next day, her dad wanted to talk to her and called her down to the hall. Both her mom and dad had a very serious expression. She knew what was coming.

"Dad, I am sorry, I know I did a wrong thing by shouting at Prateek like that yesterday. But he tries to control my life a lot."

"Malu, he just wants to spend time with you so badly. And that's why he has been trying to hold you back at home."

"But, why on those days when I have plans of my own when we can spend time on other days too?"

Her dad looked at her mom, who put her on his lap and lipped a "tell her".

"Malini?..."

"Dad? What's wrong?" She was tense now.

"Prateek is..."

At that moment, there was a noise from upstairs and a big thud. After a while, Grandpa called out her dad's name. All of them went running up to find Prateek on the floor with blood vomit all over the floor. Malini's mom took Prateek's head on her lap. Grandpa sprinkled water on his face. Malini was shocked and just stood looking at Prateek.

Grandpa checked Prateek's pulse and found that it was really weak. He was rushed to the hospital.

(To be continued)

MIND MIRROR

Dr. Jayanta Das

The author is a senior consultant psychiatrist. This column is aimed at creating awareness about mental health and well-being. E-mail your queries to sundayreading@assamtribune.com

■ Is depression treatable?

- Anika

Answers: Depression is definitely treatable. One has to be on regular medications as advised by the psychiatrist and regular follow-up with the doctors is required. Treatment is divided into two phases. Acute phase – is to control the current florid symptoms, sometimes even including suicide risk management in severe depression. The maintenance phase – is to prevent further occurrence of the episodes in the future. On certain occasions, only therapy or counselling may be helpful. With regular medication and treatment or therapy, one can live an absolutely normal life, carry on with routine



In the blues

activities and work, and maintain a healthy family and social life. An important thing to remember is that even if florid symptoms are not present, daily medications have to be taken. We cannot rule out the possibility of future episodes of exacerbation of symptoms, because the vulnerability will always be there. Sleep disturbances, stress, or substance abuse can lead to relapse of

symptoms. As family members, we have to take care and keep a watch whether medications are being taken or not, and take the patient to the doctor on follow-up visits.

■ My mother, who is 70 years old, has forgetfulness. Is she having dementia? If so, is it curable?

- S. Jha

Ans: Only forgetfulness cannot be labelled as dementia. At this age,

there might be some underlying depression that can lead to inattention or loss of memory at times. This can be easily labelled as dementia. Also, there are other behavioural, psychological and medical problems that are associated with dementia. So, a proper assessment and evaluation is needed to rule out dementia. The causes of dementia are many. Certain dementia due to medical causes are reversible. So, all dementia cases should be thoroughly investigated to find out the cause. It is a slowly progressive disorder. However, with medication, the disorder can be kept in control. One thing is to be kept in mind that medication doesn't completely cure dementia or stop the progress of the disorder. Medications only help to halt and slow down the progress of the disorder. Certain behavioural symptoms can be kept in control with regular medicines. Also, the role of the caregiver or nursing staff is of immense importance in case of dementia.

MY SPACE

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A little bit of fairy dust is sprinkled upon me from the heavens above. A little fairy takes form and she blesses me by forming a part of me. And that is you, my lovely baby.

As I sit down to pen down a letter to you – who, a number of years hence will come upon it and hopefully understand what I am trying to convey in this letter – I think of my life as a woman.

I have been very fortunate to be born in a part of India, in the lush State of Assam, where the girl child is welcomed and nurtured. But during my life, I have also met girls who have been demeaned for just being a girl.

And that is what I want to tell you today.

Go ahead and create happiness within yourself. Be your own best friend. Of course, fall in love. But fall in love with a partner who respects you and accepts you for who you are.

NEVER let them tell you that you are less of a person because you were born a girl.

'Too revealing', when you wear your favourite swimsuit.

'Too ambitious', when you covet that next job promotion.

'Too heartless', when you reject a man you are not attracted to.

'Too money-minded', when you try to save money for your dream home.

'Too selfish', when you dare to think about yourself first.

Yes, you will always swing between the "too much" and "too little" spectrum. They will always judge you, for being a woman, for being you.

NEVER let that change who you are.

NEVER, ever let a man (or another woman) tell you that you are less of

a person because you were born a girl.

Lovely with all your heart, work hard with all you've got, and dream with all your being.

Do not let being a woman change any of that.

You are a woman and that is a big gift. For we, women are creatures bestowed with an abundance of emotional intelligence, compassion and tenacity. The innate ability to take everything in our stride, the invisible power to turn lemons into lemonade, the patience to overcome adversity and the gentleness to turn hate into love. Use your power to be who you are, however negative or suppressive the external elements are.

NEVER let them tell you that you are not beautiful. If ever they find

flaws in how you look, you take it

in stride. That is not love.

NEVER be too hard on yourself.

Take yourself and life lightly. Laugh a little bit more, from the heart and belly, be silly, be funny, joke a lot, take vacations, watch and cry watching happy movies, play with children. Soak in innocence and laughter wherever you find them.

And lastly, NEVER be afraid to stand up for things that are not right.

A neighbour being domestically abused, a stray dog being beaten, a friend being bullied. Stand up for those things, stand up for kindness. In today's world, a little bit of kindness can go a long way. Be kind to everyone you come across and sprinkle warmth and happiness wherever you are.

You are a woman, you can do anything and be anything, so my mighty girl, go grow up and be a woman, shatter those glass ceilings, be happy and believe in yourself, no matter what!

People Speak

Today's topic

“Is the Indian youth disillusioned by society?”

North-East has been my home – the place where I grew up and where people's lives are deeply compromised. The entire region is characterised by perpetual upheavals creating constant fears and apprehensions and people are uncertain of their future, with constant struggles for dominance between the State and community, tribes and non-tribes, tribes and foreigners, and gender discriminations. Add to that the new wave of investments by the market and big development projects planned in the region is almost breaking the age-old community structures and processes, thus increasing vulnerabilities for all sections of the society.

My young friends of this generation live in this ambience – their problems range from underemployment, unemployment to a void in finding a sense of purpose in life. Over the last 15 years of teaching and counselling youth, I do notice a sense of disillusionment, but the spirit of the young and the resilience they have is remarkable.

You see them as farmers, as teachers, as peace builders, as entrepreneurs, as musicians, as artists and they have never failed to give me strength whenever I am disillusioned!



Society is an amalgamation of different views and opinions. The young minds are vulnerable, highly charged and easily influenced. The Indian youth has had to deal with society probably a lot more, compared to people from other countries, in a much scrutinised way. Every action is judged as per the accepted norms and regulations. But, who sets these said norms and regulations? It is the society which has been shaping ideas for generations. The thin line between good and bad or right and wrong is increasingly getting thinner. At such a time, it is of utmost importance for the youth to apply their own rationale, regardless of societal conventions.

- Armanur Raham, Noida.

India is one amongst countries with a high youth presence. They hold the key to the nation's destiny. Our youth face multiple challenges with rapid development of information technology. But today's Indian youth is disillusioned by society. The educational institutes have become hotbeds of gossip, negative judgements, harassment, violence and hopelessness, which is quite disturbing. The media is creating a hue and cry over the alarming devolution of the youth; there is an urgent need to create moral value awareness of the Indian youth. Today's society is polluted. Elderly, high-valued, experienced members need to interfere to enlighten the youth in the right direction.

- Abhimanyu Barua, Guwahati.

Recently, after some extremist activity in the neighbouring area, a colleague's nephew, an innocent student from a remote village in Upper Assam, was mercilessly beaten by some uniformed men. He was heartbroken, with a mind full of revenge against the State. Completely disillusioned, he now talks of joining an underground organisation. Our housemaid's son had to cough up a handsome amount, illegally, to obtain a permit to ply his new auto van. Disillusioned, he now struggles to make some profit by hook or crook.

An above average student refuses to apply for a government job because her father, a respected teacher, does not know what bribery is. So, indeed, the Indian youth is disillusioned by society.

- Rishiraj Saikia, Guwahati.

India is a country which is currently undergoing the transition phase from a traditional, spiritual society to a modern, rationalistic society. It is natural that there will be a clash of ideologies and way of life based on generation gap, and remoteness or exposure of a place. It is a negative sign for a society if the process of adjusting to modern concepts, ideologies and technologies is retarded through forceful adherence to irrational and obsolete customs. Every child may not be affected by the expectations of society, but each and every child is moulded through the beliefs and expectations of his/her parents. It is not a rare case that rationally constructed ideologies of the youth are slaughtered by forceful commands of society. Parents can aid in this context by supporting the modern values which their children uphold, and which are not necessarily negative.

- Sayeda Faizia Farmin, Gauhati University.

That is not love.

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And lastly, NEVER be afraid to stand up for things that are not right. A neighbour being domestically abused, a stray dog being beaten, a friend being bullied. Stand up for those things, stand up for kindness. In today's world, a little bit of kindness can go a long way. Be kind to everyone you come across and sprinkle warmth and happiness wherever you are.

NEVER search for happiness in another person. Go ahead and create happiness within yourself. Be your own best friend. Of course fall in love. But fall in love with a partner who respects you and accepts you for who you are. But never fall in love with someone who repeatedly deceives you. Someone who thinks less of you is not someone who can love you.

You are a woman, you can do anything and be anything, so my mighty girl, go grow up and be a woman, shatter those glass ceilings, be happy and believe in yourself, no matter what!

An en masse migration

Migration is a fact of life; we all know that. Since time immemorial, the great migrations across the globe have taken place at regular intervals. Across mountain chains, across oceans, across vast rivers, across dense forests full of sprawling predators, people have left homes and hearts for new lands. They travelled with hope in their hearts that the place they were going to, often an unknown land, about which they had only heard, would provide a better life, if not for them, at least for their children. It was this hope that sustained them through all the dangers of their travels, to which many of their fellow migrants succumbed.

Sometimes, like the Ahoms, they came and founded glorious dynasties. But that was rare. Mostly, the migrant worker such as the one signified by the generic name "Bangladeshi" in today's Assam, and North-East, was considered to be lowly in the social hierarchy, though his or her hard work and uncomplaining nature was greatly valued. Sometimes they came to the new country in groups, sometimes they came singly, with nothing in their pockets except perhaps an educational degree, and a willingness to work hard, to give their children, and if possible themselves, a good life.

Migrations have, over the centuries, cross-fertilised civilisations. The migrants carry with them the cultural practices with them into their new land. After a couple of generations, in the melting pot of the new country, this results in a wonderful synthesis, famous examples of these being Creole cooking, or *Baul* music.

The contours of migration have changed considerably in the last decades. Armed with degrees, young or older people migrate in search of better opportunities. This has been the case for a while now. What is new, though, is that with India's economic growth providing great opportunities for them here as well, they often come back to the home country, sometimes in the same company, on a kind of home posting. And in today's world of instant communications, in many jobs, location does not really matter. And indeed, in many smaller cities, even such as ours, the trend is slowly becoming that of reverse migration. Young people sometimes come back to their homes. True, job opportunities in Assam are not too many, but hearteningly, they create their own through entrepreneurial activities. Of course it is

much easier if such an establishment already exists, in the shape of an ancestral firm or establishment of some kind. The returning migrant then happily settles in, and takes it forward with the help of the knowledge he or she has acquired through work experience outside.

However, there is one place where the usual migrant story does not apply, and that is in the city of Shillong. This once-upon-a-time capital of Undivided Assam was home to many migrants, mainly

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan



That shifting border has repercussions that are being played out even today, in emotional terms. It is sad to see the children of those times, middle aged now, come questing for what was once their "home".

of whom worked in the Government in some capacity or the other. Some came in on transfers, and stayed on, often building pretty wooden houses there. Even if the head of the family was transferred to some other place, the wife often stayed on with the children, for the sake of their education. For Shillong was at one time a top-notch town for educational opportunities.

But Greater Assam, in this region of numerous ethnicities, was an artificial construct. Inevitably, it broke up into smaller parts, and the other States of the region came into being. The capital of Assam was shifted, almost overnight, to Gauhati, and Shillong became the capital of Meghalaya. And along with this shifting came the vast migration of those who worked in the Assam Government.

The older people, the parents who had to work in offices that were situated in what was then this messy small town in the plains, suffered. But there is also an untold story about the younger people,

the children who were born in that hill town, and had grown up there. Some had gone out to work elsewhere, others had returned to Shillong to carry on their work. For Shillong was "home", the place where their parents were, where they had grown up, where their friends returned when on holiday. There were familiar faces, and places, which they associated with "home".

And then, suddenly, with a stroke of the pen, almost, this home was home no more. Everything changed. Without going into the politics of it, the human cost was huge. Indeed, in many ways, it is still being played out. Strangely enough, not too many narratives have come out about this uprooting, this heart-wrenching and extremely disorienting event.

Today, those children, those who considered Shillong "home", have all relocated to different places. Not by choice, but because they had to. There was no place for them in what they had looked upon as their home. True, most settled down in other places, and did well, thanks to the excellent education they had received. But through their parents had shifted to homes in the plains, it was difficult for them to think of "home". Always, Shillong was in their hearts.

That shifting border has repercussions that are being played out even today, in emotional terms. It is sad to see the children of those times, middle aged now, come questing for what was once their "home". But the little house has probably changed hands many times. True, over the span of these four decades, changes were bound to happen. But this shifting resulted not in a gradual transformation, but an abrupt cutting off. Suddenly, home was inaccessible, even though it was possible, of course, to visit the place. Unlike a visit to other places that were hometowns, in Shillong that network of cousins, aunts and uncles, even many friends, just vanished. And it was always disorienting to walk the streets which had once been teeming with friends and one's parents' friends, and see not a single known face. Disorienting, and sad.

All Things Considered, it is indeed poignant to see the children of that generation wander about the streets of Shillong looking for familiar faces, and landmarks. And the history of this enforced migration is still waiting to be written.

5 THINGS / Scribe stories

"Visible to the world"

Award winning journalist and author TERESA REHMAN writes about her experiences.

1 We have to go the extra mile

We are in many ways chroniclers of our times. That is why our responsibility towards our social and cultural milieu is manifold. We have to go the extra mile to get the truth about what is happening in the world around us. I have learnt to be sensitive when I have reported from conflict zones.

2 It is important to have a strong network of women

I believe it is important to have a strong network of women in media who can support each other. We need spaces for women in media professions to share information and resources, exchange ideas, promote media awareness and ethics, and work for gender equality and justice within the media and society. There are two such networks that I am a part of – Network of Women in Media, and South Asia Women in Media. These two networks have helped me connect with women in media all over South Asia.

3 One of my pet topics is sanitation

I had initiated a group of journalists called Sanitation Scribes. "Where is your toilet?"

I have learnt to consciously ask this question to almost everyone I meet on my reporting assignments. The instant reaction is of embarrassment. Issues like open defecation, menstruation and sanitary pads, toilets, waste disposal are considered very private, something not to be discussed in public and definitely not with a journalist. I discovered compelling stories in the process and even managed to bag the prestigious WASH Media Award 2010 given by



the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

4 We forgot that men are an integral part of our women-based stories

Once Sathyi Saran, former editor of Femina magazine asked me, "When you do a story on women, do you ever talk to the men?" This got me thinking. Sometimes, we are so skewed in our reporting that we forget that men are an integral part of our women-based stories. They are two sides of the same coin.

5 A dream to be visible to the world

In *The Thumb Print*, I am actually living a dream – a dream to be visible to the world. I have personally reported from this region for many 'national' media houses in India and have always struggled to find space. Instead of begging for space, I decided to create my own space. I want to take the stories of the men, women and children – to the world and bring the world closer.

(As told to Indrani Raivedra)

FORECAST

MARCH 20 – 26, 2017

ARIES



(MAR 21 – APR 19)
From the beginning of the week, you will be inclined towards improving your business by adding some extra resources. You will feel that it is necessary to make some changes with the changing time.

TAURUS



This week, you would wish to focus on education and studies of your children. You will try to guide them towards better results, but due to your busy schedule, you will not be able to spare enough time for your children, which will make you worried.

GEMINI



From the beginning of the period itself, you will get many chances to spend some quality time with your family. Your planets will support you to become stronger and better. You will be more kind and generous with your brothers.

CANCER



Now, along with improving your business, you will also equally focus on maintaining harmony in your domestic life. However, it will not be an easy task to take forward your business in the first half of the week.

LEO



From Monday through Wednesday itself, you will be making a gradual progress in business. You will see that there is an opportunity to purchase a land, but you will also have to consider a lot of legal aspects before making a final decision.

VIRGO



You will be ready to do some creative work. You will be highly focussed and determined to make your career stronger and beautiful. Not only this, you will also give a good amount of time in improving your personality. With regard to your health, this period will be favourable.

LIBRA



You will be getting ready to participate in a function of a close relative. Despite your busy schedule, you will feel that it is mandatory to attend this function. You will initiate dialogue with a few organisations regarding your money investments.

SCORPIO



Now is the time when you will get far better results from your income sources than your actual expectations. You will be able to sharpen your decision-making skills as well. The second half of the week will be hectic.

SAGITTARIUS



You will consider this period as an opportunity. You would wish to serve your parents throughout the week. At the same time, you will be prepared to complete your tasks in the given time.

CAPRICORN



Monday through Wednesday, you will plan to conduct a religious function in your family. For this, you will get decent support from your family members as well. In the second phase of the week, you will be engaged in making your professional aspects better.

AQUARIUS



During the week, your main priority will be to strengthen your professional areas. But, you will be more worried due to the hectic routine. You wish to make the most out of this week, but you will struggle to make some free time for yourself.

PISCES



You will be interested to expand your business. You will also try to find some ways to improve your income level. Health will be a little dull. You may need to visit a doctor and take some basic treatment.

MOVIE WATCH

Bidisha Singh

T2 Trainspotting

Cast: Ewan McGregor, Ewen Bremner, Jonny Lee Miller, Robert Carlyle.
Director: Danny Boyle.

Sequel to the hugely successful *Trainspotting*, this one is set in and around Edinburgh and is based on the characters created by Irvine Welsh in his novel *Trainspotting*, and its follow-up *Porno*. Starring the original ensemble cast, the film starts 20 years after the first, with several references to the first movie, as Mark Renton returns to the only place he can ever call home. They are all waiting for him – Spud, Sick Boy and Begbie. So also are the gamut of emotions that come rushing back to welcome him. Garnering great reviews from most critics, it's a must watch for those who have watched the original.

Weekly Top Grossers

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Kong: Skull Island | 6. Before I Fall |
| 2. Logan | 7. John Wick: Chapter Two |
| 3. Get Out | 8. Hidden Figures |
| 4. The Shack | 9. La La Land |
| 5. The Lego Batman Movie | 10. A Dog's Purpose |

A Dog's Purpose

Cast: Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid, Peggy Lipton.
Director: Lasse Hallström.

A Dog's Purpose is a 2017 American comedy-drama, based on the 2010 novel of the same name by W. Bruce Cameron. Emotionally stirring like most dog movies are, this one tells the story of one dog in his different reincarnations from birth to death. Panning over 50 years, the dog Bailey lives through four lives with different owners, to finally reunite with his first owner, helping him get back on life's track, thus realising the purpose of his canine life.

ALL IS WELL

Judith Orloff

Tearing up

F or over 20 years as a physician, I've witnessed, time and again, the healing power of tears. Tears are your body's release valve for stress, sadness, grief, anxiety, and frustration. Also, you have tears of joy, say when a child is born or tears of relief when a difficulty has passed. In my own life, I am grateful when I can cry. It feels like cleansing, a way to purge pent up emotions so they don't fester in my body as stress symptoms such as fatigue or pain. To stay healthy and release stress, I encourage my patients to cry. For both men and women, tears are a sign of courage, strength, and authenticity.

Like the ocean, tears are salt water. Protectively they lubricate your eyes, remove irritants, reduce stress hormones, and they contain antibodies that fight pathogenic microbes. Our bodies produce three kinds of tears: reflex, continuous, and emotional. Each kind has different healing roles. For instance, reflex tears allow your eyes to clear out noxious particles when they're irritated by smoke or exhaust. The second kind, continuous tears, are produced regularly to keep our eyes lubricated – these contain a chemical called 'lysozyme', which functions as an

anti-bacterial and protects our eyes from infection. Tears also travel to the nose through the tear duct to keep the nose moist and bacteria free. Typically, after crying, our breathing, and heart rate decrease, and we enter a calmer biological and emotional state.

Emotional tears have special health benefits. Biochemist and 'tear expert' Dr. William Frey discovered that reflex tears are 98 per cent water, whereas emotional tears also contain stress hormones which get excreted from the body through crying. After studying the composition of tears, Dr. Frey found that emotional tears shed these hormones and other toxins which accumulate during stress. Additional studies also suggest that crying stimulates the production of endorphins, our body's natural pain killer and 'feel-good' hormones.

Crying makes us feel better, even when a problem persists. In addition to physical detoxification, emotional tears heal the heart. You don't want to hold tears back. My heart goes out to them when I hear this. I know where that sentiment comes from: parents who were uncomfortable around tears, a society that tells us we're weak for crying – in particular that 'powerful men don't cry'. I reject these notions. The new enlightened paradigm of what constitutes a powerful man and woman is someone who has the strength and self awareness to cry.

To try to let go of outmoded, untrue, conceptions about crying. It is good to cry. It is healthy to cry. This helps to emotionally clear sadness and stress. Crying is also essential to resolve grief, when waves of tears periodically come over us after we experience a loss. Tears help us process the loss so we can keep living with open hearts. Otherwise, it is a set up for depression if we suppress these potent feelings.

I've been this enthusiastic about crying for years. In fact, during my psychiatric residency, when supervisors and I watched videos of me with patients, they'd point out that I'd smile when a patient cried. "That's inappropriate," they'd say. I disagreed then, still do. I wasn't smiling because my patients were depressed or grieving. I was smiling because they were courageously healing depression or other difficult emotions with tears. I was happy for their breakthrough. In my life, too, I love to cry. I cry whenever I can. Wish I could more. Thank God our bodies have this capacity. I hope you too can appreciate the experience. Let your tears flow to purify stress and negativity.

