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NEWS CAPSULE

NSCN-K chief

KOHIMA, June 10: Veteran separatist Naga leader Khamo Konjak will take over as the new chief of Myanmar-based NSCN(K) following the demise of SS Khaplang, sources said today. However, no official announcement has come from the outfit. – IANS

Health scheme

NEW DELHI, June 10: With a view to transform the country by 2020, the Centre today launched the Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital programme that will be implemented by the NIFTI Aayog along with private companies. – IANS

Child rescued

SILCHAR, June 10: The abducted two-year-old Shubhamita, daughter of Dr Subhadra and Dr Satishlata Roy Choudhury of Assam University, Silchar was rescued today after six days from Khelehrat under East Khasi Hills in Meghalaya. – Correspondent

(Also see Page 9)

Climate meet

ROME, June 10: The two-day meeting of G7 environment ministers of Europe who face the challenges of defending and implementing the Paris climate accord following withdrawal of the pact by the US. – IANS

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Khaplang's demise could be major blow to militancy in NE region

R DUTTA CHOWDHURY

GUWAHATI, June 10: The death of NSCN(K) chairman SS Khaplang, who was also chairman of the United Liberation Front of Western South East Asia, an umbrella platform of militant groups of the region, will be a major blow to militancy in the region as he was like a father figure to all the active ultra outfits.

Highly placed security sources told *The Assam Tribune* that Khap-

lang was not just the chairman of the umbrella body of the militant groups of the Northeast region; all the outfits managed to stay and run their bases in Myanmar only because of the NSCN(K) leader, who enjoyed support of Naga villagers on both sides of the international border.

In fact, armed cadres of other outfits, including United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent), have to obtain a "command certificate" to pass through the Naga-inhabited villages on both sides of the India-

Myanmar international border.

Sources said that militant groups of Northeast started operating together after the umbrella body was formed under the chairmanship of Khaplang and after his death, it remains to be seen whether the outfits would be able to find a leader of his stature who would command respect of all the outfits.

Though the ULFA(I) commander-in-chief Paresh Baruah acted for Khaplang's deputy in the umbrella body, it is still not certain whether he could

command the respect of all the constituents of the body as the ULFA(I) is not the strongest of the outfits at this moment. Moreover, most of the outfits having bases in Myanmar have, so far, been using NSCN(K)'s facilities in that country and without the presence of Khaplang, only time will tell whether such arrangement can continue smoothly.

Security sources said that for Khaplang, being originally a Myanmar national, it was easy for him to arrange for provisions in that area as he com-

mended huge respect of the people there. He also maintained cordial relation with the local ultra groups of Myanmar, which was of great help not only for the NSCN(K) but also for other outfits of the region.

According to information available with the Indian security agencies, Khaplang also maintained relation with Chinese agencies, which was beneficial for the new umbrella body of the ultra groups.

Sources revealed that after the

(See page 13)



A Rabha priest walks on burning charcoal during the Baikho festival of the community at Daudhni in Goalpara district on Friday night. - UB Photos

Final solution to ULFA demands soon: Rijiju

Centre ready to rehabilitate NSCN(K) members

GUWAHATI, June 10: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju today said most of the demands of the pro-talk faction of the ULFA are "worth considering" and a final solution is expected "very soon".

"The peace talk with the Arbinda Rajkhowa faction of the ULFA is going on very well and with confidence. We genuinely feel that maximum demands by the pro-talk Arbinda Rajkhowa faction are worth considering," the minister told reporters here.

He however, declined to comment on details, but said "I can only say that we are giving a sincere consideration to their demands for a final solution very soon." Asked about when the solution can be expected, he said, "we cannot give any time line."

Asked specifically whether the ULFA's prime demand for sovereignty of Assam is negotiated during the talks, Rijiju said, "there is no question of sovereignty at all. If sovereignty, there cannot be any talk. The talk is within the framework of the Indian Constitution... I am not even mandated to speak anything which is beyond

the Indian Constitution."

Meanwhile, a day after the death of NSCN(K) chairman SS Khaplang, Rijiju said that Centre is ready to rehabilitate all Indian citizens in the Naga rebel group if they abjure violence.

"We expect that all the Indian Nagas in NSCN(K) should surrender and return to the mainstream. We will rehabilitate them. Anybody who gives up violence, we will rehabilitate them. We are giving rehabilitation package from the Indian Government."

"Anybody who abjures violence and respects Indian Constitution is welcome," the minister said.

The rebels should take advantage of the rehabilitation package and return, he said, adding, India cannot not talk about Myanmarese citizens, who are part of NSCN(K).

The minister said Khaplang was "the heart and soul" of NSCN(K) and without him, the organisation will be in a disarray. Without any leadership, the organisation will face difficulties, he said, adding, "they (rebels) should come back for the sake of the society."

Rijiju said Khaplang was a Myanmar citizen and he had strong influence in that country. – PTI

'None facing difficulty in NE for cattle rules'

GUWAHATI, June 10: Rubishing reports of trouble in the Northeast following the Centre's notification on cow-slaughter, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju today said nobody was facing any difficulty in the region over the matter.

Charging the Congress and 'pseudo secular' groups with raising an 'obsolete issue', he asked media persons to visit the states like Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur to see whether anyone was facing problems due to the notification. – PTI

Sunday

- My Partition dream
Vijayendra Singh
 - P.L.O.S.E.
Breaking free
Bideep Singh
 - Living differently
Menaka Mohra
 - WOMEN PLUS:
The 'SHE' space
Trisha Bharadwaj
 - FICTION:
The tale of Philomena Rodriguez-I
Dr. Bajajanta Sahadev
 - MY SPACE:
Stop and smell the roses
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How was your handwriting exam, Papa?

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Excise officer arrested in tax evasion case

STAFF REPORTER

House for questioning.

Nath was arrested today after a thorough questioning by the investigating officer of the case CS Tiwari, informed CS Tiwari, informed with the multi-crore rupee tax evasion case in the Excise Department.

Nath, who was evading arrest for quite some time, was caught by a team of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Crime Branch from a guest house in New Delhi's South Extension locality on Friday late night after which he was brought to Assam

Nath was one of the main

accused in the CID Police Station case No. 54/15 recorded under Sections 120(B), 468/474/499 of the Indian Penal Code read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, which relates to evasion of VAT and excise revenue by forgery of documents and without adhering to the prescribed norms.

Two high-profile accused – Rajesh Jalan and Bony Gogoi have already been arrested in this connection, while several others, including two IAS officers, were also quizzed.

According to him, around 45 per cent of the tea growing area is covered by plants which are above 40 years of age. These areas have high vacancies, poor bush finish and low plant population. Moreover, the rate of replantation – 0.52 per cent in Upper Assam and 0.45 per cent in North Bank, is very slow, the book notes.

Replacing the old tea sections at regular intervals and rejuvenation of the potentially good old sections with proper consolidation are two major areas advocated by research organisations to Indian tea industry 40 years ago, so that does not land up in an undesirable state in respect of yield and quality in the long run. The existing status is, however, very dismal.

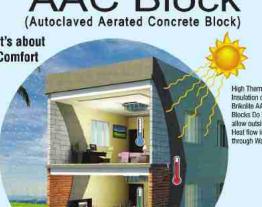
The book, which highlights important areas of research and development (R&D) for long term benefits, also flags

(See page 13)

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Tea productivity in NE stagnating

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

low productivity.

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(See page 13)

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In the past five or six years, there has been a sea of change in the way companies employ students after they complete their graduation. To properly understand this shifting trend, present students and their guardians need to have the maturity to move away from the age-old orthodox mindset. At this juncture, the important question needs to be answered: what are the changes and why is it so important for the students and their guardians to understand them? One cannot dispute the fact that in the past five or six years, a major percentage of Indian students still vie for a Government job after graduating from the IITs and other reputed Engineering colleges. Even after a regular graduation/post-graduation degree, it has been a general trend for students to give Government jobs precedence over other jobs. The job security and lucrative pay-scale have inspired this choice for years. However, a huge number of students, despite their talent, fail to secure a Government job on account of indecision and their inability to take the pressure and invest time and effort in preparing for the all-India entrance exams. I have no qualms in admitting that students from our neighbouring states of Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, and even Delhi, despite lagging behind in terms of the quality of education and merit have mastered the art of simultaneously managing their regular course education and preparing for the all-India competitive entrance exams. They start their preparations as early as Class XI and XII. When I went to the cities of Patna, Purulia, Jamshedpur, and Delhi to conduct seminars, I was highly impressed with their level of preparations for the all-India entrance exams, always ready with prompt answers. I also came to realize that if one does not begin their preparations as early as school, it is almost impossible to succeed in these. If one has to completely make the most of the 20-lakh-odd job opportunities through the Staff Selection and other all-India government job entrances, one has to start preparing from today. RICE Education has been at the forefront of pushing students from West Bengal forward to compete with the other states and help them reach the pinnacle of success. Today, more than 200 teachers have assumed leadership and initiated study materials and alternate coaching models, adapting to the change in the scene of education in India. In the future, students from various colleges and universities should ponder over the reality at hand, and question: if one cannot prepare himself for a Government job despite multiple degrees and accepts failure as a constant in life, then what is the point of education?

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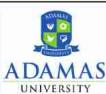
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Died: 1st June 2017

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A vacuum which will be difficult to fill in

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(01.10.1945 – 01.06.2017)

In loving and cherished memory of Late Haren Ch. Das, who left us for his heavenly abode on 01.06.2017. Though you are not amongst us, you remain in our hearts and soul and continue to be our guiding spirit every passing day.

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Today on the day of Adya Shraddha we pray the Almighty that your soul rest in eternal peace.

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**Late Haren Ch. Das**
(01.10.1945 – 01.06.2017)

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Sanhati Divas

GUWAHATI, June 10: The AASU today observed Sanhati Divas at Nehru Park to pay tribute to the martyrs of the 1974 economic movement - Gajan Ingagi and Putul Saliba - Staff Reporter

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MESSAGE FORTODAY

Politics is the art of looking for trouble.

— GROUCHO MARX

The Assam Tribune**Own goal!**

The British never cease to surprise with the propensity of their political leaders to score own goals! In the recent past it had been the Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron who displayed such a propensity, calling for a referendum on whether Great Britain should remain in the European Union, bolstered by media reports of a strong support for the "stay" camp. Perhaps it was just the pretence at democratic fairness (something the Brits are very good at) which induced him to call the referendum though there was absolutely no need for it, especially since he himself was a fervent EU supporter and could have let sleeping dogs lie. Much to his discomfiture his country by the slimmest of margins voted for Brexit, causing Cameron to commit political hara-kiri. Theresa May who succeeded him took a leaf out of Cameron's book, and deftly dribbled the ball towards her own goal to bring about hubris for herself and her party. Under the impression that she was at the peak of her popularity and could enlarge her somewhat slim majority in Parliament so as to enable her to negotiate Brexit from a position of greater strength, she had called for snap general election not due for another three years, and paid a high price for her miscalculation.

Ever her earlier slim majority did the vanishing trick; now there is a hung Parliament though the Tories have maximum number of seats. May has had to cling on to power by making what some consider an unhygienic alliance with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of Protestant Ireland. No doubt, political pundits would make their "hind-sight" analysis of what exactly went wrong. Has the nationalist, anti-immigrant, anti-Islam wave which had supposedly brought about Brexit suddenly ebbed? Or was it the flip flop stance of Theresa May herself, calling for elections when she had earlier pledged she would not, which led to the debacle? Some claim that the dynamic policy manifesto of Labour changed the minds of a section of the voters --- if this be so, the British electorate is fickle-minded indeed! May's mistake has long term implications, for herself, her party as also Britain. Given that the call for snap elections was her own decision, it is most how long her party would allow her to lead it. Her alliance with the ultra-conservative, anti-gay, anti-abortion DUP would hamper free action on her part, while the shock election loss would do the same as far as Brexit negotiations are concerned. May's loss has been Jeremy Corbyn's gain; not only has Labour won substantial seats, he himself has cemented his place in the party's leadership and might well be England's Prime Minister in a few months time.

Khaplang's death

With the passing away of SS Khaplang, the NSCN (K) chief who has been opposed to the ongoing Naga peace talks, the prolonged Naga insurgency has lost another top leader. Just a little less than a year, Issak Chisi Swu, chairman of the NSCN (I-M) faction had passed away. The death of Khaplang, a hardliner, is bound to have long-term implications for the future of Naga insurgency as well as the ongoing Naga peace process. Khaplang – after parting ways with Th. Muivah and Issak Chisi Swu in 1988 – remained steadfastly opposed to the peace process between the NSCN (I-M) and the Government of India. He withdrew from the ceasefire agreement (signed in 2001) with the Government in March 2015 to form an alliance of mind-melded militant groups of the region including the Paresh Barua faction of the ULFA to wage a war against the Indian establishment. But following his death, the equations could well change if the second-rung leaders of the outfit interested in striking a peace deal with the Government come to dominate its decision-making process. Under Khaplang, the outfit had been a potent force, inflicting severe damages on security forces, the latest instance being the encounter in which an Indian Army Major was killed earlier this week. Last year, in a daring ambush, the NSCN (K) had killed 20 Indian Army soldiers in Manipur, triggering a cross-border raid into Myanmar by the Indian Army. Khaplang's death could also impact insurgency as a whole in the Northeast, especially if his successor turns out not to be a hardliner in the mould of the former. Khaplang was the coordinator among various insurgent groups in the region, and more importantly, had been the key in the matter of supply of weapons and logistics for the active ultra-outfits of the Northeast such as the ULFA (I) and KYKL.

Born in April 1940 in Wakham village, east of Myanmar's Pangsau Pass, and hailing from the Hemi Naga tribe that predominantly lives in Myanmar, Khaplang formed the Naga Defence Force in 1964 with the objective of carving out a new nation out of both India and Myanmar. He went on to become the chairman of Eastern Naga Revolutionary Council, and during that time, partnered with Muivah and Swu – the three who revolted against Phizo when his forces signed the Shillong Accord of November 1975, accepting the supremacy of the Indian Constitution.

The Assam Tribune**From THE PAST****NASSER REMAINS PRESIDENT****Arabs Hail Announcement****ANTI-SOVIET FEELINGS IN EGYPT**

LONDON, June 10: President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt withdrew his resignation today (Saturday) – 16 hours after he had stunned the nation with a broadcast announcing he had quit – amid scenes of wild rejoicing in Cairo, reports Reuters.

In a letter to the National Assembly the 49-year-old President said he stood by the reasons that prompted him to resign after Egypt's four-day military defeat by Israel.

But he could not ignore "the voice of the people" and would stay on as President until the effects of the Israeli "aggression" had been cleaned up. Then he would ask the people to decide on his future in a referendum on the Presidency. Observers in Beirut said President Nasser was almost certain to be confirmed in office in a national vote. Meanwhile, anti-Soviet feeling mounted in Egypt following disclosure by President Nasser that it was Soviet intelligence which informed him of Israeli conspiracy on Syria for whose help he moved his troops into Sinai.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1967

The strange case of Kulbhushan Jadhav

■ Aswini Thakur

Kulbhushan Jadhav's case at the International Court of Justice has been widely followed and it garnered lot of national and international attention for its peculiar character of claims and counter-claims. India's clamour and Pakistan's morgay in this particular matter seems to be trumpeted in a more extraordinary manner for reasons, basically, may be, both countries are at loggerheads on almost every bilateral and international issues since independence.

Pakistan claims that Kulbhushan Jadhav is an Indian "spy" and a RAW Agent who was arrested on March 3, 2016 from Chaman, in Baluchistan, South-East of Iran-Pakistan border area. It has also been alleged that Jadhav was engaged in subversive activities inside Pakistan territory, particularly at Baluchistan. Pakistani external affairs office summoned Indian High Commissioner and had officially lodged protests to it on March 26, 2016 alleging involvement of Jadhav in subversive activities at Baluchistan and Karachi.

India, in its official response, recognized Kulbhushan Jadhav as its retired Naval Officer but at the same time strongly denied his involvement in any subversive activities inside Pakistan territories. Kulbhushan got his early retirement from the Indian Navy in around 2002 and thereafter his whereabouts was not on official record of the Indian Government, however, unconfirmed report was there that Kulbhushan had engaged

himself in cargo business in Iran. The Indian High Commission has also repeatedly sought Consular Access to Jadhav but has been denied the same by Pakistani authorities.

On April 10, 2017 Kulbhushan was sentenced to death by a Pakistani Military Court after a Mock trial on the basis of purported "confession". India's Ministry of External Affairs summoned the Pakistani High Commissioner issued a "demarche" stating that the proceedings leading to Jadhav's sentencing are "farcical" in the absence of any credible evidence against him. The demarche further raised strong objection that the Indian High Commission had not even been informed that Kulbhushan was brought to trial for alleged subversive activities. This sentence against an Indian citizen without observing basic norms of law and justice will be nothing short of a "premeditated murder".

Kulbhushan death sentence through a mock military trial without affording him an opportunity to set up his defense, is a basic violation of right of a person violating some charter of human rights, compounded by No. 11 and ratified by all the member countries of the United Nations Organization. Even God had given Adam an opportunity to explain why he had eaten the forbidden fruit. Kidnapped from a third country, trial

by military court while Kulbhushan was in military custody, death sentence conducted by a military court which conducted its trial in a secret manner and at a secret place in utter violation of international laws, Kulbhushan is a victim of "farcical" trial.

Report of Pakistani sentencing Kulbhushan to death after a military trial compelled India to move the International Court of Justice hurriedly to save the life of an innocent Indian citizen in terms of various UN charters pertaining to human rights. India mainly raised the issue of deni-

The important point to be noticed is whether the charge of "spying" and other activities purportedly done by Kulbhushan inside Pakistan territory is based on well documented evidence or not. Monochromatic morsel without cogent supporting evidence will be vulnerable to expert and intelligent legal wind.

al of Consular access to its citizen by Pakistan in violation of the Vienna Convention and conducting a "farcical trial" for convicting Jadhav without a shred of evidence before the ICJ praying for immediate suspension of the death sentence of Jadhav. India tried its best to have consular access in terms of UN charters and more specifically under the Vienna Convention on consular relations, 1963, which came in to force on March 19, 1967 (United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 596, Page-261).

against Kulbhushan by Pakistan. But Pakistan did not pay heed to those requests and demands of Indian Government, on the pretext of a Bilateral agreement, entered into by both between India and Pakistan at Islamabad on May 21, 2008. The Bilateral Agreement, it is claimed by Pakistan gave it "leeway" to deny consular access to the person who was charged for "spying" and was a threat to the receiving country (Pakistan). Clause 6 of the said bilateral "Agreement on the Consular Access"

of 2008 run as follows "In case of arrest, detention and sentence made on political or security grounds each side may examine case on its merits". So the word "arrest" and "sentence" need to be addressed in its proper perspective.

It is pertinent to raise a question as to whether the bipartite agreement can violate terms and conditions of an international convention to which India and Pakistan are both signatories among other countries of the world. Although the "Agreement" of 2008 exempts "spies" from being given same privileges, the parties and signatories of Vienna convention must grant to each other's citizens in custody, trial and jail, the privileges provided for in terms of the Convention. Hence, it is more or less clear that the power given by the "Agreement" of 2008 to both the countries (India and Pakistan) to "examine the case on its merit" means political empowerment, to be exercised in accordance with the prevailing situation and relations between the signatory countries at the material times.

The important point to be noticed is whether the charge of "spying" and other activities purportedly done by Kulbhushan inside Pakistan territory is based on well documented evidence or not. Monochromatic morsel without cogent supporting evidence will be vulnerable to expert and intelligent legal wind. Another point on which Pakistan has based its argument is the issue of jurisdiction of the ICJ to entertain and decide the matter.

Environmental degradation

■ Dr Hari Prasad Sarma

We know that the earth is only the planet in our solar system that supports life. The evolution of life on earth was possible because of the presence of unique set of environmental conditions like water, air, soil and a suitable surface temperature. The earth has an atmosphere of proper thickness and chemical composition and maintains an average surface temperature of about 15°C. Lying between earth and the sun, mercury has no atmosphere. Venus has a thick atmosphere which traps more heat than it allows to escape, making it too hot to sustain life. So these two planets can't support life.

Knowing all these facts, we the people on this planet earth, involve ourselves in exploitation of our precious natural resources. The activities such as different types of pollution, fast depleting forest resources, rapid population explosion, expanding industrialization, unplanned urbanization, mining, soil erosion etc., have created ecological imbalances in recent years. Man's quest for economic development has been mainly responsible for the ruthless exploitation of natural resources. Moreover highly materialistic, greedy and luxurious life style attitude of human race indiscriminately exploited the natural resources. All these activities have become a threat to very existence of a number of living organisms. So creation of public awareness is a must to protect the natural environment from further deterioration. No Government can solve these problems by simply implementing certain environmental protection rules if people are not co-operating. People are to be environmentally educated. People should learn that if we degrade our nature today, we will have to suffer tomorrow and our future generation will be the worst sufferers.

The environmental degradation, in fact, started with the increase of man population. Subsequently it accelerated with the development of socio-economic activities such as industrialization, urbanization, transportation, modern agricultural practices etc. With growing population, requirement

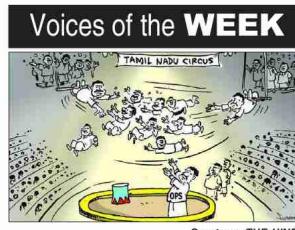
of food grains and other consumer items increased greatly leading to vast environmental degradation. As long as the assimilation capacity of receiving water system, land, air was more than the population load, the importance of environmental degradation was not really appreciated. But today the situation has been completely reversed. The rapid strides in technology and unprecedented population growth have depleted the earth's natural resources with respect to quality and quantity. The unchecked population growth and increasing demands consequently taxing more and more on the finite or limited resources of the earth. This leads to environmental pollution as well. Today we have to think of environmental problems like crisis of pure and safe drinking water, loss of biodiversity, depletion of forest resources, pollution, endangering plant and animals to the stage of extinction, climate change and global warming etc. This is due to poor performance of environmental conservation and preservation activities, plundering attitude, petty and vested interest, powerful lobby against conservation measures, poor political will, defective conservation measures, lack of proper implementation of environmental laws, lack of awareness among the people etc.

We all know that water is the basic need of all living things. Without water life of any kind is not possible. Water used for drinking must be free from organisms and other substances which are hazardous to health. Contamination of drinking water by sewage and other wastes or by human or animal excreta is the most common and widespread danger associated with water pollution. Faecal pollution leads to introduction of intestinal pathogens – bacteria, virus and parasites – causing diseases starting from mild gastroenteritis to severe dysentery, cholera or typhoid. Ground water contamination by excess of fluoride may cause dental as well as skeletal fluorosis. So we the people of the society have the responsibility to be very careful against all these problems and should try to educate the people. Scarcity of potable water continues to be a serious

problem for a large part of our population. The shortage of potable water has become an issue of great concern for the sustainable development of the current population. It is stated that only 0.3% of the earth's total water supply is usable by humans. The world has reached the brink of water crisis, especially in developing countries and a large section of population are forced to consume contaminated water. It has been estimated that about 80% diseases are water borne and nearly 22 million people die annually as a result of consuming contaminated water.

Of the several processes that human societies in all ages have had in common, none has been more fundamental than their continuous interaction with their nature. Since time immemorial, humans have to depend heavily on forests for food, shelter, medicine, wood, fuel and many more. With growing population, the demand for raw materials like timber, pulp, fuel wood etc have shot up resulting in clearing of forests. India's forest cover declined from 40% a century ago to 22% in 1951 and further to 19% in 1997. This is due to shifting cultivation, fuel and raw material requirements for industrial and developmental projects. But loss of forest coverage threatens the existence of many wildlife species due to destruction of their natural habitat, climate change and global warming.

Disposal of solid wastes in open dumps is the most common method in our society. Open dumps produce health and air pollution problems. It is not an acceptable method of disposal. They are responsible for the growth and multiplication of flies (can transmit typhoid fever, cholera, dysentery), rats (can transmit plague, rabies, and other diseases), cockroaches, mosquitoes (can transmit malaria, yellow fever, dengue, filariasis, etc.). Unplanned dumping of solid wastes destroys the beauty of area as it looks very ugly. The leachate from a refuse dump pollutes the surface and ground water sources. So we have the responsibility of cleaning our surroundings in a scientific manner. Organization of public awareness campaign is the primary duty of the citizens in this regard.



"Food is matter of choice, I am myself non-vegetarian." – VENKAIAH NAIDU, Union Minister

★ ★ ★

"GST is India's biggest tax reform since 1947." – AMITABH KANT, Niti Aayog CEO

★ ★ ★

"The BJP should first create special shelter houses for cow and buffaloes seen loitering on roads." – NITISH KUMAR, Chief Minister, Bihar

★ ★ ★

"Inflation has been under control for long and is likely to remain so." – ARUN JAITLY, Union Finance Minister

★ ★ ★

"We are in power in Assam and people are eating beef there in day-to-day life.... There is no intention of State Government to impose any restriction." – HIMANTA BISWA SARMA, Health Minister, Assam

★ ★ ★

"Brexit is the basis of everything. We need to secure our economy for the future." – THERESA MAY, Prime Minister, United Kingdom

★ ★ ★

"Foreign investors with modern technology are welcome to set up steel plant in India." – CHANDANG BIRENDER SINGH, Union Steel Minister

★ ★ ★

"The farmers are already under huge debts. The BJP has repeatedly made promises, but has not delivered." – MAYAWATI, BSP chief

★ ★ ★

"We felt we had enough on the board, we trusted our bowlers, but Sri Lanka were pretty good... I thought we bowled decently." – VIRAT KOHLI, captain, India

★ ★ ★

"We can now procure the latest technology in the fight against cancer.... the latest move by the Central Government has taken the fight to a new level." – AMAL CHANDRA KATAKI, director, BBC1

★ ★ ★

"I am happy and it is a great honour." – SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE, Bengali actor on being conferred highest French civilian honour.

Clean boarded

The last word
S RAGHUNATH

Pakistan Air Force (PAF) lost one of its most prestigious and expensive F-15 fighter planes when a wild boar charged into its nose wheel at the Sargodha air base.

In Washington, the Trump Administration has taken an extremely serious view of the incident calling it an "ominous" military threat to Pakistan and it has moved swiftly by asking Congress to approve an additional 5.3 billion dollars in military assistance to that country.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee about the Sargodha incident, a senior Pentagon official said, "we've very credible evidence that Indian intelligence agencies and its military

establishment, acting in tandem with Afghanistan and other countries hostile to Pakistan are secretly training wild boars at an undisclosed location and instigating them to charge into PAF planes and thereby weakening it and we've to act swiftly to thwart further attacks by wild boars."

Continuing his testimony, the Pentagon official said, "We plan to provide Pakistan on an accelerated basis upto 6 EC2V Hawkeye electronic surveillance planes and they'll continually patrol the Pakistani skies and flash early warning of any attacks by wild boars. This aid package

will cost about 2.1 billion dollar." "At this point in time, Pakistan doesn't have any credible technology in place to predict wild boar attacks in advance enabling it to take defensive measures. We therefore plan to set up an electronic net along the entire length of the international border between India and Pakistan. These sensors will gather signals that will indicate an imminent attack on PAF planes by wild boars."

The Pentagon official concluded, "We've assured India at the highest diplomatic level that the weapons we're supplying Pakistan will be used only against wild boars and not against India directly."

kistan Army formations with Abrams main battle tanks that can engage the wild boars before they can reach Pakistani territory to inflict collateral damage on Pakistani Air Force assets and neutralise them. President Trump has also asked the Defence Dept to study the feasibility of supplying Pakistan with Apache and Chinook helicopter gunships to counter wild boars."

The Pentagon official concluded, "We've assured India at the highest diplomatic level that the weapons we're supplying Pakistan will be used only against wild boars and not against India directly."

GTC pool drowning Culpable homicide case registered

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 10: The Panbari police have registered a case in connection with the reported drowning of a seven-year-old girl, Manashi Kachoti, while undergoing swimming training at the Gauhati Town Club (GTC) pool on Friday afternoon.

The case has been registered under Section 304 of Indian Penal Code—culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Police said there were two coaches present at the time of the incident and both were called for questioning. "We have obtained the CCTV footage and examining it," they said. It appeared from the footage that the girl was reluctant to go into the pool.

Play in honour of Achyut Lahkar

GUWAHATI, June 10: The Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University will observe the death anniversary of Achyut Lahkar, the doyen of mobile theatre movement in Assam, as 'Achyut Lahkar Sowarani Natya Sandhya' every year. To mark the occasion, the university will stage a play featuring a leading theatre group on June 12 every year, a press release said.

For the inaugural anniversary observance, the university, in association with the State Directorate of Cultural Affairs, has invited the theatre group 'Dapon-the Mirror' from Tengnaga. The group will be staging the play *Kino Kon-2* at the Rabindra Bhawan here at 6.30 pm on June 12. The group comprises artists who are specially-abled. — Staff Reporter



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Classes (Regular)	Last date of Submission of Forms	Date of Counseling & Admission
TDC (BA) 1st Semester	12 / 6 / 2017	19 & 20 June, 2017

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2. Major Courses available in Assamese, Bodo, English, Education, Economics, Philosophy & Political Science.
3. Hostel admission on 29th and 30th June, 2017 for deserving Girls candidates only.
4. Free Computer Certificate Course for the students.
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Sd/-
Dr. Gunjan Pathak
Principal
Gyanpeeth Degree College
Nikashi, Baksa, BTAD, Assam

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S.B.M.S. COLLEGE, SUALKUCHI

Sualkuchi, Kamrup-781103 Website: www.sbmssc.org

ADMISSION NOTICE: 2017-18

The admission details for the following courses for the current academic session are as follows:

Course	Last Date of Submission of Forms	Date of Admission
H.S. 1st year (Sc. And Arts)	14-06-2017	19-06-2017
B.A. 1st Semester	14-06-2017	20-06-2017
B.Sc. 1st Semester	14-06-2017	21-06-2017
B.Voc. 1st Semester	24-07-2017	25-07-2017
BCA 1st Semester	24-07-2017	25-07-2017
PGDCCA 1st Semester		PGDCA Admission will start after declaration of Vth semester result
Community College Programme Diploma in Computer Hardware and Networking 1st Semester		25-06-2017

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2. UGC sponsored three year degree programmes : B.Voc. in Animation and Graphic Design
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Admission will be strictly on merit basis.

Sd/- Principal,
SBMS College, Sualkuchi.



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and others taking part in an Iftar organised by the Assam Minorities Development Board, at Barha Jame Masjid in Guwahati on Saturday. — AT photo

Ambubachi Mela: CM oversees preparations

STAFF REPORTER

Public Health Engineering Department and the Guwahati Municipal Corporation to make arrangements of pure drinking water and adequate number of toilets and bathrooms for the pilgrims who will be putting up at eight camps being erected at different areas of the city.

The Chief Minister inspected the arrangements made for the pilgrims coming from different parts of India and abroad for the famous Mela at the holy Shakti shrine. Sonowal asked the senior officials to ensure all arrangements in respect of accommodation, drinking water and sanitation for the pilgrims. Sonowal said the State should live up to its rich tradition of according highest respect to visitors by welcoming the lads of pilgrims during the five-day Ambubachi Mela, which will conclude on June 26 when the doors of the temple reopen.

The Chief Minister appealed to the people as well as the pilgrims flocking to the temple and its peripheral areas to maintain cleanliness in the true spirit of 'Swachh Bharat Mission'. He directed the top functionaries of the

Health Department

to ensure medical facilities on 27x7 basis. He also directed the Managing Director of ASTC, Anand Prakash Tiwari, to press into services the fleet of ASTC buses for the convenience of the devotees.

The Chief Minister also asked the ASEB and the PWD for uninterrupted power supply and keeping generators ready to ensure back up for any emergency power cuts.

Sonowal also moored the idea of giving token gifts symbolising the unique combination of beauty and spirituality of the Kamakhya temple and Ambubachi Mela to the devotees.

Earlier, Sonowal offered puja and paid obeisance to Goddess Kamakhya for peace, prosperity and welfare of the State.

Members of Parliament Pradip Barua, Chairman, Assam Tourism Development Corporation Limited Jayanta Mallick Barua, Chief Secretary VK Pipersenia, Additional DGP Kuladhar Saikia, Commissioner and Secretary, Tourism, RC Jain, Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup Metropol, Dr M Angamuthu, and other senior officials were present at the meeting.

BJP's Iftar campaign with funds meant for minorities: Cong STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, June 10: The Congress today alleged that the BJP-led State government has launched an iftar campaign on the occasion of the Ramzan with funds meant for minority development.

The government has spent around Rs 24 lakh for newspaper advertisements, which is a waste of public money," Congress spokesman Imdad Hussain said.

Though the Congress welcomed the iftar programme organised by the government at Barha Jame Masjid, it said that instead of announcing new schemes for the development of minorities, the new government has curtailed funds to the existing schemes launched by the previous Congress government. "The minorities are crestfallen under the present government," Hussain said.

A delegation of the APC and the APCC, led by the Leader of the Opposition of the State Assembly Debabrata Saikia, met Additional Director General of Police (CID) AK Jha and with the support of screen shot of a recent post on Facebook in which one Debojit Roy posted to the 'Fox Populi' group reprehensible comments on the great Vaishnavite saint

Wazed Ali Choudhury, Chief Whip, ACP Abdul Khaque, spokesperson, ACP, Nandita Das, MLA, Jakir Hussain Sikdar, MLA, APCC general secretaries Pradyut Bhuyan and Pankaj Borborha, APCC secretaries Prafulla Das and Saliens Kalita.

The delegation included Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and others taking part in an Iftar organised by the Assam Minorities Development Board, Barha Jame Masjid in Guwahati on Saturday.

The Prof HP Das Memorial Award, instituted by the NEIGS consisting of a trophy, cash Rs 5,000 and a citation, was given away to Pankaj Sarma of Bajali College for securing the first position in MA examination in Geography, 2016, under GU. The annual newsletter of the Department of Geography, GU, was released at the meet by Prof DC Goswami, stated a press release issued there.

Doinukh delivered the memorial lecture on 'Rural Development and its Impact on Resource Management.'

Dr Tomi Riba, Professor, Department of Geography, Rajiv Gandhi University,

Guests of honour Prof MM Das and TP Das spoke about

the contributions of Late Dr HP Das towards promotion of geography education and research.

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Prof Hari Prasanna Das memorial meet held

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI, June 10: The 14th Professor HP Das Memorial Meet commemorating the 14th death anniversary of Dr Hari Prasanna Das, founder Head of the Department of Geography, Gauhati University and founder president of the North-East India Geographical Society (NEIGS), was held in the Department of Geography semi-final hall, GU, recently.

Dr Tomi Riba, Professor, Department of Geography, Rajiv Gandhi University, Gauhati, organized the meet. Guests of honour Prof MM Das and TP Das spoke about

the contributions of Late Dr HP Das towards promotion of geography education and research.

The Prof HP Das Memorial Award, instituted by the NEIGS consisting of a trophy, cash Rs 5,000 and a citation, was given away to Pankaj Sarma of Bajali College for securing the first position in MA examination in Geography, 2016, under GU. The annual newsletter of the Department of Geography, GU, was released at the meet by Prof DC Goswami, stated a press release issued there.

Foundation day

GUWAHATI, June 10: The Modern English School is celebrating its 33rd foundation day on June 12. In this connection, a series of programmes has been organised. The school authority, through a press release, informed that the day will be dedicated to noted singer Dipali Borthakur and artist Nilpanwar Baruah for their contributions in the field of art and culture. It will be followed by a singing competition, T-shirt painting competition and photo exhibition-cum-competition.



WEATHER
GUWAHATI
LOCAL FORECAST:
Generally cloudy sky. Rain/rainshower is very likely to occur. Temperature is most likely to be 33°C on Sunday.

TEMPERATURE:
Max 36.0°C
Min 24.5°C

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OPD SCHEDULE		
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Nephrology (Kidney)	Dr. Amit Mahapatra Consultant	14 June' 2017 10:30 AM-2:00 PM
Plastic & Reconstructive surgery	Dr.Rakesh Khazanchi Chairman	15 June' 2017 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
Cardiology (Heart)	Dr.Nabajit Talukdar Sr. Consultant	16 June' 2017 11:00 AM-4:00 PM
Urology & Kidney Transplant	Dr.Prasun Ghosh Director	17 June' 2017 11:00 AM-3:00 PM
Neurology (Nerve)	Dr. Rajeev Goyal Sr. Consultant	22 June' 2017 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
Neurosurgery (Brain & Spine)	Dr. Karanji Singh Narang Director	24 June' 2017 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM
Cardiology (Heart)	Dr. Vinayak Agarwal Sr. Consultant	28 June, 2017 11:00 AM- 2:00 PM
Cardiology (Heart)	Dr. Kartikeya Bhargava Sr. Consultant	5 July' 2017 11:00 AM- 2:00 PM

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Tea labourer killed

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, June 10: Police today arrested one person in connection with the gruesome murder of a tea garden labourer Sujit Ree, (35) in Lalakuchi Tea Estate of Hailakandi district.

Search is on to arrest the other accused persons. The arrested person has been identified as Raji Re. Police informed that Sujit Re was brutally murdered by Radheswar Ree with the help of four others. The tussle between the two started over the selling of illicit liquor in the garden. Sujit was killed on Thursday midnight. Police later recovered his body on Friday morning. Radheswar and some of his family members fled before the arrival of police.

Poachers arrested

CORRESPONDENT

JAGROAD, June 10: Acting on a tip-off, Morigon district police in association with the CRPF led by DSP HQ Mrinal Goswami on Thursday night apprehended a five-member group of poachers from three different places, namely Nalbari, Kukurbari and Kumburbari under Mayong police station. Police also recovered a 303 mm rifle and three live ammunition from their possession. The arrested poachers have been identified as Md Safuddin (22), Abdul Hamid (45), Safikul Islam (26), Md Sarafuddin (27) and Safikul Islam alias Sohu (35). Mayong PS charge Raman Bordoloi said.

OBITUARY

Hemendra M Bazarbarua

GUWAHATI, June 10: Hemendra Malla Bazarbarua, a resident of Pundu here, left for his heavenly abode on the June 6. A self-made man, he was born in Chankhidi, Nalbari district.

He was honoured with the award of Distinguished Teacher (1983-84) by the Government of Assam. As a prolific writer, he has written and translated over 40 books, for which he was awarded the literary pension by the State Government in 2010. He leaves behind his wife, a son, three daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers. His death has been widely mourned.

Jamini Mohan Choudhury: a tribute

On June 1, 2017, I lost my beloved grand-uncle Jamini Mohan Choudhury. He had served as the Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University till 1986; a post he had accepted after having retired as the Head of the Department of Geology in 1979. "Xoru koka" as I fondly called him was 96 years old – two months shy of his 97th birthday – at the time of his demise.

Born on August 3, 1920 at Tezpur, to parents Raj Mohan Choudhury and Rebatu Choudhury, he was the youngest of five siblings – three sisters and two brothers. A conscientious student, he completed his matriculation from Tezpur High English School in 1937, followed by Intermediate Science (ISC) from Cotton College in 1939. In 1941 amidst the rising disturbances being created by the Second World War, he received his BSc degree in Geology from the Presidency College in Calcutta. Despite his desire to pursue a Masters degree in the same subject, he had to temporarily abandon his academic goals in light of the uncertainties being brought on by the continuation of the war.

Returning to Assam, he spent the next six years serving as a Textile Sub-Inspec-

Rijiju rules out bringing Paresh Barua to talks

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, June 10: Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju on Friday ruled out any efforts to bring Paresh Barua, the 'C-in-C' of the ULFA (I) faction for any dialogue with the Union Government. The Minister was talking to the media on the sidelines of a public function organised here at Gandhi Maidan on the occasion of the completion of three years of the Modi Government at the Centre.

In reply to questions from the media regarding the recent spurt of violence by the militants of the Paresh Barua-led faction of the ULFA especially in upper Assam, the Minister reiterated, "Peace is the first condition to talk with any mil-

itant group and there is no scope of talk with any militant group unless they shun violence." However, he expressed his happiness with the recent progress of dialogue with the pro-talk faction of the ULFA. "Talks are progressing in the right direction and we can expect a fruitful solution within a short period," the Minister added.

Meanwhile, addressing the audience as the chief guest of the function titled 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas Samman' to showcase the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government at the Centre, Rijiju claimed to have curbed the corruption of prevailing in different offices of the Union Government Ministries in New Delhi after they came to power. He said,

"If you are to approve any work for Assam or the North East, you had to pay commission in advance. Such practices had been prevailing in the Central Block campus where my office is situated. But we have driven away those persons from the offices and now my work is left pending in the Ministries even for a single penny. I have already warned the higher officials of the Central Government in the conference of the chief ministers that now it is the Government of Narendra Modi and there will be no tolerance for corruption."

He went on to say that the Government is accountable to the people and Modi has directed them to present the accounts of the Government activities for the three last years before the public in each district and it is only

because of his direction that this function has been organised at Mangaldoi. Rijiju also praised Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal as a very simple and honest leader with zero tolerance against corruption. He also gave an account of how he helped the youths from Assam and the North East to join Delhi Police and also other Central security agencies. He urged the people of Mangaldoi to consider him as their additional MP and assured full cooperation in sanctioning any developmental project from Delhi without any delay. Prior to his speech, a short documentary reflecting the three years of achievement of the Modi-led Central Government was also screened for the audience.

The meeting which began with the welcome address from Deputy Com-

Sivasagar DDC meeting held

ANN Service

SIVASAGAR, June 10: A meeting of the Sivasagar District Development Committee was held on June 8 which was presided over by Narayan Menlang Konwar, IAS and was attended among others by Dipak Kumar Borthakur, Vice Chairman, State Invention and Transformation Aayog, Assam, who will look after the development works in the district. Konwar urged the District Officers to prepare sustainable development schemes of the respective departments for the financial year 2017-18. The Deputy Commissioner stressed on the need to complete all development works within the stipulated time frame so that Assam can become the number 1 State in India. The State Government has undertaken adequate measures and schemes to achieve the target, Konwar added. The meeting was attended by Abhijit Baruah, Development Commissioner, Assam Doley, ADC, Sewali Bordoloi, CEO, Jila Parishad, Arup Samrath, PD, DRDA and P Googi, SDO (Sadar).

Nirmal Prova Bardaloi remembered

CORRESPONDENT

GAURIPUR, June 10: Nirmal Prova Bardaloi, the literary icon of Assamese literature and a former president of the Assam Sahitya Sabha was remembered at Gauripur recently on her death anniversary by a memorial meeting by the Gauripur branch Sahitya Sabha on the premises of the Gauripur Public Library.

Amru Nath Sharma, life member of the Sahitya Sabha garlanded the portrait of the famous song composer and Satyabrata Chakraborty offered floral tributes and lit the earthen lamp.

The memorial meeting presided over by Satyabrata Chakraborty was addressed by Amru Nath Sharma, Kshitish Chandra Ray, Manita Barua, Prof Ghanshankar Das and a few others.

They in their speeches highlighted the tragic early life of the 'Saraswati' title holder and described her as the most popular literary figure of the State.

The meeting also proposed to organise a symposium to highlight the contributions of Bardaloi among the youths of the area.

The president, while concluding his presidential speech offered the vote of thanks to the participants numbering more than 100 members of the branch Sahitya Sabha.

Cop accuses Jorhat MP, BJP leader of verbal abuse; Tasa denies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

told reporters.

JORHAT, June 10: A police officer has alleged that Jorhat MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa and the district president of the BJP, Santanu Pujari had abused him verbally at the Garmur Police Outpost demanding the release of an accused person recently from whose residence the police had recovered a country-made pistol, a few rounds of ammunition and an explosive.

Though both the police officer and the MP blamed the other of unruly behaviour, neither had lodged any formal complaint with the competent authority even after four days after the incident.

According to the in charge of Garmur Police Outpost, the incident took place on June 3 at his police outpost where an accused person was kept for interrogation as the police had recovered arms and ammunition from his residence.

The police officer said that one of the younger brothers of the MP had tried to get the accused released from the police vehicle while the officer and his constables were taking him to the police outpost for questioning.

"However, he failed to do so even though he threatened me giving references of the honourable MP Kamakhya Tasa. But when the MP and the district president abused me harshly at my police outpost, I suddenly lost consciousness and the accused person was released from our outpost while we recovered arms and ammunition from his possession," the police officer said.

Tasa said that the police officer had levelled baseless allegations against him and the district president Santanu Pujari to maligned their public image.

"I sent a letter to the Chief Minister today requesting a probe into the case. The case should be investigated properly as it has maligned my image. I never said anything to release the accused person. The accused was released from the police outpost before my presence there. I went there only to see the arms and ammunition which were recovered from a nearby location of my own residence," said Tasa.

He also said that a complainant had been lodged with the Jorhat SP narrating the unruly behaviour of the police officer.

"I need an unbiased probe which will bring out the facts," said Tasa.

Waterlogging hits life in Silapathar

CORRESPONDENT

Waterlogging hits life in Silapathar

administration to construct a proper drainage system.

Retired teacher felicitated:

The founder Hindi teacher of Geha ME School, Rohit Dhamal was felicitated on June 7 at the school premises. The felicitation meet was presided over by senior citizen, Biran Taluk.

The meeting was attended by head master Binuwa Kuli, senior citizens, senior students, students of the school and villagers.

The teacher was felicitated with a *phulam gamosa*, sara, flowers etc.



A group dance was being performed during the 'Sabka Sadh, Sabka Vikas Samman 2017' programme to mark the three years of the NDA Government at Gandhi Maidan, Mangaldoi, on Friday. — UB Photos

Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas Sanmilan at Nalbari

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, June 10: The Nalbari district administration has decided to assemble 3000 beneficiaries of Central government-sponsorised schemes in the Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas Samman to be held at Gurdon HS School playground on June 14.

The Samman is being organ-

ised by Oil India Limited (OIL), a public sector undertaking in association with the Nalbari district administration. The district development commissioner, Nadira Jasmine and additional deputy commissioner, Udayaditya Gogoi said that in the day-long programme, the MP of Mangaldoi Lok Sabha constituency, Ramen Deka, Commerce and Industry minis-

ter, Chandra Mohan Patowary, MLAs Ashok Sarma and Narayan Deka will interact with the beneficiaries to learn about the benefits and the problems of the Central government's flagship programme. The high-ranking officials of Oil India Limited will also take part in the meeting. Two representatives from the Oil India Limited also attended the press meet.

LPG connections distributed

CORRESPONDENT

DOODOMOOGA, June 10: To inaugurate the Prime Minister's Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in Doodoomoga Circle, a meeting was held at the auditorium of the Kakophatar Sanskriti Sangha recently. The meeting was presided over by retired BDO Ratneswar Dutta.

The MP of Lakhimpur Lok Sabha constituency Pradan Baruah, Sadiya MLA Bolin Chetia, IOC Area Manager Khagen Changmai, District Nodal Officer Anneswa Sakia, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Tinsukia district PB Borah, Assistant Commissioner Manashjyoti Das, Saratchandra Bhattacharya, Gowsami, proprietor of Allied Gas Services of Doodoomoga, Sadiya MLA Kishore Chandra Ray, Manita Barua, Nabij Deka and several others attended the meeting. In this meeting, LPG connections under PMUY were distributed among 23 beneficiaries of Doodoomoga Circle. Over 200 people attended the meeting.

It can be mentioned here that the Centre has decided to provide five crore deposit free LPG connections to BPL households of rural and urban areas of the country in three years under the PMUY with an objective to empower women, protect their health and to provide employment to the rural youths.

—Angana Choudhury

Dr Rama Kanta Das

Academics was Dati's passion.

Apart of our cousins remained, Dati could happily sit down for hours, discussing the fundamentals of gynaecology. He was so well versed with the medical discourse that he could recite passages from books without even sneaking a peek at them. He often entered into invigorating medical debates.

As the Professor and Head of Department at Silchar Medical College in 1969, he had supervised several students under his tutelage. In fact, he was instrumental in establishing the nascent ONG Department there. In 1974, he returned to Gauhati Medical College to teach. He was the ideal mentor to hundreds of students who kept in touch with him, years after his retirement in 1990. Despite his retirement, he continued to be active in academic life. Appointed as a DNB teacher, he was also invited to be an external for MD exams at renowned medical in-

stitutions.

Apart from his illustrious career engagements, there were other interesting personal details about Dati. He was quite progressive and liberal minded. He was a voracious reader and his well-stocked library was a testament to it. Dati would lovingly engage with the children in the family. When we were older, he retained his enthusiasm for us and warmly held our hands whenever we met. Singing being an integral part of our family gatherings, he would melodiously sing *Shillongore Godului* with everyone. Later, as his health waned, he still maintained his zest for life, cracking jokes and joining in the merriment.

The image of him, surrounded by his books, gently smiling and softly crooning a song will be imprinted on our minds forever. We pray that his soul rests in peace.

—Kaushiki Das



Artists participating in a cultural rally on the occasion of AJYCP's biennial Jorhat district meet, at Jorhat on Friday. — UB Photos

WEATHER
NORTHEAST

Forecast for North Eastern States: Moderate rain/thunderstorms likely to occur at many places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura and light to moderate rainfall/hower shower very likely to occur at a few places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya.

Warning: Heavy rain is very likely to occur over Arunachal Pradesh on June 12, over Assam & Meghalaya on June 13 and over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on June 12 and over Nagaland on June 11. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur over Assam & Meghalaya on June 11, & 12 and over Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on June 11.

Temperatures :	
Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	28.5
Morjala	35.3
Silchar	37.5
Dhubri	34.0
Jorhat	35.4
Itanagar	36.9
Shillong	28.5
Imphal	31.0
Itanagar	37.3
Aizawl	29.3
Agartala	35.0
Kohima	29.0
Passighat	37.7
Cherrapunjee	28.2

Cannabis worth Rs 1.60 cr seized in Shillong

SHILLONG, June 10: Customs officials here seized a truck at Shillong bypass loaded with 1027.260 kg of high quality cannabis worth Rs 1.60 crore on Friday.

Based on intelligence inputs, Customs officials intercepted the truck bearing Punjab registration, near Diengaship village in East Khasi Hills district.

However, no occupant was found inside the truck. The officials on searching the truck found the cannabis concealed inside a secret chamber made behind the driver's cabin.

The illegal consignment originated from Tripura and was likely heading towards Bihar. The cannabis and the truck have been seized and a case registered under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

This is the second seizure of cannabis by Customs within seven days. On June 3, over 534 kg of cannabis was seized near Mawengklong and one person arrested. — Staff Correspondent

Nagaland to be ODF State by early next year:

Minister

KOHIMA, June 10: Nagaland will be declared an Open Defecation Free (ODF) State by early next year.

Six out of 11 districts – Dimapur, Kiphire, Longleng, Mokokchung, Phek and Zumeboto will be declared ODF by July this year, while the entire State would be made ODF early next year, Minister for Public Health Engineering Chotisah Sazo said at a workshop here on Friday.

"Under the Centre's Swach Bharat Mission, out of the targeted 2,62,939 toilets, the State has so far built 2,11,723," he said at the "Sanitation Workshop for Women Leaders" organised by the apex women body in the State capital – Angami Mechi Kroto (AMMK). — PTI

Health insurance scheme for Manipur scribes approved

DIMAPUR, June 10: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said on Friday that a health insurance scheme for the journalists of the State had been approved and its premium would be borne by the State Government.

Speaking at a function organised by All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) here, he assured that the issues of hiking of journalists' pension and exemption of premium for the land allotted for Press Housing Colony will be discussed in the Cabinet at the earliest. — Correspondent

NORTH EAST

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017

800 people meet Manipur CM on Hill People's Day



CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, June 10: Around 800 people including village chiefs and civil society leaders from the hill districts of Manipur today met Chief Minister N Biren Singh during the 2nd Hill People's Day on June 11. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur over Assam & Meghalaya on June 11, & 12 and over Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on June 11.

The Chief Minister personally interacted with the people,

including many from far-flung and border areas, for more than five hours without any break at the CM's Secretariat from 8.45 am to 2.30 pm today, according to official sources.

Like on 'Meiyangai Nuimit' (People's Day) on every 15th of the month, people gathered at the gate since early morning to meet the CM.

Singh said that village chiefs

and organisation leaders mainly put up issues concerning bad road condition, drinking water problem, absence of playground and community hall, etc. He also said that he has been able to discover many unaddressed issues and demands of the hill people.

The Chief Minister said that most of the problems faced by the people of hill districts can

be sorted out through the recently announced Hill Area Development Programme, which would initially cover Chandrel, Tamenglong and Chandel districts.

He further said that a detailed project report amounting to Rs 500 crore for revamping inter-village roads and approach roads had been sent to the Centre.

BJP demands implementation of 7th CPC recommendations in Tripura

PRABIR SIL

AGARTALA, June 10: Thousands of BJP supporters on Saturday strongly demanded implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) recommendations for the Tripura Government employees without further delay.

The BJP supporters gathered in front of Rabindra Bhawan and started the Raj Bhavan 'abhiyan' amidst slogans demanding implementation of

the CPC recommendations.

The march was stopped by the police near the Circuit House where a rally was organised.

BJP State president Biplob Deb and party prabhuji Sunil Deodhar addressed the rally.

"If our neighbours could implement it, why the same cannot be done for the employees working under Tripura Government? The Left Front Government should extend full benefit to the employees and pensioners without further delay."

The BJP supporters gathered in front of Rabindra Bhawan and started the Raj Bhavan 'abhiyan' amidst slogans demanding implementation of

out any delay", Deb said.

Deodhar highlighted the Ponzi scam which has fooled lakhs of poor people in the State. "If the BJP is voted to power in the 2018 Assembly elections, its government will dig out the culprits. No one will be spared", he warned.

Taking a pot shot at the Left Government, Deodhar said,

"Why the BJP will bring CBI to investigate that fund scams? It is the State Government which should recommend for

a delegation of the party led by Deb met Governor Tathagata Roy in the Raj Bhavan and submitted a memorandum strongly demanding for 7th CPC for over 1.5 lakh State Government employees and pensioners.

BJP's memorandum said while most States have decided to accept the recommendations of the 7th CPC, the Tripura Government refuses to accept the same.

No change in Nagaland BJP leadership

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, June 10: BJP National General Secretary Ram Madhav has made it clear to party workers in Nagaland that there will be no organisational changes in the Nagaland BJP until after the Assembly election in the State due early next year.

The BJP being a disciplined party, he told the meeting that every party officials, senior leaders and party workers should cooperate with the State president to make the party

strong, it added. Madhav further informed that BJP National President Amit Shah will be visiting Kohima on August 27.

The National General Secretary, who was accompanied by NE Organisation Secretary Ajay Jamwal, also met Chief Minister Dr Shurhozlie Liezietzu and had an interaction with BJP legislators P Paitwang Konkya, Imtialima Sangtam and Dr TM Lotha before their departure.

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Arunachal new Assembly works inspected

ITANAGAR, June 10: Arunachal Deputy CM Chown Mein on Friday inspected the under-construction Arunachal Assembly building.

While inspecting the construction work, Mein asked the PWD officials to expedite the works so as to complete the building complex within first week of July. He also asked them to ensure that standard materials are used in the construction and no compromise made in the quality of works. — Correspondent

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Participants in the two-day training on Child Protection & Child Rights with Deputy Commissioner CVD Diengdoh at Ampati on Friday. — UB Photos

Nagaland's future is not for sale: NNPGs

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, June 10: Alleging that the people of Nagaland continue to be taken for a ride by NSCN-IM through its propaganda ministry, promising an imaginary political institution, Nagaland National Political Groups (NNPGs) Working Group has asserted that "Nagaland's future is not for sale."

In a statement, the NNPGs Working Group said this while noting that "Government of India, time and again, has made it clear that breaking up neighbouring Indian States to integrate all Nagaland inhabited areas was out of question."

The Working Group reaffirmed that the "aspiration of all Nagas to live under one political roof remains

an undying desire." The NNPGs wanted that if the question of integration issue is outside the purview of Government of India-NSCN-IM talks, separate acceptable solutions for Nagas living in various Indian administered territories must be pursued without ambiguity.

They urged Government of India to look into the grievances of Nagas living in other States and announce political steps for their progress and uplift. "Today, Nagas everywhere must understand that there has been a natural evolution of the Indo-Naga political issue, fuelled by external forces and internal strife," it added.

The NNPGs Working Group further stated that Government of India requires political wisdom and decisiveness to understand the situation and

address the political aspirations of the Nagas of Nagaland, Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

The Working Group also alleged that the NSCN-IM leadership "continues to indulge in unrepentant atheistic politics in their nonexistent land called Nagalim."

"A single political group cannot decide the political future of all Nagas. The dangers of impractical political settlements cannot be overlooked. Consequences have been far-reaching in the past. The Centre knows too well," it said.

It further criticised the NSCN-IM for "churning out press releases inserting names of officials from other Nagaland... as authors, worshiping the Framework Agreement." "But it is practical politics which requires indigenous Nagas of Nagaland

to determine their political future basing on historical facts, present status and desire for the future," the Working Group said.

It further stated that "threats and intimidations against members of civil societies, tribal hoho leaders of Nagaland are unacceptable and best avoided in the interest of all concerned."

"A humane approach could heal much wound," the NNPGs opined while stating that the Working Group has in principle agreed to explore and exercise all political options in the interest of mainland Nagas in particular and all Nagas in general "until appropriate time in future when emotional integration will ultimately lead to physical integration of Nagas, fulfilling the vision of the forefathers."

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According to reports, Meghalaya has the highest consumption of beef in the country with over 80 per cent of the population consuming beef.

However, the State is dependent on import of cattle from outside as livestock production in the State is marginal.

Therefore, there is widespread opposition against the new regulations as there is apprehension that the regulation would eventually lead to a complete ban on cow slaughter.

Meanwhile, East Khasi Hills District Magistrate, PS Dikhar has promulgated an order under Section 144 CrPC prohibiting assembly within a radius of 500 metres of the temporary Assembly building at Rilongh here.

The order shall come into force on June 12 and remain in force till the conclusion of the Special Assembly Session," the source said.

NPCC opposes bye-election in Nagaland

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, June 10: Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) has proposed holding of by-election in the State as the remaining term of the Nagaland Assembly is less than a year.

Parliamentary Secretary for State Lotteries and Music Task Force Kriehie Liezietzu representing Northern Angami-I Assembly constituency resigned from his seat on May 24 paving way for his father and incumbent Chief Minister Shurhozlie Liezietzu to contest the by-election and become an elected member of

the term is just eight months. However, the party said if the by-election was conducted after the Presidential election which is likely to be held in July or August this year and if code of conduct for the State Assembly election comes into force by the end of December, there will hardly be four working months. So, the NPCC claimed, the by-election is meaningless.

"It is also wasteful to engage the people and government forcing by-election in violation of the Constitution which will render its provisions meaningless and also create uncomfortable precedence in the country," it added.

Arunachal Cabinet approves 2 pc DA hike for employees

CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, June 10: In what appears to be a big financial relief for the State Government employees and pensioners, Arunachal Pradesh Government has announced a two per cent hike in their Dearness Allowance (DA).

The State Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday accorded approval for release of 2 per cent DA to the State Government employees, All India Service officers on

deputation to State Government and pensioners with effect from January 1, 2017. Goutam Spokesperson Bamaing Felix told reporters here today.

The Cabinet also approved the proposal of taking up one village in each Assembly segment for development as a model village under the CM's Adarsh Gram Yojana 2017.

The Cabinet, taking into consideration the critical man-

power gaps, also gave its approval for creation of 164 posts in State Police, including 45 posts of head constable (drivers) for Fire & Emergency Services, 32 posts of DSP under APPS cadre, 80 posts of Inspector (Civil Police), four posts of Inspector (telecom) and three posts of Inspector (radio technician).

In a huge respite for the 'sacked' Anganwadi workers of Tirap and Longding districts, the Cabinet also decided to reinstate them in their services.

Kaladan road project runs into land row

ZODIN SANGA

AIZAWL, June 10: Landowners of the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project in southern Mizoram have threatened to block the ongoing works on the project demanding compensation for their lands

carried out with the concerned district collector and all the authentic claims were cleared.

The compensation row had arisen when fresh claims cropped up after all the claims which had been proven to be authentic had been cleared.

According to PWD officials, there were over 700 fresh claims for land compensation, in addition to the 166 claims which had already been paid. About Rs 6.88 crore had been paid to 166 landowners. According to an official, the problems arose as the degraded jhum lands were reported as forest land to the Ministry of Forest & Environment.

A statement of the Association stated that if their claims for compensation are not fulfilled immediately they would ask the contractor, RDS Project Ltd and ARSS, to discontinue its works. While inspecting the construction work, Mein asked the PWD officials to expedite the works so as to complete the building complex within first week of July. He also asked them to ensure that standard materials are used in the construction and no compromise made in the quality of works. — Correspondent

However, PWD officials said that land acquisition for the project had already been completed.

The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMTT), for which India and Myanmar signed an agreement in 2008, also includes dredging and

To get maximum benefits from the project, the State Government also envisons a railway line up to Lawnglai and more airports in southern Mizoram.

Heroin seized in Aizawl

AIZAWL, June 10: Mizoram police along with officials of Excise and Narcotics department seized 719 gram of heroin from two different places in Aizawl, an official said.

The seized contraband, worth around Rs 25.50 lakh

Meghalaya House to discuss on Centre's cattle sale regulation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, June 10: After the Keralas Assembly too would hold a discussion on the Centre's new cattle trade regulation through a Government resolution during a special session to be convened on Monday.

Although Chief Minister Mukul Sangma has said that the special session is being convened to approve the draft Goods and Services Tax Bill, however, Assam Speaker Abu Taher Mondal told The Assam Tribune that discussions would also be held on cattle sale regulations.

"A Government regulation has been listed in the business of the House to discuss on the notification regarding Cattle trade regulations," the Speaker informed.

One of the staple foods of the people of Meghalaya is beef.

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GROOM WANTED
Assamese Kalita girl, 33 years, 5'3", MA in English from Delhi University, working in top MNC in Metros as Development Editor. Higher education, only daughter, younger brother is an Electronic & Communication Engineer, working in Metros. Contact Parents: 9435306127. Mat/G/P/1176/1

Hindu Bengali Kayastha, 34 years, 5'4", good looking girl working as Assistant Prof in Guwahati, needs suitable match. Contact: 09435404079 directly. Mat/G/P/1058/2

Assamese, Hindu, General, 28+, 5'4", B.Music, MA, pursuing MSW, working in NGO, fair & slim, Classical Dance (own school), daughter of Govt. Pensioner, Guwahati, seeks suitable match. Contact directly @ 9435049183. Mat/G/P/1074/2

Wanted a good son for 35 yrs Ghy based girl. 98543-32806 (Guwahati preferred). Mat/G/P/1606/2

Bride Bengal Bodya 34, Govt School Teacher/Science/Maths, looking for Educated, well established, non-addicted groom. For early marriage. Contact with Parents lower Assam get preferred. 97068-41746. Mat/G/P/1166/1

Assamese Brahmin girl, BA/ 33+/52" Med Rashi, Naragon, Men - Lagna. Contact 8256956524. Mat/G/P/1168/3

ALLIANCE INVITED FOR A SMART & BEAUTIFUL ASSAMESE, KALITA GIRL, 33, 5'2", B.TECH, MBA, WORKING IN A REPUTED COMPANY FROM A DECENT FAMILY. (M) 9435108417. Mat/G/P/1167/1

Bengali Kayastha 28 yrs, 5'3", fair, good looking girl MBA (Premier College) working at Mumbai MNC (16.Lakh/annum). Seeks suitable match with good family background working at Mumbai or Bangalore. Contact : 86381818151. Mat/G/P/1169/1

Kalita girl (Upper Assam origin), 28+, 5'7", fair looking, B.Sc (Hotel Mgt), working at 5 Star Hotel in South seek suitable match. Father resident of Guwahati. Directly Contact : 9404545661. Mat/G/P/1176/1

Wanted a groom for Assamese Brahmin girl 35, Master Degree (Double) working as Lecturer in Junior College Guwahati. Contact : 8811096012. Mat/G/P/1178/1

Beautiful Assamese, Kalita, 30, MBA/ BBA (GU), Bank (PO) in Nationalised Bank Guwahati. 9854032811. Mat/G/P/1185/1

WANTED GROOM FOR AN ASSAMESE BRAHMIN (GOSWAMI) GIRL, MSC, B.ED, WORKING ASST. TEACHER IN A SR. H.S. SCHOOL, TINSUKIA. DATE OF BIRTH APRIL/ 87. KANYA RASHI, DEVOGON, BASISITA GOTRA. CONTACT DIRECTLY : 9954065667.

Mat/G/1088/1

WANTED SUITABLE GROOM

Wanted suitable groom for Muslim Assamese girl, 29 years, 5'2", good looking, M.Tech Assistant Professor, belongs to an educated family in Guwahati. Contact parents : 8974587264. Mat/G/P/087/1

Seeking groom for an East Bengali, Kooleen Kayastha, Naragon, Mesh Rashi, 27 5'4", girl, B+, Company Secretary, working in a reputed Company, good looking, bright complexion, homely girl, a highly educated matchbox 33+, well placed (preferably Govt) Engineer/ Doctor/ in equivalent, from reputed family. Contact No. : 9007162198. 8472873648. Mat/G/084/1

Bengali/ Bodya/ 29/ 5'3"/ working in Abroad/ alliance invites from Bodyal/ Brahmin working in Abroad. Mat/G/P/1784/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ 27/ 5'3"/ beautiful/ working in Govt. employee/ Caste no bar. 94072296. Mat/G/P/1785/1

Slim & beautiful/ Bengali/ Kayastha/ 28/ 5'2" MA (Eng), pursuing M.Phil/ Assst. Professor in a Govt. College/ Architect, M.Phill/ Asst. Professor in a reputed College. 9854152573, 9864031236. Mat/G/P/1786/1

Brahmin Assamese/ 29/ 5'2" working in Govt. employee/ Caste no bar. 94072296. Mat/G/P/1787/1

Hindu/ Assamese/ 27/ 5'3"/ working in Govt. employee/ Caste no bar. 94072296. Mat/G/P/1788/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 30/ 5'4" M.Tech/ Assst. Professor at Govt. College, 9613435785 (Caste no bar). Mat/G/P/1789/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'5" Masters in Engg. Assst. Prof. in Govt. College. Family of Ghy. 9864809736. Mat/G/P/1790/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 32/ 5'6" MBBS, MD/ Govt. Doctor, Residence Guwahati. Early marriage. 767003400/ 970636644. Mat/G/P/1791/1

Beautiful/ Assamese/ Kalita/ 28/ 5'3" ME, IITC Civil, Govt. Engineer. Ghy residency. 8011641568. Mat/G/P/1791/1

Assamese/ Kalita/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1792/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1793/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1794/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1795/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1796/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1797/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1798/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1799/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1800/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1801/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1802/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1803/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1804/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1805/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1806/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1807/1

Kalita/ Assamese/ 28/ 5'6" working as Doctor/ Engineers Educated, Scholar, Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1808/1

WANTED SUITABLE GROOM

Fair & good looking Assamese Hindu girl General Cast 26, 5'4", B.Tech (Computer Science) working in Metrocity. Father Sr. Engineer. Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1839/1

Alliance invited for Kalita girl 27, 5'4", slim fair, good looking MBA, working American MNC in Indian Metrocity. Residence. (M) 9854063196. Mat/G/P/1172/1

Seeking groom for an East Bengali, Kooleen Kayastha, Naragon, Mesh Rashi, 27 5'4", girl, B+, Company Secretary, working in a reputed Company, good looking, bright complexion, homely girl, a highly educated matchbox 33+, well placed (preferably Govt) Engineer/ Doctor/ in equivalent, from reputed family. Contact No. : 9007162198. 8472873648. Mat/G/P/1172/1

Kalita girl 31, 5'4", slim, fair, good looking girl, MA LLB, ACS Officer. Father Engineer seeks suitable match. Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1172/1

Hindu/ Assamese 27, MBBS, MD (Medicine) final year (2) Koch 26, 5'5", MBBS, Doctor (3) Kalita 28+, MBBS, MD (4) Assamese 23, MBBS, MD, Guwahati, "Matchmaker" (M) 9854063196. Mat/G/P/1172/1

(1) Assamese Hindu 27, MBBS, MD (Medicine) final year (2) Koch 26, 5'5", MBBS, Doctor (3) Kalita 28+, MBBS, MD (4) Assamese 23, MBBS, MD, Guwahati, "Matchmaker" (M) 9854063196. Mat/G/P/1173/1

Kalita girl 31, 5'4", slim fair, good looking girl, MA LLB, ACS Officer. Father Engineer seeks suitable match. Contact (M) 940469135. Mat/G/P/1173/1

(1) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Enginee Graduate (2) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Bangalore 30, MBBS, Doctor (3) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (4) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (5) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Bangalore 30, MBBS, Doctor (6) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (7) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (8) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (9) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (10) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (11) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (12) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (13) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (14) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (15) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (16) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (17) Brahmin 26, B.Tech, Engineer Brahmin 30, MBBS, Doctor (18) Brahmin 26, 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Rebati Girl's PG with all modern facilities, Dilip Huzuri Path, H. No.-91, Dispur Super Market for Cotton, B Baruah, Pragjyoti Concept, Potential, Contact: 9867784136, 7063973199, H&F/P/11674/3

SARMA GIRLS HOSTEL (GOVT, REGD), NEAR ARYA COLLEGE, BIRUBARI, H.N.O., 90, DR. (MRS.) R. SARMA, 9864802309, Hostel/P/11626/8

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Space available for rent for office, House No. 30, D. Neog Path, 78111-2 ZOO ROAD, II, NO. 22, ZOO ROAD, FINALLI, GUWAHATI-781024, ASSAM, Housekeeping/P/11719/1

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2/3 bedroom Flat under construction Kahilipara Colony Bazar, Bashkar Nagar, Lalagnesh, Odabukra, 94351-238099, 9864107847, H&F/P/11808/1

Ready to move 2/3 BHK flat at Jorhat, 94351-04109, H&F/P/1810/1

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Space available for rent for office, House No. 30, D. Neog Path, Contact: 8134856910, 9864118921, OSP/AP1845/1

Single room attached bathroom 250 sqft. for office use or individual person, Hatigao Pipeline, RCII 2nd floor, compound. Contact: 98641-0794, Busi/AP1845/1

Office Space at GF at Zoo Tiniiali, Rs. 35,000, 9435147027, 7002803269, 9435506076, OSP/AP1876/1

Software/Website/Mobile application at reasonable price with free support, Contact: techsprid.com, 9706527004, Website/P/10483/8

Software/Website/Mobile application at reasonable price with free support, Contact: techsprid.com, 9706527004, Website/P/10483/8

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Zaira Wasim

Dangal actress escapes unhurt in road accident

SRINAGAR, June 10: Dangal actress Zaira Wasim escaped unharmed after her car met with an accident in the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir, the police said today. The 16-year-old actress was travelling with her family when the accident took place on Boulevard Road on the banks of Dal Lake late on Friday night, they said.

According to the eyewitnesses, the vehicle was moving at a high speed and the driver lost control over the vehicle. The car jumped over the footpath and hit the parapet along the lake.

The car, according to some reports, belonged to a local politician, the police said, adding that since there were no reports of injuries or damage to public property, no case has been registered in the matter. - PTI

115 people fall ill after taking prasad

KRISHNAGAR (WB), June 10: Altogether 115 people were taken ill after eating 'Prasad' of a puja at a house in Nakashpara block in Nadia district of West Bengal, officials said today.

The puja was organised at the house of one Sainalendra Singh Roy at Dogachhi-Tegheria and local villagers were invited on Friday. After taking the 'prasad', they fell ill within hours. Nakashpara BDO Samir Dutta said:

About 50 people, including children and women, were hospitalised on Saturday, he said, adding that family members of the host, too, were admitted to hospital.

Tapash Roy, CMOH, Nadia said, "Our health team rushed to the spot on Saturday morning and set up a camp in the area to treat the patients." - PTI

Opp demands Shah's apology for *chatur baniya* remark

NEW DELHI, June 10: Attacking BJP chief Amit Shah for describing Mahatma Gandhi as a "*chatur baniya*," Opposition parties today demanded that he should apologise to the nation and insisted that the "denigrating" remark should be withdrawn.

The parties also alleged that the comment "exposed" the BJP's "contempt" for the Father of the Nation. Taking strong exception to the remark, Congress spokesperson Ranjeet Surjewala said, "Rather than fighting casteism, they (BJP) identified even the Father of the Nation with his caste. This shows the character and ideology of the ruling party and its president. Where will these people take the country?"

"We demand that Amit Shah, BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologise to the country, the



Amit Shah

families of freedom fighters and every citizen for insulting the freedom movement... and the Father of the Nation," he said.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC president Mamata Banerjee said Shah "should withdraw his comment and apologise for it. It is a deliberate act. It is unfortunate, uncalled for and unethical." CPI general secretary S Sudarshan Ray also echoed Banerjee's views on the issue.

"As Father of the Nation, every-

body should respect Mahatma Gandhi. Calling a leader respected world over a *baniya* is in bad taste," added.

CPI general secretary D Raja said Shah, being the president of the ruling party, should be aware of the language to be used while describing a leader of Gandhi's stature. "We have no problem when he criticises the Congress or other Opposition parties. But dragging Mahatma Gandhi's name, using such a language is denigrating Gandhi," Raja said.

The BJP chief had yesterday referred to Mahatma Gandhi as a "*chatur baniya*" (a clever *baniya* (the trading caste) while addressing a gathering in Raipur. Shah also said the Congress had never been a party based on principles and it was merely a "special purpose vehicle" to secure freedom. - PTI

The CPI general secretary said Shah "should withdraw his comment and apologise for it. It is a deliberate act. It is unfortunate, uncalled for and unethical."

"They (GJM) have become politically bankrupt and resorted to violence. I hope good sense will prevail on them. We cannot live in peace by resorting to terror and violence," she told reporters at "Uttarkanya," the mini-secretariat, here.

"We have compromised a lot and it seems that now we have our back against the wall. You can compromise for the good and for peace, but it cannot be done for bombs and arms," she said.

Indicating that the State Government would act tough, the Chief Minister said the Superintendent of Police for Darjeeling after his removal would go for any compromise and deal with those who violated law.

"The result of the failure of Chouhan, the State bureaucracy and the police," he alleged.

Later, a delegation of Shiv Sena met Chouhan and suggested ways, including a loan waiver, to end the farmers' unrest. After meeting the Chief Minister, Dubey did not speak to reporters.

State Congress chief spokesperson KK Mishra said, "Chouhan should tell people whether his so-called fast is a *nautanki*, an event or an act of repentance for his misdeeds that set the State on fire." "Though he is trying to send a message that he is doing 'Gandhigiri' (using a Gandhian way), it is absolutely not so. He neither sat at the foot of the statue of Gandhi, nor did he garland the statue before launching his *nautanki*," Mishra said.

Parts of western Madhya Pradesh have been on the boil ever since the farmers launched an agitation last week seeking a loan waiver and better crop prices. - PTI

Mamata warns Gorkha Janmukti Morcha over Darjeeling violence



Mamata Banerjee

Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) would be held and the new board would assume office by August 24.

"We will go to the people. They will also go. We will wait for the people's verdict," she said.

The situation in Darjeeling is "very stable and peaceful," the Chief Minister said, adding she was hopeful that everybody would contribute towards maintaining peace. - PTI

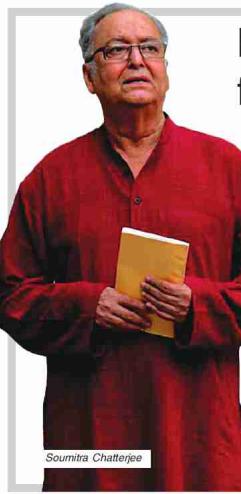
Shiv Sena, Cong slam Chouhan over fast

BHOPAL, June 10: BJP ally Shiv Sena today hit out at Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan over the farmers' unrest in the State, saying instead of sitting on a fast here, the CM should have visited Mandaur to comfort the farmers. The Congress also dubbed Chouhan's fast as mere *nautanki* (drama).

As the farmers' protests entered its tenth day in the State, Chouhan launched his indefinite fast at the Dussehra Maidan here today, promising profitable prices to farmers for their produce.

Senas' media in-charge Apoorva Dubey, who reached the Dussehra Maidan, told reporters, "Instead of sitting here, he should have gone to Mandaur to comfort and help the farmers. Chouhan should sit instead on the fast till the farmers' woes are mitigated, or else we will launch an indefinite fast in support of the farmers."

"Those farmers who came to the Dussehra Maidan were brought by the ruling BJP. The farmers' stir is



Highest French civilian honour for Soumitra Chatterjee

KOLKATA, June 10: Thespian Soumitra Chatterjee has been conferred with the highest French civilian honour, the Legion d'Honneur.

"I am happy and it is a great honour. I got the letter from the French Embassy yesterday and they said they will be coming over here to give me the award. I communicated to them that we will decide on a mutually convenient date," Chatterjee told PTI.

The 82-year-old veteran actor, who is getting the honour 30 years after legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray had received the same,

said, "No comparisons can be drawn between me and Manikda (as Ray is fondly called by his followers). He is a titan and I am nowhere near him."

"But yes, it makes me happy that I am also getting the same honour which was given to Manikda," he added.

The actor first worked with Ray in *Apur Sansar* in 1959, the third part of

the Apu trilogy. He had also worked in Ray's *Abхиjan* (1962), *Charulata* (1964), *Aranay Din Ratri* (1969), *Ashani Sankeet* (1973), *Sonar Kella* (1974), *Joi Baba Felômô* (1978), *Ghare Baire* (1984) and *Ganashatru* (1989).

Congratulating the legend, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted,

"From Apur Sansar to Legion of Honour. The legendary Shri Soumitra Chatterjee, hallmark of Indian and Bengali cinema. A tribute and honour to the great actor of Bengali cinema by France. This makes us very proud. Congratulations (sic)."

Others from the Bengal film fraternity also congratulated Chatterjee. Prosenjit Chatterjee tweeted, "Kaku, you are a true inspiration... Prorum for #Legion d'Honneur. Second person from our industry after Ray to be honoured... Respect (sic)."

Chatterjee has previously been conferred with the Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres, France's highest award for artistes and is the recipient of the Dadasahab Phalke Award which is India's highest award in cinema. - PTI

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15th June, 2017

CAPSULE**JLR India plan**

NEW DELHI, June 10: Luxury automobile manufacturer Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) India today said that it plans to further expand its retail outlets in 2017-18. "We currently have 25 retail outlets and are present in 23 major cities across India. We plan to further expand our network by adding 2-3 more retail outlets in FY 2017-18," JLR India Managing Director Rohit Suri told IANS.

Coal India

MUMBAI, June 10: Union Minister Piyush Goyal today said state-run Coal India will continue to remain a single entity and will not be allowed to split further. The government's policy think-tank NITI Aayog recently recommended breaking up of Coal India into various sub-units, which is not at all advisable and we are not taking up that recommendation at all. Coal India will continue to be one entity," Goyal said. - PTI

CAIT demand

NEW DELHI, June 10: Traders body CAIT today demanded from the GST Council a nine-month interim period during which no penal action should be taken against them for any procedural lapses. The Council is scheduled to meet tomorrow. Confederation of Indian Traders (CII) said that their preparedness at the level of small businesses is at a low stage and about 60 per cent of traders are yet to adopt digital technology for GST compliance. - PTI

Rajasthan food fest

GUWAHATI, June 10: A nine-day Rajasthan food festival - Best of Rajasthan - Marwar Cuisine - got under way today at Vivanta by Taj, Guwahati. During the festival, Jodhpur's Umaid Bhawan Palace Hotel Chef Manohar will be cooking up traditional Rajasthani delicacies - some familiar names and some others, unique and exotic - to suit every food buff's taste buds. From the Lal Maas, Kabuli Pulao, Kair Sangri to the comforting Dal Bati Churma, food lovers can experience the robust, delicious food in thalis and the buffet, a press release said here today.

ShopClues training

VARANASI, June 10: E-commerce player ShopClues has joined hands with the State's MSME Development Institute to impart training on online selling to traditional weavers and craftsman. The Weaver Service Centre (WSC) here, the ShopClues team has trained weavers to register themselves on e-commerce sites, where they can sell their product directly to consumers. - PTI

Moti Mahal Delux

GUWAHATI, June 10: Moti Mahal Delux, a fine dining restaurant and lounge bar, celebrated its first anniversary here today. In this connection, a month-long celebration got under way with the introduction of a 'Magic Pot', which will offer all diners at the restaurant guaranteed gifts in the form of discounts up to 90 per cent on food, a press release said here today.

Passenger car sales up 5% in May: SIAM

NEW DELHI, June 10: Domestic passenger cars sales went up by 4.80 per cent last month as compared to the same period last year, industry data showed on Friday.

As per the data furnished by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), some 166,630 passenger cars were sold in May, 2017, as compared to 158,996 units sold in May, 2016.

The off-take of other sub-segments such as utility vehicles rose by 18.80 per cent during the month with 69,845 units, while sales of vans increased by 9.50 per cent to 15,167 units.

Industry data revealed that domestic passenger vehicle sales edged higher by 8.63 per cent in May to 251,642 units from 231,640 sold during the corresponding period in 2016.

However, the data showed that overall commercial vehicles' sales declined

GSTN assures timely release of interface software

Meet with GST Suvidha Providers

NEW DELHI, June 10: The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) met all the GST Suvidha Providers (GSP) and explained the method and manner in which the GSPs would be able to integrate with the GST System to be able to submit all the return forms on behalf of their clients and taxpayers.

"GSPs were told that they must have their systems audited as per the planned testing ISO standard on security from one of the auditors on the panel of CERT-IN before they

connect with start pushing data into the GST System," an official statement said here today.

The meeting was held here on Friday.

There are 34 GSPs that have been selected by GSTN to provide additional channel of filing returns and other compliances related to GST. GSPs are expected to help large businesses with complex and varied internal processes to comply with the GST regime that will be effective from July 1.

The GSTN presented the timelines of the release of updated specifications of application programming interface (API) for the new GST forms that are to be applicable from July 1. The API specifications will be released in a staggered manner for all the GSPs, the statement said.

"Subsequent to publishing of the specifications, GSTN will also make available live APIs on the sandbox for testing of the codes that the GSPs will modify/develop. The dates for the release of the specifications and the live APIs for various returns for testing/integration were communicated to all the GSPs."

"The specifications of GSR-1 return (for uploading the supply data) was released yesterday and the live API will be made available on June 29," it added. - IANS



Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju flagging off a medical ambulance on the occasion of handing over of the ambulance under Hindustan Prefab Ltd's Corporate Social Responsibility, in Guwahati on Saturday. - PIB

GST Suvidha Providers say IT systems not ready for July 1 rollout

NEW DELHI, June 10: With three weeks to go before the country moves to big bang tax reform, goods and services tax (GST) Suvidha Providers - key links between taxpayers and the government - say the IT systems for a July 1 rollout are not ready.

"All the rules are yet to be notified. Only after the rules are finalised can the GSPs be ready. The GST Suvidha Providers (GSPs) would be ready, said Vinod Tambe, COO, Excellence Software. After that, the application program interfaces (APIs) furnished by GSTN, in all, 34 GSPs have been selected.

GSPs are expected to help large businesses with complex

internal processes to comply with the GST regime. A meeting was held between GSTN officials and suvidha providers on Friday.

Neevaj Huthesingh, Founder and Director, Cygnet Infotech, said that the rollout date of July 1 is not an issue but the problem is that things were undecided even with 20 days remaining. It was hampering testing needs of the Suvidha Providers.

"Significant testing needs to be carried out by the ecosystem. However, GSTN sandbox release does not appear to be geared up for the same. It's a catch-22 situation. The problem is that everything is still in a fluid state - the tax rates, rules," Mahure told

prince resource planning (ERP) software, filing software and billing software that will help businesses comply with the new indirect tax regime.

Analyst Pritam Maure said that the rollout date of July 1 is not an issue but the problem is that things were undecided even with 20 days remaining. It was hampering testing needs of the Suvidha Providers.

"Significant testing needs to be carried out by the ecosystem. However, GSTN sandbox release does not appear to be geared up for the same. It's a catch-22 situation. The problem is that everything is still in a fluid state - the tax rates, rules," Mahure told

Move to install 25,000 wi-fi hotspots in rural areas

BSNL eyes 11% market share

NEW DELHI, June 10: Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha on Friday set the target of achieving 11 per cent market share for the state-owned BSNL within 12 months.

"This time, we have seen a growth of 0.3 per cent in the market share. Next time when we meet, it should not be less than 10 per cent. I expect it to be 10.5 per cent, but if it crosses 11 per cent, we will take whatsoever special steps required for BSNL,"

Sinha said at an agreement signing ceremony between BSNL and USOF for wi-fi services.

The market share of BSNL has increased to 9.35 per cent, from 9.05 per cent a year ago. In percentage terms, the growth works out to 3.3 per cent.

Under an agreement signed between BSNL and the Universal Service Obligation Fund, a corpus for rural telecom services, the company will install 25,000 wi-fi hotspots in rural areas with an outlay of Rs 942 crore within four months.

BSNL Chairman and Managing Director Anupam Srivastava said the project cost includes operation expenses for three years.

"The MoU says six months, but Srivastava has advanced it... To four months. I hope these 25,000 wi-fi hotspots will be installed across our 25,000 rural exchanges in four months," Sinha said. Saying a lot is at stake,

the minister directed BSNL officials to complete phase one of broadband services under the BharatNet project by June 30.

"In any case, we have to complete first phase (of BharatNet) by June 30. I don't want anyone to come up and say even 1 kilometre of the work is left. We have to keep the target of lighting up (activating broadband in) 1,000 villages per day. Many social transformation is dependent on it," Sinha said. - PTI

by 6.36 per cent to 53,457 units in May. The segment is a key indicator of economic activity.

Similarly, the three-wheeler segment's off-take also receded. It declined by 22.40 per cent to 36,066 units during the month under review.

In contrast, the overall sales of two-wheelers, which include scooters, motorcycles and mopeds, was increased by 11.89 per cent to 1,694,325 units.

Product-wise, scooter sales last month rose by 24.02 per cent to 563,326 units, while motorcycle sub-segment's off-take edged-higher by 7.72 per cent to 1,060,746 units. On the other hand, moped segment's sales was lower by 6.83 per cent to 70,253 units.

The industry data disclosed that the Indian automobile sector reported a rise of 10.05 per cent in May 2017 - with total sales at 2,035,490 units across seg-

ments and categories.

Moreover, the overall exports across categories increased by 8.89 per cent to 329,068 units during last month.

Besides, SIAM pointed out that the passenger cars segment will see a significant decrease in excise duty with GST (Goods and Services Tax) rollout.

"The vehicle sector, the car segment particularly which was attracting very high rates of duty earlier or even today, which is a 30 per cent or 27 per cent or 24 per cent excise duty rates, we will see an overall drop in the excise burden - the taxation burden," Vishnu Mathur, Director General, SIAM told BTVi in an interview.

"One can already see that because companies in expectation of GST rates, which will come from July 1, have already started reducing prices and giving discounts." - IANS



The newly-launched Renault Duster CVT variant on display at Renault Guwahati showroom at 6th Mile on Saturday. - AT photo

Bid to boost Railways' financial health

Focus on improving infrastructure: Prabhu

KOLKATA, June 10: The government is focusing on improving the infrastructure of Indian Railways to make it more profitable, Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu said here today.

"Indian Railways was in a vicious circle. We want to change it. We have been focusing on bringing investments and improving the financial health of the Indian Railways with an efficient service provider," Prabhu said here, while dedicating a slew of projects.

He said the Railways prepared an investment plan of more than Rs 8-lakh crore and it finalised Rs 3.75 lakh crore of capital expenditure to ramp up the infrastructure.

Emphasising on improving railway tracks and rolling stocks, Prabhu said retrofitting

around 16 per cent network (of railways) used to handle more than 60 per cent traffic

while the rest of the network handles 40 per cent traffic. Capacity utilisation becomes 150-160 per cent. That is why we have decided to invest where it is required the most," he said, adding, the work for doubling or tripling of railway lines of 16,500 km has been approved in the last three years.

The minister said 42 per cent of railway lines are electrified. "We have decided to double it in the next five years."

He said the speed of implementation of projects has increased more than two times.

Emphasising on improving railway tracks and rolling stocks, Prabhu said retrofitting

around 16 per cent network (of railways) used to handle more than 60 per cent traffic

industry has showcased a progressive output trend y-o-y.

Being recognised as a "bright spot" is highly encouraging as well as a large responsibility at the same time, he said, adding that with the introduction new steel and anti-dumping policies, India is on the path to become one of the top steel producers.

According to the latest report from BMI Research, demand from construction, automotive and infrastructure industries continues to accelerate.

The report has put down the sector's success to the government's push to raise capacity in order to meet demand from construction, automotive and infra sectors, said the Steel Users Federation of India (SUIF) in a statement today.

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The report highlighted that Indian steel giants such as Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) and Tata Steel as the major drivers of such growth.

BMI Research has forecast India's steel output to clock an average annual growth of 8.9 per cent during 2017-21, higher than

2.9 per cent in 2012-16.

India's steel output would grow to 128.6 mt by 2021

from 88.4 million tonnes (mt) in 2017 and the country's share of global steel production will

accelerate to 7.7 per cent in 2021 from 5.4 per cent in 2017, it added.

Ahead of the GST Council meeting tomorrow, Turakha expressed concern over the headwinds faced by the sector. He has also urged the government to relax imposition of GST penalties and prosecution.

SUFI was part of the delegation that recently presented its case on GST to Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantwar in Mumbai. - PTI

India on track to become top global steel producer: Report

NEW DELHI, June 10:

India as a steel bright spot is highly encouraging and is on track to become a top global producer, says an industry body.

According to the latest report from BMI Research, demand from construction, automotive and infrastructure industries continues to accelerate.

The report has put down the sector's success to the government's push to raise capacity in order to meet demand from construction, automotive and infra sectors, said the Steel Users Federation of India (SUIF) in a statement today.

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Financial stress

Telco leaders to meet Jaitley, Sinha on June 22

NEW DELHI, June 10: Top telecom leaders, including Sunil Bharti Mittal, Kumar Mangalam Birla and Anil Ambani are expected to meet Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha on June 22 amid mounting financial stress in the sector.

The other major players - Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea and Idea - have been asked for a meeting on June 15 by the panel, according to sources.

The panel has sought details of operations from telecom leaders, discuss the current state of financial stress in the sector with Sinha and later in the day will call on Jaitley.

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekharan is also learnt to have confirmed his participation, while Reliance Jio Chairman Mukesh Ambani is yet to confirm his presence for the meeting called by Sinha.

However, queries sent to Tata Sons and Reliance Jio on whether their chairpersons will participate in the meeting, did not elicit any reply.

The meeting will take place after inter-ministerial group finishes its meetings with telecom operators by June 17. The inter-ministerial group (DMG), created to work on resolving financial woes of the telecom sector, has called Re-

Alibaba Cloud to open data centre in India

MUMBAI, June 10: Alibaba Cloud, the cloud computing arm of Alibaba Group, announced today that it plans to establish two new data centres in Mumbai in India and Jakarta in Indonesia during the current financial year.

Together with the recently announced data centre in Malaysia, Alibaba Cloud will significantly increase its computing resources in Asia, allowing greater support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) throughout the region with powerful, scalable, cost-effective and secure cloud capabilities, it said in a statement here.

"Establishing data centers in India and Indonesia will further strengthen our position in the region and across the globe," Simon Hu, senior vice president of Alibaba Group and President of Alibaba Cloud said.

With the three new data centers planned, Alibaba Cloud will increase its total number of data center locations to 17, covering mainland China, Australia, Germany, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and the United States. - PTI



An OV-10 aircraft release a bomb during an airstrike against the so-called Maute group, who have taken over large parts of Marawi city, Philippines on Saturday. – UNI

15 killed in ISIS attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, June 10: Fifteen people were killed on Saturday when a group of ISIS militants attacked a mosque in Iraq's Salahuddin province, a security official said.

About 20 ISIS militants attacked Mseihly village, some 280 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, sparking heavy clashes with the paramilitary Sunni tribal fighters at the village, the official told Xinhua news agency.

The victims comprised 10 villagers, including three women and a child, and five IS militants, the source said.

The attackers apparently infiltrated from the ISIS-held eastern bank of Shirqat across the Tigris River, which bisects the town, the source added. – IANS

US calls on Arab nations to ease blockade against Qatar

WASHINGTON, June 10: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Friday called on Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt to ease blockade against Qatar.

The blockade is hindering US military actions in the region and the campaign against the Islamic State group, Tillerson said, adding that it is also impairing US business activities in the region and bringing about humanitarian consequences, Xinhua reported.

"Now the situation in the Arabian Gulf over the last few days is troubling to the United States, the region, and to many people who are directly affected," Tillerson said in a televised remark at the State Department.

In a diplomatic row erupted in

the Middle East, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE and Egypt have

Blockade impairing US business activities in the region and bringing about humanitarian consequences

cut off diplomatic relations with Qatar, accusing it of supporting

terrorism, Libya, Yemen and the Maldives followed suit. Qatar has rejected the accusations as "unjustified" and "baseless".

US President Donald Trump has offered to help Qatar and the other Arab nations resolve their differences, and asked Tillerson to act as a mediator of the dispute.

On Friday, Tillerson also urged Qatar to be "responsive to the concerns of its neighbours," adding that "Qatar has a history of supporting groups that have spanned the spectrum of political expression, from activism to violence."

The top US diplomat noted that Qatar has made progress in halting financial support and expelling terrorist elements from his country, but he urged the country to "do more" and "do it more quickly". – IANS



Muslims pray during the Friday prayers for Ramadan, at the compound known to Muslims as Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as Temple Mount, in Jerusalem's Old City, on Friday. – UNI

Pakistan an important partner in South Asia, Putin tells Sharif

ASTANA/ISLAMABAD, June 10: Russian President Vladimir Putin has termed Pakistan as an important partner for his country in South Asia, a media report said.

He conveyed this to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during their meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Astana on Friday.

The two leaders discussed bilateral relations, including trade and economic cooperation, and also current international issues during the meeting.

Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastgir were present at the meeting, Pakistan Today reported.

Putin congratulated Sharif on Pakistan's accession to the SCO. Putin said: "I am glad that we met for a bilateral meeting on the sidelines

of the SCO Summit."

He said Russia-Pakistan relations have been constructive and mutually beneficial. "our relations are



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif shake hands during a meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Astana, Kazakhstan on Friday – UNI

developing in many areas, and our trade has increased, even if only by a few percentage points. Of course, we are able to do much more than we are doing now," he said.

In turn, Prime Minister Sharif thanked President Putin, and the Russian Federation for supporting Pakistan's full membership in the SCO.

Sharif said, "while in Ufa we did agree on improving Pakistan-Russian bilateral trade, there is improvement but not the level that we agreed upon. It has been always my endeavour to build and strengthen our relationship and I am continuing to strive for that."

There has been growing bonhomie between Russia and Pakistan, with both holding their first-ever joint military exercise in September 2016 in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan and the first-ever Russian-Pakistan consultation on regional issues in mid-December 2016 at Islamabad. Both sides also inked a deal for Mi-35 helicopters. – IANS

Amnesty Int'l Turkey chief arrested

ISTANBUL, June 10: Turkey's official news agency says Amnesty International's chairman in the country has been formally arrested pending trial on charges of membership in a terror group.

Anadolu news agency reported early today that lawyer Tamer Kılıç was ordered arrested in the western province of Izmir along with five other attorneys who are accused of using an encrypted communication program. Kılıç was detained Tuesday.

ByLock is allegedly used by the network of US-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, who Turkey blames for orchestrating last summer's coup attempt.

Amnesty International called Kılıç's arrest a "devastating injustice."

Its secretary general Salil Shetty said the case is proof of Turkey's arbitrary and sweeping crackdown in the aftermath of the failed coup.

More than 50,000 people have been arrested for alleged links to Gülen since last summer. – AP

they came under attack, provincial spokesman Omar Zhwak told AFP.

"Two police officers were killed and four others wounded. A number of Taliban were also killed in the air strike," Zhwak said.

Helmand for years was the centrepiece of the US and British military intervention in Afghanistan – only for it to slip deeper into a quagmire of instability.

The Taliban effectively control or contest 14 of Helmand's districts, blighted by a huge opium harvest that helps fund the insurgency. Last year the fighting forced thousands of people to flee their homes, mostly seeking refuge in provincial capital Lashkar Gah, with the city practically besieged by the Taliban.

US Marines returned to Helmand in April, years after NATO's combat mission ended in 2014, to help embattled Afghan security forces beat back the resurgent Taliban. – AFP

Afghan policemen killed in US 'friendly fire' airstrike

KANDAHAR, June 10: A US airstrike killed at least two Afghan policemen and wounded four others in Helmand, officials said today, in apparently the first "friendly fire" incident since American Marines returned to the southern province in April.

Afghan border police were on a patrol in the volatile district of Nad Ali when they came under fire during a military operation around midnight yesterday.

"We can confirm personnel of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces were killed and wounded during overnight operations in Helmand Province," the US military said in a statement, adding that an investigation had been launched.

"We would like to express our deepest condolences to the families of the ABP members affected by this unfortunate incident."

The policemen were patrolling too close to a Taliban base when



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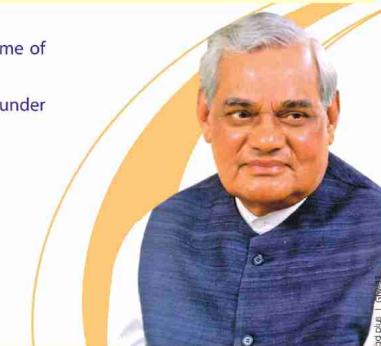
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Dept. of Health & Family Welfare,
Government of Assam





Watch your BP monitors!

70 per cent of digital BP devices used at homes are "unacceptably inaccurate", says a study

Seventy per cent of digital blood pressure monitors used at homes are "unacceptably inaccurate", and could cause serious implications for people who rely on them, said researchers one of Indian-origin.

The study found that about 70 per cent of the time, these digital devices weren't accurate within five mmHg, when compared to the mercury reading of a sphygmomanometer (used by medical practitioners) leading to flaws in making informed health decisions.

The devices were off the mark by 10 mmHg about 30 per cent of the time.

The findings are extremely relevant given millions of patients are asked to monitor their blood pressure through a device at home and report the results back to their doctor, researchers said.

Further, the readings were more inaccurate in men than in women. According to researchers, there are many factors that could account for their findings.

"Arm shape, arm size, the stiffness and age of blood vessels, and the type of blood pressure cuff are not always taken into account when a blood pressure machine is designed and validated," said Raj Padwal, a professor at University of Alberta, Canada.

"Individual differences, such as the size, age

and medical background of the person using the blood pressure monitor are also contributing factors," Padwal added.

For the study, published in the *American Journal of Hypertension*, the team tested 85 patients with home monitors. They noted that steps can be taken to minimise inaccurate readings.

Patients should not start or change drugs based on one or two measurements taken at a single point in time unless the measurements are clearly elevated.

Patients should also compare the blood pressure machine measurement with a blood pressure measurement in clinic before exclusively relying upon home blood pressure readings.

What's really important is to do several blood pressure measurements and base treatment decisions on multiple readings, the researchers advised.

"High blood pressure is the number one cause of death and disability in the world," said lead researcher Jennifer Ringrose, from the University of Alberta.

"Monitoring and treating hypertension can decrease the consequences of this disease. We need to make sure that home blood pressure readings are accurate," she added. - IANS

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, June 11, 2017:

This year you flip back and forth between your light and airy self to a more serious and practical person. Often these changes surprise those around you. You are a simple, someone you meet might have never seen before sides of your personality. The person who accepts you for everything you are, will be the right choice for you. If you are attached, the two of you often jump from situation to situation quickly. Your versatility makes you bond even stronger. Could find CAPRICORN boring.

The Stars Show You What Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Adaptable; 2-Socially difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Many of your loved ones have the expectation that you will take the lead if a problem ensues. A family member will express how relieved he or she is when you pitch in and do your best to handle these matters, as will be the case right now. Tonight: You are on the right path.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

**** You have a strong reaction to what people say Detach: only then will you be able to gain a broader perspective. A friend triggers your imagination as you make plans. Do what you been putting off. Tonight: When the action is...

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

**** Your evening remains fulfilling. Someone around you, perhaps an older person, inspires you to take a leap of faith. A new friend can't seem to get enough of you. Get in touch with what you are feeling. Setting boundaries will be important. Tonight: Dinner for two.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** Data, a lover and, shadowed or when you are having a bad day, could be more serious than you think. You or she has the same bottom line. You simply have different solutions. Respect your differences. You can both be right. Tonight: Make it OK to change plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** You might need to add more relaxation to your day. You allow yourself into whatever you do 100 percent. Every so often, it is wise to take a day off from the hectic pace. Your creativity emerges when dealing with an imaginative friend. Tonight: At a favorite place with friends.

LIBRA (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** Your imagination emerges and delights those around you. A loved one makes it clear that he or she can't get enough of you. You willingly make an adjustment to spend more time with a child. Others let you know what a difference you make. Tonight: In the whirling of living.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** You will feel better when you're at home. Invite a friend or loved one over. The two of you always find something to do. You might have a special piece of news to share, which is likely to catch this person off guard. Tonight: You naturally take on the role of leader of the group.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** You probably make a difference to others. You are willing to be more direct. A child or loved one puts you on a pedestal, and vice versa. Be careful – one of you easily could fall off. Meanwhile, share a spontaneous moment or two, especially with plans. Tonight: Have a nice dinner near water.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** You probably need to hedge different concerns. You are willing to make changes, but if you hesitate or take your time, the situation might not play out exactly as you'd like. Turn to in your sixth sense when making a decision. Tonight: Have a nice dinner near water.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** You might want to do some reflecting. You love spending time with your friends, but you'll need to take care of other matters first. Get some feedback if you have a very strong reaction to a higher-up or to a situation involving your name. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Join a friend for brunch and enjoy catching up on news. Remain sensitive toward a loved one who means a lot to you. This person counts on your caring perspective and listens to your feedback. Join a friend for a movie or an art show. Tonight: Be near great music.

Thought for the day

Of all the crosses I have had to bear during this war, the heaviest has been the Cross of Lorraine.

- EDWARD SPEARS

Kids



Entertainment

Movies



Movies



Infotainment



Regional



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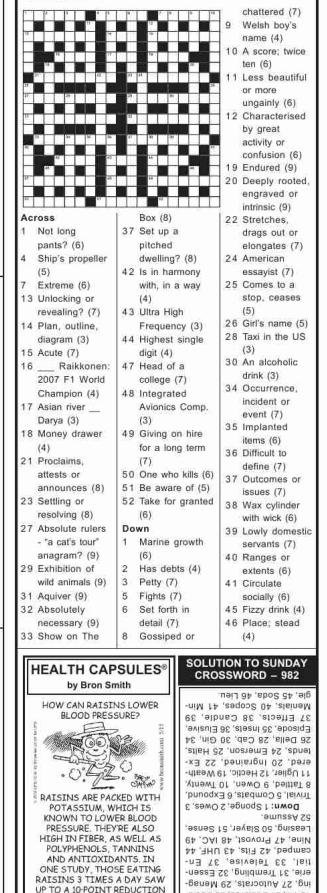
STAR GOLD



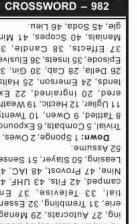
Star Gold



Tribune SUNDAY CROSSWORD – 982



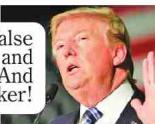
SOLUTION TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD – 982



100 pc willing to testify over Comey conversations: Trump

WASHINGTON, June 10: Donald Trump has said he was "100 per cent" willing to testify over his conversations with James Comey after the sacked FBI chief made explosive revelations to Congress, alleging that the President tried to stop a probe into the Russian interference in the US polls.

F Despite so many false statements and lies, total and complete vindication... And WOW, Comey is a leaker!



Trump's assertion came after he branded Comey as a "leaker" and claimed "total and complete vindication" after ousted FBI director's testimony before a Senate Committee.

Trump said he is "100 per cent" willing to testify under oath on Comey meetings and tell the FBI Special Counsel Robert Mueller that he never asked FBI to stop investigating. Trump also denied asking Comey for a pledge of loyalty.

"One hundred per cent... I would be glad to tell him (special counsel Robert Mueller) exactly what I told you," Trump said at a joint news press conference in the Rose Garden of the White House with the visiting Romanian President.

Trump made the remarks while responding to questions on Comey's explosive testimony in which he accused

said: President Trump, however, refused to say whether his private conversations with Comey were taped. He said people would know about it very soon. "I'll tell you about that maybe sometime in the near future," Trump said.

That was an excuse by the Democrats who lost an election that some people think they shouldn't have lost, because it's almost impossible for the Democrats to lose the Electoral College, as you know. You have to run up the whole East Coast and you have to win everything as a Republican, and that's just what we did," Trump said.

"So it was just an excuse. But we were very very happy and, frankly, James Comey confirmed a lot of what I said. And some of the things that he said just weren't true," he added. - PTI

NASA's undersea mission to simulate life on Mars

WASHINGTON, June 10: NASA is sending a team of four crew members to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, which will spend 10 days simulating a deep space mission with similar objectives to exploration on Mars.

Living and working at the bottom of the ocean mimics the micro-gravity (or harsh) environment that humans will experience in space, researchers at the University of South Florida (USF) in the US said.

The crew will conduct simulated spacewalks, test time delays in communication, evaluate a variety of tools and procedures to be used in future space missions, they said.



The NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) 22 expedition will begin on June 18 when the crew will splash down to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Dominic D'Agostino, Associate Professor at the University of South Florida is one of the four crew members se-

lected for the NEEMO 22 mission.

D'Agostino was selected for his research conducted on how extreme environments impact the human body.

One of the counter-measures developed is a method to induce and sustain nutritional ketosis with ketone supplement formulations. Nutritional ketosis shifts the body's metabolic state to burn fat rather than glucose as its primary fuel.

The USF-patented method will play a pivotal role in advancing the objectives of the NEEMO 22 mission, researchers said. D'Agostino will be in a constant state of nutritional ketosis, which is proven to preserve the genome, protecting DNA. - PTI



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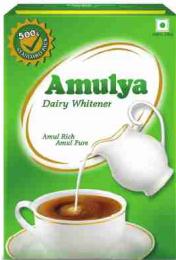
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GROUND DUTY (TECHNICAL)

GROUND DUTY (NON-TECHNICAL)

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Latvia's Ostapenko wins French Open title

PARI, June 10: Unseeded Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia used bold strokes and an unbending will to come back and stun No. 3 Simona Halep 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in an enthralling French Open final on Saturday for the first title of her career.

Ostapenko, ranked only 47th and just 21 in the world's top 100, became one of the most unlikely Grand Slam champions in tennis history. She also denied Halep what would have been her first major championship and the No. 1 ranking.

Halep appeared on the way to a relative runaway, leading by a set and 3-0 in the second, then holding three break points for the chance to go ahead 4-0. But Ostapenko would not go quietly, winning that game and

the next three en route to forcing a third set.

And then, in the third, Ostapenko again summoned a veteran's resolve, taking the last five games after being down a break at 3-1. She took advantage of Halep's mistakes, too, breaking for a 5-3 lead when she hit a backhand that clinged the top of the net, popped way up in the air, then dropped over onto Halep's side.

Soon enough, Ostapenko was striking two more winners on the last two points to provide a fitting conclusion.

It was a match filled with wild momentum swings between two players displaying completely disparate styles: Ostapenko's grip-it-and-rip-it approach vs Halep's more conservative keep-the-ball-in play.

By the end of the match, which went to 3 sets, Ostapenko built a 54-8 edge in winners, but she also had far more unforced errors than Halep, 54-10; - Agencies

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3	Lab.Technician	1. Diploma in Electrical Engineering 2. Diploma in Mechanical Engineering 3. D.Pharm
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MARKS 373

RANK 2

RAKIT GAUTAM
GOSWAMI (CML)

MARKS 381 RANK 1

UTKARSH SAHA
(CML)

**TOPPING
THE CHART
YET AGAIN**

MARKS 373

RANK 2

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All results could not be included due to lack of space

**4 RANKS
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2 WOMEN PLUS

Trisha Bharadwaj grapples with gender issues.

3 HEALTHWISE

Dr. Nayan Jyoti S. Sonowal warns about oral cancer.

The Assam Tribune Sunday



My Parisian dream

VIJAYLAKSHMI BARUA celebrates all things French.

Armed with a few phrases of atrociously-accented French, a dog-eared copy of *The Lonely Planet* and a tight budget, I landed at the Charles de Gaulle Airport late in the evening, scarcely able to believe I had finally made it to Paris. Ever since I can remember, this city has exerted a fascination like none other, and now here I was, with five days to live out my Parisian dream. To be honest, all of this was over a year ago, but recently, I was asked to help out someone with tips for his first trip to Paris, so I guess it was the perfect invitation to revisit those memories.

There were plenty of things I wanted to do in Paris; stay at the luxurious Ritz Paris, climb the Eiffel Tower, get acquainted with the Impressionists at the Musée d'Orsay, try out my newly-acquired language skills on the unsuspecting French, cruise the Seine, view the gargoyles in the Notre Dame Cathedral, check out the good-looking guys over a *café au lait* at a sidewalk café, partake of French wines and cheeses, eat at a Michelin-starred restaurant, shop at the high-end stores along the Champs Élysées, take in a show at the Moulin Rouge, taste French patisserie and charcuterie, dress in a T-shirt and striped beret, drive a canary yellow Citroën with a handsome Frenchman named Jean-Paul by my side, though just Paul would also do. Not surprisingly, I couldn't do them all, limited as I was with my budget and window of five days. But there were a few things that I did do, and that has made this a trip to remember, to say

vour, and perhaps even to return to someday?

In five short days, you can only skim the surface. The parts that most visitors get to see is usually a tour of famous sights one simply has to see because the guide says so. Well, of course, you're going to want to see the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, walk down the Avenue des Champs Élysées and the banks of the Seine. After all, these are iconic landmarks and part of the collective memory of all visitors to the city. And yet, what I've discovered is that if you are willing to slow down just a little to savor Paris without rushing around to cram everything, you get to experience a side of it that's unique, something indefinable and yet so very Parisian.

The expense of Baron Haussmann's wide boulevards, the historic buildings that bark back to an extravagant imperial past, the steep winding streets of bohemian Montmartre – once home to a number of artists, the inviting little artisanal *boulangeries* with their freshly baked breads and sublime pastries, the *fromagerie* where you are hard-pressed to choose from the wide variety of cheeses, the awkward, yet earnest conversations with locals when asking for directions in the maze-like Marais neighbourhood, the courtyards and helped by total strangers, the simple pleasure of a coffee and éclair in one of the charming sidewalk cafés, browsing the little bookstores along the embankment, wandering about the Tuilleries and the Luxembourg Gardens, getting lost in the unfamiliar neighbourhoods and chancing upon quiet sun-drenched courtyards ablaze

with flowers and a bench for the weary walker, the evenings of good food in convivial bistrots – these are all part of the experiences that will delight and charm any first-time visitor to the city.

A stroll along the Seine is definitely recommended, lined as it is with magnificent landmark buildings and sites that are all quite close to one another and can be easily covered on foot. Also not to be missed is the evening cruise on the river when these buildings are all lit up and you begin to understand why Paris is called the City of Lights. There are many places of interest within in easy reach of the city, about an hour or so by train, towns like Provins, Chartres or Rouen that have preserved their medieval character and provides an interesting counterpoint to the urban sprawl of Paris.

At the same time, Paris is a huge multi-cultural metropolis, capital of a major European nation. It is not only its famous sights. We saw the other side of Paris, too. Crowded, charming apartment blocks, graffiti-scarred gritty neighbourhoods most probably occupied by poor African and Asian immigrants. But then that is the underbelly of any big city. We chatted in Bengali with a Bangladeshi selling beer out of a cooler in Montmartre near the Sacré-Cœur Cathedral, and he admitted that he was in Paris illegally, living with four others in a tiny squall room. But returning to Bangladesh was not an option for him.

My enduring memory of Paris is that of a wonderfully vibrant city, infinitely fascinating and undeniably beautiful. I can't claim to know her well, but I do consider myself fortunate to have made her acquaintance, and for now that is satisfaction enough.

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5 tips for the first-time visitor to Paris



To beat the crowds, start with an early morning visit to the Notre Dame Cathedral in the historic heart of Paris, followed by a stroll through the interesting Latin Quarter. Break for lunch at one of the many bistros.



Take a late evening cruise on the Seine – when all the landmark buildings are lit up and the city is at its best.



Stroll through the Marais neighbourhood with its narrow streets and numerous cafés, bars and shops for a feel of 18th century Parisian architecture and 21st century vibe. Definitely taste the delicious delights of the *boulangeries*, especially their freshly-baked pain au chocolat.



Spend some time in Marais to experience a less touristy area.



Time permitting, a visit to Versailles is recommended to marvel at the extravagant lifestyle of the Bourbons.



Living differently

MAMATA MISHRA charts the course of the disability rights movement.

From the days when disability was considered as an absence of livelihood opportunities and the term 'intervention' only meant charity, the disability rights movement has come a long way—creating new prospects for a dignified life and livelihood for persons with disability.

Rights activist Javed Abidi, who has been spearheading the movement since the Nineties and was instrumental in bringing the Persons With Disabilities (PWD) Act of 1995, believes that the movement has entered a crucial stage with the passing of the new legislation—Rights of Persons with Disability (RPWD) Act, 2016, and a lot depends on how the activists take it forward.

"Though late, the country has finally realised that persons affected with psy-

chosocial and learning disabilities also have rights. The incorporation of 14 new disabilities along with the existing seven forms of disabilities, is not just a three-fold increase; it has also made the legislation more comprehensive. It enlarges the focus, at least in India, in a very significant way," Abidi told *The Assam Tribune* in an interview.

The disabilities incorporated in the Act are—Blindness, Low-vision, Leprosy-cured persons, Hearing Impairment (deaf and hard of hearing), Locomotor Disability, Dwarfism, Intellectual Disability, Mental Illness, Autism, Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy and Chronic Neurological conditions, Specific Learning Disabilities, Multiple Sclerosis, Speech and Language Disability, Thalassemia, Hemophilia, Sickle Cell disease, Multiple Disabilities, including Deaf-Blindness, acid attack victims and Parkinson's disease.

As the Director of the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), and the founder of the Disabilities Rights Group, the wheelchair-bound activist has been generating awareness among the rights activists and other stakeholders through a nationwide networking.

"Though a lot is yet to be achieved, there is a positive change in the percep-

tions of society on the entire issue. On an average, 12 to 15 differently-abled persons are coming into the civil services every year, who can be the role models for others to emulate. Society has started accepting such people and with the government policy promoting better accessibility, such people would no more be confined in isolation," he said, expressing a cautious optimism.

Rizwan Sampeah and Lokesh Kumar, two physically challenged persons had to fight a tough battle to get their rightful place in the civil services, and now we have Ira Singhhal, the first physically challenged woman to top civil services. Though things are changing for the better, there is a tremendous scope of improvement. Change of mindsets take time, but again, it's imperative for any rights movement," he says.

In another significant provision, the RPWD Act has made accessibility mandatory for all public and private buildings, built-in public space. It's a compulsory rule for obtaining building permission now. All the existing buildings will also have to adhere to the norms through retrofitting, within the next five years.

"Even justice would be more accessible now, with provisions for penalties for offences committed against persons with

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4 THIRD EYE

Indrani Raimedhi takes off from Melania Trump's hand swat.



UP CLOSE

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Breaking free

KALPANA PATOWARY's recent musical forays are inspirational – to say the least.

When Vidya Balan's character in *Begum Jaan* had to cry out in pain, beaten and brokenhearted, music director Anu Malik turned to Kalpana Patowary to create that feeling of pathos and unbridled anguish. This song *Ore kaharo* is the perfect example of what this versatile singer from Assam wishes to accomplish in her musical journey. Despite being a household name in the Bhojpuri heartland (as also in Assam), thanks to her superhit songs, Patowary aspires for more than just the fame that the film industry brings. That's the very reason why this multi-faceted artiste has worked on several unique projects that focus on different musical genres.

She was in Assam over the last couple of months to perform at different *Bihu*s all over the State, but while doing so, she also managed to dig into the cultural practices and the history of those very regions and came out with several pearls of musical wisdom. "I went to this Mishing village in Majuli and met the women. I sat with them in their kitchens and asked them to sing for me. There is so much that we still don't know about the music of our land. I loved the *kabab*, which is a song of lament, where the daughter tells her father, crying, why he didn't kill her at birth, now that he is sending her to another family," Patowary says. She now has plans to introduce these new acquisitions learnings into her fusion work with her band *Vagge*.

Come August, Patowary will be in Oslo, participating in the Mela Music festival and all these new folk experiments will be presented there. She is the daughter of folk artist Bipin Patowary, who gave her the initial training in Kamrupiya and Goalpariya music. Taking that legacy forward, Patowary is making her own inroads into the musical history of her home-state and Bihar. One of her latest projects was based on the Champaran Satyagraha of 1917, which was when Mahatma Gandhi plunged headlong into the Freedom Movement of India. She released this travelogue-style musical piece (in April) to commemorate the 100 years of this peasant uprising, and the release function in Delhi was attended by several Indian ministers and government officials. This musical endeavour also brought to the fore how Bhojpuri was the soul of the Champaran Satyagraha and also the main tool used by Gandhi to connect with the people of Champaran. However, unfortunately, Bhojpuri has still not been included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. "Bihar or Bhojpuri films are often looked down upon, and that is something I have really felt bad about. But the history of Champaran is something we should all be proud of and I felt it was my responsibility as a Bhojpuri folk singer to bring this out into the public," Patowary says.

During Bihu, she had also launched another project titled *Jimo Chhayan*, where she has brought together the Bihu music of the different communities of Assam, including the Tiwas, the Deuris, the Mishings, etc., and kept them in their original dialect and tune. "Many a times we take the music of these different communities and we make it 'Assamese', letting go of their distinct identity. This time I have tried to keep their originality intact," she says.

Her forays into the music of Assam, with projects like *The Sacred Scriptures of the Monks*, that extol the greatness of the verses written by the Vaishnava-vite saints of Assam, and her attempt to give due recognition to Bhikhar Thakur – popularly known as the Shakespeare of Bhojpuri, make her a unique Indian songstress. So, while she gained popularity with some rather raunchy numbers, she has tried to break free of that 'playback' image and create music that matters. In today's musical scenario in Assam, where the society is crying foul about the degrading musical content, Patowary feels that it is the responsibility of the good artistes to create better songs so that the trashy songs get sidelined. "No point complaining. There is venom and there is anti-venom. You have to spend some money and create good work. Only work can kill work. And if such kind of work is becoming popular, then we need to look at our society as well. We need to look into our homes, something is wrong somewhere, no point blaming films or music for that," she asserts.



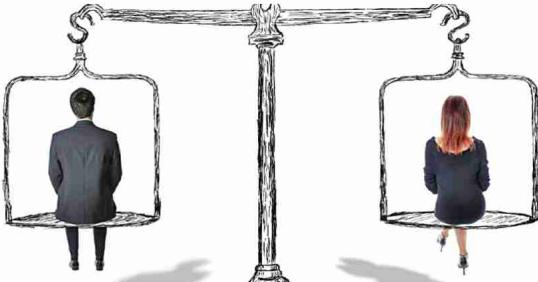
WOMEN PLUS

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The 'SHE' space

Understanding gender sensitivity.



A multiple number of times I have come across interesting insights on gender issues while communicating with the people in Assam. To me, it either turned out to be indulging in an argument or taking a "silent therapy on tolerance". While putting a question on what feminism means and what are the gender-sensitive issues in the State, the answers seemed quite surprising. Many people laughed out loud when I asked them the basic question on how they see a woman. Most of them had nothing to say, apart from perceiving females as a "household commodity". When I asked some of them what gender means, most of them had nothing to say, except to confuse it with the mere difference between what makes one a man and a woman. While the world is

moving fast forward with lots of achievements and empowerment, where are we? Why can we not progress? Why can't a strong woman come into the forefront and do something extraordinary? Even if an extraordinary woman happens to come into the limelight, why is that so short-lived?

Assam is one amongst many other states in India with the lowest Female Empowerment Index or Femdex, according to the McKinsey Global Survey of 2015. While one section of the youth aspiring for higher studies has temporarily or permanently moved to urban hubs like Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, the rest are still left behind with ignorance and heights of irrationality and impracticality. The complex issues plaguing the State are wide-ranging, from issues of trafficking, vi-

olence, superstitious practices of witch-hunting to increasing cases of sexual assault and rape. Moreover, issues of ill health, lack of hygiene, and illiteracy have added to the woes.

Sensitivity towards gender in these places and amongst the people will not come in a short span of time. It involves the designing of a platform for both

men and women to understand the arenas of gender sensitivity. An inclusive educational platform is the need. To be precise and clear, gender is a social and cultural construct. Ignorance follows because of the confusion between the words "gender" and "sex". According to feminist discourse, while sex is defined as a biological distinction between a man and a woman, gender is just an artificial construct.

To my mind, what comes as an urgent wake-up call is to make the State more responsive towards this gripping question of gender. And not to get confused; gender doesn't only embrace women, it covers subjugated sections of men, too. Educational institutions should think on these issues and try to make "feminism" a compulsory part of the educational curriculum, with more feminist insights and more inspiring examples of successful women.

Every single person goes in vain is a loss. I believe the North-East can produce more people like Irom Sharmila, Indira Goswami, Sanjukta Parashar, Dipa Karmakar, Mary Kom and Patricia Mukhini. But what is needed is a platform to push the true spirit of such hidden personalities into the lime-light.

I believe in my State, I have firm faith in the country and in all the "SHE's" occupying the space. Let's make our minds more broad and find out what we actually lack, and what are the issues that need serious attention and consideration. Causing physical harm to one another in the name of class, religion and caste can be of no help. If that is the case we won't have any prospects of development; development not in terms of material growth or rise in more GDPs, but real human development, promoting human values and bringing their calibres into the forefront.

According to feminist discourse, while sex is defined as a biological distinction between a man and a woman, gender is just an artificial construct.

LET'S CREATE

The World Environment Day was recently celebrated with much pomp and show. But it's not just about one day. There is so much more we can do for the environment on a daily basis. And please stop thinking that the environment is a third person entity, it's not like we are doing some charity. We can't start thinking that by not cutting down a tree, we are doing it some favour. Wake up, it's us that we're saving.

While planting saplings and managing waste is the least we can do, there is another way to be of help to the environment. That is by trying to save the birds and by being a little more concerned about their existence. We have cut down their living spaces to create our own concrete jungle. It's time we give them back what they lost. Keeping birdfeeders and water around your dwelling space might be a big respite for tired birds in these long, hot, summer days. And it takes very little effort to make one.

Here are some ideas:



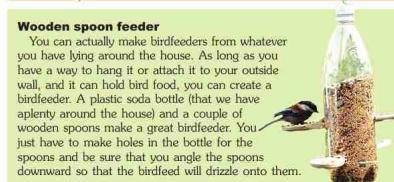
Orange cup birdfeeders
These are beautiful and very aromatic. Simply slice an orange into half and remove the pulp completely. Then just fill it with some birdseed and hang them. You can just poke some holes in the orange and tie twine for hanging. One orange will give you two easy-to-make feeders and they smell wonderful.



Wine bottle birdfeeders
Even old wine bottles can be turned into beautiful birdfeeders. You just have to create a base and a small saucer works perfectly. Now drill holes into the sides of the bottles to allow the bird food to come through. Fill the bottles through the lid. You just have to add a wire or rope to hang them.



Plate and bowl birdfeeders
Make a beautiful birdfeeder from a saucer and a matching bowl – or a mismatched one if you prefer. You just have to drill a hole in the saucer and attach the two together. This looks great and the saucer protects your birds from rain, sun and other weather elements, sort of like an umbrella.



Wooden spoon feeder
You can actually make birdfeeders from whatever you have lying around the house. As long as you have a way to hang it or attach it to your outside wall, and it can hold bird food, you can create a birdfeeder. A plastic soda bottle (that we have aplenty around the house) and a couple of wooden spoons make a great birdfeeder. You just have to make holes in the bottle for the spoons and be sure that you angle the spoons downward so that the birdfeeder will drizzle onto them.

Gram flour chips



Method:

In a large bowl, combine the gram flour, baking soda, turmeric powder, carom seeds, oil and water and mix until a crumbly dough forms.

Gradually add water, mixing by hand, until the dough is elastic. Transfer dough to a greased surface, knead until smooth.

Transfer into a bowl, cover and set aside for 30 minutes.

On a lightly-oiled surface, flatten and roll out the dough into a thin, rectangular sheet.

Alternatively, set the dough between lightly-oiled sheets of plastic wrap and roll out.

Cut the dough into one-by-three-inch strips.

Heat about two inches of vegetable oil in a deep frying pan.

Working in batches, fry the strips, until golden and crisp, turning once or twice.

Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on a plate lined with kitchen paper.

Serve hot with chilli pickle or coriander chutney.

Ingredients:

- Gram flour 1 cup
- Baking soda ¼ tsp
- Carom seeds (ajwain) ½ tsp
- Turmeric powder a pinch
- Oil 2 tbsp
- Water 1/3 cup or as required
- Salt to taste
- Vegetable oil for frying

strips

Heat about two inches of vegetable oil in a deep frying pan.

Working in batches, fry the strips, until golden and crisp, turning once or twice.

Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on a plate lined with kitchen paper.

Serve hot with chilli pickle or coriander chutney.



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

Peri-peri chicken

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| • Chicken drumsticks | 6 |
| • Chicken stock/water | ½ cup |
| • Garlic paste | 2 tbsp |
| • Ginger paste | ½ tsp |
| • Rice flour | ¼ cup |
| • Flour | 1 tbsp |
| • Cumin powder | ½ tsp |
| • Chilli powder | 1 tsp |
| • Pepper power | ¼ tsp |
| • Butter | 2 tbsp |
| • Tomato ketchup | ½ cup |
| • Tabasco sauce | 3 tbsp |
| • Salt | to taste |
| • Vegetable oil | for frying |

Method:

Place the chicken drumsticks in a pot, along with the stock/water, ginger paste, garlic salt and to taste.

Bring to a boil, reduce heat and cook, uncovered, until water evaporates and the chicken is cooked through. Remove the chicken from the pan and set the chicken aside, to cool.

Heat vegetable oil in a frying pan over high heat.

In a small bowl, mix together the rice flour, flour,

cumin powder, salt, pepper and half a teaspoon of chilli powder.

Dredge the chicken drumsticks in the flour mixture to coat well if the excess flour.

Fry the chicken drumsticks, over medium heat, until golden brown, turning once or twice.

Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on a plate lined with kitchen paper.

In a separate frying pan, combine the butter, ketchup, hot sauce, and remaining chilli powder.

Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer until slightly thickened.

Add the fried chicken and mix gently, until completely coated.

Remove and serve with mayonnaise or sour cream.

STYLE FILE

Shankari Chaudhury

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When aesthetics meet ethics

Bamboo – the earth-friendly option for home décor

Sustainable or eco-friendly design is a lifestyle change. It is the mantra that everybody is chanting these days. The entire construction process is experiencing a radical shift as it jolts forward with one single motive – to reduce carbon footprints.

As we take a look closer home, we see a diverse range of sustainable materials, including bamboo, cane and a variety of silks, available in Assam. The call of the hour is to optimise the use of these raw materials and create designs which not only give back to Mother Earth, but are also extremely versatile and good looking. With a plethora of options available in our Northeastern region, all we really need to do is relook at the opportunities with a fresh pair of eyes.

Until now, most of the eco-friendly products have been hand-made which come with a premium price tag, that not only drives consumers away, but are also quite conservative in their design. However, with people getting more and more aware of sustainability and the impact it is making in our everyday lives, the market is now ready for an explosion of creativity and size. It is now time to launch eco-furniture or eco-friendly products in the mainstream; mass-market offerings made with materials that can be found right in our backyards.

One such sustainable alternative is the 'bamboo'.

Bamboo can be flattened into flooring, moulded into furniture, pressed into veneers, sliced up to make window blinds, heck you can even build your entire house out of bamboo.

The benefits of bamboo are manifold:

► It is naturally anti-bacterial and is also water-resistant, making it a superior product to many of the other hardwoods that are used today.

► Bamboo has self-regenerating properties which mean that once it has been cut, it does not need to be replaced as it will continue to grow from the root.

► Fascinatingly, bamboo is a wonder grass that can replace other costly building materials and provide homes at very low costs but not at the cost of safety as it is safe enough to stand during seismic jerks, hurricanes and other natural forces as found in many research studies.

Use of bamboo in interiors:



Decorative panels or screens

Bamboo can be used to create interesting screens that can be placed indoor as well as outdoors.



Furniture

Bamboo can be moulded into beautiful furniture which lends a special rustic charm to any space. Bamboo furniture is suitable for use both inside and outside as it is stable and extremely light and has a robust and easy-care design.



Accessories

Disposable tableware doesn't have to be bad for the environment! Bamboo can be used to make tableware which is sustainably grown, organically, without fertilisers, cured, then hand cut and peeled. It can be tossed directly into your organic compost, making it a natural choice for an earth-friendly celebration.

Unfortunately, even though bamboo has been used extensively in the Northeast to make interior products, we need to upscale them with vigour. Focusing on fresh and innovative designs and marketing strategies, we need to outplay their fierce competitors and showcase the versatility of this amazing material.



Image credit: Pixabay



chilli powder, salt, pepper and half a teaspoon of the chilli powder.

Dredge the chicken drumsticks in the flour mixture to coat well if the excess flour.

Fry the chicken drumsticks, over medium heat, until golden brown, turning once or twice.

Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on a plate lined with kitchen paper.

In a separate frying pan, combine the butter, ketchup, hot sauce, and remaining chilli powder.

Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer until slightly thickened.

Add the fried chicken and mix gently, until completely coated.

Remove and serve with mayonnaise or sour cream.

FICTION

Dr. Baijayanta Saharia
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Making its way along a winding road up a hill, our white coloured Toyota Innova came to a halt in front of the dilapidated Cabo de Rama fort in Canacona, Goa. My wife and I got down. The sky was laden with monsoon clouds and a light drizzle had just stopped. The sun peeked out for a while before disappearing again. We walked on the concrete path that led across the dry moat to the arched gateway where a few caretakers lay on the cemented benches, broken at the edges, in deep slumber. It was siesta time that would last for a couple of hours; a common ritual followed across Goa. There was nothing much inside the mosque-covered walls of the fort except tall trees with their wide canopies and creeping vegetation beneath. As had been directed by our driver, we climbed up along the western wall. Two old, rusted iron cannons lay on a brick platform in disuse, possibly for decades. Apart from us, there were a few blonde, blue-eyed tourists who clicked a few photographs, lost interest and moved their way out. Gathering enough courage I climbed on top of the wall and sat there for a while, savouring the breathtaking view of the sea waves lashing on the steep rocky cliff below. The brick parapet wall had gaps like missing teeth through which my wife peered at the sea. On finding that there was nothing else to see we decided to go back to the waiting car.

Across the main gate of the fort was a small white-washed and Mangalorean-tilted structure the signature of which read Santo Antonio Church. A light drizzle made us scamper for cover in the verandah of the church. There was not a soul to be seen, apart for a few cows grazing near the wall of the fort. The doors and windows of the church were shut. A strong wind blew away the drizzle. Deciding to have a look around I went to the rear of the church.

A lady wearing a floral skirt, white blouse and rubber sandals was cleaning the backyard with a broom. She saw me the moment I saw her. The



The tale of Philomena Rodriguez-I

lady, though tanned, did not look Indian. Although she had a mop of unruly grey hair and a wrinkling face, she did not look very old. She smiled at me as I nodded my head. She had a perfect set of teeth that did not match her otherwise elderly appearance. "Hello," I greeted her.

"Hello," she acknowledged, in a rather strange accent. Though there was warmth in her smile, there was something in her bluish green eyes that did not seem quite usual. They seemed to look through me and beyond.

"You do not look Indian. Are you Portuguese?" an inquisitive me could not resist asking.

"Yes, I was. Now I am as Indian as you are. I belong to this soil now."

I thought Philomena was being very patriotic to a nation that threw away her own breed. "But how did you end up in this desolate fort? When did you come?" I wanted to know more about this strange lady.

Her eyes went towards the eastern side of the fort. My eyes followed hers

and all I could see were tall trees, below which were crosses made of concrete, all surrounded by thick foliage.

A graveyard... perhaps, I thought. "It is a long story... a long journey but I shall make it brief for you."

Philomena Henriques belonged to a village near the Portuguese town of Estoril. Her father was a farmer and her mother worked in the Quinta de Maquinique. A beautiful 18-year-old Philomena was smitten by a local boy Alfonso Luis Rodriguez. He was four years older to her and had opted to join the Portuguese army. Following the training period, Alfonso set sail for Goa, then a colony of Portugal in far away India. Philomena had tears in her eyes as she saw him off at the Lisbon Port. Alfonso promised to return soon and marry her. Several years passed by with only letters that came to her once in a couple of months. On the wintry Christmas of 1959, a heavily tanned, blue-eyed, handsome hunk Alfonso Luis Rodriguez suddenly appeared in front of the petite Philomena. She ran to him. He grabbed her and planted his lips on hers. Both held each other tightly as if one of them would be snatched away. Both wept. Fifteen days later, they were pronounced man and wife. The newlyweds boarded a ship to Goa. Philomena's father Jose and mother Christalhana bade a tearful farewell to their beloved daughter knowing very well that they may not see her for a very long time.

There was trouble brewing for the Portuguese in their enclaves in the recently independent India who had already annexed Dadra and Nagar Haveli and was planning to liberate Goa, Daman and Diu. Resistance against the Portuguese rule initially started in the late 1930s by a French educated Goan by the name of Tristao de Braganza Cunha who was supported by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose. Later the movement was supported by the socialist leader Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. It gained momentum in the late 1950s when the Azad Gomantak Dal (Free Goa Party) and United Front of Goans started conducting a series of violent attacks.

(To be continued)

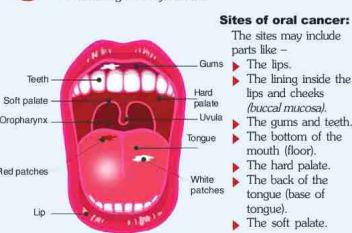
HEALTHWISE

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Oral cancer

We still believe that oral cancer is caused only when we chew too much tobacco. But there are many other factors that may also cause oral cancer.

O ral cancer, which takes place in your mouth, occurs when the cancer cells in your body grow out of control and cause damage to the surrounding healthy tissues.



Sites of oral cancer:

- The sites may include parts like –
 - The lips.
 - The lining inside the lips and cheeks (*buccal mucosa*).
 - The gums and teeth.
 - The bottom of the mouth (floor).
 - The hard palate.
 - The back of the tongue (base of tongue).
 - The soft palate.

Signs and symptoms of oral cancer:

- Early detection is the key.
- Colour – White or red patches seen on the linings of the mouth or tongue.
- Ulcer – Mouth ulcer that does not heal within several weeks.
- Trismus – Mouth opening is reduced, which can lead to –
 - Difficulty in speech.
 - Difficulty in mastication.
 - Compromised oral hygiene.
- Numbness – It can be on the lips and tongue.
- Sockets – Extraction sockets that do not heal.
- Lumps – Persistent lumps that do not go away.
- Xerostomia – Dryness of the mouth is seen.
- Pain – Unusual pain in the mouth, neck and jaw.
- Weight loss.
- Change in taste of food, etc.

Causes of oral cancer:

- Most common causes of oral cancer include:
 - Smoking – People who smoke cigarettes, bidi, cigar pipes, etc.
 - Tobacco – People who chew *ghutka*, *panmasala*, etc., and snuff (*khaini*).

Apart from these, other causes may include:

- Excessive consumption of alcohol.
- Excessive exposure to sunlight, especially at a very young age.
- Human Papilloma Virus. It is sexually transmitted.
- Poor nutrition and diet, i.e., a diet rich in red meat, fried food and processed meat.
- Sharp edges of tooth that keep on impinging the soft tissues.
- Exposure to chemicals like Asbestos, Sulphuric acids, Formaldehyde, etc.
- Prior radiation treatment in regions like the head, neck or both.
- Family history of oral cancer.

Treatment:

The treatment depends on how far the cancer has spread. If the cancer has not spread from beyond the mouth or Oropharynx, the area can be treated using surgery alone. But if the cancer has spread to other parts of the body, then achieving a cure is unlikely. However, it is possible to slow the progress of the cancer

and help relieve symptoms by using surgery, with or without radiotherapy.

Other methods of treatment include radiation therapy (followed by Chemotherapy), and nutritional and even psychological treatment may also be done.



Prevention of oral cancer:

Prevention is better than cure. So,

- Say no to tobacco.
- Limit alcohol.
- Eat healthy.
- Exercise regularly.
- Limit sun exposure.
- Visit a dentist on a regular basis for thorough oral examination.

MONEY SMART

Dipankar Jakharia
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B okato reached for his tea cup and before taking his next sip, said, "Dada, I've understood what mutual funds are. I know it is the best thing for commoners like us. You've been telling us since long." Stunned by his sudden reaction, I took hold of my breath and looked towards him again. "At the end of the day, the cum needs to give milk," explained Bokato.

Bokato is the security guard in our housing society and makes extra income by washing cars in his free time. His forefathers were in the milk business, but he prefers an easy life. He keeps his savings with my wife and occasionally takes a small loan or two from her. Although I've opened a bank account for him long back, he is least interested in transacting in a bank.

For him, all my big and boring talks hardly matter. By now, he knows mutual funds are good. But he wants to know how to go about it in his own simple style. So, here come five easy steps to look for before investing in mutual funds:

Assess the current financial situation

The very first thing a small and retail investor needs to do is assess your financial situation. By doing so, you will know what kind of risk-taking

capacity you will be able to weather. Only after risk-profiling, will you be able to take a call on which product to go for. Bokato is not a very highly ambitious or even informative person, but he scores high after risk-profiling. This is because he doesn't have any liability. Nor is he expected to maintain brothers and sisters, who are doing much better financially.

Researching on instruments

Researching on the products is extremely important. If you don't give importance to the composition of

the product, you will never understand whether you should have them, or if not, why. More so, without knowing the composition, you will not be able to take a timely decision when the need comes in the market demands. Research will also help you jump into another instrument in the same category if or when the particular instrument's performance is not satisfactory. You should also find out if there is any cost involved, and if so, at what ratio, and compare the two.

Diversify
The single-most important objec-

tive of diversification is to maximise your return by investing in different instruments which will act differently to the same event affecting the market. Mutual funds are itself a diversified product, but your choice shouldn't react adversely to a same market event. That means, within your choice or choices, there should be counter instruments which will react inversely to balance any market moving event.

Don't make it crowded

Keep it simple. I've seen some high-profile investors investing in more than 10 to 12 mutual funds at one go. Mutual funds, by nature, are professionally managed diversified funds. A mix of four to six funds is sufficient to maximise returns and minimise risks. With more products, there is a chance of overlapping your holding, which essentially means more than one fund holding the same script or papers. Overlapping of product in your portfolio is counter-productive and unnecessary.

Give time

Shah Rukh Khan didn't become a superstar in a year or two. It takes persistent performances to become a star. There maybe minor hiccups in life but they perform only with time, the same is true with mutual funds.

Bokato started with two SIPs of Rs. 500 each. Before leaving, Bokato gifted my wife a bottle of homemade ghee, advising her to have at least two tablespoons everyday, since it makes one sharp and smart.

Open for all

Steps to remember before investing in mutual funds



MY SPACE

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T he window in my first floor bedroom, an ordinary window has given me a view of their world that I had been missing. A view that is painful, yet hopeful. A sunset that has urged me to fill my life with more sun.

It is a view of an Aged Care Home, an old but well-maintained little place. I can see well into three rooms of the home from that window in my room.

Someday, I see beds occupied. Some days, they are empty.

I see the old men and women sitting by the window in the orange

Stop and smell the roses

glow of the afternoon sun, staring into the nothingness that their world has become, but surely only seeing the completeness that their life was once.

And my one-year-old baby sleeps peacefully as I look at them.

A sunset and a sunrise envelope me at the same time.

And each day, that view puts my life into perspective.

Each day, it makes me realise the fragility of life. It reminds me how we rush for nothing.

I have brought my girl into a cruel world. Into a world, where you are pushed into the rat race.

I am scared for her, for me. There are waiting lists in day-

care, in schools, let alone college. She must join swimming lessons, you must add her name to the waiting-lists, you must put her in a dance school, read to her those ABC books. That is the advice I get, and as reluctant as I am, I do all that. With the fear that if one day, she lags behind the others, I will be to blame. I want her to succeed in life.

And, for my success, I rush too. For the next job, the next promotion. But the windows of the old age home tell me to take a different path. To take things slowly.

Those empty eyes tell me to savour life in slow motion. They

tell me to play with my baby a bit more, to read more books, to go out for more walks, to eat more ice-cream, to laugh more, to be more silly.

They tell me that the waiting-lists, the shopping lists, the promotions, the money, the new expensive home and car are not the things I will remember when I sit on one of those chairs, one day.

They tell me success is not all those things.

I will remember my baby's smell, I will remember the trips to the park, those long drives, those candlelight dinners. I will remember only the times I took slowly. Those will be the highlights of my

life, my success.

And as I watch the occupied bed from yesterday empty today, I know that is what I am going to do.

I will make a success out of my life by living, not rushing. Success, for me, will be lazy afternoon walks, trips to the park, culinary exploits, more books, more soaking in the rain, more sun, lots of ice creams, more tickles, more giggles.

When the sun sets on my life, I will bask in the plethora of memories I would have created.

An ordinary window and those empty eyes have urged me to do that, to take a different path.

Power couples?

Politics does not interest me half as much as the couples in politics do. In that case, I am not competent enough to tell you what made Trump jettison the climate deal, but I could wax eloquent about the weird turn the Trump Melania marriage is taking. Melania adjusts her hair in Rome to avoid holding podgy Donald's hand, gives him a hand swat that is so evident a rebuff, that too before the media in Tel Aviv. They kiss – as if unable to bear each other's lips. She is adamant about not staying in the White House with him. I would love to sport one of those Free Melania campaign T-shirts that have appeared in a bid to get the Slovenian beauty away from her bony of a husband. But now it looks like wifey is hitting back and Donald can scowl all he wants. Unlike the Obamas, the Trumps are making a complete hash of being the First Couple.

Let's face it – less and less people in this schizoid world today believe what Balzac called marriage – the immortality of the souls. Couples therapy, marriage counsellors, divorce lawyers – everything points to one direction. Marriage as an institution is coming under the swing of the wrecking ball and it's scaring the hell out of us. It's not just the newly-spawned relationship experts who are dispensing with tips to give your marriage the kiss of life. No less than the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche suggested that before marrying, we should ask ourselves – will we be able to converse well with this person into our old age? I would, as a woman, want a minor readjustment here. I think I speak for all women when I ask a bride – will your groom let you speak without interruption till he faces inevitable loss of hearing in old age? If so, go for it, girl.

Why everybody, including yours truly, is gobbling up what seems so patently useless news about a power couple actually goes beyond vicarious pleasure. At the root of every successful marriage is a strong partnership. And this partnership, in the case of power couples, casts its effect on other areas of statesmanship. A leader who is a bumbling failure in his ties with his own spouse can hardly be expected to shine elsewhere. Can

he be trusted to form stable alliances, inspire loyalty and give his hundred per cent to his office when things are less than perfect at home?

Trust the French to restore our faith in romantic love and matrimony. The relationship between the new French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Trogneux has captivated the world. When Macron was 15, he took part in a school play directed by

THIRD EYE

Indrani Raimeshi
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Let's face it – less and less people in this schizoid world today believe what Balzac called marriage – the immortality of the souls. Couples therapy, marriage counsellors, divorce lawyers – everything points to one direction. Marriage as an institution is coming under the swing of the wrecking ball and it's scaring the hell out of us.

Trogneux, a teacher and 24 years his senior. Brigitte went from being his teacher, lover, partner and wife and has always been his mentor and inspiration. "Without her, I won't be me," claimed Macron at a recent interview. Her adult children from previous marriage, one of them of Macron's age, support the couple. Brigitte mentors her young husband in her caring, committed way, including even guiding his voice modula-

tion in election speeches. France can hope much from a President who stayed committed to his one true love despite of a huge age gap, facing hostility and opposition from both sides of the family.

Then, at the other end of the spectrum, away from this sentimental souffle, you have a woman who shares her bed with one of the most feared dictators of the present – the megalomaniac Kim Jong Un, a rogue leader bent on pushing the world towards a nuclear apocalypse. Even as the world's eyeballs are glued on the man who thinks nothing of liquidating his own kith and kin, his wife Ri Sol-Ju remains an elusive figure. She had performed on stage as an entertainer during her earlier days. After the birth of a baby daughter she mysteriously disappeared for nearly eight months, raising fears that she had been bumped off. But recently she is seen by his side, all dolled up and quite at ease. In a desperately poor Communist country she wears Chanel suits and carries Christian Dior handbags. Nothing compares to that, what? It has been reported that when the Korean First Lady speaks, it sounds like raindrops on roses. With a husband like that, that kind of micro-decibel hush is a sheer survival tactic, don't you think?

Jackie Kennedy choosing to stay away as Marilyn breathlessly sang "Happy Birthday" for JFK in those cringe-worthy moments, Lady Diana saying there were three in their relationship, meaning Charles, herself and Camilla, an embattled Hilary facing the worst debacle of her life during Monicagate – those are some very public memories of how the high and mighty betray and lacerate each other.

Many of you, like me, go all mushy listening to *'Don't cry for me, Argentina'* by Madonna, from the musical *Evita*. It is all about Eva Peron, the Argentinian First Lady from 1946 to 1952. Evita became a powerful political figure helped by husband president Juan Peron. An illegitimate child, and with a past of questionable morals, Evita emerged as the champion of the poor. She inspired millions with her campaigns to give women voting rights. To her supporters, she was an angel. To her detractors, she was a controversial figure. What Evita makes me think is, can't unhappy power wives go ahead and do something that is larger than themselves and their floundering marriages?

FORECAST

JUNE 12 – 18, 2017

ARIES

(MAR 21 – APR 19)

Mercury is changing signs now. This will accelerate your daily pace. Suddenly, this week you've got things to do, places to go and people to meet! In particular, you will want to travel and take short trips.

TAURUS

(APR 20 – MAY 20)

You are in grand form! This week will be one of the best times all year. It is a good time for you to buy wardrobe items for yourself.

GEMINI

(MAY 21 – JUN 20)

Well, you are certainly feeling in top form. This is like putting a good saddle on a good horse. You cannot lose. Naturally, you will be more talkative and eager to communicate with others.

CANCER

(JUN 21 – JUL 20)

There are contradictory messages for you this week. You want to socialise. You will feel warm and affectionate. You will also be delighted to engage more than usual with clubs, groups and associations.

LEO

(JUL 21 – AUG 20)

You will be eager to talk to friends, especially younger people, about your ideas and your hopes and dreams for the future. You will think about your goals more than usual.

VIRGO

(AUG 21 – SEP 20)

Monday through Wednesday brings good news for you. Venus will attract wealth this period. People will do favours for you and give you things or let you use something they own.

LIBRA

(SEP 21 – OCT 20)

Venus actually rules two signs – Libra and Taurus. You can look forward to enjoying the company of friends. Good luck comes your way. This weekend, learn to relax.

SCORPIO

(OCT 21 – NOV 20)

Relations with close friends will improve. This is one of the best placements for all relationship! It means there will be an easy give-and-take dealing with others and that all your relationships will be more affectionate.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOV 21 – DEC 20)

Mercury will sit opposite your sign, giving you a chance to clarify and explain things to someone, especially a spouse. It's a good time to consult experts.

CAPRICORN

(DEC 21 – JAN 20)

Mercury joins the Sun in your chart and increases your desire to be efficient and organised in everything you do. It will be easy to do mental work. Pay attention to details.

AQUARIUS

(JAN 21 – FEB 19)

This is a playful, fun-loving time for you! Mercury is puckish and a trickster. It makes you want to express your opinions. Creative ideas and activities will appear.

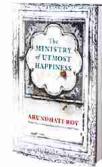
PISCES

(FEB 20 – MAR 19)

Monday through Thursday will make you want to roll up your sleeves and tackle home repairs. This period will also encourage lively family discussions.

PAGE TURNER

Bringing you books the chattering are talking about.

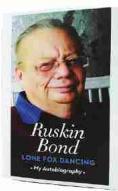


The Ministry of Utmost Happiness

Arundhati Roy's new book is an ambitious look at the turmoil in India. The book speaks itself from Old Delhi to the new metropolis, Kashmir and the forests of Central India. It is both an acting love story and the chronicle of a country gone astray.

Lone Fox Dancing

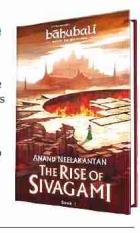
Here it is at last – the definitive autobiography of Ruskin Bond, one of India's best loved writers. From his bond with his father, the exotic days in Jamnagar, to his boarding school stint in Shimla, his forays into writing, to loneliness and nostalgia, all are laid out for the readers pleasure. This book is enduring magic, just like Bond himself.



Don't Disturb the Dead; The story of the Ramsay Brothers

In the 1970s and '80s, the Ramsay Brothers began their horror filmmaking spree. Author Shampa Gupta argues that while they were superb films and disruptive too, the industry did not acknowledge them but the public have been hooked. This is the gripping account of Ramsay films in all their method and madness.

The rise of Sivagami; Book of Bahubali – Before the Beginning



Blessed by the sacred Gauribarbat, Mahismati is an empire of abundance. The king supports the loyalty of its subjects, including his loyal slaves. But is everything as it seems? What about the dirty secret at its core? What about the orphaned Sivagami preparing revenge? Author Anand Neelakantan scripts a masterful tale.

5 THINGS/ Blast from the past

JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR MRINAL TALUKDAR outlines five monumental events from Assam's past.

"It is vital to know your history"

1 When the ground beneath their feet shifted

On the evening of August 15, 1950, a devastating earthquake rocked Assam and Tibet. According to the Richter scale, its intensity was 8.6 and it is considered as one of the nine devastating earthquakes of the world. The epicentre of this earthquake was in the Rima region of Tibet, bordering the Anjuna district of Assam. As per official estimate, a total of 1,520 people died and about 30,000 people were severely injured in the tremor. This earthquake occurred due to the collision of tectonic plates and its intensity was so high that minor earthquakes occurred for three consecutive days. The Subansiri River was completely clogged by an artificial dam triggered by landslides.

2 When the Chinese dragon roared

For half a century, India and China have struggled to resolve the boundary dispute, which brought these two Asian giants to a full-scale war in 1962. India wishes to forget that humiliating episode and it has always been propagated as Chinese aggression. But in reality, it was India's aggression, driven by the personal ambition of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, blindly followed by his Defence Minister Krishna Menon and a pliable, military juggernaut that was never prepared for a war. Because of a flawed forward policy, the Chinese attacked India on September 3, 1962.

3 When there is lacunae in strong political leadership

Assam has never had the fortune of having strong political leadership throughout its post-independence history. Barring Gopinath Bardoli, a close look at the successive Chief Ministers only reveal huge contradictions, personal greed and embarrassing politicking. Since the mid-fifties, Assam politics has been fraught with deceit and fraud by the collective leadership. Due to a plant media, politicking of the first three decades was not aggressively reported.

4 A matter of infiltration

Muslim migration is far more complex than what it looks like, as some of the major waves of migration took place before Independence. Some came fleeing Bengal Zamindari, some came at the invitation of Assam Zamindari, while the rest came with the government policy of "Grow more food". Through them the Muslim League was rising and openly challenging Congress, even in places like Nagaon, with the backing of the Ahom Maha Sabha. The next big wave of migration was the Partition and the third wave was the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation. The influx continues.

5 Nationalism is a hollow word

Farce, fraud and emotion saw a complete generation of Assamese wasting two decades in the name of Assamese nationalism. Building on emotions around a web of exploitation, first came the Assam Agitation and then a series of insurrections. History has proven that both the Assam Agitation and insurgency had little substance beyond the emotion. Neither the presence of very large-scale immigrants could be proved nor are there any takars for a sovereign Assam.



(As told to Indrani Raimeshi)

SCREENSHOTS

Mohnish Singh

Give me more

Buyed up by the success of his last release *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story* (2016), actor **Sushant Singh Rajput** has lately focussed all his energy on his big ticket film *Raabta*. Excerpts from an his interview:

■ Sushant, you are playing two completely opposite characters in *Raabta*, one from the present times, whereas the second character belongs to some ancient period. So, which one did you enjoy playing more?

I cannot compare them as both the characters offered me something new to try and experiment with. The contemporary character, which I am playing in the film, shows that part of me where I suddenly become interesting, despite being very boring in real life. That character is funny and charming. The second character was challenging as I needed to learn various new things to get it right on the screen. That gave me kind of a high because, as an actor, I was being challenged to go all out and portray it on screen.

■ What do you look for in a script before saying yes to any project?

Primarily, it is the story which attracts me to a film. Also, there should be

something in the film which is challenging and baffles me. If I find a film easy to do and I know I can pull it off without putting in so much effort, I will never do it, no matter how much money I am being offered for it.

■ Your last release – *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story* – was a massive hit at the Box Office. How has the success of that film changed you as a person?

I am still the same person. My stardom might be new for those who never considered me an actor before, but for me, nothing has changed.

In case of *Dhoni*, the film had an amazing weekend, and, in that situation, ideally I should have been on cloud nine, celebrating with friends, etc. But, nothing of that sort happened... I was completely in control. As far as stardom is concerned, the day I dropped out of college in my third year and started dancing behind Aishwarya Rai and Shahid Kapoor, I became a star. Because at that time I was doing something I really wanted to do.

■ How do you react to the stories that have been doing the rounds regarding your personal life?

If I read these rumours and take them seriously then it would affect me. However, I do read them at times and it gets to me. I have no problems against these 'amazingly frivolous' stories coming out about me. I am just saying that if these people are investing so much time and energy in writing fictional stories about me, they should ensure they make them interesting enough.

- TWF-BNS



"I'm not sure which fragrance my husband would like better, the one that makes me smell like a computer or the one that makes me smell like a TV remote."



"I win it every month. It's cheaper than printing a new plaque with someone else's name on it!"

"I win it every month. It's cheaper than printing a new plaque with someone else's name on it!"



"Thanks to my boss's bad handwriting, everyone was given a paper cut instead of a pay cut."

"Just do your best. If people start to hate me for being rich, I'll learn to live with it."

"Just do your best. If people start to hate me for being rich, I'll learn to live with it."