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Obituary

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OBITUARY

SMITI MINATI LAHKAR a resident of Kasturba Nagar South Sarania, Guwahati passed away at her own residence on Tuesday 15th August. She was 78 at the time of her death.

Her husband Bipin Chandra Laikher, who was a retired Senior ACS Officer died a few years back. Late Minali Laikher was the daughter of eminent freedom fighter and first elected MLA of Assam Legislative Assembly Late Haiman Choudhury, who represented Dibrugarh constituency from 1952 to 1962.

She was a most pious lady and a popular social worker in her South Sarania locality. She leaves behind two married sons and two sons besides a large number of relatives. Her cremation was performed at the Nabagraha Crematorium in presence of large gathering.

CDO/Obit/.../1

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Landslide kills 40 in northeast DR Congo

BUNIA (DR Congo), Aug 17: A landslide has swept over a fishing village on the banks of a lake in the northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, killing 40 people, a regional official said today.

Part of a mountain engulfed "a fisherman's camp after heavy rains caused a landslide," the Deputy Governor of Ituri province, Pacifico Keta told this news agency. He said 40 people were killed in the disaster in the village of Tora on the banks of Lake Albert on Wednesday.

It follows devastating floods in the Sierra Leone capital of Freetown on Monday that killed some 300 people.

"Yesterday, we buried 28 bodies and today we will bury 12 more," said Keta.

A doctor at the nearby Tshomia hospital, Herve Isamba, said they were treating four people injured in the landslide. The vast country has experienced a number of previous such disasters. - AFP

New tech may detect cancer years in advance



NEW YORK, Aug 17: Scientists have invented a technique that could detect a wide range of biomarkers which signal the start of cancer, many years before the symptoms surface.

Micro-DNA, a nucleic acid like DNA, is present in plants and animals. Out of the thousands of identified sequences, a subset is highly elevated in a number of human cancers.

They are found in blood, urine and saliva, and detecting them is a high priority for biomedical researchers.

At present, detecting them from a blood test requires going to a clinic. Now, researchers from University of Rhode Island (UR) in the US have their sights set on continuous home monitoring that could generate early alerts.

Using carbon nanotubes—tiny needle-like hollow cylinders 100,000 times smaller than a strand of human hair—researchers have engineered nano-sensors that can easily be implanted under skin.

The procedure is relatively noninvasive compared to, say, surgical biopsy, they said. "We could detect a signal from deep within a mouse," said Daniel Roxbury, assistant professor at URI. - PTI

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CD/TN/2225/1

INTERNATIONAL

War would be horrific, but North Korea nukes unimaginable: US

BEIJING, Aug 17: The top US military officer said today a military solution to the North Korean missile threat would be "horrific" but allowing Pyongyang to develop the capability to launch a nuclear attack on the United States is "unimaginable."

The chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford, told reporters in Beijing that President Donald Trump directly has "told us to develop credible viable military options and that's exactly what we're doing."

Dunford was responding to questions about Trump's chief strategist, Steve Bannon's comments in an interview published yesterday.

Bannon was quoted as saying there's no military solution to the threat posed by North Korea and its nuclear ambitions, despite the president's recent pledge to pursue further aggression with "fire and fury."



Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford (L) meets Chinese Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission Fan Changlong (R) in Beijing on Thursday. - UNI

"There's no military solution to the North Korea's nuclear threats," forget it," Bannon said in the interview.

Bannon was quoted as saying there's no military solution to the threat posed by North Korea and its nuclear ambitions, despite the president's recent pledge to pursue further aggression with "fire and fury."

United States and continue to threaten the region," he said.

Dunford has been in Asia this week, visiting South Korea, Japan and China. In China, he has met with his Chinese counterpart Fang Fenghui, chief of the People's Liberation Army's joint staff department.

Today he also met with Fan Changlong, vice chairman of the ruling Communist Party's Central Military Commission, and Yang Jiechi, China's top diplomat.

In Seoul, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said he would consider sending a special envoy to North Korea for talks if the North stops its missile and nuclear tests in an effort to jumpstart diplomacy.

He also declared amid fears in South Korea that threats from Trump to unleash "fire and fury" on Pyongyang could lead to real fighting, that there would be no second war on the Korean Peninsula. - AP

in Beijing, Dunford said it's "absolutely horrific" if there would be a military solution to this problem, there's no question about it."

But, he added, "what's unimaginable is allowing KJU (North Korean leader Kim Jong Un) to develop ballistic missiles with a nuclear warhead that can threaten the

solution here, they got us."

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But, he added, "what's unimaginable is allowing KJU (North Korean leader Kim Jong Un) to develop ballistic missiles with a nuclear warhead that can threaten the

37 die in jail riot in south Venezuela

CARACAS, Aug 17: At least 37 people died in an hours-long jail riot in Venezuela's southern State of Amazonas, officials have said.

The prosecutors office said an investigation had been launched into "the deaths of 37 people" in the facility in the town of Puerto Ayacucho.

Governor Liborio Guarulla had earlier tweeted that a "massacre" took place with at least 35 corpses counted.

High-level meet on ...

(Contd from page 1)

The Prime Minister has earmarked Rs 2,000 crore, out of which Rs 1,200 crore has been kept for building infrastructure and Rs 400 crore for dredging. "In the coming days, the Land Water Authority of India, which has joined us for discussion, will conduct the dredging soon after the monsoon session," Sonowal said.

It has been decided that the dredging of the Brahmaputra from Sadiya will be carried out from September and as many as five dredgers will be pressed into service for the mega project.

The meeting also took up the issue of the proposed construction of the Brahmaputra Expressway and decided to

rope in experts and manpower of the Border Roads Organisation to build the expressway with the sand and silt dug out through dredging. The Government of Assam will submit the detailed project report for the Brahmaputra Expressway soon.

The Chief Minister requested the Brahmaputra Board to set up a unit in Majuli and upscale its manpower to tackle flood on the island as well as in the State. In the meeting, the Director General of the Brahmaputra Board informed that the Board decided to start three major projects upstream to protect the river island from the fury of flood, he also informed that a Rs 237-crore road-cum-embankment soon.

Soon will be started in the southern bank of Majuli, which would act as a deterrent against flood-induced damages on the river island.

"Officials of at least 10 departments joined us today including the Ministry of Finance, DoNER, Water Resources, Border Roads, Civil Aviation, Department of Expenditures, National Disaster Management Authority, NITI Aayog, NSIDCL and Brahmaputra Board, among others," he said.

"The Government of Assam has raised all issues before them and the Centre will work on the problem. We are confident that all States of the North East will jointly work for solution of this problem," Sonowal said.

floods. But 26 new breaches took place this year in these two waves of floods and this resulted in worsening of the situation. Most of the embankments outlined their lifespan and there is a need for a major overhaul of the embankment network. But over the years, only repair works are being carried out due to paucity of funds, sources admitted.

Sources revealed that the Government is planning to procure two to three dredgers soon to try and dredge the beds of a few Brahmaputra rivers. But during the rainy season the same can be used for providing drinking water or irrigation in the dry season. But no concrete plan in this regard has yet been finalised.

Water Resources

Dept ...

tributaries on an experimental basis during the dry season. If the experiments turns out to be a success, the same can be done in the other tributaries as well. The Government is also thinking of an idea of constructing reservoirs near one of two tributaries on an experimental basis so that river water can be stored there during the rainy season and the same can be used for providing drinking water or irrigation in the dry season. But no concrete plan in this regard has yet been finalised.

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Law to regulate ...

(Contd from page 1)

Earlier, the apex court had asked Central Government body CAPART to apprise it about the steps taken in pursuance to its direction to consider making a law to regulate the NGOs to disburse of funds and consequential proceedings against them.

It had sought an affidavit from the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) on action taken on its April 26 order, suggesting that the Centre should consider prosecuting NGOs or voluntary organisations if they were found misusing public funds.

The apex court had in its April 26 order asked the Centre to examine enacting a law to regulate disbursement of public funds to over 32 lakh NGOs and voluntary organisations (VOs) and prosecute them in case of misuse or misappropriation.

The court had suggested to the Centre that it can legislate under Entry 97 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution which provides the list of issues on which the Centre or States or both can make laws to regulate NGOs.

Favouring a fresh all-encompassing law, the court had said if the Government "desires to extend statutory status to regulations, then they would not only provide for enforcement consequences, but also criminal civil and criminal action as may be considered by the legislation".

The CAPART, which works under the Minis-

try of Rural Development and disburses funds to voluntary organisations (VOs) working in rural areas, had earlier apprised the court that it has recommended lodging of 159 FIRs against various NGOs for alleged misappropriation or misuse of funds.

It had initially said it had blacklisted 718 NGOs for not following the due process and not submitting their accounting details, but had later removed 159 NGOs from the blacklist after they complied with the accounting norms.

While hearing the PIL filed by Sharma, the court had said the Centre and its departments were doing out crores of rupees, but were not aware of the repercussion of non-auditing.

Referring to details provided by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, assisting the court as an *amicus curiae*, the court had said that a phenomenal amount of Rs 950 crore every year was being given by the Centre and State governments to NGOs.

The Bench had also said that "mere blacklisting" of these organisations would not suffice and civil and criminal action should be initiated for misappropriation of public money received by them from various Government departments.

The CBI had in September 2015 informed the apex court that less than one per cent of over 30 lakh NGOs functioning in the country had submitted their returns or balancesheets and other financial details to the authorities. - PTI

United States and continue to threaten the region," he said.

Dunford has been in Asia this week, visiting South Korea, Japan and China. In China, he has met with his Chinese counterpart Fang Fenghui, chief of the People's Liberation Army's joint staff department.

Today he also met with Fan Changlong, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, and Yang Jiechi, China's top diplomat.

In Seoul, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said he would consider sending a special envoy to North Korea for talks if the North stops its missile and nuclear tests in an effort to jumpstart diplomacy.

He also declared amid fears in South Korea that threats from Trump to unleash "fire and fury" on Pyongyang could lead to real fighting, that there would be no second war on the Korean Peninsula. - AP



China warns US against 'trade war'

BEIJING, Aug 17: China's government today warned that there is no winner in a trade war" after aide to President Donald Trump called in published comments for a tougher stance toward Beijing.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, appealed for dialogue to preserve stable relations when asked about the comments by Trump's chief strategist, Steve Bannon.

In comments to *The American Prospect* posted online, Bannon said the United States is in an "economic war" with China. He recommended pursuing a trade investigation of Beijing's technology policies and anti-dumping action over Chinese exports of steel and aluminum.

"There is no winner in a trade war," Hua said at a regular news briefing. "We hope the relevant people can refrain from dealing with a problem in the 21st century with a zero-sum mentality from the 19th or the 20th century."

Hua appealed for dialogue to "preserve the sound and steady growth of China-US relations." - AP



Ancillary Works, AC Sheet roofing, Development of Circulating Area & Bio Toilet works

E-Tender Notice No.: 16 of 2017 Date: 14-08-2017. Open-tenders are invited for the following contract which will be opened on 19-08-2017 at 15.30 hours. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders. All tenders and documents offered shall be opened. Tender No.: G-22-2017-NFR-Northeastern Frontier Railway. Provision of individual water storage tank pipeline network with staging and other ancillary works. (b) All kinds of repair works on AC sheet roofings of broken AC sheet roofing by profile sheet at PF No. 1, 2 & 3 (c) Repairing of AC sheet roofing of Central Hospital, Maligaon (d) Provision of Bio Toilet Laboratory of Karimganj Coaches. Delivery Term Value: ₹ 2,50,000/- (e) Earnest Money: ₹ 88,170/- Date & time of closing of bids: 19-08-2017 at 15.30 hours on the Northeast Frontier Railway website <http://www.reps.gov.in>.

Sr. Divt. Engineer/Co-ord.

Mechanical Workshop Manager

NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Strong Customers With A Smile

SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed quotations with Court Fee of Rs. 6/- (Rupees eight & 5 paisa twenty five only) Pledged in the name of Assam Police Housing Corporation Ltd are hereby invited from reputed ELEVATOR manufacturer Companies / Dealers for supply and installation of 8 passenger lift as per following specification for Senior Officers building at Uluberi, Guwahati - 7. The quotations will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00 PM on 25.08.2017 and will be opened on the same date and place at 3.00 PM.

1. ELEVATOR SPECIFICATION

(For 8 passenger Auto Door, MONO Space, 4 Stops, 1.00 mps Speed)

No. of Elevators

1 No. Passenger Elevator for Senior Officers building at Uluberi, Guwahati - 7, Assam.

Passenger - 08 Persons

Speed - 1.00 Mtr / Sec (approx.)

Type of Drive Variable Voltage Variable Frequency Drive with Microprocessor based Simplex Selective Collective Control.

Machinery Permanent Magnet AC Synchronous Motor Eco Dose, (Machine Room less Type)

Available Travel 12 mt. (Maximum)

Serving Ground to 3rd Floor (0.1.2.3)

4 Stop & Levels 4 Openings

Well Size (Available) 1850 mm wide X 1850 mm wide Deep over the finished Surface.

Power Supply (Available) 415 V three - phase 50 Cycles alternating current

Auxiliary Required (Available) Single - phase 220 V 50 cycles alternating current

Car Size (Clear Inside) approx. 1100 mm Wide X 1300 mm Deep

Available Pt Depth 1600 mm

Available Head Room 5600 mm

Car Enclosure SS Scratch Proof Finish

Flooring PVC flooring

Electric Light LED Lighting

Fan Axial Flow Fan

No. of Entrances One Location - Front

Car Entrance Center Opening Auto Door COPD 1 without vision panel SS Scratch Proof Finish

Landing Entrance Center Opening Auto Door COPD 1 without vision panel SS Scratch Proof Finish

Clear Opening 700 mm Wide X 2000 mm High

Indicators : Car & Landings Direction & Position Indicator

Other Features Emergency Alarm & Light, Call Registration LEDs, OSG Electronic Switch, Firearm Drive Interlock, Full Length Infra Red door Safety, Rescue Device.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Quotations should quote their rates in round figures and not in decimal / Fraction (Both in figure and words) inclusive of all Taxes.

2. Time of Completion : - The Selected Company shall have to complete the work in all respect within (three) months from the date of handing over and taking over the proposed site complete upon issuance of the work order. If the company fails to complete the work within stipulated time as per agreement without valid reason, the company is liable to pay penalty to the Assam Police Housing Corporation Ltd @ Rs. 1% (one) p.c. per day on the amount received as advance from the Assam Police Housing Corporation Ltd for delay in completion of work.

3. Legal Jurisdiction : - At Guwahati , Assam.

4. Maintenance : - The selected company shall provide free maintenance of the equipment and take care of the equipment in the proper manner.

5. Other Terms and conditions- Negotiable.

Sd/- Chief Engineer

Chief Workshop Manager (Electrical), NFR

North Eastern Frontier Railway

Assam Police Housing Corporation Ltd., Rehabari, Guwahati-8

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Dated : 08/08/2017

Sealed tender affixing court fee stamp worth of Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight and paisa twenty five) only will be received up to 2.30 PM(IST) On 30/08/2017 in the office of the undersigned for granting of following mining contract area as per the provision of the Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rule, 2013 in certain specified areas of Mahals within this Division as per the Schedule below. The Notice containing the details of the Mining contract area along with the terms and condition of the grant may be procured from the office of the D.F.O Baksa Forest Division, Myslakpur during working hours. The Tender Paper are available on payment of Rs.100/- (per copy) by Treasury Chalan and serially numbered Tender paper with Specific code will be available on payment of Rs.100/- per copy by entering in Register.

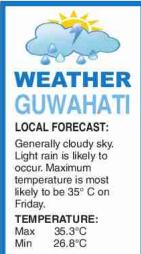
SCHEDULE

Sl.No	Name of the Mahal in which the Mining Contract will be granted	Name of the Minor Minerals	Mining contract period
I	Beki River Mahal	1. Sand Gravel 2. Stone 3. Sand 4. Ordinary Clay	2017-2024

Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer

Baksa Forest Division, Myslakpur.

PPR(BTC)-282/2017



Girl dies in road mishap

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: A teenage girl died in a road mishap in Lal Ganesh area under Fatasil Police Station this evening. Police identified the deceased as Rani Choudhury.

Although details of the mishap were awaited, police said that the girl died after she was hit by a bus, which had lost control on its way. The agitated public later damaged the bus. A couple of other vehicles were also hit by the speeding bus.

Rani, according to the police, was declared dead after she was rushed to a private hospital.

Jannamstami fest concludes

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: The Sri Krishna Jannamstami celebrations organised by Hare Krishna Movement, Guwahati (managed by devotees of ISKCON, Bangalore) in the Sonaram School playground, concluded today coinciding with the 121st birth anniversary of Srida Prabhupada, founder of the worldwide Hare Krishna Movement.

The concluding day's highlight was abhishekam to Srida Prabhupada by the devotees. The event was attended by dignitaries and people from all walks of life.

Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Secretary VK Pimprenia, DGP Mukesh Sahay and other bureaucrats and officials were among the dignitaries who attended the Jannamstami celebrations.

Award for city sculptor



GUWAHATI, Aug 17: Santita Gogoi, an artist hailing from Guwahati and a senior lecturer at the DIET Tinsukia, has been conferred the 'Promising Artist Award' under the Art Contest Sculpture Category at the 'Galerie Art Eterne Confluence-16' held in New Delhi, for her work *My Bird*. She will be felicitated and presented the award at a ceremony to be held at the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society (AIFACS), New Delhi, on January 13 next year.

Trade unions slam Centre for its anti-people decisions

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: Hundreds of protesters representing various trade unions of the Central and State organisations staged a dharna on the bank of the Dighalpukhuri here today against the Central government's decision to hike the prices of cooking gas at the rate of Rs 4 a month till the subsidy on the item is stopped by March next year.

In a statement issued here today the Joint Council of Trade Unions (JCTU), Assam stated that the withdrawal of subsidy on cooking gas would impose a burden on the poor people who cannot afford gas cylinder without subsidy.

The JCTU observed that after the introduction of 5 per cent GST on LPG cylinders, prices of LPG cylinders have



Activists of the JCTU staging a dharna in front of Dighalpukhuri. - AT photo

risen by Rs 32. This should not have happened when the prices of crude oil in the international market have sharply fallen, the statement added. The

JCTU has also strongly denounced the anti-people decision of the Central government. Expressing its grave concern over the flood situation in the

State, the JCTU expressed its displeasure at the inadequate evacuation of the flood-hit people and the amount of relief being provided to them.

'Govt may be trying to save Rakesh Paul'

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: Criticising the State government over the way the entire investigation and legal matters relating to the APSC scam have been handled, former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi today hinted that there may be an effort to save former chairman of the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) Rakesh Paul, who was granted default bail yesterday by the Supreme Court.

"Charge sheet was not filed on time. So Paul got bail. So who is responsible?" Gogoi wondered, addressing a press conference here today.

Asked if there may be a deliberate attempt by the government to save Paul, Gogoi said that it may indeed be the case.

"They may want to save him. And why have they not been able to arrest others? For example, why are the killers of

Lafiqul Islam still at large? Either they are not wilfully catching culprits or it is due to the incompetence of the government. Even RH Khan has now got bail," he said.

Regarding his continued occupation of the State Guest House at Koniadhar, Gogoi said, "I want to vacate it, but the government has to give me an alternative accommodation. If an alternative accommodation is ready today I will shift today itself. After resigning as Chief Minister, I had wanted to shift to my own house, but the security people prevented me citing security concerns. Now they have allotted me a house in the Janata Bhavan complex but the boundary wall there is not ready, nor the quarters of the security personnel."

He also opposed the State government's decision to close down Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok and convert it to a State Guest House-cum-convention centre.

Produce honey to make money: Govt to farmers Sahitya Sabha to honour 9 writers tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: Keeping in view the importance of honey production for doubling the farmers' income by 2022, the Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing, Assam has decided to celebrate the World Honey Bee Day, in collaboration with the Salt Range Private Limited, Guwahati on August 19 at the Monai Tamuli Barbarua Training Hall, Khanapara here.

The event is being organised under the Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH).

State Agriculture Minister Atul Bora will inaugurate the programme on August 19 at 10.30 am.

Honey available in Assam has huge demand for its uniqueness and natural sweetness. As varieties of flowering plants are available in this region, the taste of honey produced here differs from plant to plant. Honey obtained from litchi flowers is the sweetest.

Honey available in the State is obtained from litchi, mango, eucalyptus, mustard, coconut, drum-



World Honey Bee Day tomorrow

stick, jamun, orange, etc. Honey obtained from *amlok* (Indian gooseberry) and *hillocki* is bitter in taste and is believed to cure breathing problem.

Several bee keepers will attend the programme, which will have technical and interactive sessions for the benefit of bee keepers.

KK Mittal, Additional Chief Secretary and Agri-

GMC initiative on building a new India by 2022

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: The City Mission Management Unit of the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) under the Assam State Urban Livelihoods Mission Society has undertaken an initiative for widespread awareness among masses on building a new India by 2022 in commemoration of the Quit India Movement of 1942.

The unit under the guidance of GMC Commissioner Monalisa Goswami organised 20 'Sankalp se Siddhi' processions in different wards of Guwahati in which poor urban women's self-help groups (SHGs) and their federations known as Area Level Federations participated.

Rup Jyoti Borah, City Project Manager, said:

The initiative was launched with rallies at various locations with flag hoisting, followed by a march on major roads of the

city on Independence Day. "The themes and pledges of a new India by 2022 were sworn by all members of the procession to a new India that is dirt-free, poverty-free, corruption-free, terrorism-free, communalism-free and caste-free. Citizens also joined in the rallies enthusiastically and expressed satisfaction with the involvement of poor SHGs in the awareness campaign," he added.

Apart from processions, a number of participants also undertook cleanliness drives in many locations like Kamakhya, Six Mile, etc., to keep their wards and localities clean and hygienic.

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission is the parent mission which aims to reduce urban poverty through measures like SHG formation, skill training and employment to poor unemployed youths, self-employment programmes, etc.

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: Assam artiste first Indian ranked in global music chart

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: The theme experimental music artiste Ama Hazarika has become the first Indian to get a top ranking in the Sound Cloud Global Top 10 Trance Music Chart. Hazarika's psychedelic trance track titled 'Trippy Experience' has been the only Indian entry in the Sound Cloud Global Top 50 Trance Music Chart since the last one-and-a-half years. The track has amassed 8.1 million plays till date and is currently ranked number nine on the Sound Cloud Global Top 50 Trance Music Chart.

Hazarika released the sound-track on the Sound Cloud in September 2015 and it topped the global trance music charts within a month and remained at number one position for three consecutive months. The track is an innovative mix of sounds, intelligent melodies and captivating atmospheres.

He is a multi-genre music composer and producer from Guwahati, who started from heavy metal and rock in early 2008 and went on to make the first Assamese electronic music video in 2015.

Assam artiste first Indian ranked in global music chart

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: The Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) has expressed its concern over the serious health conditions of two young scribes who are undergoing treatment in city-based hospitals.

The forum, while wishing the ailing journalists a speedy recovery, also appealed to the government to immediately launch a

comprehensive health insurance scheme for the benefit of all working journalists in the State.

It may be noted that Gautam Hazarika from the DY365 news channel is presently being treated at the GNRC, Six Mile after suffering a brain stroke on Monday night.

On the other hand, Kushal Lahari from Amar Ason

newspaper met with an accident in Meghalaya on August 15 and is currently undergoing treatment at the Apollo Hospital here.

The JFA also urged Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to sanction necessary funds for the treatment of both Gautam and Kushal, besides requesting other media welfare organisations to



A singer performing at a programme organized to observe the 76th birth anniversary of veteran singer late Khagen Mahanta, at the Rabindra Bhawan in Guwahati on Thursday. - AT photo

Temporary measures can't help solve city's waterlogging problem



RONJEEN DAS

once for all. We believe in makeshift arrangements. We the citizens, the print and the electronic media, the administration, the political class and many others prefer to discuss vociferously the waterlogging problem only in the months of June, July and August. The issue dies down after September. 2- It is absolutely true that the city has been witnessing rapid shrinkage of low lands or water bodies in and around the city due to rapid urbanisation.

3- Agitations demanding land *Patras* that encourage earth-cutting in the hill areas of the city are proving to be disastrous for the city's drainage system. 4- Non-diversion of the Bahini river and gradual

shrinking of water storage capacity of the Bharalu river as well as improper and unscientific drainage system of Guwahati, which is surrounded by a vast tract of hilly terrain.

Both long-term and short-term measures must be worked out to draw the road-map for construction of 'under-earth' and 'overhead' rainwater storage spaces for harvesting rainwater. As a long-term measure, the Deepor Beel, a major storm water storage basin, has perennial water spread area of about 10,1 km² and extends up to 40.1 km² during floods. The main sources of the Deepor Beel's water are the Basistha and Kalmani rivers and local monsoon run-off between May and September. The Deepor Beel drains into the Brahmaputra river, 5-km northwest through the Khonjai channel. The Deepor Beel could play a major role in mitigating the waterlogging problem in the city, if the rainwater coming down from the Meghalaya foothills could be diverted to it, instead of allowing the same rainwater to make its way into the city.

During maximum flooding, the Deepor Beel gets four metres deep. However, during the dry season, the depth drops to about one metre. The threat to its existence and sustainability could be easily analysed from the gradual decrease in the wetland area from 33.5 per cent in 1990 to 21.3 per cent in 1997 and then to 19.4 per cent in 2007.

The main reason behind the reduction of the Deepor Beel's area is large-scale encroachment by various agencies like the BSE, the Railways, brick kilns and other private parties, etc. Experts should explore if the Deepor Beel could be re-engineered and dredged to a suitable depth so as to accommodate at least three times the length of the flooded Bharalu within itself.

As the Beel is surrounded by steep highlands on the north and the south with the Ranip and Garlanga hills in the backdrop, extensive studies should be taken up to enlarge the Deepor Beel wetland area of 41.0 hectares by at least 25 per cent, if necessary, at the cost of land acquisition.

Dredging of the Bharalu bed and sub-

sequent widening of the river is a very important step towards creating a solution to the problem of waterlogging in Guwahati. We are fortunate to have with us the 6.4 km-long Bharalu canal.

But, unfortunately, the Bharalu is not in Europe; it's in Guwahati. So, it remains a neglected entity without water-scooter, water-taxi or canal-bus service. The Bharalu's bed becomes so shallow in the months of February and March that school children are seen playing cricket on some locations of the river. Instead of utilising the Bharalu's potential to solve the city's waterlogging problem, it has been used for years as an alternative location for garbage dumping and encroachment. We all should come forward to redesign the Bharalu from the RG Baruah Road to the Pragjyoti College with proper gradient and other technical parameters so as to create a technological marvel such a manner that the river can accommodate within it at least three full-length and flooded Bharalu rivers.

The 'water-storage capacity' of the Bharalu canal could be close to 1.5 million cubic metres. If the Bharalu is widened by 15 metres on an average and its bed is dredged to maintain an average depth of 15 metres for its reconstruction as a rainwater reservoir, it would help solve the city's waterlogging problem to a great extent. Going by the rough estimate, if the Bharalu is widened and deepened, the Bahini is enlarged with the above-mentioned parameters in mind, even 10 days of heavy rainfall for 3-4 hours a day would fail to make any impact even on the low-lying areas of the city in terms of waterlogging and artificial flooding.

The entire process of making the city free from flash flood, including that of diversion of the Bahini river and widening as well as dredging of the Bharalu and enlargement of the Deepor Beel area to at least 550 hectares, should essentially be a part of the effort to upgrade Guwahati into a smart city.

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Getting ahead in a difficult profession requires
avid faith in yourself.

— SOPHIA LOREN

The Assam Tribune

Forgotten episodes

Many episodes of Assam's history are in danger of being forgotten unless researched upon and commemorated with greater vigour. The battle of Alaboi, fought in August, 1609, is one such. Though episodes such as the battle of Saraghat are indelibly engraved in Assamese memory and associated with the iconic Lachit Barphukan and Atan Buragohain, the Alaboi episode in which they were involved is not as generally known or remembered. Towards the second half of the 1600s, the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, smarting at the ousting of his army from the Brahmaputra Valley by the Assamese under the command of Lachit, sent a mighty force led by Ram Singh to teach the then Ahom monarch, Chakradhwaj Singha, a lesson. While Ram Singh, aware of what happened to his predecessor Mir Jumla, was cautious in his approach, Lachit too was wary of putting his soldiers into direct confrontation with the vastly superior Mughal army. His and Atan's plan had been to wait patiently for the opponents to advance, and trap them at Guwahati where the Assamese army was well entrenched. But Chakradhwaj Singha mistook the delay in full-fledged hostilities to be hesitancy on the part of his generals, and threatened the Barphukan and Buragohain with dire consequences if they delayed acting any further. This forced the duo into embarking on a strategy they were unwilling to undertake leading to tragic consequences.

At that point of time some of the Mughals were encamped upon open land beside the Sessa river close to the Alaboi mountain. Forty thousand men, sent by Lachit, attacked the encampment, inflicted heavy casualties, captured booty and took prisoners, including Mir Nawab, a Mughal commander. However, what Lachit had dreaded came true – as the Assamese army was returning, they were set upon by Ram Singh's imperial cavalry and, by the end of the day on August 5, 1669, 10,000 warrior corpses lay strewn upon Alaboi plains, the biggest loss suffered by the Assamese in any campaign. Unfortunately, such a stirring episode of courage and sacrifice has not received due attention of the public or historians, and the Department of History and Archaeology is to be commended for undertaking plans to fill this lacuna. In fact, the department should broaden its perspective and endeavour to publicize other almost forgotten episodes of Assam's history and project them before the outside world. For example, the peasant uprising at Pothorughat on January 28, 1894, has been rightfully claimed by historians to be the first instance in India's freedom movement when the concepts of passive resistance and civil disobedience were displayed, ones which Mahatma Gandhi so effectively used later as weapons against British imperialism. It is sad indeed that such episodes are not only unmentioned in Indian chronicles on the freedom movement, but have also been almost ignored by the Assamese people themselves.

Air pollution

Growing air pollution is a global concern today, and the problem has worsened into a major health hazard across urban landscapes in thickly-populated developing countries. A look into any Indian city is enough to underscore this point. Indeed, Delhi, the national capital has earned the dubious distinction of being the world's most polluted city. This also exposes how insensitive our authorities have been in checking growing air pollution even as the menace was aggravating into a health hazard. Children have been the worst victim of the hazard as the mounting atmospheric pollution has made them vulnerable to develop a host of serious ailments. The situation has triggered legitimate apprehension that millions of children in India could suffer debilitating health problems later in life. According to a WHO assessment, half of Delhi's 4.4 million schoolchildren would never recover full lung capacity. The WHO report also states that India has the world's highest rate of death from respiratory disease, with 159 per 100,000 in 2012, about 10 times that of Italy, five times that of the UK and twice that of even China.

It is against this disturbing backdrop that we need to view the growing magnitude of air pollution that is slowly but surely engulfing the towns and cities of Assam. While the situation may not have yet reached the level of Delhi, it is nonetheless a matter of serious concern, warranting timely interventions. The Central Pollution Control Board has already placed Guwahati and four other towns of Assam – Nahari, Nagaon, Silchar and Sivasagar – as polluted cities not meeting the required air pollution norms. Similarly, three other towns of the North-east – Bynrai, Kohima and Dimapur – have also been bracketed in the same category. The air quality of the State capital Guwahati has consistently been showing a decline in quality, with air quality monitoring stations revealing the presence of respirable suspended particulate matter (RSPM) and suspended particulate matter (SPM) above the prescribed limit for the past one decade. This is being attributed to prolonged dryness during the winter months, increasing number of vehicles on road, growing industrial activities, construction, and other human activities. Unless the authorities act fast, a Delhi-like situation definitely awaits the Guwahatis. Interventions from the authorities apart, the citizens also need to display enhanced civic sense and effect necessary changes in their lifestyles to ease the situation. As in Delhi, vehicular pollution is a major cause of the city's degrading air quality and given the rapid increase of vehicles on the city roads, the situation can only worsen in the days ahead. Matters stand further aggravated by the absence of any check on polluting vehicles which continue to ply on the city roads in large numbers. The absence of a reliable public transport, too, is compelling more and more people to use their own vehicles, putting a lot of stress on the air quality.

Rise of the interactional surrogate

■ Sandeepan Borthakur

Technological advancements in the arena of telecommunications have completely revolutionized the manner in which people communicate with each other now days. The interactional platform has transformed from 'across the table' to 'across the continent' and this paradigm shift in the modus operandi of social interactions has mutated our way of life, thereby affecting the way in which we perceive ourselves in relation to others and our engagement with them. The advent of the digital age has turned the word into the proverbial 'global village'. Places, information and, for that matter, people are now just a 'click' away, while in spite of that many inherent positives, have caused a transition of human interfaces from a 'Pure Brick and Mortar' set-up to 'Click and Mortar', and in some cases, 'Pure Click' set-ups. This transition has, in certain ways, laid waste to the traditional flavour of human interactions in its myriad beings, face-to-face interactions being the primary casualty. With digitalization becoming more pervasive and invasive in our lives with each passing day, interpersonal dialogue has taken a back seat with digital platforms turning into surrogates for the vacuum created by fading away of such dialogue from day-to-day life of individuals.

As the debate rages across the world on the detrimental effects of social interactions going digital, it is important to understand the scientific rationale which favours face-to-face communications. In the un-

derstanding of the critical aspects required for wholesome and healthy interpersonal interactions, the importance of multi-modal sensory information in ensuring effective communication among individuals assumes paramount significance. Multi-modal sensory information primarily includes facial expressions, eye contact, hand gestures, body language, etc. It may be pertinent to mention that the theory of Bayesian Integration has a bearing on the fact that if the brain is to concurredly assimilate and process a multitude of inputs and in this process, the brain must construct a coherent representation of the world that corresponds to reality. This has been proved through computational modelling and is a case to the point that the quality and quantity of input greatly enhance the ability of the brain to effectively map the contextual reality. This leads the much-needed scientific logic to understand the efficacy of face-to-face communications as against technologically-aided interactions.

Research has already proven with a fair degree of certainty that significant increase in the neural synchronization occurs between two individuals during face-to-face interactions. However, such neural synchronization is in rudimentary form or even absent during other types of interactions. According to the study published in *The*

Journal of Neuroscience and to quote, "These results suggest that face-to-face communication, particularly dialogue, has special neural features that other types of communication do not have and that the neural synchronization between partners may underlie successful face-to-face communication." Further, the quality of the interaction was found to be a major player as far as neural synchronization was concerned than the volume or

the immense mental health benefits accruing to face-to-face interactions among older adults. The participants of the study who were involved in frequent face-to-face interactions showed less susceptibility to depression and mood swings as against participants who adopted surrogate communication mediums like email and telephone. Further, as envisaged in the study, the benefits to mental health so accrued were long standing and sustainable in nature.

Needless to say, the 'pretentious' social connections being developed by people in the digital age, wherein quantity rather than quality of interactions are becoming a social norm, has a major implication on the nation's ability in realizing its demographic dividend. It has been observed that people with 'friends' running in hundreds on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) and other surrogate interactional channels struggle to sustain real life interactions with even a minute fraction of real people in their social network. It will be particularly important to note that Robin Dunbar, a British psychologist-cum-anthropologist, had once opined that the maximum number of effective connections that an individual can sustain at one point of time is approximately 150 numbers. This contention was subsequently validated by another linked research at Cornell University wherein Twitter data was evaluated. The findings went on to show quantum of the said interaction. This amply provides the basis to suggest that even infrequent interpersonal interactions conducted face to face may carry more impact quotient than frequent digital interactions.

The benefits of face-to-face communication on the mental health of individuals have also been addressed by the scientific community. To substantiate the contention, reference can be made to the study published in 2015 by the Oregon Health and Science University. *In teria alia*, the study demonstrates

interactional channels struggle to sustain real life interactions with even a minute fraction of real people in their social network. It will be particularly important to note that Robin Dunbar, a British psychologist-cum-anthropologist, had once opined that the maximum number of effective connections that an individual can sustain at one point of time is approximately 150 numbers. This contention was subsequently validated by another linked research at Cornell University wherein Twitter data was evaluated. The findings went on to show

Internet, North-east and the Indian market

■ Jasminder Gulati

India has crossed the US to become the second largest smart phone market in the world. A report by IAMAI-IMRB claims that urban India has close to 60% internet penetration. The rural India on the other hand has 750 million potential internet users. The overall internet penetration in India is currently around 31%. What's more is that 77% of urban users and 92% of rural users prefer mobile as the primary device for accessing the internet, driven by availability and affordability of smart phones and internet service provider tariff rates.

When consumers are on the mobile internet, where would the companies be? The answer is – on the internet. With each passing day, entrepreneurs are juggling with different ways in which the power of the internet can be leveraged. Internet can help them good profits, save money and help them operate more efficiently. Companies can do this by making their websites more interactive by adding surveys, guest books, auto-responders, downloadable documents and newsletters; include a shopping cart feature and deploy innovative strategies to drive more visitors to their official sites. The internet also en-

ables organizations to submit invoices by e-mail, research about competition and even add relevant and interesting content to their website, related to their business. It costs less but fetches great results.

The internet is indeed a democracy on its own merit. Any seller from anywhere, big or small, can sell to anyone in any region, not only in India, but also abroad. They are in fact driving exports. It has the capability to generate greater revenues for an organization and cater to a large segment of target audience, across geographies and demographics. No matter, if one is based out of the North-east or further down the southern State of Tamil Nadu, the whole of India is one's target market; one can sell anywhere regardless of their geographical disadvantages.

In fact, internet and internet-enabled e-commerce are the most reliable way to expand one's business, grow the customer base and earn consistent profits. No matter what the size of your business is, if you are looking to rise up the growth gradient, you just cannot ignore the power of the internet. It is not uncommon for small businesses with unique products to run out

of inventory sooner than they anticipate, when they first use a digital platform to sell. In addition to providing a wider customer reach across geographies, the internet also helps businesses to manage resources better, remain operational 24x7 and provides unbound information.

There are hurdles too, but many of those are actually opportunities in disguise. Many organizations struggle to find an effective digital presence, invest time and effort in creating an impactful website, maintain content freshness, update business relevant content in real time, be discovered online, generate positive leads and subsequently pursue conversion. Having a website is imperative in today's connected world, inhabited by digital natives.

The dot com domain names are quite prominent in India and are also the world's premier web address. Many businesses have found success with a dot com domain name. It is the global online standard, and that is why every Fortune 500 company and the world's fastest-growing companies have a dot com web address.

The other advantage of internet is that it is playing a dominant role in organizing the immensely fragmented, unstructured and unorganized

retail industry in India, represented by a plethora of local mom and pop stores, bazaars and groceries owned privately. The share of the country's organized retail is at 8%, which is quite low if compared to other countries – the US 85%, UK 80%. However, consumer behaviour is now undergoing a shift of sorts and they are having no qualms in buying goods and services online.

The most interesting aspect of utilizing the internet is that it has the unflinching ability to impact sales and marketing efforts, almost immediately. By merely hopping on the internet, in no time, a local craftsman can reach out to a national base of potential customers. Internet is making businesses grow. On the web, a small merchant is as potent as the biggest store. Offline businesses undoubtedly will continue to exist, but they will become more discoverable and will be able to sell more and sell more widely, thanks to the internet and the customers buying goods and services on the internet.

Through the internet, companies are able to provide more customized or personalized products and offers depending on their target audience's preference and similarly, customers are spoilt for choice.

Consumers today want to buy products and services at their terms, at their convenience and in their method and this is exactly where the internet is playing its role.

Even the smallest merchant located even in the remotest areas of the north-eastern sister States of India can create a brand, simply by going online. Even without heavy distribution machinery and marketing muscle which is usually synonymous with larger corporates. In a market like India, where much of the trade happens in small towns and cities, the internet helps merchants reach out to customers everywhere in the country.

Being present online is no more a matter of choice, but of indispensability. In a connected world of today, having a website or being present online is imperative for every business. Not only the customers can discover you with ease but can also find useful information about your products and services and get in touch with you. Internet today is at its very infection point and businesses should take advantage of this to scale up. If the traders and businesses of the Northeast wish to witness long-term sustained success, having a robust presence within the hyper-connected web space is the key.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – Through this esteemed daily, I would like to throw light on the APSC's regular advertisements.

The advertisements are usually open to Indian citizens, meaning anyone from India who meets the qualification requirements is eligible to apply. Having a nationalistic sentiment is good, but we should also look at the advertisements of the Public Service Commissions of other States as well. For instance, the West Bengal Public Service Commission (WPSB) in every advertisement clearly mentions that the knowledge of Bengali is compulsory. Moreover, the Sikkim Public Service Commission allows a candidate to appear for the SPSC exams only if he/she has PRC (Permanent Residence Certificate) of Sikkim. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana PSCs also recruit only candidates having PRC of those particular States. There are central organizations where any Indian citizen can be recruited. But, here, we cannot sacrifice the future of our unemployed Assamese youth this way by allowing all Indian citizens

APSC exams and PRC of Assam

to apply for the APSC exams. The bulk population of Assamese youth needs to find employment in their home State and by allowing all Indian citizens to apply, the future of the Assamese candidates is put at stake. The APSC should take steps so that the candidates having PRC of Assam are given preference in all the APSC recruitment. Yours etc., A CONCERNED CITIZEN, Naobicha.

Sediment transport

Sir, – It refers to the article 'Sediment transport in Brahmaputra' (AT, August 11). Through this article, author Dr IN Sarmah has revealed some apprehensions and doubts regarding the successful implementation of the project to dredge the Brahmaputra. Under the circumstances mentioned in the article, will not the dredged 45-metre channel be silted up immediately? Will it be possible to construct the proposed express highways with the dredged materials crossing all the tributaries and displacing all the human habitations on both sides of the riverbanks? The Government of Assam on July 30, 2016 declared that Rs 1 lakh crore will be spent for the dredging project, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also

declared that Rs 100 crore would be given to study and analyse the Brahmaputra river course. It has also been reported that Rs 600 crore have already been given to the project, named 'Dredging and Reclamation of the Brahmaputra' and that work will start from September, 2017 under the guidance of the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. Even after all this, the people of Assam are still in the dark about the nature of the project, whether it is meant for flood and erosion control, or whether it is a part of road and river transport development in this part of the country. Yours etc., BHABA CHETIA, Chandan Nagar, Jorhat.

Paul's ball

Sir, – It is indeed a matter of concern for the conscientious section of the society regarding the ball granted to Rakesh Paul. It is sad and disheartening news as well. The steps taken by the State Government a few months back by arresting and interrogating the corrupt officials indeed brought a ray of hope to many APSC aspirants and also faith towards the transparency of the system. But the recent news of the ball granted to the main culprit will definitely put doubt in the minds of many a people

regarding the motives of the Government. Hope truth will always win and the culprits get the right punishment. Yours etc., MRIDUSSMITA SHARMA, Gauhati University.

APSC appointments

Sir, – I strongly agree with the views expressed in the letter 'APSC appointments' (AT, August 15). From my point of view also, the written test for selection of teaching personnel is not a proper way because nowadays technology is moving towards interdisciplinary nature. The paradigm has already been shifted; the core and allied branches are merging. In a recent APSC advertisement (Advt. No. 05/2017), an Electrical Engineering graduate can also apply for the recruitment of Assistant Professor in Instrumentation Engineering. Similarly, a Mechanical Engineering graduate can also apply for the post of Assistant Professor in Industrial and Production Engineering. Therefore, it will be very much essential to keep the line fixed in setting the question papers, for example, setting the Instrumentation Engineering question paper; though the Electrical Engineering candidates are eligible to apply for Assistant Professor in Instrumenta-

tion Engineering, the question setter should follow the Instrumentation Engineering syllabus because the applicant has applied for a post in the Instrumentation Engineering discipline. This should hold good for each and every branch of engineering/department. So, conducting viva will be a suitable solution to overcome this type of bias/situation. Yours etc., PANKAJ KALITA, Guwahati.

Revised pension

Sir – As many as six months have passed since the declaration of the 7th Pay Commission, but unfortunately we the pensioners are yet to receive the revised pension and the six months arrear pay. The cause of delay is best known to the authority concerned. On the other hand, the SAKP president Basav Kalita is also silent on the matter. Therefore, I would like to request the Chief Minister and the Finance Minister of Assam to take necessary steps in this regard to release the pension and arrear pay at an early date. Yours etc., A PENSIONER, Nagaon.

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.

**GAUHATI UNIVERSITY
ADMISSION NOTICE
16-08-2017**

Applications in prescribed forms downloadable from www.gauhati.ac.in from 17th August, 2017 are invited from eligible students for admission into one-year ADVANCED DIPLOMA COURSE IN TURKISH LANGUAGE for the session 2017-2018.

- Last date of submission of Forms in respective Departments : 28th August, 2017
- For details, please visit www.gauhati.ac.in

Sd/- Secretary, University Classes
Gauhati University.

**NORTH EASTERN COALFIELDS
Coal India Limited
Margherita, Assam**
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: Lambatingi the Central and the State governments over their handling of the ongoing floods in the State, former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi today said that at a time when lakhs of people have been left destitute and over a hundred have lost their lives, the NDA regime at Dispur and its leaders are more concerned about matters like ministry expansion instead of trying to alleviate the suffering of the masses.

Gogoi said that if given charge he would be able to handle things better than Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. "Over 33 lakh people have been affected by the floods and over a hundred have died. The State has been left devastated. But Sarbananda Sonowal and his ministers and MLAs are only focusing on ministry expansion at a time when common people are not even getting food, water and shelter," Gogoi said at a press conference here.

He accused the State govt

had though floods have hit the State regularly over the years, this time the devastation has been much more.

"The Centre is responsible for the present condition. Inactivity of the State government is also responsible. Embankments were not repaired in time. Flood-related funds of about Rs 1,200 crore that were due to my regime have yet to be released by the Centre and this has led to contractors refusing to execute projects as money has not been released," Gogoi said.

He added, "The Central government has taken charge for rejuvenation of the Ganga, formed an authority for that purpose, allotted as much as Rs 20,000 crore. So why not do something similar for the Brahmaputra. After all Assam's flood and erosion problems are much more serious. Yet the Brahmaputra is not getting as much attention as the Ganga from the Centre. The State government has also failed to put pressure on the Centre."

Gogoi said that a systematic effort is being made to "rewrite" history.

For other details visit our website: [https://www.coalindia.tenders.nic.in](http://www.coalindia.tenders.nic.in)

Sd/- General Manager
NECL, Margherita

**BRAHMAPUTRA CRACKER AND POLYMER LIMITED (BCPL)
(A Government of India Enterprise)**

Corporate Identity No.: TAN-A525GC001184
Lopakata, Dibrugarh - 786001
E-TENDER NO. BCPL/ET-BID/2017/000290
OPEN DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE E-BIDDING
E-TENDER NO. BCPL/ET-BID/2017/000290
Dated: 18.08.2017
BCPL INVITES SEPARATE E-TENDER THROUGH M/s e-PORTAL FOR
"PROCUREMENT OF 250 MT PENTANE FOR LIQUEFIED PROPANE UNIT,
BODOL" WITHIN TWO MONTHS AS UNDER:

Cost of Tender Document : INR 1500
Sale Period of Bid Document : From 19.08.2017 to 11.09.2017
Registration Date : 18.08.2017
Bid due date for submission : Up-to 12.09.2017 at 14:30 hrs.
For details visit BCPL (www.bcplonline.co.in) or GAIL (www.gailindia.com).
Any revision, clarification, addendum, corrigendum, terms & due date extension, if any, will be issued through e-tender portal. Bidders are requested to visit above websites regularly to keep themselves updated

**ASSAM GAS COMPANY LTD
(A GOVT. OF ASSAM UNDERTAKING)**

P.O. DULAIJAN - 786 602, DIST. DIBRUGARH, ASSAM
CIN of AGCL: U11101AS1962SPC001184

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.MTL/PUR/10/G.I.Fittings/2017/04 Date: 14.08.2017

Sub : Procurement of GI Fittings

For further details please visit the company's website www.assagasm.org and Govt. of Assam e-procurement portal www.assamtenders.gov.in under Industries & Commerce Department.

Contact Person : Abhishek Bhuyan, Email id : agcmat2@gmail.com
Managing Director

**Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
Guwahati - 781 039, Assam
Phone : 0361-2699762**

Sealed quotations are invited for supply & installation of the following items:

Centre for Energy: I-V Curve Tracer ; **Centre for Environment**: Dynamic light scattering (DLS) instrument (laser based); **Centre for Nanotechnology**: Electrochemical Spectroscopy System (IV-CV-EIS Potentiostat); **Dept of Physics**: Ferroelectric LCLSM, HI speed micro mirror array development module. For detailed specifications, terms and conditions, please visit our website at www.iitg.ernet.in/tender/19. Corrigendum in this regard, if any, will be published/ intimated in the above mentioned website only.

Sd/-
DR(S&P)

**POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD : ASSAM
BAMUNIMADAM, GUWAHATI -781021
website: www.pcbsam.org**
Notice for Postponement of Public Hearing

It is for information to all concerned that the Public Hearing meeting as per 'Public Hearing Notice' published in the 'Assam Tribune' & 'Dainik Janambhumi' dtd. 14-07-2017, for proposed 'Extraction of Limestones for 4 (four) nos. of Blocks measuring 200 hect., 31 hect., 430 hect. and 204 hect. in New Umrangshu Limestone Area, Umrangshu, Dima Hasao District" by Ms. Assam Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (AMDC), Assam, which was scheduled to be held on 19th August 2017 at LimeStone Mining Project Area of Assam Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (AMDC) at 18 Km, New Umrangshu, Dima Hasao District, Assam is hereby postponed until further notice due to some unavoidable circumstances.

Date : 17-08-2017

Member-Secretary

**World Bank financed
Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART)
Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS) Society
(An Autonomous Body of the Government of Assam)**
Re-Revised REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

For hiring Consultancy Services for Conducting Feasibility Assessment to set up an Investment Fund for

Small and Medium Enterprises in the Agribusiness Sector of Assam
(This is a fresh REOI issued against cancellation of earlier short REOIs
(i) No. ARIASS/APART/100/2016/45 dated 17th Sep. 2016 and
(ii) No. ARIASS/APART/100/84 dated 11th Jan. 2017.)

Dated Guwahati the 14th August, 2017

1. The Government of Assam through the Govt. of India has applied for a loan of US\$ 200 million from the World Bank for implementation of the Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART). The key objective of APART is to add value and improve resilience of selected agriculture value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in targeted districts of the State of Assam. The ARIAS Society now intends to apply a portion of the loan for hiring consultancy service for Feasibility Assessment to set up an Agribusiness Investment Fund (AIF) for Small and Medium Enterprises in Assam. Further details may be seen in the detailed REOI and the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment at <http://www.arias.in/procurements.html>.

2. The Consultancy firm would be selected in accordance with the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers: Procurement of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016. Attention of the interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.14 of the said Procurement Regulation: Conflict of Interest.

3. Interested consulting firms/legends should express their expression of interest to the following address not later than 1st September, 2017 as well as obtain further information from the address given below during working days from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The State Project Director, ARIAS, Project, Coordinating Unit, Agriculture Complex, Khanapara, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781022 (Assam, India)
Tel: 0361-2332125; Tele-Fax: 0361-2332564; email: spd@arias.in

Govt must focus more on floods, less on ministry expansion: Gogoi

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: Lambatingi the Central and the State governments over their handling of the ongoing floods in the State, former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi today said that at a time when lakhs of people have been left destitute and over a hundred have lost their lives, the NDA regime at Dispur and its leaders are more concerned about matters like ministry expansion instead of trying to alleviate the suffering of the masses.

"The Centre is responsible for the present condition. Inactivity of the State government is also responsible. Embankments were not repaired in time. Flood-related funds of about Rs 1,200 crore that were due to my regime have yet to be released by the Centre and this has led to contractors refusing to execute projects as money has not been released," Gogoi said.

He added, "The Central government has taken charge for rejuvenation of the Ganga, formed an authority for that purpose, allotted as much as Rs 20,000 crore. So why not do something similar for the Brahmaputra. After all Assam's flood and erosion problems are much more serious. Yet the Brahmaputra is not getting as much attention as the Ganga from the Centre. The State government has also failed to put pressure on the Centre."

Gogoi said that a systematic effort is being made to "rewrite" history.

Asked though floods have hit the State regularly over the years, this time the devastation has been much more.

"The Centre is responsible for the present condition. Inactivity of the State government is also responsible. Embankments were not repaired in time. Flood-related funds of about Rs 1,200 crore that were due to my regime have yet to be released by the Centre and this has led to contractors refusing to execute projects as money has not been released," Gogoi said.

Asked if he could have done a better job than Sonowal in the current situation, Gogoi said, "Of course. Let me run it. I can run the administration much better. After all, I was elected three times. Sonowal can also run the government much more efficiently if he does so."

Gogoi also criticised Sonowal's Independence Day speech, in which the Chief Minister mentioned RSS ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya and Jan Sang leader Syama Prasad Mookerjee and added that a systematic effort is being made to "rewrite" history.

"What relation do Deendayal Upadhyaya and Syama Prasad Mookerjee have with Assam? Even the Prime Minister has never taken their names. I doubt if even State BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Dass had heard the name of Deendayal Upadhyaya earlier," said Gogoi.

"AJMAL Foundation, Hajj invites qualified & experienced professionals for the following positions for DDU-GKY Skill Training & Placement Project under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Govt. of India, to be implemented in Assam

Sl. No	Discipline	Required Qualification	Posts
1.	Project Supervisor & Monitor (O Team member)	Post Graduation in any Discipline with at least 3 years of relevant experience. (preferably having MSW with NIRD/SIRD skill training certification)	1
2.	MIS Executive	Graduation in IT/Computer Science with at least 1 year of relevant experience in data management	1
3.	Placement Executive	Graduation in any Discipline with at least 2 years of relevant experience. (Preferably with strong English communication and corporate relation)	1
4.	Domain Trainer (Domain: Accounting, Food & Beverage Service, Nursing, BPO Voice & Retail sales)	Graduation in relevant Discipline with at least 1 year of post qualification experience. (Preferably fulfilling norms as prescribed by NCVT/SSC or any other agency notified for the purpose by the MoRD)	1 each
5.	Non-Domain Trainer (Soft Skill & English)	Graduation with 1 year post qualification experience as a trainer/faculty in recognized skill development /personality development institution	1 each
6.	Mobilizer	Graduation in any Discipline with at least 1 year of relevant experience. (Location: Karimganj & Hojai)	2

Only short listed candidates will be called for interview at AJMAL Foundation, Hajj Muossif Ali Complex, Hojai, Assam- 782435. The candidates should mail their resume at hr.officer_af@gmail.com on or before 23rd August, 2017

VACANCY

AJMAL Foundation, Hajj invites qualified & experienced professionals for the following positions for DDU-GKY Skill Training & Placement Project under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Govt. of India, to be implemented in Assam

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The Education (Secondary) Deptt., Govt. of Assam, will confer the "Anundoram Borooh Award" to the meritorious students of the State shortly. Under the award package, Anundoram Borooh Award citation in the form of a Certificate along with a Laptop Computer to each student securing Star Mark and above prescribed by the State Govt. in the HSLC and High Madrasa Examination and 10th standard examination held under the Board of Secondary Education, Assam and Sanskrit Board Assam during the year 2017.

All qualifying students who are qualified to avail the award may register online through the portal <http://arbas.assam.gov.in>. The applicants will have to upload the following:

- Copy of Pass Certificate duly attested by the Head of the Institution from which the applicant passed out in PDF file format.
 - A self attested passport size photograph of the applicant in JPG file format.
- The students availing the award are requested to follow the instructions available along with the application form before submitting the application online through <http://arbas.assam.gov.in>. Last date & time for submission of online application has been extended up to 5:00 P.M. of 25th August, 2017.

Sd/- Managing Director

**ANUNDORAM BOROOAH
AWARD SCHEME - 2017**

The Education (Secondary) Deptt., Govt. of Assam, will confer the "Anundoram Borooh Award" to the meritorious students of the State shortly. Under the award package, Anundoram Borooh Award citation in the form of a Certificate along with a Laptop Computer to each student securing Star Mark and above prescribed by the State Govt. in the HSLC and High Madrasa Examination and 10th standard examination held under the Board of Secondary Education, Assam and Sanskrit Board Assam during the year 2017.

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Sd/- Managing Director

**ASSAM ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPN. LTD.
(AMTRON)**

National Insurance
AMTRON
United India

GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANIES OF PUBLIC SECTOR

We express our deep anguish for all those people who are affected by flood and natural calamities in different parts of North East, India. We shall strive our best to settle all flood claims so that we can help the insured People/Organisations. We have appointed Nodal Officers in Guwahati who will help Policyholders in enrolling their claims.

The contact numbers of our Nodal officers are given below.

National Insurance Company Limited

Name : Smt. Lopa Sarkar
Telephone : 0361-2450967, 8404050022
Email : lopsarkar@nic.co.in / gro@nic.co.in
Postal Address : Guwahati Regional Office, Lohia Mansion, 3rd Floor, G.S. Road, Guwahati, Assam, Pincode-781005

New India Assurance Company Limited

Name : Shri Rahul Ratnam Patir
Telephone : 0361-2450640, 703591816
Email : rahulratnam.patir@newindia.co.in
Postal Address : North Eastern Regional Office, GS Road, Bhangarh, Guwahati, Assam, Pincode-781005

Oriental Insurance Company Limited

Name : Shri P.C. Ozah
Telephone : 0361-2730524, 9435070938
Email : pc.ozah@orientalinsurance.co.in
Postal Address : Regional Office, Godrej Building, G.S. Road, Ulubari, Guwahati, Assam, Pincode-781007

United India Insurance Company Limited

Name : Shri Pradeep Chakraborty
Telephone : 0361-2343655/ 9435010924
Email : pradeepchakraborty@uiic.co.in
Postal Address : Guwahati Regional Office, GS Road, Dispur, Guwahati, Assam, Pincode-781005

Policyholders can also contact any of the offices of Insurance Company from where they have purchased Insurance policy.

WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO HELP

**North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited
(NEEPCO)**

North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited
(A Mini Ratna Category-I, Central Sector Enterprise)
CIN: U42999WB1992PLC00058
GSTIN: 984700000105
Address: Brookland Compound, Lower New Colony, Shillong-793 003, Meghalaya, India
Website: www.eepco.org.in | www.eepco.com | www.eepco.gov.in

Fax: +91-361-2222578 | Tel: +91-361-2222578 | Email: info@eepco.com | info@eepco.gov.in

Short Notice Inviting Bid (e-tender)
(Domestic Competitive Bidding)
NIEPCo No. 248 Dated: 16/08/2017

North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. invites e-tenders for
"IT Security Audit of NEEPCO". For details, visit <http://www.eepco.com> and <http://www.eepco.gov.in>. Further subsequent changes/modifications/ notifications, if any, shall be updated on the above websites only.

General Manager,
i/c, Contracts & Procurement

An individual can contribute to the socio-economic growth of the nation, resulting in national progress," he said.

The biography of Dr Nomal Chandra Borah, CMD of GNRC Hospitals – titled *Hope Dawns in the East* – was also released on the occasion by Purohit and Anil Sinha, former regional head of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The biography, co-authored by Mumbai-based communication professionals Arnab Mukherjee and Sushmita Sarkar, captures Dr Borah's life journey since birth in the family of a marginal farmer in Dubia (upper Assam) to becoming a social entrepreneur driven to provide the masses access to quality affordable healthcare.

In his address termed the lack of persuasive communication about healthy living and the role of preventive healthcare and early intervention in it as the primary cause behind the alarming number of health conditions.



A submerged portion of the NH-15 connecting Gogamukh to Dhemaji, in Dhemaji on Wednesday.
— UB Photos

Tai Ahom Yuba Parishad threatens stir

ANN Service

Haryana delegation visits Assam to monitor functioning of Sustainable Development Goals

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: A delegation of five senior government officials from Haryana, facilitated by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), visited Assam from August 10 to 12 to learn the experience of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation in the State. The delegation was led by the Secretary, Department of Finance and Planning, Haryana Government.

During the two-day visit, the delegation interacted with officials of the SDGs Centre, Departments of Transformation and Development, Finance, Health and Education to understand the SDGs initiative being carried on in Assam. Some of the key areas of interest for the Haryana delegation were on the process for three-year action plans and seven-year strategic plans along with how to go about outcome-based budgeting process. The delegation also met the Chief Secretary, VR Pipersena, and thanked him for accepting Haryana's request for the study tour.

Assam is the first State to adopt SDGs and bring out the vision document—“Assam 2030: Our Dream, Our Commitment”.

SDGs were universally adopted in January 2016 as a call to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 goals which are to be achieved by 2030 were designed based on the learning from Millennium Development Goals, through a global consultative process, to include many more new areas of focus such as climate change, sustainable consumption, peace and justice and innovation, among many other key areas.

The SDGs are based on the principle of forging partnerships and setting clear guidelines to achieving these targets as per the needs of each region. To take forward the SDGs in Assam, the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) was established by Government of Assam.

developing a monitoring framework for SDGs with the support of UNDP and UNICEF. The process of developing the monitoring tools and the practical tools used to monitor at the department and at the district level was also shared with the Haryana delegation.

The delegation also met the Secretary, VR Pipersena, and thanked him for accepting Haryana's request for the study tour.

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Project for degree college in Karbi Anglong launched

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: The tag ‘punishment posting’ often follows those engaged with government schools in Karbi Anglong. But undeterred, the Don Bosco group has come forward to start a chain of educational institutions in the militancy-affected, backward hill district.

Karbi Anglong, incidentally, has a poor literacy rate with a high school dropout rate. Below-par performances in HSLC and HS exams have been another concern as been the induction of uneducated youths into militant outfitts.

The project for a degree college in Karbi Anglong was launched on Saturday – to add to the Don Bosco Junior College that was established three years back. Among the projects on the anvil are Don Bo-

scos Degree College, a teachers' training institute, skill development centres and other institutes offering vocational courses. Fr Thomas said that DPPRs for the upcoming projects were being worked out by a team of experts.

Father VM Thomas, the man behind the endeavour, said that inadequate educational facilities in the trouble-torn and underdeveloped district were the factors that prompted them to set up the junior college earlier, and now the degree college.

“When we explored the idea of setting up a college in Diphu in 2014, there were few takers. This was not surprising given the unfavourable environment. But we went ahead to set up the college. From just 24 students in 2014, the college has now nearly 400 students. Even

for underprivileged students,

“Karbi Anglong is a district with a lot of possibilities. We want to see it develop as an educational hub. Spreading education hold the answer to weaning away youths from the lure of militancy and easy money,” he added.

We performed the ‘real’ shradhha immediately after her death by fulfilling her wish to donate her eyes which have been already received by two persons. So our mother is still connected with her beloved planet... only we would know who and where. On this day of her *adwasabhraddha* today, we pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul.

Raju Goswami, Bijumoni Goswami & Biraj Jyoti Goswami

she had three children to look after. A teacher in the true sense of the term, she was a role model for anyone in the profession.

Her thirst for knowledge was avid and her knowledge in various fields, especially in the field of literature, was phenomenal. She had authored four books including a book of poetry titled, *Tetra eyat manub aasit*. Her desire to make some contribution to the society was fulfilled through a number of socio-cultural organisations she was associated with. She was the founder president of the Jayanta Mahila Samiti. She was profoundly independent and had a fresh and original outlook of life.

Tripti Rekha Goswami: a tribute



Our mother Tripti Rekha Goswami, popularly known as Goswami Baiju to several generations of students and their families, breathed her last on August 8. She was 82. She retired as a teacher from Pub-Guwahati High School in 1994. She was an entirely self-made woman and did not allow the social obstacles of her times to stop her from acquiring education. With an indomitable determination and caring support from her husband, Late Bharat Chandra Goswami, she crossed all hurdles of life to acquire Masters degree in Assamese. Remarkable for a woman

who lived her life in her own terms. She leaves behind a well-known family of two sons, daughters-in-law and a daughter and a son-in-law and a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We performed the ‘real’ shradhha immediately after her death by fulfilling her wish to donate her eyes which have been already received by two persons. So our mother is still connected with her beloved planet... only we would know who and where. On this day of her *adwasabhraddha* today, we pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul.

Raju Goswami, Bijumoni

Goswami & Biraj Jyoti

Goswami

Round-the-clock rescue works on in flood-hit areas

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: With the flood situation remaining grim, the personnel of the State Disaster Response Force have been forced to work round-the-clock to rescue marooned people and so far, more than 7,000 persons have been rescued by the personnel of Dhemaji on Wednesday.

Director General of Fire and Emergency services, AP Rout told *The Assam Tribune* that 30 teams of the SDRF with hundred boats have been deployed in the affected places all over the State to rescue affected people and only on Wednesday.

He said that five boats of the SDRF, four of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and two of the Army were operating in the affected areas of Dhemaji on Wednesday.

Rout revealed that normally,

three persons of the SDRF travel in each rescue boat. One is the driver of the engine fitted boat, one trained diver and another person to help people to get into the boats.

“We are not sending too many of our persons on the boats to ensure

that we have enough space to carry maximum number of affected people,” he added.

Rout said that the SDRF personnel are working in close coordination with the NDRF and Army and personnel of the Fire Services are also helping out in the rescue operations. However, he said that there is not enough space in the boats at the disposal of the SDRF to carry relief materials. But at the same time, relief materials, medicines etc., to some remote parts are being carried by the SDRF personnel. Doctors and veterinary doctors are also taken to the remote areas by the SDRF men whenever required, he added.

The Fire and Emergency Service DG revealed that at present, the SDRF has two companies of manpower and the third company is on training. There is a proposal to raise four more companies to make a full-fledged battalion of the SDRF and once the strength of the force is increased, it would be able to cover more areas effectively. However, even after the government clears the proposal to raise the additional companies, it will take some time in training the new recruits. Moreover, steps have also been initiated to increase the number of boats at the disposal of the SDRF so that more areas can be covered during the floods.

Scarcity of drinking water in flood relief camps alleged

CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, Aug 17: The Assam Forest and Environment Minister, Pramila Rani Brahma, during a press meet at Bagori here on Wednesday said that a survey committee will be formed soon after floodwaters begin to recede in Kaziranga National Park to find out possible measures which can be adopted to check mortality of wild animals in the park.

She said that the committee will be under the chairmanship of NK Yadav, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Assam. This committee will look into all the aspects to see the kind of steps that can be adopted to ensure safety of wild animals during heavy floods in Kaziranga in future.

She said that the construction work of highlands was supposed to be completed before the onset of monsoon season this year. But the unpredictable weather conditions that prevailed since early period this year hampered the work.

Till now, five rhinos died in the flood. Another five rhinos are under treatment at CWRC in Kaziranga. More than 74 hog deer died in the flood too.

Asom Yuba Parishad alleges attack on members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, Aug 17: The Asom Yuba Parishad, the youth wing of the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), alleged attack on some of their members and on the Assamese community as a whole by some locals of Marwaripatty.

The leaders of the Asom Yuba Parishad, who addressed mediapersons on Wednesday, said that they were insulted, manhandled, threatened and confined in the area after they protested misbehaviour by one Rammiva Swami.

Swami also shouted anti-Assamese comments, they said. The members of the organisation were seeking relief materials from the traders for the flood victims, said Gauri Shankar Das, president of the Dibrugarh unit of Asom Yuba Parishad.

Asom Yuba Parishad members also lodged an FIR at Sader Police Station and also submitted a written complaint to the Deputy Commissioner over the issue. The organisation urged the district administration to arrest the guilty within 12 hours.

MANGALDAH, Aug 17: Inmates of a section of flood relief camps in Mangaldai have been complaining about scarcity of pure drinking and fodder for their livestock. Even though the flood situation has been improving in Darrang district, more than 5,000 flood-affected people have reportedly been taking shelter in as many as six relief camps set up by the administration.

The inmates of a relief camp in Mangaldai Govt HS School running for the last couple of days have expressed their dissatisfaction over sufficient supply of relief materials, besides supply of necessary foods like mukhi powder, biscuits for the babies

and the children. They also expressed satisfaction over the medical support provided by the administration. “We are satisfied with the supply of sufficient food materials,” said Ershad Ali of Bagphuri village. However, he complained about scarcity of pure drinking water. “The drinking water collected from two tubewells in the campus is not fit for drinking. It contains very high percentage of iron element. Some of us have been bringing drinking water from outside.”

On the other hand, inmates like Radha Rani Rajbongshi and Bishu Sheikha, expressed their concern over the shortage of fodder supply for around 200 livestock within the campus of the camp.

Govt failed to ease flood-hit people's woes: APCC

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 17: The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) on Wednesday alleged that the State government has totally failed to provide relief to the flood-affected people. Let alone the food items, the State Government has even failed to supply safe drinking water to these people, alleged the APCC.

In a statement here on Wednesday, the APCC said that a delega-

tion led by its president Ripun Bora visited the flood-affected areas of Morigaon district on Tuesday and talked to the flood-affected people at Lahorhat and Moirabari areas of the district. The team also distributed relief materials among the flood-affected people.

The party demanded that the State government should urgently supply relief materials to the flood-affected people, instead of boasting of enough funds on its hand.



Students drying their books after floodwaters receded at Salimora, in Majuli on Wednesday. — UB Photos

Call to join Indian Army

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Aug 17: The GOC of Army's Dirjan-based 2 Mountain Division, Major General Ananta Bhuyan on Wednesday gave a call to the youths of the region to join the defence forces that offered an “exciting and a promising career”.

The GOC stated this while speaking as the guest speaker at a function organised to mark the 70th foundation day of College of Agriculture of the Assam Agricultural University at the Boribheta-based campus of the AAU here.

Bhuyan while stating that Indian defence forces in general and the Army in particular, the world's fourth largest Army, was the “perfect” career option for those who wanted to serve the country and at the same time enjoy undertaking adventures, travelling and playing sports as the job in uniform had them all.

Stating that the Army had the best of sports, recreational facilities and adventure avenues, the GOC said that an army man during his job tenure gets postings at length and breadth of the nation that includes very rough terrains on the mountains, jungles, deserts, plains offering

a variety of challenging experiences.

“Another important aspect is respect and honour that is earned by the men in green from the society as the soldiers are always prepared to serve the nation during any case of eventuality, be it war or peace-time task like rescue and relief operations during any kind of natural calamities,” Major General Bhuyan said.

He said that the Indian Army which has a tradition of having high professional standards, earned laurels abroad as contingents deployed under UN missions across the globe have successfully discharged their duties and accomplished their tasks.

The senior Army official, while pointing out similarities between soldiers and those involved in agriculture research and development work as done by AAU, said the uniformed men work for nation's security while the latter work for food security of the nation.

Major General Bhuyan said the slogan coined by former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, *Jai Jawan Jai Kisan*, stressing about the role of agricultural sector and the defence forces in the aftermath of Chinese aggression was

a very important call and is always applicable.

A presentation with the aid of video clippings on career options in the Indian defence forces with a focus on the Army was presented by Captain Varun Pathana as part of the GOC's lecture.

AAU Vice-Chancellor, Dr KM Bujarbarah, in his address, recollects the journey of the College of Agriculture and paid tributes to all those who had contributed to the development of the institute, which is a major component of the university.

Stressing on the need to boost the confidence level and accomplish missions swiftly as the Army does, the Vice-Chancellor said the university policy planners will have to undertake measures to imbibe such practices in the university from the Army.

He also emphasised on the need to enhance sports and other recreational facilities in educational and research institutes like AAU to make the career option in agriculture sector more attractive.

Earlier, the Dean of Faculty of Agriculture (AAU), Dipi Kumar Bora gave the welcome address.

Flood wreaks havoc on rural infrastructure in Lakhimpur

CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, Aug 17: The recent flood and unabated erosion by major rivers have wreaked havoc on the infrastructure in the rural parts of Lakhimpur district. The unprecedented flood caused by Rangadri, Subansiri and Dikro-

ng rivers has destroyed many roads and bridges connecting hundreds of villages with various places within the district. As the floodwaters are receding, the villagers are now trying to meet the challenge posed by the disruption in communication. The Aamtaola-Garchiga-Narayanpur PWD

Road was completely washed away at Aamtaola village under the Telachia Gaon Panchayat in North Lakhimpur Revenue Circle following the breach on the right-hand side embankment at Japur on July 9. The flood destroyed the road near the Aamtaola weekly bazaar, washing away an RCC bridge and snapping communication with a number of villages under North Lakhimpur, Nowbichura, Bhipuria and Narayanpur Revenue Circles.

On the riverines areas of Lohit-Khoboi, which connects Majuli and Jorhat, the entire rural surface communication has been destroyed by flood and erosion caused by the Subansiri river. Altogether seven roads have been destroyed in the area, said a member of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee of Telachia Block. This has disrupted road communication between the Lohit ferry ghat and seven other rural areas like Tamoi-Ghuli,

Balijan, Kambunggaon, Kurlamowa, Nagargoa, etc.

Similarly, floodwaters of the Champora river on the Giham-amer-Dhakwakhona PWD Road have left a trail of destruction since last month. The road, which diverges from the NH-15 at Gogamukhi to Dhakwakhona, has been destroyed after a long period of neglect. But the incomplete works on a 200-metre stretch near the Champora bridge at Ghilamora proved to be a hurdle in transportation during the current monsoon as the overflowing waters inundated the road for several days. This further damaged the road, making it impossible for all kinds of transport to make way to Dhakwakhona, Majuli and other interior places of the district. As a result, people have been forced to take a long detour through Bardoloin in Dhemaji district to reach the subdivisional headquar-

ters, Dhakwakhona, from North Lakhimpur.

According to the Lakhimpur

district administration, the current flood has destroyed 64 rural roads and 41 State roads in the district till date. There are also official reports of damage of 182 roads constructed by the DRDA and 29 breaches on the roads, including one on the NH-15 in Lakhimpur district, in the flood so far.

FORM NO-2 (CIVIL)
(Rule 35(1), Chapter V)
(Order 41, Rule 14, Code of Civil
Procedure)

IN THE GAJAHAT HIGH COURT
(High Court of Assam, Gauhati
Majlis and Arunachal Pradesh)

LA No. 1537 / 2017

In the Wt/Ap/Case No. / 2017

IN THE MATTER OF:

1. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd represented by its General Manager, Divisional Manager, CGO State Director, Indian Oil Bhawan, Sector-II, , Narenagar, Gauhati-14.

2. The General Manager (Contract Cell), Eastern Region Office, Kokata, India-700030, 24th Floor, MG Road, Dhakuria, Kolkata-700088.

3. The Chief Engineering Manager, IndianOil Corp. Ltd. Gauhati, IndianOil Bhawan, IndianOil Assam Oil Division State Office, Sector-2, Narenagar, Gauhati-26, Kamrup(M).

.....Applicants / Appellants

-Versus-

1. MRP Enterprises having its registered office at B-1002-A, 1st Floor, Plot No. 16, Sector-2, Baruipur, Hooghly-700107, represented by its proprietor Moni Ali, no. L2, Sikandar Ali, no. Bijoynagar, Kamrup(M).

2. Parag Chetna Pvt. Ltd, 1st Floor, Plot No. 2, Sector-1, Baruipur, Hooghly-700107.

3. Anubrata Enterprises having its registered office at B-101, Sector-2, Baruipur, Hooghly-700107.

4. TULSI EK PREM KATHA (Hind)

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**WEATHER****NORTHEAST**

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

Warning: Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places on August 19 and 20 over Assam & Meghalaya on August 18, 19 and 20, over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

Temperatures:

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	36.0	25.0
Tezpur	33.5	25.7
Silchar	34.8	25.4
Guwahati	32.1	26.7
Jorhat	35.0	25.0
Mizoram	36.0	25.2
Shillong	25.2	15.7
Imphal	30.2	22.1
Agartala	36.0	23.5
Kohima	25.0	17.0
Passighat	33.6	20.6
Cherrapunjee	25.2	17.5

Wokha-Merapani road bandh lifted

DIMAPUR, Aug 17: Following intervention of Nagaland Minister for Geology & Mining and Border Affairs Mmphonloumo Kikon, All Commercial Vehicles Association Wokha (ACVAW) has called off the protest on movement of all commercial vehicles (goods carriers) along the Wokha-Merapani State Highway, imposed since August 5 last. — Correspondent

No.CD/10/D/2013/250/250 Dated 17.08.17

CORRIGENDUM

The Notice inviting Tender published from the Commissionaire via NIT No. DRD/10/14/2013/249 dated 16.08.17. The receiving date of Bid document read as 16.09.2017 instead of 16.08.2017

Sd/- Joint Director, Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam
Janasanyog/C/2473/17

CORRIGENDUM

The last date for submission for tender for proposal for Managing Social Media Platforms of Gauhati Medical College & Hospital published vide MCH/HMS/2003/01/Pt/V/178 dt. 28.07.2017 is extended till 28.08.2017 upto 2.00 p.m.
Sd/- Superintendent
Gauhati Medical College
Hospital Cum
Member Secretary, HIMS
Guwahati-32

Janasanyog/C/248/17

CANCELLATION NOTICE

The tender invited vide this Office Notice No. CS-SE(B)-/756/2016-17/2016/45 dt. 20.06.2017. Published vide Janasanyog No. 220/17 dt. 06.08.2017 in "Eastern Chronicle" & Janasanyog No. 220/15 dt. 06.08.2017 in "Dainik Gana Athikar" for the work "Construction works under MSDP 12B Plan during 2016-17 (in Groups) in Golpara District" was treated as cancelled due to technical reason.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.,
Guwahati Building Circle-I,
Guwahati-1

Janasanyog/C/2418/17

AS-CFMS

(A Registered Society under Finance Department)
Assam Society for Comprehensive Financial Management System
F Block, Assam Secretariate, Dispur, Guwahati-781002 (Assam, India)

No.ASPfpe/4/2017/02

Request for Expression of Interest (REoI)
The Project Management Unit, World Bank aided ASPIre Project invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing services for the role of "Communications Consultant". The Expression of Interest (EOI) can be found at assamtenders.gov.in from 10.08.2017 for download. Last date for Submission of EOI is upto 14/08/17 from 16.08.2017 through assamtenders.gov.in

Sd/- Project Director,
Janasanyog/C/114/17

AUTOMOBILE COURSE

Assam Engineering Institute, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003 is going to conduct a six months (6-months)/three months (3-months) duration practical oriented course on "AUTOMOBILE REPAIRING AND MAINTENANCE" under Mechanical Engineering Department from 28th August 2017.

Interested candidates with qualification HSLC and above may contact at the office of Assam Engineering Institute for the application forms other details.

Sd/- Principal
Assam Engineering Institute
Janasanyog/C/2441/17

No. CE(MECH) 24 / 2017 / 8



Admirers paying tributes to Wanting Jyoti at SOS Children village at Umiam in Meghalaya on Thursday. Jyoti had drowned in a beach in Karnataka while attempting to save two persons from drowning. — UB Photos

Mizoram Chakmas protest unjust award of CHT to Pakistan

CORRESPONDENT

time that Black Day was observed by the Chakmas.

Copies of the Radcliffe Award of Bengal Boundary Commission were burnt to condemn the unjust award of CHT, the ancestral homeland of Chakmas (which includes western part of Mizoram where it was part of CHT before 1898) to Pakistan during partition of the Indian sub-continent.

Chakma leaders said, "The Chakmas have been made to suffer injustice not only during partition of India

but through times since the British occupied the Chakma Kingdom in 1772. They divided the Chakma Kingdom into different circles and ceded some parts to plain Chittagong district and amalgamated a strip in the east to the Lushai Hills in 1898 which now forms western part of Mizoram."

"Consideration of CHT under the purview of the Bengal Boundary Commission was also illegal since CHT was an excluded area with no representatives to the Bengal Province and therefore, the validity of award of CHT to Pakistan by the Commission is challengeable."

One of the speakers said, "The Chakmas have been made to suffer injustice not only during partition of India

but through times since the British occupied the Chakma Kingdom in 1772. They divided the Chakma Kingdom into different circles and ceded some parts to plain Chittagong district and amalgamated a strip in the east to the Lushai Hills in 1898 which now forms western part of Mizoram."

"Consideration of CHT under the purview of the Bengal Boundary Commission was also illegal since CHT was an excluded area with no representatives to the Bengal Province and therefore, the validity of award of CHT to Pakistan by the Commission is challengeable."

Manipur did not comply with disaster management guidelines

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, Aug 17: At a time when Manipur is slowly limping back to normalcy after the grim situation of flood, a report by government auditor held that "planning for management of flood was done without scientific assessment of flood prone areas, morphological studies of rivers and did not comply with action plan of National Disaster Management guidelines."

"The quantum of flood dam-

age in terms of area, population and value of flood damage showed ascending trend during 2007-2016 in spite of execution of 22 flood management projects including expenditure of Rs 100.30 crore and utilisation of flood fighting offficer materials," says the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India report on "implementation of schemes for flood control and forecasting," which was tabled in the recently concluded State Assembly session.

16. However, effective flood management including disaster preparedness and response planning including flood forecasting and warning was absent.

However, the report recommended to prepare digital elevation maps and frequency inundation maps based on scientific assessment of the flood prone areas besides constructing structures as per action plan prepared on the strength of master plan of flood management in compliance with action plan of the National disaster guidelines.

Flood control

Bailey bridge at Namitram village in Manipur's Tamenglong district, which connects the district headquarters with about 30 villages, has been swept away by a landslide on Wednesday. — Sobhappati Samon

Rights activist Sharmila marries long-time partner

KOAKAINAL (TN), Aug 17: Manipur civil rights activist Irom Sharmila married her long-time partner Desmond Coutinho, a British national, under the Special Marriage Act at the Sub-Registrar's office here today.

It was a simple function and the families of the bride and groom were absent.

Earlier, the couple married under the Hindu Marriage Act and were asked by the Sub-Registrar to register it under the Special Marriage Act as their wedding was an inter-religious one.

Sharmila told reporters

that Kodainanal was a peaceful place and her search for peace had ended here. The rights activist said she would raise her voice for the welfare of tribals in Kodainanal hills.

The 44-year-old activist had shot to fame after launching an indefinite fast on November 4, 2000, demanding withdrawal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 from Manipur.

Sharmila, also known as the 'Iron Lady', broke her 16-year-long fast, the world's longest, on August 9, 2016 and declared that she wanted to become the Chief Minister so she could repeat the contentious AFSPA. — PTI

Manipur Assembly elections in March last in which her party 'People's Resistance and Justice Alliance' had been routed.

The 44-year-old activist objected to a local activist V Mahendran, who contended that if the couple stayed in the hills, tribals in the area would face law and order problems. However, the sub-registrar rejected the objection, clearing the decks for Sharmila's wedding with Coutinho.

Sharmila had moved to this hill town with Coutinho following her defeat in the

'No constitutional provision for Zeliang Govt to continue'

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Aug 17: Dr Shirojelie Liezetsu of NPF Central headquarters has claimed that there is no constitutional or legal provision for the TR Zeliang Government to continue.

Zeliang, it said, became the Chief Minister of Nagaland without letter of support from the party he belonged to, and also, without letter of support from the legislature party.

A press statement from NPF Central HQ stated that Zeliang, who claims to be the leader of the Legislature Party under Para 3 and 4 of the Tenth Schedule as per the Rules of the Members of Nagaland Assembly (Disqualification on ground of defection) Rules 3, cannot take the shelter of Rules 3 of the Rules 3 provisions because Paragraph 3 of the

Tenth Schedule which talks about split by one-third of legislators in a party has been omitted by the 91st Amendment of the Constitution.

Stating that Para 4 of the Tenth Schedule talks about disqualification on ground of defection not to apply in case of merger, the statement added he also cannot take the shelter of Rules 3 of the Members of Nagaland Assembly (Disqualification on ground of defection) Rules 3 because no merger had taken place.

The party also accused the Governor of infringing upon the Constitution of India by summoning the Assembly when the duly constituted Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister did not recommend it.

The Shirojelie-led NPF further expressed shock that the Governor, as per law and constitution shall remain as our top priority responsibility," it also said.

No.CE/STBRNLCP/NALABRI/15/2013

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Chief Engineer P.W.D., Roads, 1 Assam on behalf of Government of Assam for the construction of Road & Bridge project Construction of Road from NH-31 to Kashimpur Suplekuchi via Purbabharti under NLCP in Nalbari District for amounting to Rs. 559.57 Lakhs. Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer PWD (Roads),
Janasanyog/CF/115/17

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. SE/UP/UO/2/2017/2
Date: 05.08.2017
Name of Engineer: PWD (RSP) Diphu Circle, Diphu on behalf of Governor of Assam invites sealed bid rate for "Repair and maintenance of roads of Diphu Roads Division under Assam Road Maintenance Fund (ARMF) for the financial year 2016-17" for 6 (Six) nos. of packages with 3 (Three) years maintenance period, under 19-Diphu (ST) LC of Assam, Karbi Anglong District amounting to Rs. 295.95 Lakh (Approx). Details may be seen at the office of the undersigned from 16-08-2017 to 23-08-2017 during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer: PWD(RSP) Diphu Circle-I, Diphu.

No.MAC/E-tender(Pro)/266/2017-18/
Time Extension for E-Procurement Notice

In continuation of the press notice issued vide letter No. MAC/E-tender(Pro)/266/2017-18/B-182 Dated: 01.08.2017 and letter No. MAC/E-tender(Pro)/266/2017-18-Dated 07.08.2017 the last date for time of uploading bids in electronic tender system are hereby re-extended due to unavoidable reason up to 3:00 p.m. of 22.08.2017 instead of 17.08.2017 for supply of beneficiary items as mentioned in the bidding document.

The detailed notice inviting bid may be seen in the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

All terms and condition will be as per bidding documents.

Sd/- Principal Secretary
Mising Autonomous Council
Gogamukh, Dhemaji

No.MAC/E-tender(Pro)/266/2017-18/
Change in Date of Entrance Examination for Admission to MBA (International Business) 2016-20 Degree Programme at New Delhi, Kolkata and Kakindia (Andhra Pradesh)

The following amendment regarding MBA (B) Entrance Examination of Indian Foreign Trade Institute (IFT) may be noted.

Date of Examination Existing Revised
26th September 2017 3rd December 2017
(Sunday) (Sunday)

Last date for application online 8th September 2017 15th September 2017

Other terms & conditions will remain same. For further detail, please visit: www.ift.edu

For any query contact: Shri Gaurav Gudati, Dy. Registrar, IFT, 301/4233 D, 301/4230-05, Email: admissions@ift.edu, Website: www.ift.edu, dadvp 05103/11/0006/1718

D.P.K. Gupta, Registrar

The Assam Public Service Commission hereby announces the results today (17.08.2017) of the viva-voce test conducted by it for selection to the post given below:

A. Recruitments to the posts of Lecturers, DIETs in Science and Social Studies in the Directorate of SCERT, Assam under Education Department, Govt. of Assam.

The results of the selection to the above posts were conducted on 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 31st July, 2017 and on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th & 16th August, 2017 by the Interview Boards constituted for the purpose and assisted by Experts/Advisors appointed by the Government of Assam. The Commission completed the process of evaluation and recommended the following candidates for the aforesaid post subject wise, in order of merit:

(1) Lecturer, DIETs in Science

Positions	Roll Nos.	Name of candidates
1	000024	Apurba Barua
2	000030	Shekhar Jyoti Malanta
3	000023	Natana Sarma Baruah
4	0000240	Mayesree Chetia Phukan
5	0000275	Papor Borah
6	0000239	Rajmoni Payeng

(2) Lecturer, DIETs in Social Studies

Positions	Roll Nos.	Name of candidates
1	0000215	Barnali Bhattacharya
2	0000295	Bekteswari Dey
3	0000260	Ruchira Gupta
4	0000168	Santosh Jitula
5	0000077	Prabin Harkray

For details of the results, all concerned may log on to the APSC's website: www.apsc.nic.in

Sd/- Under Secretary
Assam Public Service Commission
Khanapara, Guwahati-22

Janasanyog/C/2458/17

CAPSULE**General Motors**

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: The US auto major General Motors today announced change in the top management of its Indian operations with CFO Sanjiv Gupta being elevated as President and Managing Director from September 1. - PTI

HDFC Bank

CHANDIGARH, Aug 17: HDFC Bank today announced the launch of HDFC Bank ISIC Student Forexplus Card which is specifically designed for the students travelling abroad for studies. - PTI

Emami Agrotech

KOLKATA, Aug 17: Emami Agrotech, a part of the Emami group, is eyeing to generate a revenue of Rs 1,000 crore from edible oil business in Bihar. - PTI

Gen Re

MUMBAI, Aug 17: Gen Re, a unit of the Berkshire Hathaway family of companies, has kicked off its operations in the country after receiving the final licence from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). - PTI

Srei Equipment

Kolkata, Aug 17: Srei Equipment Finance, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Srei Infrastructure Finance, will dilute 25 per cent of its equity by way of fresh issue of shares and offer for sale (OFS) by the parent firm. - PTI

BSNL launches new mobile wallet

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on Thursday launched a mobile wallet that would enable its existing 100 million customers to make bill payments and transact on e-commerce platforms. The wallet has been developed and issued by MobiKwik.

"With this co-branded wallet, ease of payment will be extended to all the customers while equally strengthening financial inclusion in the rural hinterlands, which often get neglected. Going digital is the need of an hour for both urban and rural areas, and this partnership is definitely a step in

Govt taking steps to uproot corruption: PM

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said his government is taking steps to uproot corruption that had become institutionalised, and promised more measures to ease the common man's problems.

Addressing over 200 start-up entrepreneurs at 'Champions of Change' programme here, he said the government has already tested the systems of interviews for group III and IV employees in the govern-

ment, ending the role of mid-levels, who used to promise jobs for money.

"It is unfortunate that corruption had become institutionalised. Till you make a counter institutional arrangement, you cannot stop it,"

Modi said at the event organised by Niti Aayog.

He said as the middlemen are out of work now, they are set up to suggest policy initiatives, could be attached with the relevant ministries on a permanent basis.

The Prime Minister said his

government has taken numerous measures, like introducing self-certifications of certificates and doing away with interviews for lower posts, to ease life of the common man.

Stressing that the government wants to work together with all citizens towards a New India, Modi said: Every one of us is equally patriotic and wants India to scale new heights of progress. There is no difference in our love for the nation". - PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the young entrepreneurs in New Delhi on Thursday. - PIB

Sony eyes 25% sales growth

KOLKATA, Aug 17: Electronics giant Sony India is looking at a 25 per cent growth in sales across all categories in this year's festive season and is expecting over 20 per cent growth in the current fiscal, company officials said on Thursday.

"This year, we are trying to make over 20 per cent growth in sales and in the festive season, we are looking bigger than 20 per cent," company's Managing Director Kenichiro Hibi said here.

Elaborating on this, Sales Head Satish Padmanabhan said: "The company is expect-

ing 25 per cent growth in sales across categories during this festive season in India."

On the impact of Goods and Services Tax (GST), he said it was positive for the company and it is not raising prices of its products post its implementation. However, it is "studying the gain or loss" under the new tax system, he said.

Hibi said the company is studying the possibility of setting up its "own" manufacturing plant in India and it has started local manufacturing of TV.

This festive season, the company aims to achieve Rs 250 crore sales from August till November 2017 in the West Bengal region, Padmanabhan said. - IANS

Tata Sons asks cos to end ties with Mistry

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: Tata group under its new chief N Chandrasekaran has moved to cut all business deals with Shapoorji Pallonji group, promoted by the family of ousted chairman Cyrus Mistry.

The board of Tata Sons, the promoter of major operating firms of the Tata group, had earlier this month asked firms of the conglomerate to terminate all business relationship with the Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group, according to Tata group insiders.

The SP Group is the single largest shareholder in Tata Sons with 18.4 per cent stake.

In a statement, SP Group said when Mistry was chairman of Tata Sons, he had issued a directive in November 2013 to all Tata group companies to ensure

that no new engineering and construction contracts were awarded to the SP group, during his tenure.

The development is being seen as a continuation of the fallout of the bitter fight between Mistry and Tata Sons after the former's ouster last year. Queries sent to Tata Sons remained unanswered.

The SP Group is the single largest shareholder in Tata Sons with 18.4 per cent stake.

In a statement, SP Group said when Mistry was chairman of Tata Sons, he had issued a directive in November 2013 to all Tata group companies to ensure

BJP received Rs 705 crore from corporate donors: ADR

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) received a whopping Rs 705.81 crore from 2,987 corporate donors between the financial years 2012-13 and 2015-16, a report by election body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) revealed on Thursday.

A total of Rs 956.77 crore was won by all corporate/business houses to five national parties during this period, the report said, noting that while the BJP was the highest recipient, the Congress was a distant second with Rs 198.16 crore from 167 corporate donors.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) and Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPIM) have received the lowest share of corporate donations at 4.31 and 17 per cent, respectively, said the report which considered the BJP, the Congress, the CPI-M, the CPI, and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

The Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), though a recognised national party, was

not considered for analysis in the report as "the party has declared that it received no voluntary contributions above Rs 20,000 from any donor between FY 2012-13 and FY 2015-16". The report also disclosed that a total of 1,933 do-

nations were held, at 60 per cent of the total donations of the four years.

Satya Electoral Trust emerged as the top donor to three national parties between FY 2012-13 and 2015-16 with a total donation of Rs 269.87 crore, which it did in 35 instalments in three years (the Trust did not donate during FY 2012-13).

The BJP declared receiving Rs 193.62 crore from the Trust, while the Congress got Rs 57.25 crore. The NCP got Rs 10 crore from it during the same period.

The General Electoral Trust, formed before the Electoral Trust Scheme was launched by the government in 2013, was the second-highest corporate donor to BJP and Congress with donations of Rs 70.70 crore and Rs 54.10 crore to them respectively.

The top donors to the CPI-M and CPI were "association" or "unions". The CPI-M got Rs 1.09 crore from seven different associations while CPI got Rs 14.64 lakh from 15 different associations/unions. - IANS

India ahead of China on Retail Development Index

the review period.

"Our ranking on the 2017 Global Retail Index for developing countries, as well as continued investment by private equity players, is a demonstration of the sustained preference of international brands to set up, or expand their operations in India," CBRE Chairman, India and South East Asia Anshuman Mukherjee said.

The brands which opened their first store in India during H1 include Kate Spade, Scotch & Soda, Pandora and Selected Femme while those who expanded operations were H&M, Jack & Jones, US Polo, Taco Bell and Forever 21, among others.

Several hypermarkets, including Big Bazaar which opened new stores in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai, expanded their presence, it said, adding that clothing retailers such as Max and Pantaloons were also active during

STORE E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No. SI43/2017-Dist-14/08-2017: Tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS.Www.Rrms.gov.in). For details, terms & conditions of putting against e-tender, please visit : IREPS.Wwww.Rrms.gov.in. Tenders due date is opened on **13-09-2017** and **20-09-2017**.

(2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get them registered on www.eservice.rrms.gov.in. The registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers shall be submitted online only. Offers sent submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, fax or in person will be rejected summarily and not considered for consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase of e-tendering. Details of tenders shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with [IREPS](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in for latest tenders. (5) For further information on the following stores, Description, PL NO., Quantity, Tender no, respective Cell no, Name of vendor, Collar no, 1400mm, 4250mm, 4750mm, 6573 Nos, (0973 Nos, 401604532 Nos, 517 Nos, 1400mm, 4250mm, main led signal, Yellow aspect main led signal, Green aspect main led signal, 5646001, 5646002, 5646003, 5646004 Nos, 5646005 Nos, 5646006 Nos, 5646007 Nos, 5646008 Nos, 5646009 Nos, 5646010 Nos, 5646011 Nos, 5646012 Nos, 5646013 Nos, 5646014 Nos, 5646015 Nos, 5646016 Nos, 5646017 Nos, 5646018 Nos, 5646019 Nos, 5646020 Nos, 5646021 Nos, 5646022 Nos, 5646023 Nos, 5646024 Nos, 5646025 Nos, 5646026 Nos, 5646027 Nos, 5646028 Nos, 5646029 Nos, 5646030 Nos, 5646031 Nos, 5646032 Nos, 5646033 Nos, 5646034 Nos, 5646035 Nos, 5646036 Nos, 5646037 Nos, 5646038 Nos, 5646039 Nos, 5646040 Nos, 5646041 Nos, 5646042 Nos, 5646043 Nos, 5646044 Nos, 5646045 Nos, 5646046 Nos, 5646047 Nos, 5646048 Nos, 5646049 Nos, 5646050 Nos, 5646051 Nos, 5646052 Nos, 5646053 Nos, 5646054 Nos, 5646055 Nos, 5646056 Nos, 5646057 Nos, 5646058 Nos, 5646059 Nos, 5646060 Nos, 5646061 Nos, 5646062 Nos, 5646063 Nos, 5646064 Nos, 5646065 Nos, 5646066 Nos, 5646067 Nos, 5646068 Nos, 5646069 Nos, 5646070 Nos, 5646071 Nos, 5646072 Nos, 5646073 Nos, 5646074 Nos, 5646075 Nos, 5646076 Nos, 5646077 Nos, 5646078 Nos, 5646079 Nos, 5646080 Nos, 5646081 Nos, 5646082 Nos, 5646083 Nos, 5646084 Nos, 5646085 Nos, 5646086 Nos, 5646087 Nos, 5646088 Nos, 5646089 Nos, 5646090 Nos, 5646091 Nos, 5646092 Nos, 5646093 Nos, 5646094 Nos, 5646095 Nos, 5646096 Nos, 5646097 Nos, 5646098 Nos, 5646099 Nos, 5646100 Nos, 5646101 Nos, 5646102 Nos, 5646103 Nos, 5646104 Nos, 5646105 Nos, 5646106 Nos, 5646107 Nos, 5646108 Nos, 5646109 Nos, 5646110 Nos, 5646111 Nos, 5646112 Nos, 5646113 Nos, 5646114 Nos, 5646115 Nos, 5646116 Nos, 5646117 Nos, 5646118 Nos, 5646119 Nos, 5646120 Nos, 5646121 Nos, 5646122 Nos, 5646123 Nos, 5646124 Nos, 5646125 Nos, 5646126 Nos, 5646127 Nos, 5646128 Nos, 5646129 Nos, 5646130 Nos, 5646131 Nos, 5646132 Nos, 5646133 Nos, 5646134 Nos, 5646135 Nos, 5646136 Nos, 5646137 Nos, 5646138 Nos, 5646139 Nos, 5646140 Nos, 5646141 Nos, 5646142 Nos, 5646143 Nos, 5646144 Nos, 5646145 Nos, 5646146 Nos, 5646147 Nos, 5646148 Nos, 5646149 Nos, 5646150 Nos, 5646151 Nos, 5646152 Nos, 5646153 Nos, 5646154 Nos, 5646155 Nos, 5646156 Nos, 5646157 Nos, 5646158 Nos, 5646159 Nos, 5646160 Nos, 5646161 Nos, 5646162 Nos, 5646163 Nos, 5646164 Nos, 5646165 Nos, 5646166 Nos, 5646167 Nos, 5646168 Nos, 5646169 Nos, 5646170 Nos, 5646171 Nos, 5646172 Nos, 5646173 Nos, 5646174 Nos, 5646175 Nos, 5646176 Nos, 5646177 Nos, 5646178 Nos, 5646179 Nos, 5646180 Nos, 5646181 Nos, 5646182 Nos, 5646183 Nos, 5646184 Nos, 5646185 Nos, 5646186 Nos, 5646187 Nos, 5646188 Nos, 5646189 Nos, 5646190 Nos, 5646191 Nos, 5646192 Nos, 5646193 Nos, 5646194 Nos, 5646195 Nos, 5646196 Nos, 5646197 Nos, 5646198 Nos, 5646199 Nos, 5646200 Nos, 5646201 Nos, 5646202 Nos, 5646203 Nos, 5646204 Nos, 5646205 Nos, 5646206 Nos, 5646207 Nos, 5646208 Nos, 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Munching on walnuts may help control hunger pangs, according to a study which found that the snack activates an area in the brain associated with regulating appetite.

"It was pretty surprising to see evidence of activity changing in the brain related to

During their other stay in the clinic, they received a walnut-free but nutritionally comparable placebo smoothie, flavoured to taste exactly the same as the walnut-containing smoothie.

Researchers noted that participants reported feeling less hungry during the week they consumed walnut-containing smoothies than during the week they were given the placebo smoothies.

While in the machine, participants were shown images of desirable foods like

hamburgers and desserts, neutral objects like flowers and rocks, and less desirable foods like vegetables.

When participants were shown pictures of highly desirable foods, fMRI imaging revealed increased activity in a part of the brain called the right insula after participants had consumed the five-day walnut-rich diet compared to when they had not.

"This is a powerful measure. We know there is no ambiguity in terms of study results. When participants eat walnuts, this part of their brain lights up,

food cues, and by extension what people were eating and how hungry they feel," said Olivia M Parr from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in the US.

Researchers used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to observe how consuming walnuts changes activity in the brain.



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This area of the insula is likely involved in cognitive control and salience, meaning that participants were paying more attention to food choices and selecting the less desirable or healthier options over the highly desirable or less healthy options, researchers said.

The study was published in the journal *Diabetes*.

(Source: PTT)

They recruited 10 volunteers with obesity for two five-day sessions.

A controlled environment allowed researchers to keep tabs on the volunteers' exact nutritional intake, rather than depend on volunteers' often unreliable food records.

During one five-day session, volunteers consumed daily smoothies containing 48 grammes of walnuts – the serving recommended by the American Diabetes Association dietary guidelines.

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Aug. 18, 2017:

This year you might choose to act on a long-term desire. Check in with yourself and make sure that you still have the same goals. Know that you've chosen wisely and are a strong candidate for success. If you're unclear, define and recognize the type of relationship you want. The trick is to choose the right person, who wants the same. If you are attached, the two of you will work together to achieve a mutual goal. Your day-to-day relating, especially your communication, can easily add a special quality to your life together. CANCER (Understandings)

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** You're being tested by your inner voice. Your instincts are sending you a different message from what seems realistic. Air out your feelings carefully. A boss or higher-up might get easily triggered. Maintain your distance for now. Tonight: A loved one keeps reaching out.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

***** You might be asked to do something from someone who offers perverse favors. You don't owe them and often come from strange places. Return to your personal mission as quickly as possible. Perhaps you should keep your thoughts to yourself. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

***** You might need to take a leap of faith or imagination. Clear out the issues before it evolves. An idea is likely to spark your imagination. Tonight: Let your creativity play out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

***** You might become a problem in refining a work plan. Perhaps you should keep your thoughts to yourself. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** You might notice a lot happening around you. You might misinterpret what's occurring and feel that you could be wrong. Observe and ask a question if you can. Your imagination is irresistible to many people, and it serves you well more often than not. Tonight: Play it low-key.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** You might be asked to do something you realize. Not just what you hear or think, but as the primary by which you sort through information. Reach out to a close friend or let one whom with you always have a good time. Tonight: For what you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** You might feel a bit under tension. Know that you might be attaching your feelings to different situations or people. Others might not feel what you feel or even make the same deductions. Deal directly with an authority figure who is definitely best. Tonight: Out and about with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** One of your friends has down new paths, though you might not be able to see them. Try to let go of wanting to have control over someone else. Feelings run high, and your ability to move past an issue and let go will be tested once more. Tonight: Out with a favorite person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Others continue to seek you out for various reasons. You might be in all sorts of ideas and request for feedback and acknowledgement. Your personality could change because of how someone presents him or herself. Tonight: Make choices that ensure a fun, relaxing evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Others continue to seek you out for various reasons. You might be in all sorts of ideas and request for feedback and acknowledgement. Your personality could change because of how someone presents him or herself. Tonight: Make choices that ensure a fun, relaxing evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Use care with your finances, as you have a goal in mind that could cause you to go overboard. Someone from a distance might trigger your imagination. This person makes you feel lucky and appreciated.

Tonight: Let go of a resentment you have been holding on to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

***** You might receive a new opportunity. Be

frightened by someone else's sharing. Take a stand when dealing with a difficult situation that involves a friend or loved one. Consider walking away from this person and/or situation. Tonight: Lighten up the moment.

Thought for the day

But the two classes [the educated and the uneducated] so behold in contrast, might they not seem to belong to two different nations?

— JOHN FOSTER

Walnut diet

Eating walnuts may help control appetite, says a study

food cues, and by extension what people were eating and how hungry they feel," said Olivia M Parr from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in the US.

Researchers used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to observe how consuming walnuts changes activity in the brain.

in the machine, participants were shown images of desirable foods like

hamburgers and desserts, neutral objects like

flowers and rocks, and less desirable foods like

vegetables.

When participants were shown pictures of highly desirable foods, fMRI imaging revealed increased activity in a part of the brain called the right insula after participants had consumed the five-day walnut-rich diet compared to when they had not.

"This is a powerful measure. We know there is no ambiguity in terms of study results. When participants eat walnuts, this part of their brain lights up,

and we know that is connected with what they are telling us about feeding less hungry or more full," said Christos Mantzoros, professor of medicine at Harvard University in the US.

This area of the insula is likely involved in cognitive control and salience, meaning that participants were paying more attention to food choices and selecting the less desirable or healthier options over the highly desirable or less healthy options, researchers said.

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(Source: PTT)

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A controlled environment allowed researchers to keep tabs on the volunteers' exact nutritional intake, rather than depend on volunteers' often unreliable food records.

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During one five-day session, volunteers consumed daily smoothies

US military leaders condemn racism, extremism

WASHINGTON, Aug 17: The United States' top general and five of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have bluntly spoken out against white supremacy and bigotry, seen as a rare veiled criticism of President Donald Trump by the military after his controversial comments about the racist violence in Virginia.

"One by one, the US military's most senior leaders have publicly – and bluntly – repudiated the racist violence that plunged Charlottesville into chaos Saturday, declaring the nation's armed forces as being unequivocally against hatred," *The Washington Post* reported today.

Trump, just completing seven months in the White House, is under fire for his response to Saturday's clashes between far-right and counter-protesters in Charlottesville.

Virginia, in which he blamed "both sides" for the violence.

The rally was in protest at the removal of a statue of Robert E Lee, a general who fought for the pro-slavery Confederacy during the US Civil War.

"You had a group on one side that was bad and you had a group on the other side that was also very violent," Trump said. "I thought what happened was a horrible moment for our country, but there are two sides to every story," he said, triggering a national storm.

The backlash over his failure unequivocally to condemn racism and white supremacy, culminated in the dissolution of two key business advisory panels and an avalanche of condemnation from across the political spectrum.

Usually the US top military

Military leaders' outburst seen as a rare veiled criticism of President Donald Trump after his controversial comments about the racist violence in Virginia

personnel stay out of domestic politics, American media noted.

Joining other military leaders in their condemnation of the violence in Charlottesville, General Joe Dunford, the chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff said there was no place

for "racism and bigotry" in the American military.

"I can absolutely and unambiguously tell you that there's no place for racism and bigotry in the US military or in the United States as a whole," he told reporters during a visit to Beijing.

Dunford is in China as part of the Trump administration's effort to drum up support for punitive actions on North Korea for its nuclear provocations.

He said that military leaders "were speaking directly to the force and to the American people... To make it clear that that kind of racism and bigotry is not going to stand inside the force..."

And to remind the American people of the values for which they stand in the military which are reflective of what I believe to be the values of the United States." – PTI

58 dead in fresh Philippine anti-drug war

MANILA, Aug 17: Philippine police killed at least 26 more drug suspects in overnight gunbattles in the capital, bringing to 58 the toll in a renewed bloody crackdown in the last three days that received praises from the president.

President Rodrigo Duterte expressed his satisfaction with the new spike in drug killings and reassured law enforcers today they will not in fact if they get entangled in lawsuits.

"If the police and the military get into trouble in connection with the performance of duty, you can expect, I really won't agree for you to be jailed," Duterte said to applause from police officers. While he acknowledged it may be tough for him to bring the drug menace under control during the rest of his six-year term, Duterte said the deadly crackdown would continue without letup.

He announced rewards of 2 million pesos (USD 40,000) for each drug-linked police officer who would be killed.

"You policemen who are into drugs ... The bounty I'm offering for your head is 2 million. No questions asked. I will not ask who killed you," Duterte told police officers in southern Ozamiz City. "I want you ... Dead."

Twenty-six drug suspects were killed and more than 70 others arrested across the congested city in overnight police assaults, said Manila police Chief Superintendent Joel Napoleon Cornel. More than 70 others were arrested in the raids. – AP



Ukrainian servicemen stand in a line during a rehearsal for the Independence Day military parade in central Kiev, in Ukraine on Wednesday. – UNI

MJ Akbar kicks off Namaskar Africa 2017



come bearing gifts loaded with debt traps. We don't have any concept of debt traps," Akbar said at the event.

The event, organised jointly by the Indian Commerce Ministry and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) aims to brand India a leading economic player and partner to the West African region.

It will help facilitate Indian investments into Ghana and neighbouring West African countries, create awareness about the best Indian technologies and products in the region as well as explore opportunities offered by the region.

"Namaskar Africa" started with an India-Central African Regional Business Forum in Republic of Congo.

Akbar drew a parallel between the leaders of India and Ghana in their quest to bring development to their countries. "Both leaders stand for a conviction of a new vision which is not open-ended in terms of time," he said. – IANS

Malala Yousafzai gets a place at Oxford



Best wishes for life ahead!" she tweeted.

Malala will be following in the footsteps of world leaders by studying philosophy, politics and economics at the prestigious university which has been dubbed the degree "that rules Britain" by the media.

Notable alumni of PPE at Oxford University include former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, someone Malala describes as her heroine. PPE is also one of the prestigious university's most over-subscribed courses. – PTI

THE UN Messenger of Peace, who lives in Birmingham since she was airlifted for a life-saving surgery after being shot in the head by the Taliban nearly five years ago, confirmed the news in a tweet congratulating all students getting their board level exam results today.

In March, the 20-year-old had revealed her "conditional offer" to study the three subjects at the world-famous university if she achieved three As in her A-level results. It would seem she has got the grades she required.

"So excited to go to Oxford!! Well done to all A-level students – the hardest year,

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Mars 2020 rover to use smart techniques to find signs of life

LONDON, Aug 17: NASA's Mars 2020 rover, which will look for signs of past life on the red planet, will use smart X-ray techniques originally developed to find the oldest life on Earth, according to a mission scientist.

The Mars Exploration Program with a planned launch in 2020 built on the success of prior rovers, to make coordinated measurements that could detect signs of ancient life – or bio-signatures – in their original spatial context.

These techniques, known as "spatially resolved bio-signature analysis" derive from geochemical analysis of early life on Earth.

"Previous missions to Mars have used a relatively broad brush – analysing average chemistry over roughly the size of a postage stamp – to 'follow the water' and seek an-

cient habitable environments," said the mission's Deputy Project Scientist Ken Williford, from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"Mars 2020 takes the next natural step in its direct search for evidence of ancient microbial life, focusing measurements to the

micron scale and producing high-resolution maps over similarly postage-sized analytical areas," said Williford, while speaking at the Goldschmidt conference in Paris.

He said that new scientific methods for searching for the most ancient evidence for life on Earth have led to a leap forward in capability for bio-signature detection.

Rather than using "bulk" geochemistry techniques that measure the average composition of a rock, Mars 2020 is developing new capabilities including X-ray fluorescence and Raman spectroscopy to map the elemental, mineral, and organic composition of rocks at high spatial resolution, with analytical spot sizes about the width

of a human hair, said Williford.

"Understanding the spatial distribution of chemical features preserved in ancient rocks is key to determining whether or not they were formed by life.

"Beyond astrobiology, these new techniques enable exploration of the planet Mars at telescopic to microscopic scales – from a mountain to a grain of sand," said Williford.

The instruments in development for Mars 2020 have roots in the search for the earliest signs of life on Earth, as well as life in extreme environments – deep underground, or in hydrothermal settings along ocean-floor ridges.

When these methods have been applied on Earth they have enabled scientists to better understand formerly ambiguous observations. – PTI

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No: NHM/PROC/RC-DRUG/NEW-EDU/Drop & Add/3363/17-18/11517 Date:-17.08.2017

TENDER NOTICE FOR ENTERING INTO RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF DRUGS NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-Tenders in two Bid System affixing Court Fee Stamp of Rs 8.25 (or IPD of Rs 10.00 in favour of "State Health Society, Assam" for bidders located outside Assam) are invited from Manufacturers /Direct Importer for entering rate contract for supply of Drugs. The complete e-tender document can be obtained from the website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> or by sending an e-mail to info@assamtenders.gov.in. The participating bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <http://assamtenders.gov.in> on or before **05.09.2017 up to 2 PM**.

The Bidder shall also submit the proof for payment like non-refundable tender fee of Rs 200/- in the form of Demand Draft favoring "State Health Society, Assam" payable at Gauhati.

The Original Demand Draft for Tender Fee, EMD and Court Fee IPO along with hard copy of the Technical Bid only must be submitted to the Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam, Seikha Commercial Complex, Shrinagar Path, Christian Basti, G S Road, Gauhati-781005, Assam on or before the last date and time of submission of the tender

Important dates of the tender

Sr. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1	Tender Publication	19.08.2017	10:45 AM	—	—
2	Tender Download	19.08.2017	03:00 PM	08.09.2017	01:00 PM
3	Bid Submission	03.09.2017	11:00 AM	08.09.2017	2:00 PM
4	Bid Opening	08.09.2017	03:00 PM	—	—
5	Pre Bid Meeting	25.08.2017	02:00 PM	—	—

Sd/-
Mission Director NHM, Assam

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

No: NHM/FIN/Concurrent Audit/3144/2017/BR/P/11542 Date: 17.08.2017

Advertisement

Government of Assam

Health & Family Welfare Department

State Health Society, Assam

Selection of Auditing Services – Conditional Proposal (REP)

Hiring Services of Chartered Accountant Firm for Concurrent Audit of 12 Nos. District Health Societies (DHs) (Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Cachar, Chirang, Dibrugarh, Hailakandi, Jorhat, Kamrup(R), Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Sivasagar and Tinsukia) for the Financial Year 2017-18 under National Health Mission (NHM), Assam

The State Health Society Assam invites proposal from Chartered Accountant firms empanelled with C & AG and which meet all the conditions in the eligibility criteria listed below for carrying out the Concurrent Audit of 12 Nos. Districts (DHs) for the Financial Year 2017-18 as per the Terms of Reference provided in the REP.

CA Firm must be following minimum criteria. However the management have the right to relax any of the criteria in case of existing CA firm(s) depending on the professional services rendered by them as concurrent auditor in the previous years to NHM. **The CA firms already appointed for Concurrent Audit of two districts of NHM, Assam for the FY 2017-18 need not apply again. However, the CA firms appointed for one district may apply for one more districts and maximum number of DHs to be allotted to a CA firm is two (2) only.**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Minimum Criteria
1	Number for full time FCA associated with the firm for not less than 3 years (As per Certificate of ICAI as on 01-01-2017)	1
2	Number for full time ACA associated with the firm for not less than 3 years (As per Certificate of ICAI as on 01-01-2017)	1
3	Turnover of the firm Average annual in last three years	Rs. 10 Lakh (Min.)
4	Number of firms	3 years
5	No. of Assessments of Concurrent Statutory Audit (Having a turnover of not less than Rs. 2 crores in the last year)	3
6	No. of Assessment. Experience of audit of Externally/ Internally Audited projects Social Sector Projects (other than audit of Charitable Institutions & NGOs) in the last 3 years	3

Fees workable as per norms of ICAI.

Submission of Expression of Interest:

The eligible Chartered Accountant Firm can download the format for Technical Bid and Financial Bid from the website www.nthm assam.in and submit the RFP to the O/o Mission Director, NHM, Assam, Seikha Commercial Complex, G.S. Road, Christian Basti, Gauhati-05 in the tender box placed at 2nd floor of the Directorate of NHM, Assam (Accounts Branch).

Important Dates:

- I. Last date for submission of Proposal to State Health Society, Assam: 1st September, 2017 upto 12:00 Noon.
- II. Date of opening of Technical bid: 1st September, 2017 at 1:00 P.M.

Sd/-
Mission Director NHM, Assam



National Awards

for Science & Technology Communication 2017

National Council for Science & Technology Communication

Department of Science & Technology

Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India

Invites nominations for the following National Awards for 2017

a) National Award for Outstanding Effort in Science & Technology Communication (Rupees Two Lakhs)

Presented to an individual or an institution for outstanding work in communication of science and technology and/or promotion of scientific temper which had the widest impact in the country.

b) National Award for Outstanding Effort in Science & Technology Communication through Print Media including Books and Magazines (Rupees One Lakh)

Presented to an individual or an institution for outstanding efforts in popularization of science & technology and/or promotion of scientific temper through books, magazines, etc.

c) National Award for Outstanding Effort in Science & Technology Popularization among Children (Rupees One Lakh)

Presented to an individual or an institution for outstanding work in popularization of science & technology and/or promotion of scientific temper among children which had the widest impact in the country.

d) National Award for Outstanding Effort in Translation of Popular Science & Technology Literature (Rupees One Lakh)

Presented to an individual journalist or an institution for outstanding work in translating popular science and technology literature in and from regional languages.

e) National Awards for Outstanding Effort in Science & Technology Communication through Innovative and Traditional Methods (Rupees One lakh)

Presented to an individual correspondent or an institution for outstanding efforts in communication of science & technology and/or promotion of scientific temper.

f) National Award for Outstanding Effort in Science & Technology Communication in Electronic Medium (Rupees One Lakh)

Presented to an individual correspondent or an institution for outstanding efforts in communication of science & technology and/or promotion of scientific temper through radio and/or television media.

The last date for receipt of completed nomination forms is 10 October, 2017.

Full details of the scheme including eligibility conditions, application format etc., may be downloaded from the website of the Department: www.dst.gov.in

For further queries (if any) please contact:

Dr. Arunima Mishra
Scientist, NSC

National Council for Science & Technology Communication.

Department of Science & Technology

Technology Bhawan, New Mehruli Road, New Delhi-110016

Teletel: 011-26535564, E-mail: apmishra@nic.in

davp 36101/11/0010/1718

Ronaldo-less Real complete Super Cup rout of Barcelona

MADRID, Aug 17: Real Madrid shrugged off the absence of the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo to cruise past rivals Barcelona 2-0 in the second leg, and won the Spanish Super Cup to cap a 5-1 aggregate win.

Ronaldo was slapped with a five-game ban for pushing the referee after he was sent off in the first leg, but his replacement Marco Asensio enhanced his reputation as one of world football's rising stars as he smashed Madrid into the lead after just four minutes.

Karim Benzema then deservedly doubled Real's lead before half-time.

Barca responded with a more spirited second-half showing and were unfortunate not to at least pull a goal back as Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez hit the woodwork.

Victory continues Madrid's run of success under Zinedine Zidane with the European champions now having lifted seven trophies in the 20 months since the Frenchman took charge.

"We played a great match tonight," said Zidane. "Especially in the first half it was spectacular."

Zidane even had the luxury of leaving first-team regulars Gareth Bale, Isco and Casemiro on the bench as Real's strength in depth was demonstrated in a dominant first 45 minutes.

"This team has hunger and every time we play it shows," added Zidane.

"We like to try to continue like this. To start the season is very good, but we know a long season is just starting."

In similar fashion to his strike in the first leg, 21-year-old Asensio sent an unstoppable left-foot-



Real Madrid celebrate after defeating Barcelona in the second leg of the Spanish Super Cup at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid. Real Madrid won 2-0 in the second leg to cap a 5-1 aggregate win.

ed shot past Marc-Andre ter Stegen into the top corner from outside the box.

"I think we were superior across the whole tie," Asensio told Spanish TV station Telecinco. However, he rejected suggestions he is now

ahead of Bale in Zidane's pecking order.

"I am working to have as many minutes as possible on the field."

"I am happy on both a collective and individual level."

Barcelona boss Ernesto Valverde has suffered the worst possible start to his reign with back-to-back defeats against the Catalans' fiercest rivals and the visitors never threatened to mount a comeback after conceding.

"We have to recover quickly, the league is on the horizon," said Valverde, ahead of Barca's La Liga opener against Real Betis on Sunday.

Shorn of Neymar after his world record breaking transfer to Paris Saint-Germain and injured captain Andres Iniesta, Barca's star front two lacked the service needed to make a meaningful impact.

"In three days we find ourselves against the ropes," added Valverde.

"Things have happened in pre-season that have affected the balance of the team and our job is to refund that balance."

Indeed, the scoreline could have been a lot more embarrassing for Barca as Marcelo dragged wide before Lucas Vazquez hit the post with a glorious chance.

The hosts finally doubled their lead six minutes before the break when Benzema nipped in front of Umtiti and slotted past Ter Stegen.

An 11:00 pm kick-off meant half-time saw Wednesday turn to Thursday and Barca did at least salvage some pride in the early morning with an improved second-half display.

Messi was desperately unlucky not to net a consolation goal as he hit the underside of the bar from a narrow angle.

The visitors' night was summed up when Suarez headed against the post with the goal gaping after Navas had parried Messi's driven shot into his path.

And there could be even worse news to come for Barca as Suarez ended the game visibly suffering from a knee injury that Valverde said will be assessed on Thursday. — AFP

16-year-old Lakshya wins Bulgaria Open Int'l Series

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: Young Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen today clinched the Bulgaria Open International Series title after notching up a hard-fought win over Croatia's Zvonimir Durkinjik in the men's singles final in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The Uttarakhand shuttler, who celebrated his 16th birthday yesterday, defeated second-seeded Zvonimir 21-18, 21-12, 21-17 in a 57-minute match. He had beaten Sri Lanka's Dimuka Karunaratna 21-19, 21-14 in the semifinals yesterday.

The World Junior No. 1 was recently sent to train under former All England champion Peter Gade, who is currently the head coach of French national team.

Lakshya had earlier reached the finals of Senior National championship in February.

It is a creditable achievement for Lakshya. He is still a junior but he has been able to win tournaments and that is a good sign. We had sent five players on a 10-day training trip with the French national team. He trained under the great Peter Gade and it has benefited him," coach Vilas Kumar told PTI.

He had a good tournament. He beat the top seed Sam Parsons in the first round. He won the junior national and also was finalist at senior nationals this year and it gave him a lot of confidence to beat top players like HS Pramod. So I feel if grown properly, he does have a great future," Kumar said.

Asked what are the upcoming tournaments that Lakshya would be playing, Vimal said: "He is concentrating on his strength. We have former national champion Sayali Gokhale attached to him and she travels with him." — PTTI

India beat Austria 4-3 to end Europe tour on a high

AMSTELVEEN (Netherlands), Aug 17: Ramandeep Singh and Chintalapudi Singh Kanjum struck twice in the men's men's hockey team to a sensational 4-3 win over Austria in their final encounter of the Europe Tour here.

Double goals from Ramandeep (25th minute, 32nd) and Chintalapudi (37th, 60th) helped India end the tour with three wins and two losses.

For Austria, Oliver Binder (14th), Michael Körper (53rd) and Patrick Schmidt (55th) scored.

After successive wins against World No. 4 Netherlands, India made a steady start against Austria. While they kept most of the ball possession, penetrating into the striking circle was hard to come by.

In fact, it was Austria who took an early lead through Oliver Binder's goal in the 14th minute to end the first quarter 1-0.

India, however, made amends in the 25th minute when Chintalapudi scored a PC in the 25th minute. A clever variation saw comeback-man Amit Rohidas pass the ball to Ramandeep Singh who deflected the ball into the circle to equalise the scores.



Players in action during India's final match of the Europe Tour against Austria at Amstelveen.

Coach Mickey Arthur abused me, claims Umar Akmal

KARACHI, Aug 17: Pakistan Test batsman Umar Akmal has claimed that chief coach Mickey Arthur abused him during an argument at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore.

"I stand by what I told the media earlier today. Mickey Arthur used first poor language and then abused me. Inzamam bhai [Inzamam] and Shoaib bhai [Shoaib] are both witness to this incident at the NCA," Umar told PTI yesterday.

The alteration took place between Umar and Arthur after the former returned from England following a rehabilitation programme for a knee problem and went to the academy for training. Umar said he went there af-

told me to go and talk to Mickey again," Umar recalled.

The Pakistan batsman said it was the second time when he went to Arthur to ask him to allow him to train with the coaches that he lost his cool.

"First he told me what I was doing at the academy. He then told me I should go and play club cricket. And then he used poor and abusive language. I can tolerate anything but I don't think anyone has the right to use such language," Umar said.

"Then he told me to go and speak to Inzamam and Mustaq. I went to them and spoke to them. They explained things to me about my status and reminded me I had failed the fitness test several times. They advised me to listen to what was being said to me. I said alright and then they

told me to go and talk to Mickey again," Umar recalled.

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Door is open for those who play the way I want to: Constantine

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: Play the brand of football I want you to play and the door is open for you," is the mantra of Indian football team's head coach Stephen Constantine while keeping a hawk eye on the talent pool.

"When I see any player and from all levels, I just try to find out whether he can play the brand of football which I want him to play. If you can, the door stays open for you," Constantine told AFP.

Ahead of the tri-nation football series, Constantine said that focus will be on youth policy.

"As long as I will be the coach, I will always try and develop young players and give them

opportunities. The lifespan of an U-23 players in the squad for the tournament.

Asked about the composition of the coach said it's a blend of youth and experience.

"Of course, you need the experience and need to learn from the senior players but that can sometimes lead us to a bit of stagnation. It's extremely important for senior players to work hard to keep their positions as much it is important for the kids to learn to take their positions.

"The moment, I feel we have the right balance as even the young players have some 8-9 matches under their belt and you cannot call them inexperienced anymore," — PTTI

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McGregor vows fast finish against Mayweather

LOS ANGELES, Aug 17: Conor McGregor believes he will knock out Floyd Mayweather inside two rounds but is ready for all scenarios when the two fighters clash in their eagerly anticipated superfight next week.

Irish mixed martial arts star McGregor told reporters on a conference call yesterday that a controversial switch to lighter gloves could lead to an explosive outcome in the August 26 showdown in Las Vegas.

McGregor, who is widely seen as a massive underdog against undefeated former welterweight king Mayweather, predicted an early finish.

"Particularly with the eight-ounce gloves, I don't believe he makes it out of the second round," said McGregor, nevertheless expressing the hope that the fight would last longer.

"I don't want people saying 'Oh, it was a lucky punch' and all that. Part of me is hoping maybe he can



er gloves, while McGregor will be able to make his punching power more keenly felt, provided he can

land a blow on his American opponent.

"I think it affects the contest a lot," White said when asked if McGregor would be helped by the change.

"Yes, Floyd will be faster with eight-ounce gloves but he's more defensive. Conor hits like a truck, so smaller gloves helps him big time. I think it absolutely does."

McGregor and Mayweather will climb into the ring following an international publicity tour last month marked by expletive-laden tirades and trash-talking.

McGregor, who was criticised for addressing Mayweather as "boy" during one event, dismissed suggestions that there was a racially tinged dimension to the duel.

"For me, it's athlete versus athlete," McGregor said. "I'm disappointed to hear the way it's being portrayed. All I can do is stay focused on my craft and go out and put a performance for my fans."

McGregor, meanwhile, said he has used disengagement by the boxing community as motivation.

"It has certainly been motivating the disrespect and the disregard for my skill set," McGregor said.

"I look at people so many times and their mind is closed to how things can be done. It's a set way and there is no other way. Well, if that was the case we would have never reached across the oceans in search of other lands. We would never have gone into space."

"You have to have an open mind and you got to realise that there are other ways. Fighting is a complex game. But I'm just looking forward to August 26 and proving what I'm saying and educating the world of what martial arts is." — AFP



Masterclass

ANKUR BORA writes about an Assamese engineer's innovative forays in the textile industry

Rangan Rajkhowa began his journey from Guwahati where he finished his schooling from Cotton Collegiate School. He followed his passion for engineering and did his graduation in textile technology in 1995, a subject considered as outlier during that time. After securing an All-India 2nd Rank in the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering in Textile, Rangan completed a Master's degree on Fibre Science and Technology at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. After working for a few years in industry, teaching and research institutions in India, he decided to move to an African country which turned out to be the best thing in his career.

There are some moments in life that are like pivots around which your existence turns and for Rangan it was his five-year stint in Ethiopia. Unlike many others back home in India, for whom a government or a corporate job was the only attractive proposition, Rangan had an outrageous idea and he took that leap of faith to follow his calling. In the year 2000, Rangan arrived in the Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia to work as a teaching staff. At Bahir Dar, on the shore of the magnificent Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, he designed, over a long period of five years, an undergraduate programme in textile engineering, worked assiduously to prepare the blueprint of a textile research institute and taught as an Assistant Professor at the local university. "Despite having a few problems, I found my experience quite amazing and also quite opposite to the

common perception of an African country. I went there for two years but ended up staying for more than five. For the first time I had the chance to work with people from different parts of the world, including volunteers from the United States. Opportunities to work with people with diverse backgrounds and cultures and learning new skills were immensely useful."

Going to Ethiopia was a watershed moment in his career. Rangan was able to challenge and break down the walls



of conformity and stereotypes; the know-how provided him a lot of confidence as he was rewarded with a fellowship to work at the Australian Wool Innovation (AWI). At AWI, and subsequently in various research institutes in Australia, Rangan got the opportunity to develop new products like combining Australian merino wool and *Er* silk from Assam, developing fabrication and characterisation of biomaterial film from *Muga* silk and application of silk in medical implants. The main focus point in his research was a thorough and well-rounded study of the structure of fibres. "Silk is made of various amino acids, the composition and the way they are connected in a fibre are different in different silks. Understanding such aspects can provide new insights. We found that *Er* silk can absorb certain ions much more than others, while *Muga* has strong UV absorbing properties. Hence these fibres may be used for novel applications," Rangan explains.

The realm of Textile Engineering and research offers real-world, industry-applicable experience. The researchers perform hands-on experiments with the latest technology in the field, whilst collaborating across disciplines, including industry leaders. There has been growing awareness about the serious environmental impacts of textile materials. Denim, is also known to cause widespread pollution as old denim products are dumped in landfills and the dye run-off is discharged in water. Rangan and his team, recently, developed a unique process that produces

times a delicate wife engaged in household chores, sometimes a warrior like Rani Lakshmi Bai. In all these, the role of The Girl is to play a very hard, rigorous and hectic role. The identity of The Girl is very delicate and desperate. One good deed can delicately earn her fame and one bad deed can

The Girl!

tarnish that. Yes, this is the dominant and stagnant identity of a girl in most households. The Girl is a property born in a family and is gifted to another family in the form of marriage to give birth to an offspring and to carry forward the legacy of the latter. The Girl then engages herself in household chores for the rest of her life. This has been an ancient legacy that was thought of by man, enacted by man, and practised by man.

The Girl has been the victim of rape, sexual harassment, taunting, ragging and acid attacks and female genital mutilation. Therefore, The Girl of the 21st century has to be a savage warrior who can fight any crime, any sin that is conspired against her. The Girl is not shy, not afraid and not delicate; she is, instead, full of enthusiasm and enlightenment. The Girl can marry, nurture a child, carry out household chores and work as a respectable, independent woman. The Girl is an embodiment of knowledge in all spheres, embodiment of intellectuality, embodiment of honesty, embodiment of bravery and courage, and above all, an embodiment of equality. This is the significance of The Girl in the 21st century. She is not a bad omen, she is not a regrettable property, she is not a burden, but she is a flower who blooms and makes everyone bloom. She makes everyone feel at home. The Girl is the mother of all sons and daughters. The Girl is the zenith of all birth.

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ultrafine particles from used denim, thus efficiently recycling post-consumer denim products, and using the recycled material in coloured powder form to create new denim. The concept 'Denim-dyed denim' was an entry at the 'Global Change Award 2015', a competition in which the winners get monetary support to take their innovation to industry. His team was one of the five winners, out of a total of 2885 entries from 130 countries, to share the prize of \$150,000.

The quest for knowledge has shaped our present world and we must be relentless if we hope to improve our lives and humanity. The connection available between the college of textiles and the industry is endless and Dr Rangan Rajkhowa has come a long way to make the most of it. In his PhD thesis in 2009 at Deakin University, Rangan dwelt on the topic of repairing hard tissue defects and proposed developing medical equipment from natural fibres such as silk and wool. Traditional knowledge systems from Assam, given its vast wealth of natural fibres, formed a central part of his research thrust. Over the next decade, Rangan continued to follow the trajectory, assessing different silk fibres sourced from India, eventually pioneering a new method to treat ruptured eardrum.

An eardrum, a thin membrane that separates the ear canal and the middle ear when ruptured, is called a perforated eardrum, which can lead to complications such as middle ear infections and hearing loss. Up to 330 million people worldwide suffer chronic eardrum perforation and the usual treatment is a specialised surgery requiring lengthy and repeated procedure. The alternative being developed by Dr Rangan Rajkhowa involves using fine silk membranes. The researchers are using the natural proteins from silk fibres to produce the artificial eardrum. The product, known as Clear Drum, looks like a contact lens, super-thin, strong, flexible, and biodegradable and can be implanted in a simple outpatient procedure. Rangan and the team have recently received a National Health and Medical Research Council development grant and hope to start conducting clinical trials in humans in Australia in 2018.

"It is very satisfying that my journey continues to be one that benefits people." The odyssey of Rangan Rajkhowa, from his school days in his home State of Assam to Bahir Dar and then to Deakin, has shown that geographical limitations are never a hindrance to flow of ideas and paths to success. Let his story stimulate, motivate and guide the new generation; let our students go beyond the comfort zone, solve problems of the real world in their classroom and let it be a masterpiece.

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The importance of touch

Unmana Dutta

Touch is the first thing that the baby feels when he/she is out of the womb of the mother. In fact, research has found that the sense of touch develops in the third week of conception itself, when most women do not even realise that they are pregnant. Like any newly found sense, the babies explore the insides of the womb by stroking his/ her face, sucking on a thumb, touching the rest of his/her own body and touching the umbilical cord.

As a common practice today, the minute the baby is out of the womb, he/she is given to the mother, delaying the process of cleaning, weighing and physical measures. This helps the baby to find the same temperature of the body just as he had experienced inside the womb through the skin-to-skin touch of the moth-

er and the baby. It helps the baby to have an easy transition to life outside the womb. This is also helpful in boosting immunity and regulating body systems of the baby.

The most common way to comfort a distressed baby is via touch. This touch could be stroking, caressing, and some simple rocking in the laps of the caretaker. However, when the baby starts to walk, this sense of touch is lost in many parent-child relationships. And this can have serious consequences in the long run for overall development of the child.

Touch is a non-verbal communication which lets the child know that there is the presence of the security base for them, to whom they can go back to if they are in any problem. Moreover, it is a sign of empathy, love, approval and appreciation that the parent has for the child.

Touch is a form of medicine for many emotional disorders. Our body has different hormones that help the body recover from many emotional problems. One such hormone is oxytocin which is also called the "love hormone". This is released when we get love and affection from someone. Research has found that a person who gets a lot of physical touch as support during depression often releases oxytocin and this in turn reduces their blood pressure and regulates the stress hormone.

The field of psychology has seen many researches done in the field of touch. The most important one is the one done by Harry Harlow with monkeys back in 1950s where he allotted two groups of monkeys to two mothers, in which one was made of wire and the other monkey was covered with Terry cloth. It was seen that even though both of them had milk dispensers attached, and the monkeys drank milk from both, they later went back to the cloth monkey in order to get physical satisfaction and warmth.

Some of the common practices that can be followed by parents to continue the touch relationship with their children are:

- An early morning kiss and hug could do wonders for a child who has just started to explore the world by walking around.
- Taking him/her to a walk in some open space and letting him/her play, like climbing an elevated place by holding your hands. This gives them the feeling that there is someone to support whenever they might fall.

● Tap a shoulder and say a word of encouragement.

Showing love to an adolescent child is easy by giving a hug before they leave for school or college, a good morning hug or kiss and, of course, some chit chatting before a good night kiss.

Teenagers and adolescents will sometimes need someone who can help them express their emotions, and at other times they will not need anyone and crave for some alone-time. This is a part of their growing up. So it is really important for the parents to give them constant physical touch and support whenever they need. An adolescent child juggles from being an adult and a child and this is one stage where they are in need of physical touch from their parents, but do not feel very comfortable on getting it.

After marriage, most people enjoy the feelings of touch with their partner. This includes eye contact, holding, touching, caressing, smiling and a desire to be loved and cared for by the partner. However, the touch sense mostly fades away with time once children come into their lives. And this has been found to have serious consequences in the lives of both the partners. Research has found that no touch in romantic relationships leads to temper and blood pressure problems in either one or both the partner. And over time, the relationship loses its importance and love, and merely becomes a way of staying in the relationship either due to kids or other social obligations.

Touch is a natural booster of the body's immune system. A hug a day can stimulate the thymus gland, which, in turn, produces White Blood Cells, which is an antibiotic that the body produces against the antigens affecting the body. Touch can be beneficial to boost the overall well-being of individuals and to develop human communication in general ways.

(msud1289@gmail.com)



Celebrating interdependence

As we complete seven decades of our independence, Indians world over have reasons to celebrate the incredible journey of a nation that has proved its critics wrong time and again. So when India achieved freedom at the stroke of midnight, the leaders knew that there was a huge challenge on hand to meet the aspirations of a country which had to leave behind its colonial past and stand tall among the nations of the world.

The diversity of our faith, ideologies, language, culture, geographies is second to none and in many ways this is what makes India unique. The very idea of India, which has always been a talking point of various public discourses, is subject to multiple interpretations. A certain school of thought insists that it was the British Raj that actually gave shape to the Indian nation, which was mostly principalities and small kingdoms. Others opine that all the regions of India were always connected to each other culturally as well as through trade. When we refer to the Indian civilisations and discuss epics like the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*, the tales and fables encompass the length and breadth of today's political India.

In an article by Abhishek Pandey, IIT Bombay, the author, while putting forward his counter points to the notion that India as a nation is a British creation, says that like other civilisations of world, even Indian civilisations settled near the banks of rivers – Indus, Ganga, Cavery and Narmada. Now due to its natural boundary with other civilisations and ease of access in this land, people, ideas, thoughts, philosophy and customs were exchanged very often from north to south and east to west. And that is why a culture developed that was unique, diverse and rich.

Taking this argument forward, I would like to mention that people from the Indian subcontinent were always attached to each other in more ways than one. We always relied on each other for basic economic and social transactions. Our shared philosophies and world view have developed from the times of the *Vedas* and *Puranas*. We will always have our differences but we can never deny our bonding – a feeling that perhaps was accentuated by the atrocities that our forefathers experienced during the British rule.

Whenever I travel overseas, the idea of being an Indian becomes even more pronounced as I relish meeting a fellow countryman, and more so, when I have to respond to different remarks made by foreign nationals who are either very impressed or at times bemused by the people from this incredible land.

Suddenly, the idea of India and Indians has undergone a huge transformation. People now discuss our human resources, IT professionals, dynamic presence in space exploration and missile technology, and self-sufficiency in food grain production. Indian political leadership too is seen to have a strong influence globally.

While we have reasons to feel proud of the growing influence of India in the global context, the fact remains that eventually it is the progress that we show at home that will always be the deciding factor in sustaining our image globally. We must also realise that when the world is discussing digitalisation on all aspects of daily life, we are still working hard to educate our people to refrain from open defecation and start using toilets. While we have reasons to celebrate our socio-cultural diversities, we have to acknowledge the fact that regional disparities, especially on the economic front, will keep rousing us back on our goals of making India a super power in the truest sense of the word. Military supremacy and socio-economic development must go hand in hand.

With the rich heritage and legacy that we have inherited and the historical facts that clearly reflect how prosperous this land was, it will be a pity if we do not overcome our petty differences to ensure that India not only leads the nations of the world but Indians become a reference point for all that is good about a race. Let us celebrate our diversity, our interdependence, which will always help us to truly enjoy our independence.

(mabh@gmail.com)

The Oxford University Press (OUP) has recently launched online dictionaries in Tamil and Gujarati languages. The launch is part of the Oxford Global Languages' (OGL) initiative which aims to build dictionaries and lexicographical resources in around 100 of the world's languages and to make them available online. Before the Tamil and Gujarati versions, the online dictionary was launched in 2016.

QUIZ RESULT: To mark the 71st Independence Day of India, the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) organised an inter-collegiate prize money quiz competition 'Freedom Quiz - 2017' on August 15 at the District Library Auditorium, Gauhati. Ritwick Bhattacharya, Pritom Sarmas and Rakitin Barua were the first champions and received a cash prize of Rs 15,000. The second position went to Dhrubajyoti Das, Rohan Das and Suraj Jyoti Changtekheli. The third position was bagged by Bibhuti Handique, Tapan Jyoti Sakia and Sudarshan Goswami. The show was conducted by yours truly on behalf of Trivya Bytes, Guwahati.

In today's Master's Choice section, do try out a set of questions asked in the Freedom Quiz - 2017. Meanwhile, keep writing to us with quiz reports, questions (with answers and full postal address) and interesting bits of information at: Quizone, Horizon, C/o The Assam Tribune, Maniram Dewan Road, Guwahati, SMS: 98640-26322 and email at: tossalen@gmail.com or quizonesallen@gmail.com. To read Quizone online, you can log on to epaper.assamtribune.com.

MASTER'S CHOICE

1. It was established by the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti on April 21, 1940 in Guwahati, and was inaugurated by Sir Robert Neil Reid, the then Governor of Assam. What is it?

2. Who is the only Assamese personality to have the rare distinction of receiving the *Kaiser-i-Hind* title from the British Government?

3. This party was founded by Punjabi Indians in the United States and Canada in 1913 with the aim of securing India's independence from the British. The party was formally dissolved in 1948. The name of the party is an Urdu word meaning 'revolt' or 'rebellion'.

4. Since the language does not have its own script, it is mainly written in the scripts of South Indian languages – Devanagari and Roman. *Nirman* is the first movie in this language to be recognised at the National Film Awards. Which language is it?

5. Though people popularly believe that the First War of Indian Independence was in 1857, the first recorded revolt against the British took place in 1806 in this city.

Enchanting smiles

Recollecting the enchanting smiles, Of those days, I remember, How I trod barefoot on the green grass; Lay down on it, To imagine the distance, Between the Earth and the sky. Many times I leaped, To touch the rainbow. Laughed and shouted with joy, When sliding down with siblings, From the top of a haystack. Ran after dragonflies, Hopped with grasshoppers, In the paddy fields. Scattered grains in the lawn, For sparrows and pigeons. The last glimpse of the setting sun Seemed like vermillion on a woman's forehead. Flocks of birds flew towards their nests Beneath the dark sky, I sat quietly, Enjoying the hide and seek. Played by the moon and the clouds. My eyes closed slowly, I fell asleep gently, With lullabies sung by insects, In the far distance. Along with my mother.

Bandana Bargoyari,
Baksa

Happy days

I may not walk, but I have travelled a distance long, Watched upon by God. Have I become very strong? But I wish to shine, With all my powers combined. Now I am helpless and want to scream, Although I have a dream. To keep me calm and to keep me patient, Struggling with my fate. I believe happy days will come, be it soon or late.

Habib Jasvi,
Guwahati

SCIENCE ZONE

Dr Nayaniyoti Deka

It is not the design of the brush that matters. What matters is your brushing skills and commitment to good oral hygiene.



How to care for your teeth

Everybody usually knows the importance of oral hygiene. However, some additional knowledge may be required for the proper practice of oral hygiene. Below are the answers to some common queries about oral health which will encourage us to accommodate it in our daily dental care routine.

Q: How many times do I need to brush and floss per day?

A: The American Dental Association recommends brushing your teeth twice a day and use of dental floss or other interdental cleaners once a day to effectively remove microbial plaque.

Q: Which brush should I use?

A: Only soft bristle toothbrushes should be used. Studies have not found any difference in the effectiveness of brush of different brands and designs. What matters is your brushing skills and commitment to good oral hygiene.

Q: When should I change my toothbrush?

A: After every three months. **Q: How to brush properly?**

A: The brushing method should cover all areas of the mouth, including gingival margin (narrow space at the tooth and gum junction) and interdental area (area between two teeth). Avoid vigorous brushing and use of toothbrushes with hard bristles as it can cause tooth abrasion and gum injury. So use of dental floss or other interdental cleaning aid is necessary for effective

FEELINGS

Floods and farmers

(Dedicated to the flood affected farmers of Assam)

The dam was broken in the village one night, Water gushed into my hut. My doors fell with a thwack; My fields were flooded and cattle died. I held on to the bed as a raft, To save my life in great fright. I floated on water like a leaf: Like an orphan. Cries of children and women were heard. I looked up at the sky with tears in my eyes; People ran hither shelter. There was chaos on Earth. I wept, worried for my cattle and farm, I panicked to see my plight; How to till my land and sow? How do I hope to live and grow? How do I stand up once again? How to bring back my smiles again?

Nilu Sharma,
Via e-mail

Fury of floods

It brings havoc and destruction each year, And grips the psyche with immense fear.

Innumerable people lose their homes, The shadow of death freely roams.

Cattle cry for the sun, Poor peasants miss their fun.

Vast lands are left barren, Motivation of the masses lay shaken.

The hungry population weep for relief, Their faces lay blank without any belief.

They have seen their houses taken away by the river, They could do nothing but only shiver.

Their sad faces reveal their vulnerability, In front of nature, human life is a frailty.

However, despite the horror and the sorrow, The human spirit hopes for tomorrow.

In spite of the hard times and grief, The human soul is strong and stiff.

The houses are reconstructed along the shores, The phoenix rises from the ashes and soars.

The Brahmaputra eventually quiets down, And awaits patiently for the next showdown.

Ronjoy Bordoloi,
Guwahati

The girl in the city

There she was, the girl in the city, To wander, to be lost, In her prodigious dreams and thoughts. Never did she worry what she had left behind, All it mattered was to rise and shine.

Urshita Bhuyan,
Guwahati

odontitis. If untreated, these may lead to loss of teeth. So visit your dentist at the earliest if you happen to experience these symptoms.

Q: How do dental cavities occur? What is the treatment?

A: There are several factors which contribute to dental caries and subsequent tooth pain. In simple words, it is the result of bacterial action. Bacteria also contributes to gingivitis and many oral diseases. Treatment of small cavities is restored by dental cement whereas large cavities may require root canal treatment and cap placement.

Q: What about home remedies for toothache?

A: There are some home remedies that may help. But be careful as some ingredients can do more harm than good. For example, clove can reduce tooth ache to some extent, but it is harmful for gums and oral tissues.

Q: My teeth are forwardly placed/not proportional/missing/not aligned. There are gaps between my teeth/gums are exposed while smiling. Is there any treatment for correction of these problems?

A: Yes. With the advancement of techniques and good materials in dentistry, most of the above mentioned problems can be solved.

Q: Any special suggestions?

A: Visit your dentist regularly. Smoking is the greatest enemy of loss of teeth. So avoid smoking. (tekanayan67@gmail.com)



Q: Do commercially available mouthwashes help?

A: Yes. In some cases mouthwashes do help. However, it should be used as an adjunct to tooth brushing and flossing. It should not be used as a substitute for brushing.

Q: I experience bleeding when brushing/foul smell/food stuck between teeth/loose tooth. What do I do about it?

A: All these are signs of gingivitis and perio-

The cause of the revolt was the ban on wearing religious marks on the forehead by Hindu soldiers and the forcing of Muslim soldiers to shave off their beards. Which city was it?

6. Which epic work was compiled during 1469 to 1708, containing works of Ramanand, Sheikh Farid, Kabir, Ravidas, Beni, Namdev, Sadhana, Bhikkhana, Parmanand, Sain, Dhanna, Pipa, Surdas, Jayadev and Trilochan?

7. The first Round Table conference was held at London in November, 1930. Who was the only person from Assam to represent India?

8. What is so special about the Independence Day speech of the then Prime Minister of India, Mahatma Gandhi, on August 15, 1942?

9. Which poet and Indian sang the famous song *Raghupati Raghav Rajaram* during the Dandi march?

10. Surendra Rajan is a Marathi actor and composer who has been in the art and cinema industry for long. He has a unique record of doing it thrice in feature films, twice in short films and once on the small screen. What is this achievement?

READERS' CHOICE

11. Name the person who was authorised to take the leadership of the Tezpur Congress Swabhimani in Assam by the Indian National Congress during the course of the historic Quit India movement in 1942 (Subrata Datta, via SMS)

12. Which Indian institute developed a highly sensitive nanometre-scale carbon monoxide sensor recently? (Naina Devi, Guwahati)

13. Microsoft has tied up with which Indian State to use its AI-based Mine platform to screen children for eye problems? (Dhiraj Das, via SMS)

14. What is the State capital of Nebraska? (Susmita Borah, Dibrugarh)

15. Captain Arthur Hastings OBE is the best friend of which fictional detective? (Bidyut Borah, Titabor)

16. During which dynasty was the decimal number system, including the concept of zero, invented in India? (Amrita Nath, Guwahati)

17. Paul Beatty won which award in 2016 for his novel *The Sellout*? (Mridul Das, South Kamrup)

18. In Roman mythology, who was the God of the Sun? (Priya Hazarika, Guwahati)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

20. The term was popularised by Benjamin Graham and his followers, most notably Warren Buffett. It is a principle of investing in which an investor only purchases securities when the market price is significantly below its intrinsic value. What term is it? (Nurjuma Begum, Tangla)

ANSWERS

- The State Museum of Assam, 2, Bholanath Borooah,
- Ghaderi Party, 4, Konkani, 5, Vellora, 6, Guru Granth Sahib,
- Chandradhar Baruah, 8, Colour television was introduced in India through the telecast of that speech in Doordarshan, 9, Vishnu Digamber Paluskar, 10, Playing the role of Mahatma Gandhi maximum number of times on screen, 11, Jyoti Prasad Agarwalla, 12, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, 13, Telangana, 14, Lincoln, 15, Hercule Poirot, 16, The Gupta Dynasty, 17, The Man Booker Prize for Fiction, 18, Apollo, 19, Hank Ketcham, 20, Margin of Safety.

Gauri Priya Bora

A life of poverty or any sort of 'conventional' difficulties sound hard and full of anguish. But actual mystery shrouds a life that to any particular onlooker on an given day would be viewed as perfectly desirable, an absolutely normal life.

Well, what I am trying to hammer home through this piece is the fact that while we go about sympathising with people who live seemingly hard lives, we forget, or ignore the emptiness of a seemingly happy life.

There's this popular advice that airhostesses give to the passengers in a flight before it takes off. It goes somewhat like this: 'In times of crisis, the oxygen mask would drop down'. We are specifically advised to place it on our own mouth first before trying to help any other person, no matter how close they may be.

On first glance, this seems to be an extremely selfish advice that violates the glory of humanity. However, it makes perfect sense. We go out of our way to console, comfort and help others. We limit our own freedom at times while doing so.

But in most of these selfless endeavours, do we take the time to ask ourselves what the nature of our help actually is? Are we moving out of our moral comfort zone to ease a friend? Are we disobeying our trusting parents just to make a friend happy? Is it hampering our own rights as a free human being?

We find it hard to resist those seeking our help at times. We find it impossible to say "no" to someone pleading for help. But why? It's because of the fact that the word 'help' has such a saintly aura to it that when we are begged for something with the

mention of the very word, no matter what the true nature of the help actually is, we find it difficult to say no, because it makes us seem heartless and selfish.

This is the unfortunate truth. It could be when we weekly complete assignment after assignment for a close friend, or when an aged couple is compelled to become no more than nannies and housekeepers for the love of their working, busy children. It is as important to love yourself as a distinctive, unique person as it is to respect another. Without knowing how to love our own home, we cannot think about loving anybody else's. That won't be right, and we force ourselves to do it, soon enough, we

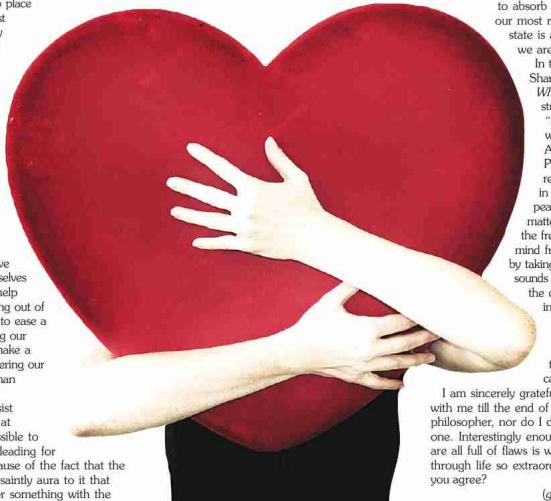
will find that our life has been nothing but a huge lie. The ones who are lucky to realise this sooner become happier and productive both to themselves as well as to the society. Those who wait to bring themselves to realise this simple fact at the dusk of their lives, soon find themselves on their deathbed realising their life had been nothing but a colossal lie.

So, the strategy is to spend at least an hour with your own self every day. And no, this doesn't refer to you being engrossed in virtual reality for an extra hour. What I mean is introspection. It needn't be anything spiritual or religious. My own strategy includes reading a Paulo Coelho masterpiece or any other wonderful novel at that, or listening to some good music in my bed until I drift off to a peaceful slumber. It so happens that our subconscious mind tends to absorb the things fed into it at our most relaxed state, and that state is at its peak right before we are consumed by sleep.

In the book by Robin Shamma, *Who Will Cry When You Die?*, he stresses on having our "holy" hour right after we wake up in the morning. According to the great Paulo Coelho, it is rejuvenating to simply sit in your garden or any peaceful spot for that matter and just give yourself the freedom to make your mind free from anxiety, simply by taking in all the surrounding sounds - the chirping of birds, the distant rant of the inexhaustible traffic that you'd otherwise find irritating. Interestingly, it works wonders towards making you calmer and fuller.

I am sincerely grateful to you for staying with me till the end of this write up. I am no philosopher, nor do I dare attempt to become one. Interestingly enough, the fact that we are all full of flaws is what makes our voyage through life so extraordinarily exciting. Don't you agree?

(gpbor1999@gmail.com)

Love yourself!**Meaningful relationships**

Dr Bornali Das



one's relationship.

As said earlier, conflicts in relationships are common. It is often misconstrued that arguments imply a 'bad relationship'. However, on the contrary, it may be healthy. In a relationship, when emotions are pushed under the rug, it may lead to various mental agonies.

During our lifespan, we often need to find out how we could have handled a situation differently when things go out of proportion: how to contain ourselves better; or how to handle and control a situation differently. Very often we tend not to introspect but involve others in a blame game, which leads to behavioural offences.

A meaningful relationship needs investment of time, passion and emotion. Partners need to commit to being transparent and specific about their needs. Meaningful relationships are safe, sincere and honest. Partners are genuinely connected and yet learn to cope in times of vulnerability. Partners need to empathise and grow together. Working through conflicts transforms into a strong bond.

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**Transgenders and parenting**

Transgender individuals are those who disregard the inflexible, binary gender framework. Culturally prevalent gender roles are disintegrated or weakened by them. Transgenders may live in a gender role that is 'opposite' to the biological sex, which can be as full-time or part-time.

Identifying oneself as man, woman, or some other category signifies gender identity. Dissatisfaction with this assignment is gender dysphoria. Incongruence between biological and expressed gender characterises gender identity disorder. Alternative gender identity may go beyond the binary stereotypes.

There can be both male to female transgender (MTF) and female to male transgender (FTM). When rejected by families, Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) young adults are at risk of illegal drugs' use, suicide and depression. They have poor health and are vulnerable for getting infected by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

On the other hand, high life satisfaction, low burden, and protection against depression is associated with parental support among transgender adolescents.

Child-rearing practices and interactive behaviours constitute parenting style. It can be authoritative, authoritarian, or permissive.

Akanksha Mohota, Prasanta Kumar Roy, and Pradeep Kumar Saha studied parenting style among transgenders living in and around Kolkata. Their work has been published in the *Open Journal of Psychiatry and Allied Sciences* (www.ojspas.com).

The study found that authoritative parenting style was low and authoritarian parenting was high for both the parents. Thus, both the parents failed in providing an environment that is safe and nurturing for the transgender child, which is essential for healthy development of an individual. Hence, interventions are necessary to promote well-being of such individuals.

(dr.shyamantadas@gmail.com)



Numerous reports have emerged in many countries in the recent weeks on youths committing suicide while playing a particular game – the game of death called the Blue Whale Challenge. The horrifically dangerous game has been linked to at least 130 teen deaths across Russia. There are also similar instances in India. In Kerala, two families have claimed Blue Whale deaths as both had mysterious initials carved on their bodies.

Manoj C Mano, 16, hung himself at his house in Thiruvananthapuram on July 26. His mother claimed that Manoj used to play the game and was hurting himself. The injuries included cutting himself with broken glass piece and carving the initials 'ABT' on his arm. "In the last stage of the game," Manoj said, "one should either commit suicide or murder someone. Scared as I was, I asked my son not to play the game," she said. There were signs that he was taking up the Blue Whale life-risking challenges seriously. In April, Manoj asked her, "What if I die? Will you be upset?" Two weeks before he died, he watched a rash of horror movies, she added.

Another Kerala family has claimed that Sawant, 22, who hanged himself last month in Kannur, was addicted to Blue Whale. Sawant had slashed his arms with a

blade, carved initials on his chest like Manoj.

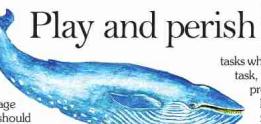
Similarly, a Mumbai schoolboy died after jumping off a building, while two teen boys in Indore and Solapur were stopped from killing themselves after having completed most of the other challenges listed by the administrator of the game.

The Union government has meanwhile directed internet majors Google, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Microsoft and Yahoo to immediately remove the links of the dangerous online game. However, the game itself cannot be banned as it isn't an app or a service that you download or subscribe to. It is a list of 50 tasks which you perform. After each task, you share the updates and proofs on social media using hashtags such as #curator-finding, #BlueWhaleChallenge, among others. Curators

or admins of the game monitor these hashtags and get in touch with these players through social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat or WhatsApp. They then assign tasks to the respective players.

In this scenario, it's virtually impossible to locate the curators or the admins. Thank God, I don't follow the crowd. I don't Blue Whale.

(devolnath@hotmail.com)

Play and perish**TECH TRENDS**

Devoi Nath

I remember the day I first came across a monitor lizard ('Gini'). Rains would leave the green patches in our backyard resembling a deep jungle. It was so inviting that I – still in my single digit years – would venture out for some jungle exploration, while the others would go for an afternoon siesta, except for grandma. It was one such lazy afternoon during the summer holidays that I encountered a creature that was looking at me with its eyes squinting. It seemed like a smaller version of the Steggy from the *Phantom* strips! I started shouting, "Dinosaur, dinosour" in sheer excitement. Grandma, who was almost in a state of meditation with her arpeggi rod, rushed towards me and looked at the direction my finger pointed to. She pulled me without wasting time and cautioned, "You would be in great trouble if it bites you." That was enough to scare my poor soul and I stopped venturing into the wild for sometime. Later, during my teen years, I saw our household help capture and bring home a monitor lizard. I instantly relayed grandma's caution to him. But he made fun of me by putting his hand several times in its mouth. Nothing happened.

Last August, during the floods, I was in Kaziranga. The surging waters wreaked havoc in the Park. The deluge subsided, but the aftermath was even more disastrous! There was deep pain and agony as the number of deaths piled up. One evening, as

I was sitting in the verandah of the guest house of Kaziranga Wildlife Society at Kohora, I saw stray dogs chasing something into the compound. As I was trying to take a closer look, to my utter surprise, I saw a huge monitor lizard entering the office room of our facility! In disbelief, I noticed the 'Gini' that would scare my soul out during childhood, take rest under the warm air of the ceiling fan! It lay there all through the night; we kept the door open thinking it might leave. But the lizard rested till the evening – taking 'food' and water at intervals. At last it moved out under the twilight sky taking heavy steps (with amazement we noticed it was "carrying") and disappeared into the haziness!

I feel good when I recount the incident. But again, the same incident continues to stir my conscience. When we talk of conservation, do we really take into consideration the lesser wildlife?

Do we really offer them the protection even if some, like the pangolins, are in the critically endangered list? When the forest department comes up with the list of animal casualties after the floods, somehow, the list fails to track the deaths of lesser animals! This is an indication that there are serious gaps in our conservation strategy and also 'discrimination' in our notion towards wildlife.

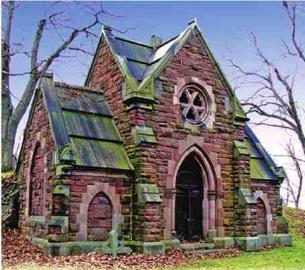
(newlifeflowers@gmail.com)

Lesser wildlife**SEEDS OF CHANGE**

Mubina Akhtar

**SEEDS OF CHANGE**

Mubina Akhtar

**MAUSOLEUM**

IT refers to memorials built at a person's final resting place. The origin dates back to 4th century BC and relates to the massive marble tomb built in 353 BCE at Halicarnassus, a Greek city of Asia Minor, for Mausolus, a Persian satrap who made himself the governor of Caria in the Persian empire. At one point of time, this tomb was considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

WORDSPREAK

The story behind words

Bibekananda Choudhury

**GROCER**

THE Company of Grocers, incorporated in 1344, consisted of wholesale dealers in spices and foreign goods. At that point of time, things were counted in dozens and grosses rather than hundreds. So, grocer originally meant those who sold 'in grosses', i.e. large quantities. By the middle of the 15th century, grocers were selling all types of household provisions, and in small quantities too, which made it accessible to the general people. And now, our household provision providers are called grocers.

(newlifeflowers@gmail.com)



Page 4

HORIZON

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE
GUWAHATI, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017

The green-eyed monster

While discussing the dynamics and dimensions of the human persona, a very dear friend of mine, Monni Das, spoke to me about the importance of eradication of jealousy, the green eyed monster, from our lives.

Resenting others, dismissing their success, or failing to feel compassion often indicates jealousy. It is a strong feeling – one that usually comes with a physical response: tightness in the chest, or clenching of the jaws or hands. Jealousy disrupts communication, interferes with emotional bonding, and threatens the safety of relationships.

So, how do we overcome feelings of jealousy? Here are a few ways:

Feel: Instead of burying or ignoring what you are feeling, acknowledge it. Look for the layers of your own internal needs or fears. The fierce strength from jealousy comes from your mind trying to seek your attention, and so will lessen when you finally do pay attention to it.

Notice: Once you have acknowledged your own internal needs or fears underneath the jealousy, notice how else these needs or fears appear in your life. Consider other ways that they are affecting you, and brainstorm what you can do about it.

Counter: If any negative thoughts or false beliefs surface when you address your underlying needs or fears, counter them. Replace negative thoughts with positive ones. Counter false beliefs with true statements.

Stop: Usually some of these negative thoughts or false beliefs come from comparisons you make with others. Stop comparing yourself to others, and instead focus on maintaining a realistic balance. Others also have weaknesses, and you too have positive contributions to offer.

Identify: Release negative thoughts and false beliefs and focus on positive thoughts and true statements. Apply the positive thoughts to yourself. What are your positive traits? What do you have to offer to the world?

Reason: If you are being jealous of someone, be reasonable about your expectations for yourself and those around you. You may be amazing, but still have limits, and so do others. You only have so much time in the day, and that time must be divided among several people or projects. Your spouse will have to sometimes answer the phone for work, attend meetings, or talk to other people. Your friend's children will sometimes be better than yours. Accept it.

(anjanchowdhury74@gmail.com)

WEST SIDE STORY

Captain Sparrow spreads smiles!

earlier this week, the 54-year-old greeted each patient in costume as the charismatic rogue pirate, Captain Jack. He delighted the children battling life-threatening illnesses by hosting a Pirate Party in the playroom where hats, eye patches, and plastic swords were distributed.

TOM Cruise recently opened up about how his dedication to his craft started from a very early age. The 55-year-old, speaking at the SBS programme *The Feed*, shared some insights into his background.

"I was always working as a kid. I always had jobs. Ever since I was eight years old, I was working. I just had a different viewpoint of life, I think... I wanted to make movies and do it for

Tom Cruise's goals

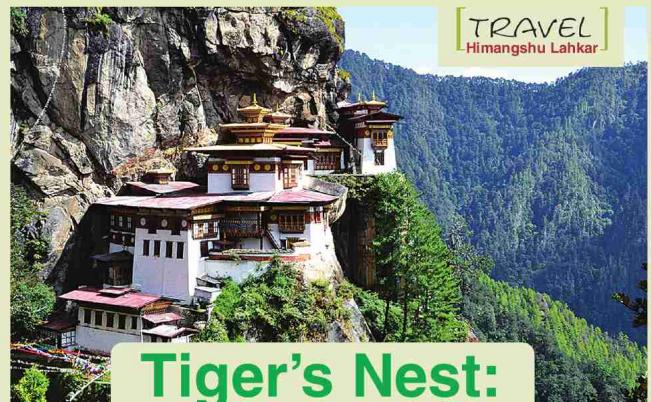
the rest of my life. I wanted to travel. I was very interested in the world and entertainment," the actor explained.

USAIN Bolt has taken his 'retirement party' into the third night after he partied with his girlfriend at the District nightclub in London's Soho until 3.30 am. The Jamaican sprinter, 30, was photographed with his partner Kasi Bennett, 26, as they were joined by various Love Island stars.

Bolt parties hard!

Last year, Bolt ran up a £12,000 bar bill during a week-long celebration to mark his 'triple-triple' success at Rio 2016.

AGENCIES

[TRAVEL]
Himangshu Lahkar

Tiger's Nest: a paradise on Earth

Bhutan is known as the Land of the Thunder Dragon, but the term is by far antithetical to what the country really is. The kingdom of peace, serenity and tranquillity, which lies squeezed between the two most populous countries did not fail to prove itself. The country, which is not only carbon-neutral but is carbon negative, also has enough beauty which makes one forget all the miseries of life.

The scorching sun made our pace much slower. At places we would stop to take a sip of water and then continue along our way. The foreigners that we met on our way looked enthusiastic and gave us some words of encouragement, after which we moved faster than our normal speed.

We soon arrived at the mid-point of our trek. From this location, one can see the monastery's buildings on the opposite side of the ravine, which is known as the 'Copper Coloured Mountain Paradise of Padmasambhava'. This is the viewpoint for visitors and there is a cafeteria to provide refreshments.

The trek beyond this point was very scenic with the sound of waterfalls

ter 200 metres we reached an apple orchard and the grazing grounds for mules and ponies. Another 200 metres and we reached a water-powered prayer wheel set in motion by a flowing stream. The water, which touches the wheel, is said to become blessed, and carries its purifying power into all life forms in oceans and lakes it falls into.

breaking the silence. As we advanced slowly and steadily, we noticed many prayer flags and blue pines. The trail after this was not as steep and it got less monotonous. After another one and half hour, we reached the viewpoint that overlooked the monastery. The beauty cannot be expressed in words but only can be experienced by one who is present there! From there, it took us a short walk down a few stairs, a walk through a bridge over a waterfall and a slightly strenuous climb to reach our destination.

The interior of the monastery buildings consists of four main temples and residential shelters. After visiting the monastery, we made our way back through the same trail, stopping at the cafeteria on our way and returned to the base point.

The Taktsang Dzongkha or the Tiger's Nest is a place to which you can walk all day and never get tired. Anyone who visits Bhutan and does not see the Tiger's Nest would be missing paradise on Earth!

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With a love story developing between young village lass Jaya (Bhumika Pednekar) and not-so-young Keshav (Akshay Kumar), the first half of the story moves smoothly.

Akshay, as a loving husband, is good and as always, his comic timing is right up there. It is only when he tries to emotively change sequence or tries the lecturing job that the punch seems to be somewhat missing.

Bhumi, however, had a field day all throughout in her rendition of a liberal-thinking girl and does full justice to her character.

Divyendu Sharma, who plays Akshay's younger brother, impresses one and all with his comic timing and mannerisms.

Sadly though, in the post-interval session, the movie goes into a shell and the intriguing essence of the plot is lost somewhere.

In a few scenes, the director even goes overboard in praising the current government at the Centre, which is awfully cheesy and totally uncalled for. The melodrama concerning the divorce petition by Jaya is annoyingly stretched in the later part.

The music of the movie too is impressive, especially the song *Hans Mat Pagli* by Sonu Nigam and Shreya Ghoshal.

Shree Narayan Singh's *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha* is a mirror to a cluster of issues from sanitation to gender sensitivity, which need a faster flush-out from our system.

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TOILET
एक प्रेम कथा

In a country where nearly 50 per cent of its citizens – even after 70 years of its gaining freedom – need to be told how to address the nature's call, *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha*, although oddly titled, is a film made with good intent and strong relevance.

The movie, as many of you would have rightly guessed, is about the menace of open defecation which is still prevalent among a large section of the rural population.

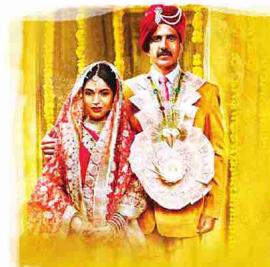
Based on a true story, the movie revolves around an educated rural girl who decides to leave her husband's house because of the absence of a toilet there and goes on to question the age-old customs that defy logic and comprehension.

The movie is about how the husband and wife manage to win over the who's who of the system as well as the villagers to realise the sanitation rights of the village population, especially of the fairer sex.

Despite all these and everyone's liking, the movie helped itself by not becoming a documentary on sanitation. The filmmaker's satirical attack at the medieval mindset where hygiene is never a concern unravels the hollow nature of civilisation in rural India in a quite impressive manner.

AT THE THEATRES

Sanjoy Ray



Shree Narayan Singh's *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha* is a mirror to a cluster of issues from sanitation to gender sensitivity, which need a faster flush-out from our system.

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Of freedom and independence

'I swear by my life and my love of it that I will never live for the sake of another man, nor ask another man to live for mine' – Ayn Rand, Atlas Shrugged

Freedom means to be free of other people; to be able to live one's life the way he/she wants to and at the same time, respect the rights of others.

As the entire nation proudly celebrated its 71st Independence Day recently, I pondered over some issues that I strongly feel ought to prick one's rational grey cells as an 'Indian'. It has been seven decades now since the 'humble traders' of the East India Company (read: our colonial masters) left the Indian shores with a shattered economy and a fragile polity as parting gifts. Who knows, had 'greedy' Mir Jafar, the military commander of Nawab Siraj ud-Daulah of Bengal not betrayed his master in the historic Battle of Plassey in his greed to become the next Nawab (as promised by Robert Clive), the British would have been sent packing then and there itself. They went on to rule India for another 190 years (1757-1947).



One interesting fact, for those who have a penchant for historical statistics is that a century separated the Battle of Plassey (June 23, 1757) and the Sepoy Mutiny (May 10, 1857). And after nine more decades of political subjugation and exploitation since the Sepoy Mutiny, India finally attained freedom and Pt Jawaharlal Nehru so emotionally and so eloquently made his 'Tryst with Destiny' midnight speech to the Constituent Assembly on the base point.

But pivoting back to 'those issues' that were mentioned at the beginning, let us first ask ourselves a cardinal question: Are we 'really' free? Only after a decade or so back, there was a ban on celebrating India's Independence Day and Republic Day in the Northeast (not by any 'colonial British' though). From Independence Day ban, to beef ban; from Valentine's Day ban, to a ban on girls wearing jeans and T-shirts to some colleges in States like UP, MP and Bihar, from desecration of statues of Jesus Christ and St John Bosco, to attacking young students from the Northeast as they do not resemble normal 'Indian faces' and being branded as 'Chinkis' and 'momos-addicts', it makes one wonder if India is really free. Nido Tania was just another Indian in his free India, thinking that he could now sport a funky hairstyle of his own choice and without having to pay any 'revenue' to the Colonial British. But Nido Tania had to finally pay with his life at the Lajpat Nagar area of Delhi, on January 29, 2014, in a free India. Again in a free India, poor hapless pilgrims on their way to Amarnath were brutally gunned down, and scores of innocent Muslims, including children and women, were ruthlessly massacred at Godhra in 2002.

These are just a handful of issues that makes me contemplate once again the true meaning of freedom and independence in an 'independent' India. The elusive search for the answer is still on!

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