

## NEWS CAPSULE

### Border outposts

NEW DELHI, July 18: The Centre has decided to reduce the number of composite border outposts along the 1,600-km long Bangladesh border. Now 422 outposts will be constructed instead of 509, Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said in Lok Sabha today. – Spk Correspondent

### New China tank

NEW DELHI, July 18: India today confirmed that China has undertaken trial of a new tank on the Tibetan plateau. In a Rajya Sabha reply, Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhambhani quoted the Chinese Ministry of Defence to confirm the development. – Spk Correspondent

### Addl portfolio

NEW DELHI, July 18: Textiles Minister Smriti Irani was today given the additional charge of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, while the portfolio of urban development was given to Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment. – PTI

### Truce violation

JAMMU, July 18: The Pakistan army violated ceasefire today targeting civilian areas and Indian positions along the LOC by firing mortar shells in four sectors in the Rajouri and Poonch districts, prompting the Indian Army to retaliate, officials said. – PTI

**Cop electrocuted**  
DIBRUGARH, July 18: Minaram Sonowal (54), a policeman posted in Tingkhong PS reportedly electrocuted in his home at Ophphala this morning. Sonowal was electrocuted while opening the grill of his house. – Staff Correspondent

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

Sonowal-led delegation meets Modi

## State seeks special package to strengthen dykes

KALYAN BAROOAH

NEW DELHI, July 18: Faced with devastating flood and erosion, the Assam government today called for a special package for strengthening the network of embankments in the State, besides deputation of a high-level Central team led by a Union minister to assess the damages caused by floods and erosion.

A delegation of BJP MPs led by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal this afternoon met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his Parliament House office here and discussed a host of issues concerning the delegation included Ramen Deka, RP Sharma, Bijoya Chakravarty, Kamaladeva Prasad Tasa, Rameswar Teli and Pradip Baruah.

Later talking to this news- paper, the Chief Minister said that their prime demand was sanction of a special package for repair and re-enforcement of the 5,000-odd kilometres of embankment. The dykes have not been repaired for the last 50-60 years.



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal interacting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi on Tuesday. - UB Photos

The Chief Minister said they have also demanded that a sum of Rs 1,138.5 crore due to the State under the Flood Management Programme (FMP) should be restored to the State to meet the situation caused by the floods. The

amount sanctioned in the last financial year had lapsed, Sonowal added.

The Prime Minister wanted to know how many districts have been affected by floods and details of the devastations

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## Hottest July day in 10 years for Guwahati

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 18: As a depression, lying over the north-west Bay of Bengal and its adjoining areas of coastal Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh, is preventing incursion of moisture towards the northeastern region, Guwahati today recorded the highest July day (maximum) temperature of 38.4 degree Celsius during the past ten years making life miserable for the citizens. Today's day temperature of Guwahati was also 6.6 degree Celsius above its normal day temperature meant for the day.

Under the impact of the prevailing weather system, the monsoon system has ceased to be active over the NE region provisionally, said sources in

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## China slams India over Doklam row

Borjhar-based Regional Meteorology Centre (RMC) here this evening.

However, the RMCS maintained that the above depression, which is lying centred above 70 km east, northeast of Gopalpur in Odisha and about 50 km southwest of Puri, is very likely to move west, northwestward and cross the Odisha coast tonight and become weak. The monsoon system is hence likely to move towards the NE region partially within a day or two, bringing rainfall activities back to the region.

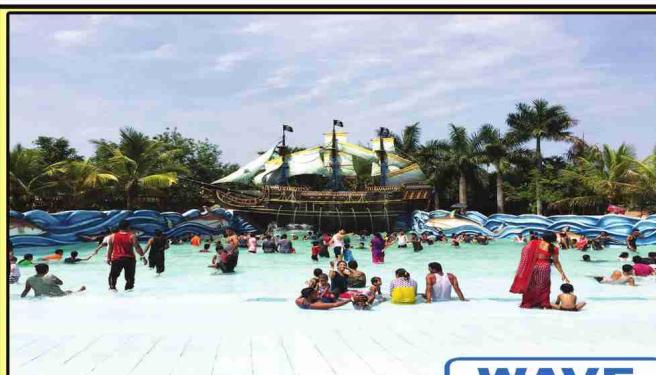
Sources further said that the prevailing weather condition has made hazy record a day temperature of 38.6 degree Celsius today. North Lakhimpur today

should not use "trespass" into the Doklam area in the Sikkim sector as a "policy tool" to achieve its "political targets", China said today, asking New Delhi to immediately withdraw its troops to avoid any escalation of tension.

The foreign ministry also said it was in "close communication" with foreign missions in Beijing on the stand-off with India, but refused to confirm whether it held a special briefing for them on the issue.

"Since the illegal trespass by Indian border personnel, many foreign diplomats in China felt shocked about this and (want) to confirm whether it was true," the ministry's spokesman Lu Kang said when asked about the reported briefing.

Source further said that the prevailing weather condition has made hazy record a day temperature of 38.6 degree Celsius today. North Lakhimpur today



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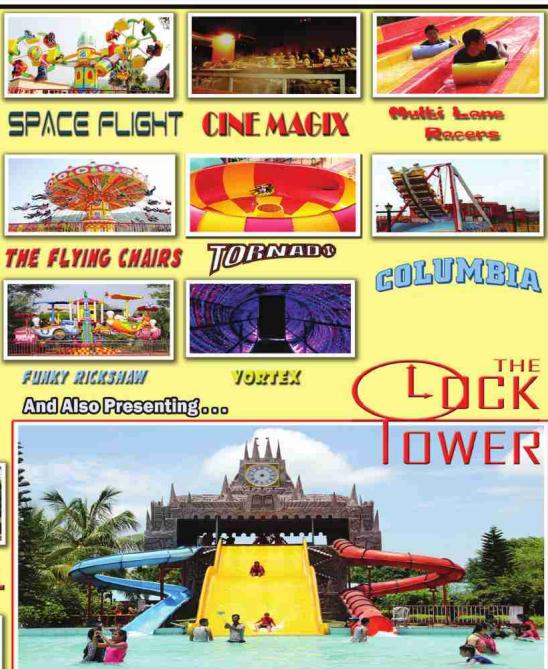


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Gas shortage grave, admits govt  
New gas pipeline proposed from Barauni to Assam

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 18: Admitting that the situation arising out of shortage of natural gas in Assam is grave, Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary today said that unless the gas was brought from outside the survival of many industries in the State would be at stake.

With no major new discoveries being made in the region in recent times, the State is pinning hopes on the proposed gas pipeline Barauni for which the Central government has floated EoI (expression of interest).

Patowary was also "critical" of the performance of ONGC in the State and said he has spoken to the Central government urging it to hand over some assets of the company here to other PSUs like OIL. "We don't have the connection with the national grid. If new fields are not discovered, the future of many industries like tea gardens, fertilizer, etc., is bleak. Due to the shortage of gas, Lepchakata-based Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL) has not even gone up to achieving 50 per cent of its capacity," Patowary said.

Expressing his unhappiness at the performance of ONGC, the

minister said, "Last year many tea gardens in Karbi Anglong were facing a shortage of gas despite the presence of an ONGC field nearby. Since about a year now, I have been asking the ONGC to collect the gas and provide it to us... In fact, I have even spoken to the Union Petroleum Minister to hand over the ONGC fields to other PSUs."

"If GAIL does not undertake the project, OIL, Assam Gas Company Ltd and the Government of Assam could float a joint venture company and may undertake it. But the first preference should be GAIL due to its expertise," Bora said.

The OIL has conducted a feasibility study of laying the new gas pipeline parallel to its existing oil pipeline that runs

(See page 4)

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Application with complete testimonials from H.S.L.C onwards are invited from the candidates having the latest UGC Normal with NET/SET/ SET qualification for filling the following permanent posts. The candidates who have obtained Ph. D. Degree in accordance with the UGC regulations 2009 shall be preferred. The requirement of the minimum eligibility condition of NET/SET/SET. The age of the candidates must not be more than 48 years as on 01/01/2017 and reliable up to 5 years for ST/SSC candidate. The minimum eligibility marks came in Master's Degree level is 55% and above. Marks 50% may be provided at the Graduate and Master's Degree level for the ST/SC differently abled categories. A relaxation of 5% may be provided for the differently abled holders who have obtained their Master's Degree prior to September 19, 1991. The in-service candidate have to submit NOC from the appropriate authority of the concerned Assam State. Sl. No. 01, One post of Assistant Professor in Education (Unreserved) 02, One post of Assistant Professor in History (Reserved for OBC). The candidates must submit PRC and must know local language. Applications for all the posts require testimoniating including Mobile No. and E-mail id must reach to the following Address within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement along with non refundable D/D of Rs. 1500/- (Rupees fifteen hundred only) to be drawn in favour of the Prince Kamargao College, Kamargao payable at BBI, Kamargao.

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## Remains of Indian Buddhist monk donated to Chinese authorities

BEIJING, July 18: The well-preserved remains of a mummified Buddhist monk from India who migrated to China have been donated by a Chinese temple to the local government in northern Hebei Province, a state-run media reported today. The remains are said to belong to Buddhist master Cixian Sanzang in the Khotan Empire or Liao Dynasty (916-1125).

"Underneath the gold foil and incense ashes of the statue, teeth from the upper jaw, as well as the ribs and the spine were well preserved, including even the joints," Wu Yongqing, a senior orthopaedic doctor with the No. 1 People's Hospital of Wuan City said.

The remains were donated by Dinghu Temple in Huoshui town to Wuan's cultural relics protection institute. Master Cixian was from India and went to Khotan, translating many important sutras. After he passed away, his body was kept in soil and paint, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. According to Wang Wei, head of the Wuan City's cultural relics protection institute, the remains are quite precious. — PTI

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

#### ACHIEVEMENT



Mrs. Chitra Devi, Asstt. Professor, Deptt. of Education, D.R.C. College, Golaghat has been awarded the degree of Ph. D by Gauhati University for her thesis entitled, "Effects of Parental Awareness and Socio-Economic Status on Performance of the Students in Class-X Board Examination of Assam-A Study in Borgaonga District." She carried on her research work under the guidance of Dr. Minati Choudhury, Reid, Vice-Principal, Duhung College and Research Guide, Deptt. of Education, Gauhati University. She is the daughter of Sri Chhatrasingh Nath and Smt. Madhabati Nath of Boitamari, Borgaonga and wife of Sri Bijit Gogoi, Peoli Phukan Nagar, Ward No. 13, Sivasagar. Achieve/751/1

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

An interview will be held on 21 to 30 July (Friday) at 10 AM to 4 PM for the Post of PG Teacher for those who already applied. Sd/- Principal, Pimbaras Girls' HS School, Ghy. I. PNP/P/1447/2/1

I. Barnali Banik, D/o Gour Biswaranjan Banik residing at H.No. 29, Birilar Baru, Binbari, Guwahati- 16 have changed by surname from 'Banik' to 'Roy' vide affidavit No. 24 before the Notary Public Kamrup, Guwahati in Guwahati (Metro) dated 6th July 2015. Henceforth, she will be known as Barnali Roy instead of Barnali Banik. As such Barnali Roy and Barnali Banik is the same individual person. PNP/P/1448/1/8/1

I. No. 63851/28 - K, Es. NK ISICGD (TS). Hemanta Taise, S/o Late Agam Sing Taise, R/o. Vill. Chaukhaura, P.S. Barbarugh, Dist. Dibrugarh, Assam have declared in the court of the Judicial Magistrate at Dibrugarh dt. 14.07.2017 that I wish to change and correct my son's name and date of birth in my service record as Girish Taise, Date of Birth 13.01.1999 instead of Girish Ch. Taise, Date of Birth 13.01.1998. PNP/1756/1

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Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif greeting United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres at the UN headquarters in New York City on Monday. — PTI

## Fresh calls for Zuma to step down on Mandela birth anniversary

JOHANNESBURG, July 18: As millions of South Africans today marked the 99th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela, there were also renewed calls for embattled President Jacob Zuma to step down over his alleged links to tycoons.

More than 100 civil society organisations, including the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, named after Mandela's long-time fellow political prisoner and confidante who died in March this year, held a joint meeting here where speakers renewed calls for Zuma to step down.

The 75-year-old President has come under pressure for the past two years following revelations of alleged state capture through his links with the wealthy Gupta family originally from India.

In Cape Town, highly-acclaimed former South African anti-apartheid Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan during a panel discussion on Radio Station 702 called on Mandela's legacy for Zuma to step down to allow the country to fulfil the aspirations of Mandela.

Zuma fired Gordhan a few months ago amid the huge public outcry about the decision bringing about a serious downgrade in South Africa's status by international ratings agencies.

Gordhan said Mandela as the first democratically elected President had a sense of purpose that was non-negotiable.

"For a country that has produced a Madiba – and by that, I mean not just the individual, but that collective of leaders – we should be ashamed of ourselves in terms of how we are attempting to conduct ourselves in leadership terms today," Gordhan said.

Also in Cape Town, almost 1,000 people participated in a walk from the Grand Parade, where crowds gathered to listen to Mandela's iconic speech delivered from a balcony at the City Hall in 1990 after his release from prison, to the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) to celebrate the Mandela Day.

At the CTICC, the 10th anniversary of a group set up by Mandela known as 'The Elders' was marked with the launch of the 'Walk Together' movement, which aims to continue the work started by Mandela to bring about peace and respect for human rights globally.

Amid all the political activity, individuals and organisations undertook huge spending projects and distribution of clothing and blankets on one of the coldest days of the winter in many areas of South Africa.

Despite all the frenzied participation in community activities for which many corporates allowed staff to take off from work, the Nelson Mandela Foundation called on all South Africans to make every day a Mandela Day through a renewed commitment to making a sustainable difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

July 18 was declared as the Mandela Day by the United Nations in 2009.

The revered leader, regarded as the father of the democratic nation, died in 2013. — PTI

## May asks party MPs to stop 'backbiting'

LONDON, July 18: British Prime Minister Theresa May has warned her Conservative Party MPs to stop "backbiting" or risk having Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn lead the UK Government.

The Conservative Party chief has been plagued by infighting and plots to overthrow her since her gamble to call a snap election backfired last month and lost the Tories their overall majority in the House of Commons.

The Conservative Party chief has been seeking to undermine Hammond, UK Home Secretary Amber Rudd insisted ministers were "united in wanting to make sure that we deliver a Brexit that does protect the economy."

She also reportedly told her party colleagues to go away over the summer for a "proper break" and "come back ready for serious business" as Parliament breaks for its summer recess in the UK this week.

May followed up the warning at a Cabinet meeting today, in an attempt to enforce discipline by ordering her top team to stop leaks

and damaging briefings against UK Chancellor Philip Hammond. Ahead of the Cabinet meeting, a Downing Street spokesperson said: "Government must be able to hold discussions of government policy in private and the Prime Minister will be reminding her colleagues of that."

Over the weekend, Hammond had claimed that his Cabinet colleagues were briefing reporters against him because they were "not happy with the agenda that I have."

Asked whether Cabinet members were seeking to undermine Hammond, UK Home Secretary Amber Rudd insisted ministers were "united in wanting to make sure that we deliver a Brexit that does protect the economy."

"Philip Hammond has talked about that and he is absolutely right to do so," she said.

The latest rows at the top level of the UK Government are being perceived as another example of May's weakness in the wake of the general election which left the Conservatives dependent on the Democratic Unionist Party for support to get government Bills passed in the Commons. — PTI

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The injured included four women who were sent to the hospital for treatment. An eyewitness said that 20 people were residing in the building.

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## Six killed in Pak building collapse

KARACHI, July 18: At least six persons, including a woman and a child, were killed and a dozen others injured today when a dilapidated three-storey building collapsed in this Pakistani port city, officials said.

Rescue workers pulled out the survivors and bodies from under the rubble in Liaquatabad town and shifted them to a hospital. Several other residents were feared stuck in the rubble.

The injured included four women who were sent to the hospital for treatment. An eyewitness said that 20 people were residing in the building.

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## 11 rebels killed in Syria

BEIRUT, July 18: Nearly a dozen Syrian rebels have been killed in hit-and-run clashes with a US-backed alliance dominated by Kurdish forces in the country's north, a monitoring group said today.

Rebels were locked in their second day of fighting today with units from the Syrian Democratic Forces around the village of Ain Daqqa.

"The fighting (on Monday) killed 11 fighters from Syrian rebel factions and wounded four SDF fighters," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Ain Daqqa, in Aleppo province, has been held by the US-backed SDF since February. It lies in a contested sliver of land between the alliance and Turkish-backed rebels.

Ankara considers the YPG a branch of the Kurdish Workers' Party, which has waged an insurgency inside Turkey since 1984. Rights groups, including Amnesty International, have accused the YPG of razing villages and displacing residents in northern Syria, which the militia has denied. — AFP

### Construction works at BPF Training Centre of APDI

E-Tender Notice No. 43/W-2/2017/ADPJ dated 14-07-2017 E-Tender Notice for Construction of Civil Works for the Project titled following works will be closed on 21-08-2017 at 13.00 hrs. and will be opened on 21-08-2017 at 16.00 hrs. DRHM(W)/APDJ's office SN.01

Tender No.: 12-AP-III-2017 Name of Work: Work of Construction of 23 units of Residential Building at Manda

Development of Goods

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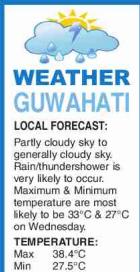
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## 2 minor sisters meet with watery grave

**CORRESPONDENT**

JALUKBARI, July 18: In a tragic incident, two sisters drowned in the Bhalari river at Jyoti Kuchi under Fatasibari Police Station today.

The deceased were identified as Sajida Begum (13) and her younger sister Maina Begum (10).

According to sources, the girls met with the watery grave while they were trying to cross the river on a plantain raft. They had gone to a local shop to buy some grocery items. As they were returning, Maina fell into the water. As her elder sister Sajida tried to rescue her, she too fell into the water.

The sisters were taken out of the river by the locals and rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared them dead.

## Meeting of task force on malaria, JE, dengue

**STAFF REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, July 18: A meeting of the District Task Force on malaria, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and dengue was held in the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metro here today.

The meeting, held under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner Barnali Sarma, discussed the present status of vector-borne diseases in the district and laid emphasis on gearing up activities like fogging and conducting mass awareness programmes, among other measures.

Sarma instructed the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) and the Joint Director of Health Services of Kamrup Metro to set up a control room for JE and dengue.

She also directed GMC and the Health department to jointly prepare an action plan for carrying out fogging in all the wards of the city.

## 'Proactive role of society can check drug abuse'

GUWAHATI, July 18: A proactive role of the society is required to check the increasing problem of drug addiction in Assam, Dispur MLA Atul Bora said last evening while speaking as the chief guest in an inaugural function of a new Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Centre in Guwahati run by a public charitable trust Hope Foundation, stated a press release.

Bora warned that drug addiction has assumed alarming proportions with even children falling prey to substance abuse of commonly available chemicals like dendri and erazex. He lauded the efforts of the new institution and urged them to do research also to study the reasons for this negative growth.

Dr Sunita Changkakati, chairperson of the Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, speaking as the guest of honour, also called for greater community participation in tackling this menace.

Earlier, managing trustee of Hope Foundation, Kangkana Hazarika Choudhury; project director of the rehab, Rabiah Islam; and programme coordinator Dipanbar Baruah; all spoke in detail on the problem and the treatment model.

## PWD's excuses galore for state of Panikhaiti-Chandrapur road

**RITURAJ BORTHKUR**

GUWAHATI, July 18: Nowadays, the buzzwords on the corridors of the State Secretariat are Digital India, Smart City, wi-fi connectivity, et al. But, just about 15 km from the seat of power, people travelling on the Narengi-Panikhaiti stretch everyday are not much amused by these highfalutin words. They are crying for a decent road for years now, and the cry has only gone shriller by the day, with little or no attention coming from the government.

What has been shocking for residents of greater Panikhaiti-Chandrapur-Mayong area is that despite lying so close to capital Dispur and under the Dispur constituency, the road has remained horrid for years together.

Settled in patches of land surrounded by water, hundreds of people have to reach the main road by boat only to experience a harrowing ride in 'Magic' four-wheelers or 'tuk-tuks' to the city on the backbreaking and dilapidated State Highway. Private vehicles

breaking down due to the condition of the road is no news to people of this area today. If floodwaters are the bane of citizens in the rainy season, the dry season is no boon either, as dust pollution takes over to leave them in a quandary. The State PWD has excuses galore for the lax maintenance of the road, where, according to the officials themselves, the last major carpeting repair work was done in 2012.

For the record, the road is now under the Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP) of the State PWD, which looks after the World Bank-funded projects. Before that, it was under the City 3 Division of PWD. The World Bank had approved the project connecting Narengi to Bhaktagan in Morigaon (50.86 km) more than four years back.

PWD officials say the environmental clearance for the project took some time as it passes through the Amechang and Pitoria wildlife sanctuaries, which delayed execution of the project.

As the World Bank had already approved



the project, the State government did not bother to sanction any other work on the stretch during these years, despite repeated pleas from the locals. The work order was given only in December last.

The WB project has been divided into

stretches. The two-km stretch from Narengi to Bonda will be four-lane. The Rs 16.79 crore has been awarded to Jayanti Contractor Pvt Ltd. The Bonda-Gavali stretch, which is around 20 km, will be executed by Sweety Infrastructure Pvt. This stretch

of the road will not be widened – the existing road will be revamped with pathways on both sides.

According to the work order, the entire project needs to be completed in 18 months. However, six months on and there has been little progress.

Now, the PWD blames it on the shortage of construction materials. To escape the wrath of the people, the contractors had reportedly filled some potholes with bricks recently, only to invite the ire of organisations like the AASU.

"Following the protests, we held a meeting with the locals. We convinced them that the bricks would be laid properly with rollers and would be removed once the actual work starts," a PWD official said.

With the reported shortage of construction materials continuing and in view of the ongoing rainy season, it appears that the work on the road, if at all, is unlikely to gain pace before September. As such, the people of the area, in all likelihood, will have to experience another tormenting summer.

## Artiste from Assam found dead at Gurugram, husband arrested

**SPL CORRESPONDENT**

Bidisha was a popular face, known mostly for her acting in



very recently. She was living at the Sushant Apartment in Huda city, Sec-43, Gurugram.

Earlier, sources close to the family alleged that the case was being handled sloppily by Sector 43 Police Station in Gurugram. The case was under the supervision of DCP Dipak Kumar. It was alleged that no first responders was recorded. An FIR had been lodged, but no charge was allegedly framed. However, following Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's intervention, the police swung into action and managed to arrest Bidisha's husband. He will be produced in the court tomorrow.

Bidisha shifted to Mumbai, before returning to New Delhi

## Admin set to conduct eviction along city road

**STAFF REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, July 18: The Kamrup Metro district administration is preparing to carry out an eviction drive to remove encroachers at various places along the stretch from Zoo Road Tiniali to Bonda and Panikhaiti.

The demarcation exercise for the main drive, which is expected to be started tomorrow, began this morning.

The move has come following complaints from various quarters regarding encroachment by squatters on government land, which has among other things led to hindrance to the free flow of rainwater through the channels and drains.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metro Nabipad Pathak, along with the circle officers of the Guwahati and Chandrapur revenue circles, oversaw the demarcation exercise.

A drive to clean up the drain along the Zoo Narengi Road was also started. Kamrup Metro Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamithu said that the drive would be carried out over the next three-four days.

## Bad behaviour of doctors

**B**ad behaviour by doctors and nurses has always been healthcare's dirty little secret. Almost everyone in the healthcare industry has a story to tell about harassment, insults traded back and forth or a screaming match in hospitals or nursing homes. Outrageous behaviour is common in almost all these places.

My mother had a low platelet count. So the attending doctor of the health clinic concerned advised her to take an injection at night. When the pharmacists of many nearby pharmacies refused to administer the injection at home, I took her to a healthcare facility at Six Mile for the injection around 8:30 pm. I also took the prescription with me. However, the doctor of the casualty department refused to administer the injection as my mother is a patient of another hospital. At around 9 pm, I took my mother to the previous hospital for the injection. What would have happened if my mother's condition had deteriorated while going from one hospital to another through heavy traffic jam? Doctors are said to be life savours and we expect a positive response from them. – **Chimpi Sarma, Panjabori**

### citizens' voice

citizens' voice  
express their Guwahati views within 100 words and mail the same to [citizenvoice26@gmail.com](mailto:citizenvoice26@gmail.com)

rather lengthened the process, as it takes more than a month to book a slot to take the learner's test. Also, while I was taking the learner's licence test, I faced a technical glitch where few questions got skipped without my knowledge. The authority said that they weren't responsible for such occurrences. This major glitch could have got my test terminated. Therefore, the authorities should look into this matter and take responsibilities for such happenings.

Improvement of the online system with the introduction fee payment is a must. – **Layan Kaushik, Hatigar Chariali, Guwahati**

### Ganesh Mandir Road

On several roads of the city, although the authorities have installed temporary barricades to debar illegal parking of vehicles, it is seen that some vehicle owners invariably defy the system for their selfish gains, and the shopkeepers on the roadsides also seem to abhor this system as it seems to hamper their business interests. As a result, the barricades are never in the place where they are supposed to be. Such actions put other road users in great inconvenience, because the road is broken in several parts as well. One such road is the Ganesh Mandir Path of the New Guwahati area under the Noornami Police Station. The width of the road is narrowed further because two-wheeler are parked on the road almost all the time. We hope the authorities concerned would prove their mettle by foiling such designs of these unscrupulous rule-breakers and also ensure strict and regular monitoring of the traffic situation on this road. – **Shaswati Parashar, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati**



Noted Music director Ramen Choudhury (3rd L) along with others releasing an audio CD titled Ghoxaamrit containing musical rendering of a few cantos of Mahapurush Madhvadev's Naam Ghoxa, at Guwahati Press Club on Tuesday.

## If you find any abandoned child, please contact any of the following :

- **Child Line (Toll Free Number 1098)**
- **Local Police**
- **Any Specialised Adoption Agency (SAA)**
- **Child Welfare Committee (CWC)**
- **District Child Protection Unit (DCPU)**



**Note : Please do not handover the child to any unauthorised person.**

### Contact Details of SAA

- Student Welfare Mission, Barpeta ☎ 9864395683
- Nichima orphanage Home Society, Chirang ☎ 9957721145
- Shanti Seva Ashram, Tinsukia ☎ 9435037524
- Sadau asom Gramya Puthibharal Santha, Nagaon ☎ 9435061686
- Sri Sri Sewa Ashram, Dhemaji ☎ 9954440848
- SHAPE, Sibsagar ☎ 9859287662
- Matri Mandir, Kamrup (M) ☎ 9864023725
- ICCW, Kamrup (M) ☎ 8011001191
- NEARD, Dhubri ☎ 9957722119
- Morigaon Mahila Mehfil, Morigaon ☎ 9435164216
- Nivedita Nari Sangstha, Cachar ☎ 9435070157
- Jagruti Sanmilita Unnayan Kendra, Lakhimpur ☎ 9435097324
- Golaghat Nirman Mahila Got, Golaghat ☎ 8752886767
- Hosana Orphan Home, Dima Hasao ☎ 9435700923
- Mission Concern, Karbi Anglong ☎ 8403817997 / 8575660419
- Destiny NGO, Karimganj ☎ 9435025988 / 9957070131
- Gramya Vikash Mancha, Nalbari ☎ 9864354888
- Fherenga Dao (NGO), Udaguri ☎ 9864623957
- Eight Brothers Social Welfare Society, Sonitpur ☎ 9864025972

**Published by State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)**  
O/o State Child Protection Society, Assam  
Under Social Welfare Department  
Survey, Guwahati, ☎ 0361-2229275  
email: [saraassam8@gmail.com](mailto:saraassam8@gmail.com)

## MESSAGE FOR TODAY

You can adopt the attitude there is nothing you can do, or you can see the challenge as your call to action.

- CATHERINE PULSIFER

**The Assam Tribune**

## RTI concerns

Two different aspects of the Right to Information (RTI) Act have been raised in totally different contexts, but are of relevance to the issue as to what type of information can be obtained under it. In Assam the State Information Commission had made the crucial observation that personal information, which is exempted under the RTI Act of 2005, or third party information, can be divulged by the relevant authorities if it serves public interest. However, the public interest served must outweigh any possible harm or injury the disclosure of such information might cause to the third party. Constitutionally, the right to privacy is as essential as the right to information, and personal information should not be normal circumstances be made public. Petitions lying before the Supreme Court of India regarding the mandatory linking of Aadhaar, which contains biometric details of individuals, with other actions including filing of income tax, have objected on such ground. Thus while granting access to third party personal information, the Commission does not need to examine the entire ramifications of any RTI request and satisfy for itself whether public interest is really being served. It is within the realm of possibility that the individual seeking information on a third party might be wanting it for personal reasons and not for public benefit and the RTI authorities have to weigh carefully the motive of the ones seeking this information.

The second aspect is of equal importance. The Reserve Bank of India has submitted before the Supreme Court that it was not in favour of publishing the list of loan defaulters who owed the public sector banks Rs 300 crore or more because such disclosure might involve the statutory, contractual and fiduciary rights of the defaulters. Earlier, the Apex Court had wanted to know the RBI's response to the suggestion that names of such defaulters should be put in the public domain because they had been using taxpayers' money. In declining to do so the RBI has also asserted that publication of the list of defaulters would hurt business climate in the country and endanger the jobs of thousands! The spurious nature of the central bank's arguments needs hardly to be stated; as the counsel for the petitioner has pointed out, the RTI also covers the RBI and it has to respond to queries when these are sought by members of the public. Also, there is an element of hypocrisy in the RBI's refusal to disclose names of the bigger fish; it is no secret that banks have in the past put up notices along with photographers of petty defaulters in newspapers, the objective being to shame them into paying up. The public has every right to know about the identities of those who are fiddling with the taxpayers' money, something which the RBI needs to concede.

## Jail bribery charge

Money can buy almost anything and everything. It can also help in loosening the shackles of a crime convict inside a high security prison. If one has money and wields power, a prison sentence can just end up being a temporary change of address for the convict. And nothing exemplifies it better than the way strict prison rules were circumvented by AIADMK (Anna) leader VK Sasikala. Convicted in a disproportionate assets case, VK Sasikala has been lodged at Parapara Agaraha central prison in Bengaluru since February. Like any other convicts, Sasikala too would have been an ordinary prisoner serving a four-year jail term away from the public glare. But DIG D Roopa had brought the spotlight back on Sasikala. The DIG who had joined the jail department few weeks back brought it out to the open the way Sasikala managed to get 'special treatment' in the central prison including an exclusive kitchen for her meals. Roopa in her report had pointed accusing fingers at her senior officer. The DIG claimed that her boss was fully aware the way Sasikala flouted the prison rules. But what gave a new dimension to the issue is the fact that the DIG had accused her senior officer, DGP (Prisons) HN Sathyaranayana Rao, of accepting bribe from Sasikala. Roopa had alleged that Sasikala had paid Rs 2 crore for enjoying special benefits inside the jail.

The court while sentencing Sasikala had made it very clear that no VIP treatment will be given to her. The DIG's report has exposed the way the court's order has been flouted. DGP Rao had rubbished the charges levelled against him by Roopa as absolutely false, baseless and wild. Denial of the charges just does not absolve one of guilt. The Karnataka Government must conduct a thorough probe into the charges levelled by the DIG. But Sasikala is not a one-off case of influential and powerful prisoner enjoying VIP perks while serving jail sentence. It has become quite evident that the jails across the country have become a safe haven for some of the inmates to run their criminal activities. In cohorts with a section of unscrupulous jail officials, these inmates with the help of mobile phones are carrying on their illegal activities from the confines of the jail itself. The authorities must take corrective steps to ensure that prisons do not serve as a secured place from where the criminals can safely run their activities. A strict mechanism must be put in place to ensure that jails serve the purpose for which they have been set up.

## Socio-legal effects of drug abuse

■ Dr Nalini Kanta Dutta

**T**he issues and problems related to the use of narcotics and other dependence-producing drugs and their trafficking are complex and multidimensional. The legal aspects relating to the regulation of narcotics and other dependence-producing drugs cannot be examined in isolation. But the same can be discussed in relation to the social, economic, medical, cultural and psychological factors that have a bearing on the legal strategies and mechanics of regulation. The issue of drug addiction among all sections of Indian citizens and its trafficking has assumed a serious magnitude in India and elsewhere. More and more youngsters are coming into its grips. Today we face the twin problems of drug trafficking and drug abuse on a much larger scale than at any time in the past. We frequently get to read in print media and see the TV screens about narcotic drugs being seized by customs officials at airports, railway stations and on roads by way of transit. Stories of students' drug addiction, smuggling by drug mafias, crimes with narcotic drugs have brought the menace into sharp focus. Today the drug menace has engulfed the entire world.

In India the situation is quite grim. Brown sugar is the commonest drug of addiction, especially in the metropolitan cities and their satellite towns. Opium (*afing*) and cannabis (*charas, bhang*) continue to be a stable form of addiction commonly in rural areas. In India, poppy for opium is cultivated under

strict government supervision in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Heroin, opium and morphine are derived from the same source. Cannabis is produced from the hemp plant. Marijuana, hashish, *charas, ganja, bhang, kejri* and *dagga* are various varieties and preparations of hemp plants.

According to experts, a drug ad-

dict usually passes through five stages.

The first stage is the stage of experiment when seeking new pleasures. He feels that he can handle the drug well and can come out whenever he wants. This stage is connected to adolescent drug usage. Stage II is the stage of casual use. One major reason of continuation of the drug beyond the stage of experimental use is that the drug facilitates social interactions. Stage III is the stage of dependent use. In this stage, a person becomes a victim of his habit. Stage IV is characterized by gross physical, psychological and social deterioration.

The fifth stage starts when the brain's response to the drug gets altered permanently. A small number of addicts of this stage finally stop the habit, because of financial burden or occupational stress.

There can be no doubt that drug addiction has gripped a sizeable segment of our citizens, mostly students of both the sexes. It is most shocking to see bright school and college boys and girls becoming drug ad-

dicts. One of the best ways to keep away oneself from drug use is to engage in activities like sports, music, debates, etc., so that questions of boredom, frustration, depression and inferiority complex do not arise. Parents can help their children in a big way. Many youngsters take to drugs because they feel neglected. Creation of strong family bonds help children to develop family love and self-confidence. Habit formation of narcotic drug use has in-

creases in medical treatment, law enforcement, maintenance of judicial system, drug-related crimes, control and prevention of drug trafficking, etc. In fact, the evil effects of drug addiction encompass all aspects of human life. It also promotes lawlessness and corruption in society. As a whole it affects the health of people, health of nation and the society at large.

India has become a most vulnera-

ble place for drug trafficking due to its peculiar geographical location. The international and national gangs of drug traffickers carry out their activities from India for transit purposes. The terrorist organizations, both inside and outside the country, are very much active in earning from narcotic drug business at the cost of damaging the lives of a section of young generation, mostly students. More than half of the illegal heroin used throughout the world comes from the Golden Triangle where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet. The arrested drug carriers have revealed that there are renewed activities in these countries. This has had an adverse effect in Manipur and other north-eastern States where hardcore addicts, particularly the insurgents, have become carriers. The prevalence of HIV among the injecting drug users in an epidemic form has already created an alarming situation particularly in three NE States – Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram. In recent

times, South India is becoming hub for the drug runners. The coast of south Tamil Nadu and the airports of Chennai and Trivandrum are favourable transit points for the big operators. The southern Tamil Nadu has become a safe haven for the Sri Lankan drug runners. Mumbai, Gujarat and Rajasthan are the favourable locations to get narcotic drugs by the Sri Lankans.

The Golden Crescent is another international route of narcotics smuggling covering Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Heroin brought to India also through the land routes from the Golden Crescent are smuggled to the outside world. Narcotics are brought to Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai through air routes, while through sea routes they are brought to the major ports of India, Nepal and Bangladesh are also major suppliers of narcotics to India. The drug seizures indicate that huge quantities of narcotic and psychotropic substances have possibly been smuggled to the UK, US and other European countries from India. The reason for the increasing menace include huge profit derived from this illegal trade; men's craze for seeking pleasure irrespective of the cost; encouraging drug trade by the neighbouring countries with a view to destabilize their enemy countries; corruption of internal control agencies like police administration having nexus with smugglers; lack of social consciousness and the absence of an effective legislation on the control of the drug menace.

The present government should initiate strategies for effective control of this menace both at the national as well as international level.

## Public education in Assam: the blame game

■ Dr Akhil Ranjan Dutta

**W**hat we witnessed on July 10, 2017 in the so-called review meeting with the heads of the schools with zero pass percentage in the HSLC Examination 2017 convened by the Education Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma was indeed questionable. It was so not only on the ground of the treatment being meted out to those headmasters, which of course crossed all limits of dignified behaviour, but the calculated move towards discrediting 'provincialization', and also dismantling the given norms of disciplinary actions. While the performance of the schools in a particular year is dependent on a whole lot of issues and arrangements including the government policies on awarding grace marks and also the variation of results from one year to another, the exercise conducted by the Education Minister overlooked those issues.

What were the objectives behind the 'review meeting' of the day? Apparently, it aimed at drawing accountability of the non-performing schools and the school heads. However, the way the proceedings of the meeting unfolded, the exercise merely failed to move closer to those

objectives. What came out prominently from the exercise was that the decision on the part of the State Government to provincialize the schools in 2013 was altogether a wrong decision.

When the Education Minister called on the headmasters to the stage and enquired about the performance in the last result, the issue being repeatedly raised was whether the school was provincialized and what has been the performance of the schools both before and after provincialization. Most of those schools, which came under scrutiny on the day, were provincialized in 2013. What also came out prominently in the exercise was that the schools performed poorly compared to the pre-provincialization period. Accordingly, the conclusion drawn was that the prime cause behind poor performance was the provincialization of the schools of the yester years! Provincialization made the teachers economically secure thereby making them indifferent to their duties. Therefore, the way out is de-provincialization. It is a horrifying logic.

Let us take this in its face value,

that provincialization has been the problem behind the poor performance of those schools. Now is it only the schools provincialized in 2013

which are performing poorly over the years? What about the most reputed schools in the post years? What about Gauhati College, School, Souram Higher Secondary School, PR Government School in Golapara, North Lakhimpur Government Higher Secondary School, etc., – schools that produced best of the talents at different points of time, but no longer enjoy such reputations? Who are responsible for their poor performance? Are the teachers solely responsible for their poor performance? Are not the policies of gross indifference adopted by the successive governments towards the public education system so as to intensify privatization of the education system under the much celebrated process of liberalization and privatization responsible for it? Forget about all those schools, but, what happened to the school that the Education Minister himself studied, a reputed school of the yester years? Why has the Education Minister failed to patronize his own school and to convert it into a 'model' one? What one is arguing here is that poor performance of the public schools has deep structural roots. This will be evident, once we compare the performance between the public and private schools in the HSLC examinations for the last 10 to 15 years,

convincingly by the Education Minister is what has been the intention behind bringing in such a controversy thereby reducing the pass percentage? Was it also aimed at discrediting the newly-provincialized schools, paving the way for de-provincializing them now?

The assertion that the provincialization process in 2013 was both erroneous and filled with corruption is also very dangerous. The minister asserted that he wanted to review it now, and will take necessary steps for rectification, meaning de-provincializing some of the provincialized schools, if necessary. But, who will take the political responsibility if the provincialization was carried out through corrupt practices? Dr Sarma was the Education Minister at that point. Can the minister disown this moral and political responsibility?

Precisely, therefore, what has come out of the whole review exercise is not reviewing and rejuvenating the public education system. Rather the target has appeared to have had a motive behind, i.e., to discredit the educational institutions being taken over by the Government, and accordingly to initiate the process of disowning this responsibility. Let us be alert to this move and the agenda.

## Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – A number of industrial units in Assam have remained closed for years. Besides others, two public sector undertakings of the State—the Nagaon Paper Mill (NPM) and the Cachar Paper Mill (CPM)—have remained closed for decades; only the spinning section of the unit has been in operation wherein 700 workers work. The NPM and CPM – each an installed capacity of one lakh metric ton per annum – started commercial production from October 1985 and April 1988 respectively. Operations at the CPM have remained suspended since September 2015 while the NPM suspended operations since March 2017. With 1,500 regular employees, the livelihood of nearly two lakh people are linked to these two units. The Cachar staff has not got salaries since October 2016, while those at Nagaon are not paid since December last year. Nearly

700 workers, both casual and regular, of APOL have also not received their salaries since the last seven months. With salaries stopped, the workers of these industrial units have faced a big financial crisis. The BJP-led State Government must persuade the Central Government to provide the required funds for the revival of the Cachar and Nagaon paper mills. Further, the Assam Government should take action to revive the closed units of APOL as early as possible. Yours etc., MAHESWAR BORTHAKUR, Silsager.

## Bandh call

Sir, – Through this esteemed column, I would like to request the Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chakra Parishad (AJYCP) to reconsider their decision to call for the 48-hour Upper Assam bandh on July 20 and 21 considering the following reasons – it would aggravate the condition of the people currently reeling under the massive floods and add to their insurmountable woes; the relief and rehabilitation works by the line departments and the NGOs would be adversely affected; AJYCP is known for championing the cause of dual

citizenship and regional autonomy for Assam. It should stick to its old guns rather than straying into other patches like demanding ST status for particular ethnic groups, declaring flood as a national problem, etc.; bandhs have never done anything good to our State other than serving as a tactic for drawing attention of the Government and hogging the limelight in the media. Yours etc., MANOJ BORTHAKUR, Silsager.

## Flood havoc

Sir, – Swapnani Barua mentioned many points in his well-written article 'Floods and the vicious cycle' (AT, July 11) about the perennial 67-year-old problem that has devastated many families in most areas of Assam. However, he has not touched a few points. One is the roles of the bureaucrats and technocrats in implementing the various schemes related to the control of flood and erosion. Many schemes were partially or inefficiently done with no clear vision. The erstwhile Department of Flood Control was taken for granted for siphoning off funds. The top echelons and other dignitaries involved directly or remotely had concentrated in personal uplift. The mighty Brahmaputra being a lifeline

in China, India and Bangladesh, there should have been a concerted sustained effective mechanism by all three countries toward the solution to the problem of flood. Raising posters, banners and shouting slogans during the flood season cannot help mitigate the sufferings of the affected people. Politicians and the other organizations could have come to a common platform to make it a national issue. The people of Assam tend to forget the present tragedy by the time Goddess Durga will be arriving to fight the great Mahishasur with warfare.

## Bad road

Sir, – The portion of the NH-37 (A) passing by the Don Bosco High School, Tezpur is in the most dilapidated condition. The road is full of potholes making it dangerous for the moving traffic and for the students and teachers of the school. Several serious accidents have occurred till date taking more than three human lives with many others injured. As there is no specific speed limit, frequent accidents are galore. Through your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the attention of the authorities concerned for filling up the potholes at the earliest and also for the construction of speed-breakers or rumble strips, so that the number of accidents can be checked. Yours etc., NEELOMONI SAIKIA, Tezpur

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

## Revival of closed industries in Assam

in China, India and Bangladesh, there should have been a concerted sustained effective mechanism by all three countries toward the solution to the problem of flood. Raising posters, banners and shouting slogans during the flood season cannot help mitigate the sufferings of the affected people. Politicians and the other organizations could have come to a common platform to make it a national issue. The people of Assam tend to forget the present tragedy by the time Goddess Durga will be arriving to fight the great Mahishasur with warfare. Let the people change their minds this time and emphatically ask the people's representatives to deliver into the task of river control. Yours etc., Dr TRIDIB BARUA, Ambari, Guwahati.

## Preserving a legacy

Sir, – A brief visit to Dibrugarh on July 16, 2017 and driving by the riverside road brought a mixed feeling of agony and ecstasy. Ecstasy, because of the fruitfulness of human effort of the utility-oriented beautification of the riverbank and agony at the sight of the neglected ruins of the residence of the founder of the Assam Medical College, Barry

## AIUDF flays Centre, State Govt over flood scene

STAFF REPORTER

MP from Dhubri.

GUWAHATI, July 18: Accusing the Central and State governments of adopting a lackadaisical attitude with regard to providing relief to the victims of the current wave of floods, the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) today demanded that Assam's flood issue be declared as a national problem.

AIUDF president and Lok Sabha member Boduluddin Ajmal said here that he would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament and seek a special package for relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims of Assam.

"Our MP Radheshwar Biswas raised the issue of Assam floods twice in the Lok Sabha today before the House was adjourned. Tomorrow I am leaving for New Delhi and I will meet the Prime Minister in this regard," said the

IIT student goes missing

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 18: A research student of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, is reportedly missing since Monday.

Police said that Sununa Mazumdar was last seen yesterday and investigation is on to trace her. "Her mobile phone location is also being traced," the police said.

### FRANCHISEE OPPORTUNITY

A RENOWNED TELECOM OPERATOR IS LOOKING FOR BUSINESS PARTNERS WITH 200-250 SQ.FT OF RETAIL SPACE FACING MAIN ROAD FOR FRANCHISEE OUTLET LOCATIONS PREFERRED ARE SIX MILE, JAYANAGAR, LOKHRA, REHABARI, JATIA.

Please contact 9957049304

**ENGINEERS EIL INDIA LIMITED**

NOTICE FOR INVITATION FOR BIDS (FB) FOR UP-GRADING OF THE CAPACITY OF PUMPING CAPACITY OF BARAUNI-GOONJ-GUWAHATI SECTOR OF NAHARKATAKA-BARAUJI CRUDE OIL PIPELINE OF M/s OIL INDIA LTD (OIL) (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

(BIDDING DOCUMENT NO.: EIL/INT/2017/0001)  
(OIL'S E-TENDER NUMBER: EIL5245P19)

Engineers India Limited (EIL), on behalf of Oil India Limited (OIL), invites e-bids from eligible bidders for following:

Description	Bid Document Fee (Non-refundable)	Bidding Document on Website	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date & time for submission of Bid Document Fee	Last Date & time for submission of Bid
SUPPLY OF COATED & BARE STEEL PIPES	₹ 30,000/- (Indian Rupees: Three Thousand Only)	From 20.07.2017 To 17.08.2017 (Foreign Bidders)	From 02.08.2017 at 1030 Hrs. In E-mail to [email protected]	08.03.2017 Up to 17.08.2017 (IST)	17.08.2017 Up to 17.08.2017 (IST)
The detailed IFB and complete Bidding Document can be viewed and downloaded from the OIL's e-tender portal ( <a href="http://etender.oilandindia.com/">http://etender.oilandindia.com/</a> ).					

EIL NEW DELHI (INDIA)

For details of eligibility criteria, qualifications and application form etc. please visit University website [www.rguac.in](http://www.rguac.in). The last date of receipt of application is 17-08-2017 during office hours.

Sofr- Registrar i/c

No. FG-12/85 (Vol-4) Dated the 5th June, 2017  
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Rajiv Gandhi University invites an application in prescribed form the citizen of India for filling up of the following Non-Teaching Group 'A' posts in the Pay Band & Grade Pay shown against each. The posts from serial No. 1 to 3 are purely on standard terms of deputation:

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3	Internal Audit Officer	1	15600/-	Not more than 57 years	UR on deputation

For details of eligibility criteria, qualifications and application form etc. please visit University website [www.rguac.in](http://www.rguac.in). The last date of receipt of application is 17-08-2017 during office hours.

Sofr- Registrar i/c

### ASSAM ELECTRICITY GRID CORPORATION LIMITED

#### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Bid Identification No.: AEGCL/MD/DEPOSIT/RLY-NALBLT/76/2017

The Managing Director, AEGCL, Bijulee Bhawan, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati invites online e-tender with 180 days validity for the below mentioned work:

\* CONSTRUCTION OF 132 KV S/C TRANSMISSION LINE ON D/C TOWERS FROM 132 KV NALBARI GSS TO 132/33 KV NALBARI RAILWAY TRACTION S/S ON TURN KEY BASIS UNDER DEPOSIT SCHEME\*

Key Dates:

Tender Start Date	19-07-2017
Tender End Date & Time	13:00 Hrs. of 09-08-2017
Tender Opening Date & Time	15:00 Hrs. of 09-08-2017

Interested resourceful bidder with relevant experience as specified in the IFB and bid document may obtain the bid from our websites [www.aegcl.co.in](http://www.aegcl.co.in) and <https://aegcl.etenders.in>. Manual offer/bid for this tender will not be accepted in any circumstances, only electronic offer/bid shall be accepted.

Sd/- Chief General Manager, AEGCL

EA/2017/49



Artistes performing at a function organised by Sadhana Kathak Kendra in association with the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Assam, at Rabindra Bhawan in Guwahati on Tuesday. - AT photo

## 'Green' gesture by Oil India Limited

STAFF REPORTER

"The flowers we give, though they have a value, are actually thrown away later. They are of no use," the spokesman said.

Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, who was present at the function, was impressed with the gesture.

He said he, too, would instruct his departments to replicate the idea of functions they organise.

"Environmental degradation and pollution have become a serious global concern," he said.

Patowary quoted a report,

### New office building

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 18: In a unique gesture, the Dibrugarh-based Oil India Limited today sent out a green message by presenting neem saplings instead of the customary bouquets to dignitaries at a function that the PSU organised here to mark the launch of its start-up initiative.

An Oil spokesman said OIL CMD Upal Bora has taken the initiative to create awareness among the people to safeguard the environment.

Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, who was present at the function, was impressed with the gesture.

He said he, too, would instruct his departments to replicate the idea of functions they organise.

"See the picture we will present to our future generations. We must treat this seriously and must ensure that these grafted trees survive.

I will plant my sapling on my campus and ensure that it grows," the Minister added.

Patowary quoted a report,

"The flowers we give, though they have a value, are actually thrown away later. They are of no use," the spokesman said.

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Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, who was present at the function, was impressed with the gesture.

He said he, too, would instruct his departments to replicate the idea of functions they organise.

"See the picture we will present to our future generations. We must treat this seriously and must ensure that these grafted trees survive.

I will plant my sapling on my campus and ensure that it grows," the Minister added.

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Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti activists protesting against alleged corruption in the construction of a hospital at Khumtai, on Monday. – UB Photos

## Art of Living to start skill devp project at Jorhat Central Jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, July 18: The Art of Living, which is a Bengaluru-based NGO founded by Ravi Shankar and is involved in propagating peace and human values across the globe, has planned to undertake spiritual and skill development programmes at the Central Jail here.

Addressing mediapersons here on Saturday, Deepak Sharma, who is a key aide of Ravi Shankar, and a trustee of the NGO, said as part of the organisation's initiative to start activity in Upper Assam for uplift of socio-economic condition and also reduce stress and anxiety of the people, a project will soon be started at the Jorhat prison.

Sharma said Assam being an agrarian State has great potential to expand in the agriculture sector. He

said The Art of Living, which has undertaken different projects like rain water harvesting, and river rejuvenation in the rest of the country, could lend its hand in various ways.

Sharma said that The Art of Living has been working for a long time in the north-eastern region with Assam as a focus area. He said the NGO runs 19 schools in backward areas of the State having a dominant tribal population. Sharma said that about 700 teachers are employed in these schools. Out of 92 skill development centres run by the NGO, seven are in Assam.

The trustee said that based on the Gururji's thinking that "inside every criminal there is a victim crying for help," prison inmates are accorded priority by the organisation and hence a programme to provide counselling to the inmates through

various meditation techniques is followed and rehabilitation training sessions are undertaken.

Sharma said that based on this principle, various social development programmes like providing training for skill enhancement of the jail inmates are in progress in Assam. A skill development centre for imparting training for electrical trade and short-term beauty treatment courses were under way in Tinsukia and Guwahati central jails respectively.

The trustee said that apart from undertaking meditational training sessions, a programme to train importation on making bags made of paper and cloth will be undertaken at the Central Jail, Jorhat for the inmates. Sharma said talks with the Jorhat Central jail authorities and the district administration have been held

and he was hopeful that within a month the project could be started.

He said from militancy to meditation, another programme was being undertaken in several States, including Assam, to bring members of extremist outfits like ULFA overground, i.e., to the mainstream of social life and to prepare them to lead normal lives by providing various rehabilitation options.

The trustee said the organisation which had earlier helped the flood-affected people of Assam, will now provide relief material in North Lakhimpur, which is one of the worst flood-hit districts in the State. The Art of Living has also been conducting spiritual sessions to lessen the flood-affected people's trauma and suffering, since July 17. He added that the NGO has an office and an ashram located in Guwahati.

## Consumption of 'salani' fish a health hazard

CORRESPONDENT

GAURIPUR, July 18: Due to shortage of production of local varieties of fish and extinction of some of the local fish, the fish traders of Assam bring 'salani' fish from States like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh to meet the needs of the people here,追逐着 tonnes of fish to the tune of Rs 150 crore annually. As a result, the Government of Assam is losing revenue which is said to be a matter of concern. Formerly the State Government realised 0.5% on 'salani' fish but due to implementation of GST, the Government is unable to collect the taxes as before. Sources close to the traders informed that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the State Government not to collect any tax on their consignment of fish.

Sources further informed that the traders of the district of Dibrugarh mainly bring in *ron*, *katta*, *chital*, *ari*, *para*, *borsali* and *Thailand magur* in well-sealed thermocol cartons filled with ice so that the fish could be easily preserved for a pretty long time without rotting and formalin, a chemical is used to keep

the fish fresh.

Some fishery scientists opine that regular consumption of 'salani' fish may cause serious health problems like blockade of blood circulation, heart problems, kidney failure and stomach troubles of various kinds. Huge stocks of 'salani' fish are regularly brought to be sold in fish markets of Dibrugarh, Gauripur, Bisnupsira, Sapagram, Golaghat, Agomani, Halakrung, Boiribat and even in small markets located in the remote places of the district.

## AASU fetes 114 bright students

RANGIYA, July 18: Under the aegis of Rangiya unit of AASU, a total of 114 HSLC and HS-passed meritorious students were recently felicitated at a function held at the Haradatta-Biradutta Bhawan here.

AASU central committee secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi, who spoke on the occasion, stressed on the need of value-based education and development of society through proper education.

Besides, other senior AASU office-bearers also spoke on the occasion and urged the students to devote their time and energy to studies in order to become responsible citizens of the country in future.

Earlier, the students were felicitated with certificates of proficiency, *gamosa* and trophies. The students also shared their views while sharing their opinion on the present-day education system. – Correspondent

## India home to four venomous snake species, but many more myths'



Snake Man' Saurav Barkataki being felicitated on the occasion of World Snake Day at Sonpur Press Club at Tezpur, on Monday. – UB Photos

SHAMBHU BORO

TEZPUR, July 18: Urging everyone to extend their cooperation in scaling down the human-wildlife conflict for building a better eco-friendly environment, noted litterateur and the president of Tezpur Sahitya Sabha, Hemanta Kumar Baruah said recently that wildlife including the venomous or non-venomous can never be a human being's enemy; rather they are friends of humans because without this, a balanced ecological environment is not possible. Baruah who was speaking on the occasion

of a special felicitation programme organised by the Sonpur Press Club in connection with the World Snake Day to felicitate wildlife activist Saurav Barkataki, also said that the July 16 is celebrated as World Snake Day. "Though a relatively obscure day with unclear origins, it is celebrated by wildlife enthusiasts across the world with great passion. This day is celebrated both virtually and physically, bringing together snake-lovers to rejoice in all the marvels of nature's creation," he said.

Highlighting certain facts regarding the day, he said that in 1967 a snake farm was started in Texas, which was subsequently brought into popular culture in the 1970's through a song by the famous rock band the 'Ramones'. Since then, its tourist appeal has only grown, and it has become an irresistible stop for many travellers on road-trips in the area. "July 16 is naturally the busiest day of their year, and brings World Snake Day to the attention of many who would otherwise remain ignorant of it. Small NGOs capitalise on the day to conduct awareness programmes about snakes for the general public." Hemanta Baruah said adding that an important contribution of World Snake Day is to the cause of conservation of a sometimes dangerous but mostly misrepresented reptile. Snakes live on every continent except Antarctica, and can vary from 32 feet long pythons to tiny

vine snakes. Only about one-fourth of all snakes are venomous, and all of them would much rather avoid human contact if they could. Maximum snake bite incidents occur when humans inadvertently step on or otherwise disturb the peaceful creatures. India, with all its stereotypes of snake-charmers, is home to only four venomous snake species, but many destructive superstitions and myths.

"World Snake Day, conservationists hope, can help remove people's fears and illusions about snakes, and help them gain recognition as a marvellous adaptable apex species. The sinuous muscles and sharp fangs of snakes have captured the imagination of human societies for centuries, with the earliest known carved representation nearly 12,000 years ago in Turkey who have played a major role in religion and mythology, from the *Bible* to the *Mahabharata* to ancient Egyptian texts. Snakes play an important role in the ecosystem by controlling rodents and pests, and greater awareness can help raise support to understand these elusive creatures further. Common species are sometimes kept as pets, but in a rush for exotic species much damage can be done. For example, the species could become endangered, or be introduced to a new area by mistake, upsetting the ecological balance. The initial reaction on finding a snake for most lay-people remains fear and

the desire to kill it. World Snake Day can be used as a tool to educate and inform people about how to deal with snakes, where to call, resources available to them etc," he maintained.

In the special felicitation programme, Saurav Barkataki who is popular among the people as 'Sarpa Bandhu' (friend of snake) was felicitated with a citation, *phutam japi*, *sarai* and a *phudam gamosa*. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur, Manoj Kumar Deka appreciated Sonitpur Press Club's efforts in organising such an event and urged the dedicated wildlife activist to continue his service towards wildlife conservation.

Attending the function CCF, Northern Range, P. Subir Kumar, in his speech stated that Saurav Barkataki is a pride for the Forest department who has always been standing with the forest department in every crisis thereby creating a positive opinion towards the wildlife conservation.

Receiving the felicitation, Saurav Barkataki said that he remains determined to work in the field of wild life conservation. At last from the president's chair, the president of the Press Club, Subhas Chandra Biswas said that Saurav Barkataki's selfless zeal in saving wildlife has created an ideal spirit among the wildlife lovers. Among other dignitaries, the occasion was also graced by the DFO, Sonitpur, Debendar Suman.

## Time will decide my political journey: Gautam Roy

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, July 18: At a time when speculations about his aspiration of joining the BJP is becoming the most discussed political gossip in Barak Valley and across the State, former Congress Minister and an influential politician Gautam Roy chose to let time decide his political journey in the days ahead.

In reply to questions on whether he would be seen in 'safron jersey' eyeing the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 69-year-old Roy said "Let time give the best answer to the speculations." Interestingly, during the 40 minute interaction, the ace politician showered praises on the BJP Government while he minced no words to slam his

friends in the Congress camp, hinting at the Silchar MP Susmita Devi.

Roy, who is well-known for his political wit, said "the Silchar MP has carved a niche in the national politics by dint of his work and vision. But we must admit the fact that she belongs to the numbered Opposition and hence the efforts mean little significance." He was quick to remind that he has made noticeable contributions for the people of Silchar constituency, which he believes are strong claims for his 'possible' candidature.

On the other hand, when Congress leaders of the State are visiting different places of Barak Valley to demonstrate their anger and dissatisfaction against the BJP Government both at the Centre and at the State, Roy was critical about the role of some of the contractors and higher officials who have their hands dipped in corruption. "Stains of corruption are still there in the machinery and I am happy to see the Government putting pressure to keep things transparent."

## Woman murdered in Charaideo dist

CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, July 18: Pompy Saikia, wife of Subudh Saikia, was reportedly hacked to death by Subudh with a machete at her parents' home on Monday after a quarrel at Baghmoria village under Sapekhaiti Police Station in Charaideo district.

Police sources said that Subudh, who happens to be a resident of adjoining No. 1 Morahabi Medeljan village, surrendered himself before police after committing the crime.

The couple, it may be mentioned, have a three-year-old son.

## One drowned

CORRESPONDENT

DIPJUH, July 18: A community-level workshop was organised here on Monday by Shishi Sarothi-Centre for Rehabilitation and Training for Multiple Disability, which is a Guwahati-based organisation, in collaboration with a local NGO named Jirsong Asong.

In the awareness programme, different facilities available and formed by the Government, besides the rights and laws for the disabled persons, were elaborately discussed. More than 40 differently-abled persons attended the workshop.

Saswati Barman, Project Coordinator of Disability Empowerment Initiative of Shishi Sarothi said the NGO is fully devoted to working for people with multiple disabilities. It engages in education, health, advocacy, livelihood, providing scholarship for disabled students and creating awareness about their rights and laws. The workshop stressed on generating awareness on the rights and laws of the disabled persons, facilities available with the Government, and also to make the differently-abled people aware about the latest Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016, Barman said.

Taking part as a resource person,



Singer Jina Rajkamari with her group, representing Purbanchal Tai Sahitya Sabha, performing during the 13th International Conference on Thai Studies at Chiang Mai in Thailand, on Sunday. – UB Photos





**WEATHER  
NORTH EAST**  
Forecast for NE: Moderate rain/rain shower is very likely to occur at most places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura and at many places over Assam & Meghalaya and light to moderate rain shower is very likely to occur at a few places over Arunachal Pradesh.

**Warning:** Thunderstorm with gusty wind speed reaching 40km/hr is likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura. Heavy rain fall is very likely to occur at isolated places on July 19 over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

**Temperatures:**

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	30.2	25.7
Tinsukia	38.6	27.7
Silchar	36.4	26.8
Dharmapuri	35.2	28.8
Jorhat	36.2	26.4
NLakhimpur	38.0	24.0
Shillong	28.1	17.7
Mymensingh	38.1	29.0
Itanagar	38.6	23.9
Aizawl	30.1	14.2
Agartala	34.6	27.2
Kohima	NA	18.9
Passighat	38.5	25.8
Cherrapunjee	29.1	20.5

## Manipur Budget session begins tomorrow

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, July 18: The Budget session of Manipur Assembly will be held from July 20 to August 4, according to Assam sources.

However, opposition Congress legislators are unhappy over the short Budget session. The session was earlier fixed from July 20 to August 16. Congress MLA and party spokesperson Kh Joykishan said.

The Congress will raise the issues of framework agreement between Centre and NSCN-IM, indigenous people's rights and flood situation in the upcoming Assembly session, he said.

**Tripura Guv to take up blockade issue with Centre**

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, July 18: Breaking the silence on the national highway and railway blockade by IPFT, Tripura Governor Tathagata Roy on Tuesday said he would take up the issue with the Centre and the State Government to find a solution to the eight-day-old standoff.

"Worried by the blockade programme, we met the Governor and submitted a memorandum seeking his intervention to end the agitational programme that has caused tremendous suffering to the people," BJP State unit president Biplob Deb told party supporters, who were on the streets today.

Deb said, "The Governor is well aware about the happenings in the State. He is also worried over the blockade."

"The Governor told me that he will speak to the Centre as well as the State Government on the issue at the earliest," Deb, who was part of the five-member delegation, said.

Deb further said the Governor exhorted him to withdraw the blockade of CM's official residence since it will cause sufficient harm to the people. The blockade of CM's residence was lifted later in the evening.

# HC dismisses Liezetsu petition, Guv asks for floor test today

BHADRA GOGOI

Governor Acharya directed Speaker Dr Imtiwaping Aier to summon an emergency special session of Nagaland Assembly at 9.30 am tomorrow to test the majority support of the present Cabinet led by Liezetsu.

The High Court bench observed that the Governor had taken the right decision to ask the Chief Minister to obtain a vote of confidence on the floor of the House to see which of the two contesting claimants of Chief Ministership is premature and therefore, not tenable.

In its order, the Court said it is of the considered opinion that the contention of the senior counsel for the petitioner that there has been violation of Rule 3 of the Conduct of Business is premature and violative of the basic features of the Constitution.

Liezetsu is contesting the by-election from Northern Angami-I Assembly seat from which his son Parliamentary Secretary Kherihi Liezetsu resigned to make way for his father.

The Court also rejected the contention of the senior counsel that sufficient time should be given to the petitioner to make way for his father.

Rebel NPF MLAs led by former CM TR Zeliang yesterday claimed the support of 37 MLAs out of the 47 NPF MLAs. On July 8, Zeliang

obtained the vote of confidence on the floor of the House after the by-election to be held on July 29. It left the matter to the wisdom of the Governor to take a decision after proper application of mind.

In his petition, Liezetsu argued that the decision of the Governor asking him to conduct a floor test on or before July 15 was "ex-facie unconstitutional, illegal, arbitrary and violative of the basic features of the Constitution."

Liezetsu is contesting the by-election from Northern Angami-I Assembly seat from which his son Parliamentary Secretary Kherihi Liezetsu resigned to make way for his father.

Following the Court verdict,



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma unveiling the plaque of the newly-created Mawpat C&RD Block, in Shillong on Tuesday - UB photos

## BJP demands probe into Mizoram CM, MLAs wealth

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, July 18: Mizoram CM today submitted a FIR with the State Anti-Corruption Bureau demanding a probe into the manifold increase of assets of the State MLAs, especially those of the ruling Congress.

As per analysis by Mizoram Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms

(ADR), the MLA candidates average assets growth was Rs 2.62 crore from the average Rs 82.81 lakh in the 2008 elections, a 217 per cent growth.

BJP president Prof JV Huu-

mi said with that much increase in wealth being a legislator is more lucrative than owning a gold-mine.

"Even as the Chief Minister claimed that his government is free of corruption, his

MLAs wealth has increased manifold during the last eight years as if they have struck a gold mine," he said.

According to the BJP CM Lal Thanhawla's assets increased by 311 per cent (from Rs 9.15 crore to Rs 2.22 crore) during five years from 2008 to 2013.

However, the CM is not the one with the highest increase of wealth, Congress MLA La-hrobiaka is the wealth of La-

robiaka increased from Rs 9.81 lakh in 2008 elections to Rs 14.40 crore, a whopping 2306 per cent increase.

Other MLAs, from ruling Congress, with highest increase of assets are H Zotho anglina (351 per cent), John Ramluang (523 per cent), PC Lalhounouma (428 per cent), Lalrimawma Ralte (422 per cent), KS Thanga (366 per cent), Hmingdalou Khamte.

by distribution of LED bulbs.

Secretary (Information Technology) Sonam Chomphay made a presentation on Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Bunker Yojana, Chief Minister's Kriishi Rimi Yojana, CM's Adarsh

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Technology Sonam

**CAPSULE****UltraTech Cement**

NEW DELHI, July 18: Aditya Birla Group firm UltraTech Cement today reported a 15.14 per cent increase in the consolidated net profit at Rs 897.91 crore for the first quarter ended June 30. The company had posted Rs 779.83 crore net profit in the same period of the previous fiscal. Ultra Tech Cement said in a BSE filing. - PTI

**Bata plants**

KOLKATA, July 18: Bata India is planning to boost its presence in rural areas and will increase its market share presence to shore up sales, the company today said. Speaking at the company's 84th annual general meeting, Bata Chairman Uday Khanna said the company is aggressively penetrating footwear markets of tier-II and IV towns and has increased its focus to improve performance in single town Bata stores. - PTI

**Hindustan Unilever**

NEW DELHI, July 18: FMCG major Hindustan Unilever today reported a 9.28 per cent increase in standalone net profit at Rs 1,283 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, driven by growth in consumer business. The company had posted a standalone net profit of Rs 1,174 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal. Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) said in a BSE filing. - PTI

**SBI Realty'**

NEW DELHI, July 18: India's largest commercial bank SBI today said it has launched a dedicated portal SBI Realty that will help home buyers to choose flats from its 3,000 approved projects across the country. "State Bank of India has taken another step towards customers' convenience by launching 'SBI Realty', a one stop integrated website www.sbirerealty.in for home buyers," the bank said in a statement. - PTI

**Eicher cuts prices**

NEW DELHI, July 18: Eicher Trucks and Buses, a part of VEC Commercial Vehicles, has reduced prices by up to 10 per cent in order to pass on the GST benefits to customers. The company is offering price reductions from 1.5 per cent up to 5 per cent on its range of trucks and buses. - PTI

**Ashok Leyland**

NEW DELHI, July 18: Hindujia Group flagship Ashok Leyland today inked a pact with Chetan Mani-promoted Sun Mobility to develop electric mobility solutions. The global partnership between Chennai-based commercial vehicle-maker and Sun Mobility will leverage India's innovation and engineering potential to develop electric mobility solutions. Ashok Leyland said in a statement. - PTI

**Honda launches limited edition Amaze**

NEW DELHI, July 18: Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) today launched a limited edition version of its compact sedan Amaze, with the petrol variant being priced at Rs 4.48 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi).

The petrol trim of the 'Privilege Edition' is priced at Rs 4.48 lakh while the diesel version is tagged at Rs 7.73 lakh.

The new version comes enriched with advanced infotainment system, enhanced exterior and safety features.

"Our endeavour has always been to offer best-in-class features to our customers and we are happy to offer the Privilege Edition of the Honda Amaze with digipad for advanced infotainment," HCIL Senior Vice-President, Marketing and Sales, Jnaneshwar Sen said in a statement.

The new trims come with various features like dual airbags, ABS (in diesel variant), power adjustable ORVMs, steering-mounted controls, among others. - PTI

**'96% Indians at risk while using public Wi-Fi system'**

NEW DELHI, July 18: A whopping 96 per cent of Indians put personal information at risk when using public Wi-Fi for checking bank accounts, sharing personal photos and videos, a report by Neos by Symantec said today.

According to the Norton Wi-Fi Risk Report 2017, consumers are unable to resist a strong, free Wi-Fi network and their online behaviour may be placing their personal information at risk.

"There is a deep divide between what people think is safe when it comes to using public Wi-Fi versus the reality," said Ritesh Chopra, Country Manager, Consumer Business Unit, Symantec, in a statement.

NEW DELHI, July 18: The government has sought about \$3 billion from Reliance Industries, Royal Dutch Shell and ONGC following a "partial" arbitration award in its favour over cost recovery in Pana-Mukta and Tapti (PMT) oil and gas fields in the Arabian Sea.

The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) on May-end slapped the demand notice on them, which included interest and certain other charges over a gross amount it calculated following the October 2016 final partial award (FPA), sources in the government and the PMT joint venture said.

The notice does not contain any date for making the payment or the

consequences that would follow if the payment is not made, they said.

Besides, they added, it was issued without waiting for the arbitration panel to give its final award after hearing rejoinders from the parties

of 33 per cent and not the 50 per cent rate that existed earlier.

It also upheld that the cost recovery in the contract is fixed at \$545 million in Tapti gas field and \$577.5 million in Pana-Mukta oil

and gas field. The two firms wanted that cost provision be raised by \$365 million in Tapti and \$62.5 million in Pana-Mukta.

Sources said the government has joined the appeal in the English court, rendering infructuous the process of the arbitration panel giving the final award and quantifying the amount payable, the source said. - PTI

to the dispute and, in the last stage, quantifying the amount payable.

RIL and Shell had last November challenged in an English court the FPA by a three-member arbitration panel headed by Singapore-based lawyer Christopher Lau, upholding the government view that the profit from the fields should be calculated after deducting the prevailing tax



OIL Chairman and Managing Director Utpal Bora and representatives of IIT-Guwahati and start-up companies after signing a tripartite MoU in presence of Chandra Mohan Patowary, State Minister of Commerce and Industry, in Guwahati on Tuesday. - UB Photos

**OIL launches start-up initiatives**

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 18: Oil India Ltd (OIL) today launched its start-up initiatives by entering into separate agreements with two ventures, both related to treatment of waste water.

The two North-east-based start-ups – Innovative Interventions Pvt Ltd and RD Grow Green Ltd – will use the incubation facility at IIT-Guwahati.

The tripartite agreements between OIL, IIT-G and the start-ups were signed today.

OIL Chairman and Managing Director Utpal Bora signed the MoUs on behalf of OIL, along with Prof Prasanna, Dean, IIT-G, and the directors of the two start-up companies.

The two projects will deal with treatment of formation water for

utility purposes and treatment of industrial effluents using electro-quantum techniques.

The start-up will develop a system to treat the water co-produced with oil and recover resources like sodium hydroxide and sulphur. The second start-up would make an effluent treatment plant, which will be able to treat the water used for drilling to make it reusable.

Bora said the two projects will use incubation facilities at the IIT-G and start their work from August, with a time-frame of one year being set for completing their testing stage.

Depending on the success, the work will be carried forward by floating separate companies, with OIL having 26 per cent in each.

He said Rs 1.33 crore had been earmarked for the two projects.

"OIL is the first oil PSU to reach this stage of association in the start-

up initiative, as envisaged and announced by the Prime Minister in August 2015," the CMD said.

The Board of OIL had approved a Rs 50-crore OIL start-up fund on September 30, 2016. To initial the process of developing start-ups, an MoU was signed with IIT-G in December last.

The CMD said the start-up fund was created to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in North-east India.

Lauding the OIL initiative, Assam Industry and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, who was present at the meeting, thanked the PSU for choosing to kick-start its start-up initiative from the State.

Speaking on the occasion, IIT-G Director Prof Gautam Biswas highlighted the need for intervention from all branches of science for viable exploration of oil and natural gases.

As many as 13 state-owned banks had reported losses during 2015-16 financial year.

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Santosh Kumar Gangwar said IDBI Bank had reported a loss of Rs 5.158 crore in the last fiscal, while the amount was Rs 3.417 crore in the case of Indian Overseas Bank.

Other losses making state-owned banks were Allahabad Bank, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India, Denka Bank, Oriental Bank and UCO Bank.

The minister further said all the public sector banks are maintaining a positive balance in revenue reserves.

Revenue reserves, refers to undistributed revenue created for strengthening the financial position of a bank.

Replying to a question in relation to capitalisation of PSBs, Gangwar said the government under the Indradhanush Plan has earmarked Rs 70,000 crore for infusion in them between financial years 2016 and 2019. "The government has already infused a sum of Rs 47,915 crore to PSBs during 2015-16 and 2016-17 based on quantitative analysis of growth and compliance levels," the minister said. - PTI

Speaking on the occasion, Suman Anjoy, Head, L&M, said, "We, at Lawrence & Mayo, are thrilled to celebrate 140 years of our inception and are delighted to have initiated this sale for our customers anticipating that it would give them the freedom to own high-end brands of eyewear.

The offer has come with a massive discount of up to 50 per cent on a wide range of international-renowned frames and sunglasses."

The sale will be on till September 30 next and will be valid on major international

eyewear brands, Anjoy added.

Speaking on a positive note on the company's 11 per cent growth even in the face of demonetisation in the last financial year, Anjoy said, "The company intends to further increase its presence with maximum stores coming up in cities like Kolkata, Guwahati, Siliguri and Bhutan to strengthen its foothold in the Eastern and North-Eastern part of the country."

In the North-east particularly, he said, the company is planning to open stores in Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Shillong, besides having two more outlets in Guwahati.

L&M presently has 115 outlets spread across 44 cities in India and deals in brands like Emporio Armani, Cartier, Silhouette, Mont Blanc, Nyasa, Porsche, Tag Heuer, Versace, Polo, Rayban, Vogue, Tommy, CK and latest varieties of contact lenses of top quality brands.

"The way arbitration works is that the panel first gives an FPA. It then gives time to parties to dispute to file appeals and hear them. The final award is then given. In the final stage, the amount payable is quantified," a source said.

Since the judicial seat of the arbitration is at London and that the arbitration agreement is governed by the English law, any challenge to the partial award in effect puts on hold the arbitration tribunal's process.

So, only after the court disposes of the appeal can the arbitration tribunal work on final award and quantify the amount payable, the source said. - PTI

**Electricity out of GST****Steel manufacturing cost will go up: Steel Ministry to PMO**

NEW DELHI, July 18: The Steel ministry has expressed concerns that cost of steel manufacturing will increase as electricity, being one of the major inputs, has been kept out of the goods and services tax.

The concerns were expressed at a recent meeting of the ministry with the Prime Minister's Office, a government official said.

"Electricity being a major input for steel industry will increase the cost of manufacturing if it remains out of the GST," the official said.

The concerns were also expressed by the steel ministry during the meeting that the Clean Energy Cess of Rs 400 per tonne, which was being charged pre GST remains effectively non-entitled in the new regime.

Natural gas, one of the inputs used in manufacturing sponge iron/Hot Briquetted Iron, an intermediate product used in steel making, has been kept out of GST pursuant to the previous regime, a par-

tial was available, the official said.

"However, in the new regime, the tax paid on the natural gas is a cost and no input tax credit is available on the same," the official added.

The Steel Ministry is also of view that royalty is charged on iron ore at 15 per cent of the base price and is yet not revocable.

Besides, Forest Development Fee (FDF) and similar charges like contribution in District Mineral Foundation and National Mineral Exploration Trust, which are in the nature of tax, need to be subsumed in GST, the official said.

The steel industry had earlier in the month said that with GST rolling out the unorganised players in the sector will have to move to organised form of doing business.

GST – India's biggest tax reform since the Independence – was rolled out this month, unifying more than a dozen Central and State levies. - PTI

**States taking steps to improve ease of doing business: DIPP Secy**

NEW DELHI, July 18: State governments are taking several steps such as setting up of single window system for approvals with an aim to improve ease of doing business, a top official said today.

Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) Secretary Ramesh Abhishek said that as many as 17 states have made laws to provide single window system.

Powers of several departments have been given to one person to man these systems, he said.

He said for the first time better performing states like Andhra Pradesh are handholding the less performing ones to improve their investment climate and their rankings.

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have jointly topped the 2016 all-India State/Union Territory-wise

Ease of Doing Business rankings. Talking about this year's ranking, the secretary said that 'perception' is an important component in ease of doing business, a top official said today.

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Powers of several departments

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**Lawrence & Mayo announces '140 years' discounts**

BUSINESS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 18: One of the oldest and leading optical retail chains of the country, Lawrence & Mayo, has announced exciting offers including up to 50 per cent discount on their complete eyewear collection to mark 140 years of the company.

Addressing the media on the occasion, Suman Anjoy, Head, L&M, said, "We, at Lawrence & Mayo, are thrilled to celebrate 140 years of our inception and are delighted to have initiated this sale for our customers anticipating that it would give them the freedom to own high-end brands of eyewear.

Replying to a question in relation to capitalisation of PSBs, Gangwar said the government under the Indradhanush Plan has earmarked Rs 70,000 crore for infusion in them between financial years 2016 and 2019. "The government has already infused a sum of Rs 47,915 crore to PSBs during 2015-16 and 2016-17 based on quantitative analysis of growth and compliance levels," the minister said. - PTI



Union Minister for Law and Justice and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) President Shashi Shekhar Goenka, at an interactive session organised by ICC in Kolkata on Tuesday. - UNI

rying incoming call is 30 paise and hence IUC should be raised so that they are able to recover their cost," said an industry source who did not want to be identified.

Vodafone said the cost of carrying incoming calls on its network is 30 paise without taking into account the licence fees and 34 paise after including it, he said.

According to the source, Idea Cellular has said that cost of carrying incoming calls on its network is around 30 paise as per methodology used by TRAI, while as per its own calculation the cost is 35 paise per minute.

The company stated that it is unable to recover its basic cost at the current IUC rates.

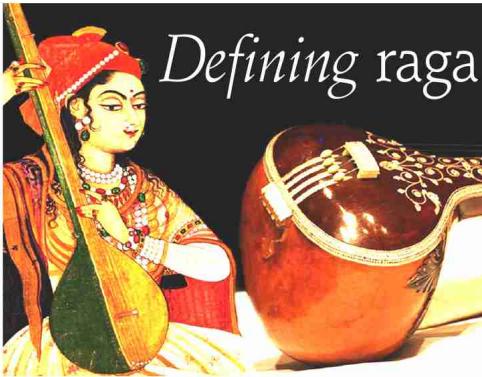
The Aditya Birla group firm demanded that IUC should be raised so that telecom operators are able to recover cost of carrying load of incoming calls from other networks. - PTI

The survey also revealed that 31 per cent Indians use public Wi-Fi for viewing explicit or suggestive contents, of which 44 per cent admit to doing so at work at 49 per cent in hotels.

The survey, which involved more than 15,000 consumers in 15 countries, noted that almost half (48 per cent) of Indian users have accessed Wi-Fi without the Wi-Fi network owner's permission.

The report provides certain measures to ensure security over the web which includes using Virtual Private Network (VPN) and looking for "HTTPS" (HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure) in the address bar while visiting a website. - IANS





Ragas are a 'formless form', says an eminent musicologist

**R**agas are one of the most prominent musical heritages of India but one always falls short of expressions for explaining this terminology. An eminent musicologist has now described ragas as a "formless form".

Deepak S Raja, a sitar and surbahar exponent (Etawah Gharana) who has studied musicology under the guidance of eminent scholars elaborated that a raga is formless because it represents only a possibility of an aesthetically coherent and emotionally satisfying manifestation. And it is also a form itself because it has distinct and recognizable contours.

Exploring the musician's relationship with his art and how this relationship is shaped by the phenomenon of the raga, Raja spoke in detail while discussing the topic, 'Perspective on raga-ness' at the Kumar Gandharva Memorial Lecture Series organised by the Raza Foundation here on Sunday.

Raja, who is also the author of *The Raga-ness of Ragas: Ragas Beyond the Grammatical*, drew upon several aspects like defining ragas as a linguistic statement, its relationship with cultural memory and the notion of a raga as a transcendental entity to present a collage of perspectives that simplified the context of ragas.

He maintained that the communicative efficiency of a raga, which is a rule-based system of sounds, is often attributed to the receptivity of the listener as much as the competence of the performer. However, despite music's universal resonance, experts in linguistics have not granted the status of a language to music.

The reason for this, Raja felt, is because "the

acceptance of music – any music – as a language rests largely on the proposition that music does not support the notion of 'lexical meaning'."

But in the present context of raga-ness, this objection can be questioned, he argued.

"Each raga qualifies almost entirely as a linguistic statement, and is understood by the members of the raga music community – just as a statement in any spoken language is understood by its 'native' ethnic-linguistic community," he claimed.

Another aspect he touched upon was how magically a raga transforms itself into melodious compositions when performed by artists and how each time it manages to elicit a different response from the audience. "It depends on the cultural memory. The association of the sound patterns of a raga with their meaning reside in the collective unconscious, just as the association of words in a spoken or written language reside in the memory of the culture in which the language has evolved," he added.

In Hindustani and Western art music, music theorists share a divergent view when it comes to giving the status of the 'commanding form' to ragas and compositions ('bandhing'). According to Raja, the proposition that which of the two plays a pivotal role in constructing a melody will always be debatable.

"In Western art music, American philosopher of art, Prof Susanne Langer, accords the status of the commanding form to the composition because it is the composition which determines the entire process of invention and elaboration. Whereas Prof Suseehan Sareena argues that, in Hindustani music, the raga rightfully occupies this status," he reiterated. – IANS

## Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Wednesday, July 19, 2017.

This year you often opt not to share what is on your mind. Your perspective could be changing with time, and you might want to take a stand once you condense your views and feel confident in your judgments. Others find you unusually desirable. If you are single, you could meet someone of significance in the next few months. Do not push for a commitment – it is the composition which determines the entire process of invention and elaboration. Whereas Prof Suseehan Sareena argues that, in Hindustani music, the raga rightfully occupies this status," he reiterated. – IANS

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

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

You will be more successful with self-discipline than with certain mistakes. Try not to let this mood affect those around you. If you need to talk, go to work to center yourself. Do not take the issue and make a big deal out of it. Tonight: Hang out.

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

Be aware of what specific needs you expect from others. You might be more successful with certain mistakes. Try not to let this mood affect those around you. If you need to talk, go to work to center yourself. Avoid releasing tension in a quarrel. Tonight: Hang out.

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

When you're focused, you are able to achieve a lot. You might be more successful with certain mistakes. Try not to let this mood affect those around you. If you need to talk, go to work to center yourself. Do not push for a commitment – it is the composition which determines the entire process of invention and elaboration. Whereas Prof Suseehan Sareena argues that, in Hindustani music, the raga rightfully occupies this status," he reiterated. – IANS

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

Unrestful times, at least with your ability to sustain concentration. You could feel as if you need to step back and get a complete perspective on several issues. Do not think that you always have to participate in everything. Be discriminating. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

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

It is too late. With your energy as high as it is, it would be wise to deal with this matter sooner rather than later. Tonight: Speak your mind, but use diplomacy.

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

It is too late. You could do well when involved with several people; however, it is a social happening. You could be pushed to the point of fatigue and irritation. Yet you'll still crust right past any hassles. Recognize what is happening, and don't be a harsh critic. Tonight: Out late.

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

You could be more successful with a personal mentor and ready to devote a significant amount of time to an important project with friends. You can accomplish a lot if you focus and screen your calls. A boss is more than aware of what you are doing than you might realize. Tonight: A must.

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

It is too late. You could be in a situation where the person demands an immediate answer. Remember, you are capable of going only so far and doing only so much. Be more forthright with your investigation of a certain issue. Tonight: Put on pants that allows your mind to drift.

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

Read between the lines when dealing with a partner whose personality often prevents you from getting to the bottom of an issue. Though you find this person to be charming, you often find it difficult to work with him or her. Tonight: Have a quiet but serious chat with a loved one.

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

You could amaze your with his or her diverse ideas and thoughts. Together, you'll come up with unusual but effective solutions. You have an ability to assimilate a lot of facts and information. Tonight: Deter to a loved one.

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

You might want to try a different approach to a work-related matter that affects your daily life. You could be dealing with a versatile, quick-witted personality, and you could be overwhelmed by what you hear. Build a solid foundation. Tonight: Time to relax.

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

You have an interesting perspective, whereas others seem to be in one camp or the other. Your ideas could be totally different and have an impact on others. You might be tired of explaining, but you will say only as much as is needed. Tonight: Lighten up the mood.

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

If you can play it key-for majority of the day, do as a result, you are likely to feel a lot better than you have in quite a while. Still, it might be important to keep certain goals to yourself. Go with the flow of the moment. Tonight: Invite a friend or two over for dinner.

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Thought for the day:

Who to himself is law, no law doth need. Offends no law, and is a king indeed.

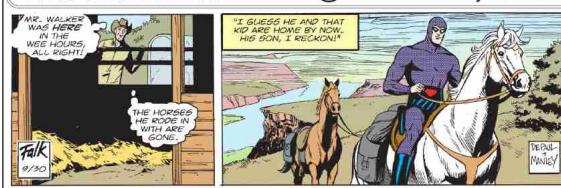
— GEORGE CHAPMAN



## THE PHANTOM

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By Lee Falk

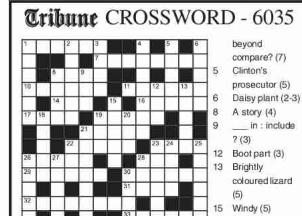


## BLONDIE

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## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



Across	1 Syrian city (6)	14 Rockabilly (6)	23 Great Centuries : Virat Kohli (6)	30 Winning Post (6)
	2 Purchase tax (8)	15 Rockabilly (6)	24 India Tour of WI Hts (6)	31 Rockabilly (6)
	8 Dabbling duck (8)	16 Rockabilly (6)	25 India Tour of Sri Lk Hts (6)	32 Rockabilly (6)
	10 "Viva Zapata!" (6)	17 Rockabilly (6)	26 Rockabilly (6)	33 Rockabilly (6)
	11 Be disloyal (6)	18 Rockabilly (6)	27 Rockabilly (6)	34 Rockabilly (6)
	14 Limited, in short (3)	19 Rockabilly (6)	28 Rockabilly (6)	35 Rockabilly (6)
	16 Eat greedily (5)	20 Rockabilly (6)	29 Rockabilly (6)	36 Rockabilly (6)
	17 The two or more beings just mentioned (4)	21 Rockabilly (6)	30 Rockabilly (6)	37 Rockabilly (6)
	19 Pool problem (5)	22 Rockabilly (6)	31 Rockabilly (6)	38 Rockabilly (6)
	21 Too full (5)	23 Rockabilly (6)	32 Rockabilly (6)	39 Rockabilly (6)
	22 Alights (5)	24 Rockabilly (6)	33 Rockabilly (6)	40 Rockabilly (6)
	23 Sri Lankan paceman (5)	25 Rockabilly (6)	34 Rockabilly (6)	41 Rockabilly (6)
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## India, UK discuss extradition, visa issues

LONDON, July 18: India and the UK have discussed the issues that affect the extradition of fugitives "across the board" and the problems faced due to delays by British authorities in granting visas to Indians, including students.

The issues were raised with British authorities by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi, who was in the UK as part of the India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue, which concluded yesterday.

Asked if the extradition of fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya and former IPL chief Lalit Modi were raised specifically with the UK, Mehrishi said the issues that affect extradition "across the board" were discussed, rather than specific cases.

"Mr Mallya's case is sub judice. The issues around extradition discussed during the meetings only focused on any difficulties that may arise in extradition cases in general," he told reporters at the Indian High Commission at the end of his week-long visit.

Mallya, the 61-year-old former chief of the now-grounded Kingfisher Airlines, has been in the UK since March 2016 and was arrested by Scotland Yard on an extradition warrant on April 18. The airline owes nearly Rs 9,000 crore to the Indian taxman. On a trial, he is fighting the extradition case in a UK court. He had fled India on March 2 last year.

Modi, also said to be in the UK, is wanted by Indian authorities in connection with a money laundering case.

India and Britain have an extradition treaty,

signed in 1992, but so far only one extradition has taken place under the arrangement – that of Samirbhai Vinubhai Patel.

During the talks Mehrishi held in the UK, India raised the issue of visa problems faced by Indians, including delays in student visa decisions, the high amount charged for the visa and the lengthy waiting period for Indian tourist visas.

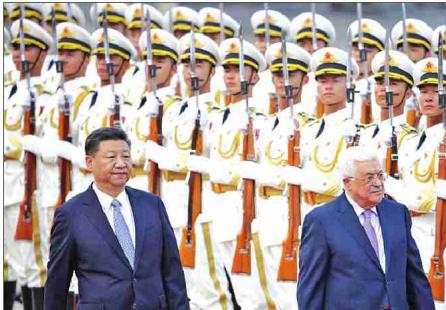
The issue of women abandoned by Indian-origin and NRI spouses from the UK back in India was also raised by India and it was agreed that follow-up meetings on that would take place next week with senior Indian High Commission diplomats.

The Union Home Secretary held talks with Brandon Lewis, UK Minister for Immigration and others over the past week, most of which are not in the "public domain."

The UK raised the issue of illegal Indian immigrants overstaying in the UK. "Approximately, the UK has been able to identify in the region of about 1,000 illegal immigrants from India a year. We made it clear that it is a matter of policy for India that anybody identified as an Indian who is illegally in the UK, we will expel him or her return," Mehrishi said.

The India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue was set to conclude UK Prime Minister Theresa May's visit to India in November 2016.

The first meeting under the process took place in New Delhi in May and the meeting in London was co-chaired by Mehrishi with UK Permanent Secretary Philip Rutnam. – PTI



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas attending welcome ceremony outside the Great Hall of People in Beijing on Tuesday. – UNI

## Trump pushes for 'Made in America' products

WASHINGTON, July 18: US President Donald Trump has pushed for "Made in America" products to fight "unfair" and "stupid" trade practices and criticism that his own family business outsources product manufacturing to countries like India, China and Bangladesh.

Surrounded by Gibson guitars, Stetson cowboy hats and other "Made in America" products, Trump promised to "stand up" for American companies and their employees, warning that the US would take retaliatory action against other countries' "unfair trade practices."

"We have countries that charge us 100 per cent tax on a product. And when that product is sold by them to us, we brilliantly charge them nothing," Trump said, with a tinge of sarcasm. "People say, 'Oh that's free trade.' No, that's stupid trade. That's really stupid trade. It's incredible," Trump was quoted as saying by CNN.

Noting that he was elected

on promises of reinvigorating American manufacturing, the President touted his administration's efforts to bolster US manufacturing and strip away burdensome government regulations and promised he would do more to level the playing field for US companies.

But Trump offered no new policy or specific action that would advance those goals, signing only a symbolic "Made in America" proclamation and promising still-unrevealed policies that would make US manufacturers "so happy."

The day provided an opportunity for Trump to turn the page away from the Russia-related controversies swirling around his administration and instead provide images of him marvelling at a host of products made in all 50 US states.

"My administration is removing the burdens and regulations on your companies so that you can compete, thrive and grow," he said. – PTI

## Bodies of Swiss couple found after 75 years



GENEVA, July 18: A couple that disappeared in the Alps 75 years ago has been found preserved in a receding glacier, ending decades of uncertainty for their seven children, the Swiss media reported today.

The bodies were found lying near each other in the Diablerets massif in southern Switzerland, along with backpacks, a bottle, a book and a watch, according to the *Le Matin* daily. The head of the Glacier 3000 ski resort, Bernard Tschammler, told *Le Matin* that the bodies were found last Thursday.

"It was a man and a woman wearing clothes from the last (World) War," Tschammler was quoted as saying. "The ice preserved them perfectly and their belongings were intact." Tschammler told the paper that the couple had likely fallen into a crevasse.

A DNA search has been planned to definitively establish their identities, but *Le Matin* quoted Marceline Dumoulin as saying she believed the remains were of her parents, who went missing on August 15, 1942.

Marceline Dumoulin, a 40-year-old shoemaker at the time, and his wife Francine, a school teacher aged 37, had left their village of Chandolin to graze their cattle in the mountainside. Searches were carried out for more than two months, but ultimately the seven orphans – five boys and two girls – were placed in foster homes.

"We spent our whole lives searching for them, without stopping. We never thought we'd be able to give them the funeral they deserved," Marceline Dumoulin, who was four when her parents went missing, told *Le Matin*. – AFP

## Cardinal unhappy over copyright to Saint Teresa sari

ROME, July 18: The famous white sari with three blue borders worn by Saint Mother Teresa has been copyrighted by nuns, and one of the Vatican's top cardinals is not pleased. "Holy Mother Teresa of Calcutta is a universal symbol, beloved by believers (and unbelievers)," said Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins (85), an expert of the powerful Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

"It is absurd that taxes will now have to be paid on her sari. It is the first time I have heard anything like it," he was quoted as saying by the online version of the Italian weekly, *Panorama*, which hits shop shelves on Thursday. The sari was reportedly recognised as an Intellectual Property of the Missionaries of Charity by the trademarks registry in India in the day the revered Catholic nun was raised to sainthood in September last year. It means those using images of the sari – in anything from books and films to calendars – will have to pay.

"It certainly does not honour the saint's memory," Saraiva Martins said. *Panorama* added that the news had upset many at the Vatican to the point that Pope Francis may be moved to speak out. The white sari, now worn by nuns belonging to the Missionaries of Charity throughout the world, is a symbol of purity, while the three blue borders represent poverty, chastity and obedience.

Mother Teresa won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize and was remembered around the world as a beacon for the Christian values of self-sacrifice and charity.

She spent all her adult life in India, first teaching and then tending to the dying poor for decades before her death in 1997 at the age of 87. – AFP



Saint Teresa

## Pak court lifts ban on Indian TV shows

LAHORE, July 18: A Pakistani court today lifted a ban imposed by the country's media watchdog on airing of Indian teleplays and replays appeared strange while Indian films were being openly aired.

The Lahore High Court declared the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) ban on airing Indian teleplays null and void after a federal government told the court that it has no objections to Pakistani private TV channels telecasting Indian TV shows.

Although PEMRA's ban on the airing of Indian films on television channels was lifted in February, permission to air teleplays or television dramas was not granted.

The petitioner's counsel, Asma Jehangir, argued in court today that a ban on Indian teleplays appeared strange while Indian films were being openly aired.

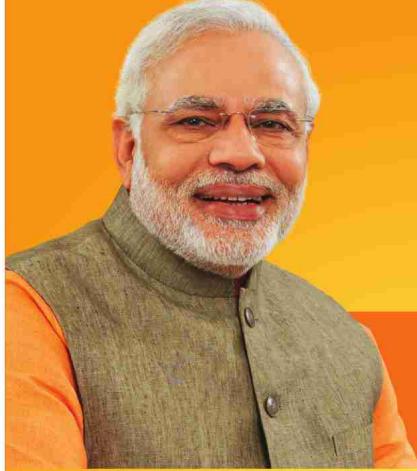
LHC Chief Justice Mansoor Ali Shah said the Indian content with objectionable or anti-Pakistan content could be censored, but there was no need for a complete ban.

"The world has become a global village. How

long unreasonable restrictions could be imposed," he said. He added when Indian movies are being screened in cinemas in the country, what justification the PEMRA has to ban them on TV channels. – PTI



Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas  
Government of India



“ Unless the underprivileged are given their due place in society, the country cannot progress ”

*— Narendra Modi*

**Sabka Saath  
Sabka Vikas**

**EMPOWERING THE UNDERPRIVILEGED SECTION OF THE SOCIETY**

Allotment of Petrol Pumps to SC, ST and Women Category Letter of Intent holders

<p><b>Chief Guest</b></p> <p><b>Thawarchand Gehlot</b> Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Government of India</p>	<p><b>Guest of Honour</b></p> <p><b>Jual Oram</b> Minister for Tribal Affairs Government of India</p>
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In the august presence of

**Dharmendra Pradhan**  
Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum & Natural Gas,  
Government of India

19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, 2.30 PM  
Constitution Club of India, Mavalankar Hall, New Delhi

# Lukaku opens his account as Manchester United win

SALT LAKE CITY, July 18: Romelu Lukaku bagged his first goal in a Manchester United shirt on Monday as the Premier League giants laboured to a 2-1 victory over Real Salt Lake in Utah.

Lukaku, who joined the Red Devils from Everton in a reported \$75 million (\$98.2 million) transfer last week, fired United ahead on 38 minutes, latching on to a low cross from Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

The 24-year-old Belgian international striker had also been involved in United's equaliser scored by Mkhitaryan in the 29th minute after Luis Silva had given

Salt Lake a shock early lead. Lukaku used his strength and physical presence to hold off the Real defence to feed Jesse Lingard who provided the pass for Mkhitaryan to score.

The United goals were the rare highlights of a disjointed first half performance from Jose Mourinho's side, who had travelled to Utah earlier on Monday from their Los Angeles training camp.

For much of the opening half United were second best against a lively Salt Lake side, with their defence being given a torrid time by a team who are languishing near the foot of

Major League Soccer's Western Conference.

The lively attack trio of Luis Silva, Joao Plata and Jefferson Savarino again left United's defence scrambling to get into position, with Phil Jones finding the movement of the Salt Lake front two hard to deal with.

A surging run from Savarino set up Silva's opening goal on 23 minutes. United however responded swiftly with Mkhitaryan's equaliser just before the half hour mark.

Real coach Mike Petke, with one eye on his team's MLS future in Portland on Wednesday, withdrew his

entire starting line-up at the 30-minute mark, and United capitalised to take the lead through Lukaku.

Mourinho also fielded a new starting XI for the second half, with Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial leading the line for United.

United again struggled to impose themselves however, and their frustration boiled over when Antonio Valencia was sent off for a reckless lunge on Sebastian Sausedo midway through the second half.

United will face Manchester City in Houston on Thursday in the third game of their US tour. — AFP



Romelu Lukaku of Manchester United scores their second goal during the pre-season friendly match against Real Salt Lake at Rio Tinto Stadium in Utah, on Monday.

## Germany held by Sweden; Russia stun Italy at women's Euro

BREDA (Netherlands), July 18: Holders Germany were held to a goalless draw by Sweden while underdogs Russia stunned Italy as Group B opened at the women's Euro tournament in the Netherlands.

In Breda, Sweden picked up their first point in 12 competi-

tive encounters with Germany, who have won the European title six times in a row and eight times overall.

Earlier in Rotterdam, first-half goals from Elena Danilova and Elena Morozova handed Russia a surprise 2-1 win over Italy.

In the 65th minute, she flicked a low cross from Carlson Simon just past the post.

Sweden then demonstrated their strength in the counter-attack but Stina Blackstenius failed to deliver following a superb run as her weak shot was blocked by Almuth Schult who also stopped Lotte Schelin's breakaway effort two minutes later.

Seven minutes before the end, Isla flicked a low ball from captain Dzsenifer Marozsan from the crossbar, but Chelsea keeper Hedvig Lindahl cleared the ball over the bar.

In Rotterdam, Russia's Danilova struck nine minutes into the game with a low shot from outside the box that took Italian keeper Chiara Marchitelli by surprise at her left post. — AFP



Nadezhda Karpova (L) of Russia vies with Cecilia Salvai of Italy during the Group B match of the women's Euro tournament at the Sparta Stadium in Rotterdam, on Monday.

## Sameer, Prannoy to lead Indian challenge at US Open

ANAHEIM (US), July 18: Back in action after recovering from an injury, Sameer Verma will look to put the best foot forward when he competes at the US Open Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament which begins here tomorrow.

Sameer, who had reached the finals of 2016 Hong Kong Super Series and clinched the Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold this year, had suffered a shoulder injury and couldn't participate at Indonesia and Australian Super Series last month.

Former National champion Sameer was then forced to withdraw from last week's Canada Open after failing to get visa on time.

The 22-year-old from Dhar-

will now look to go full throttle when he opens his campaign against Vietnam's Hoang Nam Nguyen.

HS Prannoy and Parupalli Kashyap will also look for good results this week after early exits in Canada.

Commonwealth Games champion Plessis will have a tough task ahead when he meets top seed Korean Lee Hyun Il, while second seed Prannoy, who had a good outing at Indonesia Super Series Premier, will face Austria's Luka Wraber who will take on Netherlands' Gayle Mahulette.

Rituparna Das will take on Rachel Honderich while Reshma Karthik will face Denmark's Sofie Holmboe Dahl. — PTI

man's Kenta Nishimoto and Harsheedani will square off against Mexico's Arturo Herández at the Anaheim Convention Center Arena.

In women's singles, National champion Rituparna Das and Rithika Shyam will lead the charge in the absence of Saina Nehwal, who pulled out of the event.

Shivani will face third seed Japanese Aya Ohori, Sri Krishna Priya Kudrarwali will fight it out against USA's Maya Chen and San Utejitha Rao Chukka will take on Netherlands' Gayle Mahulette.

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# Sri Lanka pull off record chase to beat Zimbabwe

COLOMBO, July 18: Niroshan Dickwella and Asela Gunaratne guided Sri Lanka to a record 388 target to beat Zimbabwe by four wickets on Tuesday in a pulsating end to their one-off Test.

A crucial 121-run sixth-wicket stand between Gunaratne (80 not out) and Dickwella (81) secured Sri Lanka's best-ever run chase.

Sri Lanka's previous best was against South Africa in 2006, when they achieved a 352-run target. Tuesday's chase was also the highest in Asia and fifth best in Tests.

Man-of-the-match Gunaratne anchored the chase to perfection after Dickwella's departure, putting on an unbeaten 67-run partnership with Diluv Perera (29 not out) to take Sri Lanka to victory.

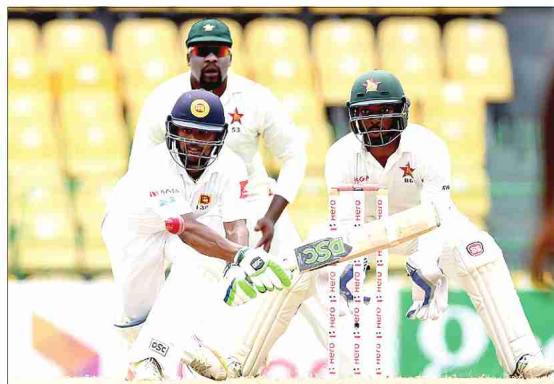
The win in Colombo was a boost for new Test captain Dinesh Chandimal and eased Sri Lanka's pain after a shock defeat in the one-day series against the minnows.

"It's always tough when you're bat-

ting in the fourth innings but I told the team that they should play their normal game and they played some outstanding innings, especially Dickwella and Asela," Chandimal said.

"It's always challenging as a captain but it's about doing the right things on and off the field," said Chandimal, who took over after Angelo Mathews quit because of the ODI loss.

Zimbabwe skipper Graeme Cremer claimed four wickets with his leg-



Sri Lanka's Asela Gunaratne gets down for a reverse sweep during day five of the one-off Test against Zimbabwe in Colombo, on Tuesday.

spin to have Mathews caught and bowled for 25. The visitors scored victory, but it was not to be for the 10th-ranked side.

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"It's a team... But the way the guys fought and got the runs on the board and pushed Sri Lanka till the last day was great," said Cremer.

"The one-day series is a high point for us, we brought that confidence into the Test match and it gave us the belief that we could push them."

For Sri Lanka, veteran left-arm spinner Lasith Malinga (3-61) and leg-spinning batsman Kusal Mendis (4-62) were the stars.

Zimbabwe batsman Craig Ervine's 160 in the first innings and allrounder Raza's 127 in the second essay were also notable performances in the match.

Sri Lanka host the number-one ranked India for three Tests, five One-Day Internationals and a single Twenty20 later this month.

**Zimbabwe 1st Innings:** 366. **Sri Lanka 1st Innings:** 349. **Sri Lanka 2nd Innings:** 377

**Sri Lanka 2nd Innings:** FDM Kumar (54), S Chahal (50), L Malinga (50), C de Leon (44), L Dhananjaya (37), BHG Mendis, C Williams b Cremer (15), LD Chandimal c Massakadara b Cremer (15), AD Mathews & C b Cremer (25), N Dickwella c Chetkabu b Williams (75), F de Britto (40) not out, MKR Ntuli (30), L Dhananjaya (29). **Total:** 6-173. **Fall of wickets:** 1-114, 2-133, 3-173, 4-191, 5-213. **Bowling:** KXIP Raza 13-1-156-2, SC Williams 4-1-142-2, AG Cremer 48-6-150-4, MN Warner 4-0-106, CB Mpofu 6-3-10-0. — Agencies

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017

## England eyes in ICC WC final

BRISTOL, July 18: Host England made it to the final of the ICC Women's World Cup edging past South Africa by two wickets in the thrilling first semifinal here today.

Batting first South Africa scored 218 for six in the stipulated 50 overs and in reply England gathered 221 losing eight wickets with two balls to spare.

**Scorecard**

**South Africa 1st Innings:** 218. **England 1st Innings:** 221. **South Africa 2nd Innings:** 218. **England 2nd Innings:** 219. **Fall of wickets:** 1-21, 2-48, 3-125, 4-126, 5-169, 6-173. **Bowling:** KH Brunt 10-14-0, A Shrubsole 10-14-0, J Broad 10-0-25-0, J Leach 9-0-70-0, A Harley 9-40-0, J Gunn 6-0-35-1, HC Knight 2-0-8-1

**England:** L Windfall c du Preez b Khaka 20, TT Beaumont b Khaka 15, SJ Taylor run out (van Niekerk) 54, HC Knight 30, KH Brunt 10-14-0, A Shrubsole 10-14-0, J Broad 10-0-25-0, J Leach 9-0-70-0, A Harley 9-40-0, J Gunn 6-0-35-1, HC Knight 2-0-8-1

**South Africa:** L Wolpert b Knight 10, T van Niekerk 10, S du Plessis 7, T Cherny st Taylor & S Sarel 15, M du Plessis not out 76, M Kapp run out 1, D van Niekerk run out 27, CJ Toyen 8 & J Gunn 1, S Luus not out 21. **Extras:** (w 4) 1. Total: (6 wickets; 50 overs) 218. **Fall of wickets:** 1-21, 2-48, 3-125, 4-126, 5-169, 6-173. **Bowling:** KH Brunt 10-14-0, A Shrubsole 10-14-0, J Broad 10-0-25-0, J Leach 9-0-70-0, A Harley 9-40-0, J Gunn 6-0-35-1, HC Knight 2-0-8-1

**Zimbabwe batsman Craig Ervine's 160 in the first innings and allrounder Raza's 127 in the second essay were also notable performances in the match.**

Sri Lanka host the number-one ranked India for three Tests, five One-Day Internationals and a single Twenty20 later this month.

### SCORECARD

**Zimbabwe 1st Innings:** 366.

**Sri Lanka 1st Innings:** 349.

**Sri Lanka 2nd Innings:** 377

**Sri Lanka 2nd Innings:** FDM Kumar (54), S Chahal (50), C de Leon (44), L Malinga (50), C b Cremer (25), N Dickwella c Chetkabu b Williams (75), F de Britto (40) not out, MKR Ntuli (30), L Dhananjaya (29). **Total:** 6-173. **Fall of wickets:** 1-114, 2-133, 3-173, 4-191, 5-213. **Bowling:** KXIP Raza 13-1-156-2, SC Williams 4-1-142-2, AG Cremer 48-6-150-4, MN Warner 4-0-106, CB Mpofu 6-3-10-0. — Agencies

**Sachin urges youngsters to stop being couch potatoes**

MUMBAI, July 18: Urging the younger lot of the country to become healthy by taking part in sporting activities, said the cricket legend after being announced as Sony Pictures Networks India's ambassador for Sports at a function here.

SPN also announced the launch of two new sports channels, Sony Ten 2 HD and Sony Ten 3 HD, bringing its overall number of sports channels to eleven – including six HD channels. — PTI



Bhabajyoti Goswami, international category 1 referee of the International Weightlifting Federation has been invited to conduct the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships to be held at Kathmandu from July 22 to 29.

### Assam players shine in OIL-AITA tennis tourney

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 18: Assam players put up a fine show today in the OIL-AITA Super Series Tennis Tournament for girls and boys Under-12 and 14 years.

Altogether six players from Assam reached the quarterfinal stage in the girls U-12, U-14 years and boys U-12 years age groups on the second day of the championship being played at the All Assam Tennis Association complex in Chachar.

**Today's results:** (Boys U-14, 1st Rd) Aditya Prathmesh Bhagwati (AS) bt Arunesh Banerjee (WB) 7-5, 1-6; 6-4; (Boys U-14, 2nd Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Bhabajyoti Goswami (WB) 6-3, 6-1; Anayush Mejumdar (WB) bt Arunesh Bhagwati (AS) 6-1, 6-2; (Boys U-12, 1st Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Kishan Singh (WB) 6-2, 6-3; (Boys U-12, 2nd Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Bhabajyoti Goswami (WB) 6-1, 6-2; (Girls U-14, 1st Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Bhabajyoti Goswami (WB) 6-1, 6-2; (Girls U-14, 2nd Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Bhabajyoti Goswami (WB) 6-1, 6-2; (Boys U-12, 1st Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Bhabajyoti Goswami (WB) 6-1, 6-2; (Boys U-12, 2nd Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Bhabajyoti Goswami (WB) 6-1, 6-2; (Boys U-14, 1st Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Bhabajyoti Goswami (WB) 6-1, 6-2; (Boys U-14, 2nd Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Bhabajyoti Goswami (WB) 6-1, 6-2; (Girls U-12, 1st Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Bhabajyoti Goswami (WB) 6-1, 6-2; (Girls U-12, 2nd Rd) Arunesh Banerjee (AS) bt Bhabajyoti Goswami (WB) 6-1, 6-2.

Altogether 100 players are taking part in the meet which will be conducted by Lakhajyoti Saikia as chief arbiter and he will be assisted by Swapnil Buragohain, Padma Gogoi and Nandan Buragohain.

In the opening ceremony, Guwahati Press club secretary Nabu Thakura, sports journal Pulin Sahni and president of the Assam Jyoti Bidyalay Dilip Kumar Dutta Choudhury were present as guests.

### City CCC meet semis

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 18: Senior Blue and Junior Yellow entered the final of the City Cricket Coaching Centre organised inter-group cricket tournament.

In the semifinal matches at the Dispur Parade Ground today, Senior Blue (1988) defeated Senior Yellow (162) by 36 runs while the Junior (90) team downed Junior Red (70) by 19 runs.

### Nalbari soccer league

TIHU, July 18: Champa Anchalik Krira Sangha defeated Ghagraper Anchali Krira Sangha 2-1 in the first semifinal of the Bherulam Barman Memorial A Division Football League of the Nalbari Sports Association played at the Ghoraijan HS Ground playground, Nalbari, June 15.

The second semifinal will be played between 1st ASRF and Barshap United Sports Club tomorrow, stated a press release.

### School chess tourney gets off

GUWAHATI, July 18: The Mind Sports Foundation and Assam Jyoti Bidyalay organised Servo Challenge 6th Rakshit Dutta Choudhury Memorial North East School Chess Championship got underway at the Jatiya Bidyalay premises here today.

Altogether 100 players are taking part in the meet which will be conducted by Lakhajyoti Saikia as chief arbiter and he will be assisted by Swapnil Buragohain, Padma Gogoi and Nandan Buragohain.

In the opening ceremony, Guwahati Press club secretary Nabu Thakura, sports journal Pulin Sahni and president of the Assam Jyoti Bidyalay Dilip Kumar Dutta Choudhury were present as guests.

### IPSC U-14 boys soccer begins

GUWAHATI, July 18: The Indian Public Schools' Conference (IPSC) inter-school U-14 boys soccer tournament, hosted and organised by Miles Bronson Residential School (MBRS), Bognor Gorvilly (WB) by Krishnendu Bhattacharya (AS) 6-2, 6-2; Leslon Vaz (WB) by Karthik Neel Vaddepalli (TS) 6-2, 6-2; Harish Pradeep Kumar (KA) by Ananya Ganguly (WB) 6-2, 6-2; and Tushar Paul (AS) by Srinivasan Gopalan (AS) 6-0, 6-0; Parvi Singh (MH) by Chandni Srivastava (GU) 6-0, 6-0; Pari Singh (MH) by Sweta Samanta (WB) 4-6, 6-2; Payal Prasana Tewari (MH) by Manan Nath (AS) 6-3, 6-3; Bushan Hareshwar (NM) by Nitin Lalai (TN) 6-0, 6-0; Joydeep Bhattacharya (AS) by Nalin Narula (AS) 6-0, 6-0; Sankalp Singh (AS) by Arunava Majumder (WB) 6-0, 6-0; Arunava Majumder (WB) by Meghna Bhattacharya (AS) 6-1, 6-1; Sankalp Singh (AS) by Arunava Majumder (WB) 6-0, 6-0; Arunava Majumder (WB) by Kartika Vijay (TN) 6-0, 6-0; Justin Buragham (KA) by Nirmal Kaur Atwal (CH) 6-1, 6-2; Pari Singh (MH) by Sweta Samanta (WB) 4-6, 6-2; 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