

## NEWS CAPSULE

### Purohit request

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit today called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here and requested him to send a second Central team to the State to assess the widespread damage caused by flood. – Staff Reporter

### SC directive

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: The Supreme Court today directed Karti Chidambaram, son of former Union minister P Chidambaram, to appear before investigators at the CBI headquarters here on August 23 for questioning in a corruption case. – PTI

### Police on fuel tax

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has written to chief ministers seeking a cut in sales tax or VAT on fuel like natural gas that have been kept out of GST. They are used as inputs for goods that come under the new indirect tax regime. – PTI

### Terror funding

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: Kashmiri businessman Zahid Younis arrested for alleged involvement in a terror funding case was today sent to 10-day NIA custody. The court refused to allow the NIA plea for two-week custody. – PTI

### Padma awards

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: Till September 15, anyone can nominate any person for the prestigious Padma awards for the year 2018, with the government laying stress on honouring the unsung heroes. Details are available on the portal www.padmawards.gov.in. – PTI

### New Rs 50 notes

MUMBAI, Aug 18: The Reserve Bank will soon introduce new fluorescent bills Rs 50 banknotes bearing the motif of 'Hampi with Chariot' that depicts India's cultural heritage. – PTI

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

# Slight improvement in State flood scene

## Death toll mounts to 60

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: With a hull in rainfall activities in most parts of the northeastern region during the past 24 hours, the overall flood situation in the State has showed some signs of improvement.

Official sources here told this newspaper that the deputy commissioners of the floodhit districts have informed the State's Chief Secretary in a video conference here this afternoon that the overall flood situation has improved today compared to the past couple of days.

According to IMD, barring a few places like Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and Barpeta, Bongaigaon and Karimganj in the State, there was no significant rainfall activities in the rest of the Northeast till yesterday. Tawang received a rainfall of 22 mm till yesterday, while Barpeta and Bongaigaon each received 24.6 mm of rainfall, with Karimganj recording 25.4 mm rainfall till yesterday.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the current wave of flood in Assam has touched 60 with 11 more cases reported from different parts of the State today. As of today, 25,93,314 people in 2,210 villages under 63 revenue circles of 20 districts are still residing under floodwaters, while a total crop area of 1,22,976 hectares in these districts are still submerged.

The NDRC, SDRF, CRPF,

Indian Army, police and forest personnel along with civil administration personnel and the local people have rescued

49,930 people in 26 districts during this wave of flood. A total of 90,566 flood-affected people are still sheltered in 209 relief camps in 15 districts.

The districts which are still facing the fury of flood are Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Sonitpur, Darrang, Nalbari, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, South Salmara, Goalpara, Kamrup (Metro), Morigaon, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong, Golaghat, Jorhat and Majuli.

The Brahmaputra is still flowing above danger level at Neamatiaghata, Goalpara and Dhubri. Its tributaries Dharani (South), Jia Bazaar, Kopili and Salma are also flowing above danger level at Numaligarh, NT Road Crossing, Dharmanagar and Road Bridge points respectively.

Briefing newsmen here,

spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Raveesh Kumar, however, maintained that it was "pre-



Devotees performing "Naam Prasanga" on the first day of the month of Bhadra, as per the Assamese calendar at Athkhelia Namghar in Golaghat on Friday. - UB Photos

## China has not shared details this year: India

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: With Assam facing devastating floods this year, India today said that despite an agreement it has not received any hydrological data on Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers for the current year from China. The hydrological data is used for flood forecast.

Briefing newsmen here,

spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Raveesh Kumar, however, maintained that it was "pre-

logical data from the Chinese side," Kumar said, adding, it was, however, "premature" to link it with the Assam floods.

As of today, New Delhi's main concern is, however, absence of any treaty with China on water sharing. Currently, India and China only have a data sharing arrangement that is used for flood forecast.

These data are shared every (See page 4)

## Assam-Bangla sector Sonowal calls for fencing of porous border portion

### SPL CORRESPONDENT

ING DELHI, Aug 18: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal asked the National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) and Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to immediately take up work on the 48.11 km porous areas of Indo-Bangla border between Assam and Bangladesh, fencing of 13.38 km would be completed as soon as the flood water recedes. However, erecting fence on the remaining areas involves enormous challenges as nearly 3-km stretch particularly in Silchar sector is full with deep gorges. It may be noted that NBCC and CPWD authorised construction agencies to

## Restoration of train services may be delayed

### SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: Hi by the floods, it will take at least one week for restoration of long distance train services to the Northeast, Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain said here today.

Briefing newsmen, Gohain said that the Railways is trying to repair the damaged tracks within next three-four days. He said that the Railways teams are ready to restore the rail links once the water recedes.

The Railways has made arrangements to run two special train services from Guwahati so that passengers can reach West Bengal, he added. The passengers can then travel up to Mafatl in buses and from Mafatl station they can travel to different parts of the country, he said.

## 14-day police custody for Paul

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 18:

Former chairman of the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) Rakesh Paul, who was arrested on Thursday by Bhangarh police, was today produced before the Court of Special Judge, Assam which remanded him to 14-day police custody.

Paul's accomplice Musarrat Hussain, a lower division assistant of the APSC, who was also in judicial custody, was remanded to 14-day police custody.

Paul, after being granted bail on Wednesday by the Supreme Court, was arrested by Bhangarh police in connection with the case No. 159/17 under sections 120 B/420/468 IPC read with Sections 7/

13 (i) (a) (d) (3) /2 of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Praying for 14-day police remand for both the accused, special public prosecutor BK Mahajan assisted by investigating officer Surjeet Singh Panesar urged that further custodial interrogation is essential to verify and find out the modus operandi and the extent of the racket run by Paul and his associates for providing government jobs against payment of cash instead of merit.

Further, the prosecution also contended that the accused are required to be taken out for recovery of material evidence and also to unearth the money trail.

"Custodial interrogation is also a necessity as those securing jobs against payment of cash are still working in different capacities and the entire

gamut of conspiracy needs to be unearthed," the special public prosecutor argued.

The FIR was lodged by one (See page 4)

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## 3 NE States asked to chart out plan to control air pollution

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: Laying emphasis on both micro-level and regional strategies, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) today asked Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland to make a joint action plan by August 30 next to control air pollution in "non-attainment" cities and towns.

Participating in a workshop organised to formulate an action plan for air quality management in the NE towns and cities, Head of the Air Quality Management Division of CPCB Dr P Gargava said the exercise for controlling air pollution should start with identification of the sources of pollution, followed by evaluation of control options, stakeholder sensitisation and consultation, then an operational plan with clear roles and finally an institutional framework for implementation, monitoring and review.

He said that no studies have been done to identify the sources of pollution, and all have been "too eager to jump to conclusion" without any adequate scientific understanding. Gargava also mentioned the lack of coordination be-

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# NHRC seeks detail report on Centre's move to deport Rohingyas

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognoscence of media reports regarding plans of the Government of India to deport about 40,000 illegal Rohingya immigrants from Myanmar who are residing in various parts of India. It has issued a notice to the Union Home Ministry, calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.

The Commission observed that refugees are no doubt foreign nationals, but they are human beings, too,

and before taking such a step, the Government of India has to look into every aspect of the situation, keeping in mind that the Rohingyas have a fear of persecution if they are pushed back to their own country.

The Commission also observed that the Supreme Court has consistently held that the Fundamental Right enshrined under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution regarding Right to Life and Personal Liberty applies to all, irrespective of whether they are citizens of India or not.

According to the reported 'Advisory' issued by Union Home Ministry, the State governments have been

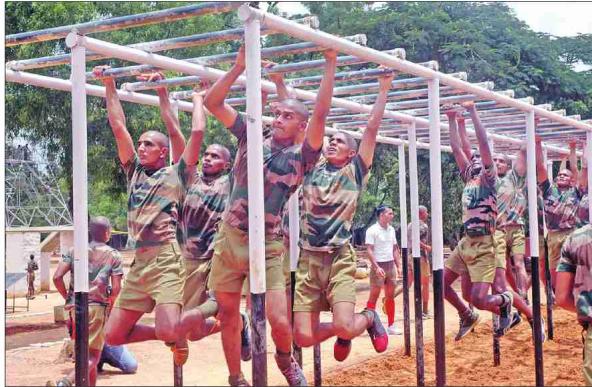
khine State of Myanmar, have settled in Jammu, Hyderabad, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan.

A Home Ministry official has, reportedly, said that India is going ahead with plans to deport the Rohingyas and is in discussions with Myanmar and Bangladesh governments in this regard. The Centre is also, reportedly, planning to set up 'detention centres' for the refugees or 'push them back' over the border if Myanmar refuses to accept them back.

According to the reported 'Advisory' issued by Union Home Ministry, the State governments have been

told that the powers to identify and deport the foreign nationals staying illegally in the country have been delegated to them and that they should sensitise all law enforcement and intelligence agencies about the risk from the Rohingyas.

India is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention Refugees or the 1967 Protocol, but India is a signatory to a number of United Nations and World Conventions on Human Rights. Till today, the country has evolved a practical balance between humanitarian obligations on one hand and security and national interest on the other.



Trainees of the prestigious Parachute Regiment of Indian Army in action during a media visit-cum-interaction at the Parachute Regiment Training Centre in Bengaluru on Friday. — UNI

**Deepa opposes plans to convert Jaya's residence into memorial**

CHENNAI, Aug 18: Late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa's niece J Deepa has opposed the Tamil Nadu government's plans to convert her aunt's residence here into a memorial, saying she would take legal steps against it.

Chief Minister K Palaniswami had yesterday announced that his government would appoint a commission of inquiry to probe the death of Jayalalithaa and convert her 'Ved Niyamam' residence into a memorial.

Deepa said she has the "moral and legal rights" to stake claim to the Poes Garden property and termed the announcement by the Chief Minister a "drama" while alleging that there was some motive behind it. "We were not consulted on converting it (the residence) into a memorial. We will take legal action against it (the government plans)," Deepa said here yesterday.

She had taken the political plunge months after her aunt's demise and had launched the MGR Anna Deepa Peravai on February 24, the birth anniversary of Jayalalithaa.

Deepa had filed her nomination for the April 12 by-election to RK Nagar Assembly seat, which was previously held by Jayalalithaa. The bypoll was later rescinded by the Election Commission following alleged use of money power. — PTI

## Omar for special session of J-K legislature on Article 35A

SRINAGAR, Aug 18: National Conference working president Omar Abdullah said he would sought a special session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly before August 29 to frame an appropriate response to counter the narrative on Article 35A of the Constitution.

The issue is of vital importance for the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh as abrogation of Article 35A will have serious ramifications, Omar said in a statement issued by the National Conference here.

The former Chief Minister expressed grave concern over the reported "unsatisfactory response" of the Central and State governments in putting up a strong case before the Supreme Court, hearing a plea against the constitutional provision empowering the State to determine the issues with regard to permanent residence. Omar said.

He appreciated consensus across the State, irrespective of caste, creed, religion or region, with regard to preserving of this significant constitutional guarantee bestowed upon Jammu and Kashmir by the Constitution of India.

Omar hoped that the people of Jammu and Kashmir would rise above party politics and fight every "overt or covert attempts to trample with Article 35A", which is regional neutral, religious neutral and ethnic neutral. — PTI

## Balvantsinh Rajput challenges EC order in HC

AHMEDABAD, Aug 18:

Balvantsinh Rajput, the BJP candidate who lost the Rajya Sabha election from Gujarat recently, today moved the Gujarat High Court against the Election Commission's decision to invalidate the votes of three rebel Congress MLAs.

Rajput, who quit the Congress ahead of the August 8 election, also contended that votes of two other Congress MLAs should be discounted, and he should be declared winner.

The EC's decision paved the way for the victory of Congress candidate Ahmed Patel — who got 44 votes, the minimum he needed to win — in

the high-stakes electoral battle. Rajput polled 38 votes.

Rajput's petition claimed that once the Returning Officer had used his discretion to accept the two votes as valid,

the votes of former Congress MLAs Raghavji Patel and Bholaibhai Gohel.

Congress's polling agent Shaktisinh Golih had lodged a complaint before the counting began that these two MLAs showed their ballot lots to BJP representatives before putting them in the ballot box.

MLAs are not allowed to show their ballots to anybody other than the authorised polling agent of their own party, the Congress leader said.

Both these MLAs voted for Rajput instead of voting for Ahmed Patel. However, as the votes were held invalid, Patel was declared winner. — PTI

## Rajya Sabha Election

the EC had "no power to issue any direction to the Returning Officer for accepting or rejecting any vote".

As Chief Justice RS Reddy was on leave today, the petition came up before the senior-most judge, Justice MR Shah, who ordered that it be listed for hearing on August 21 before the appropriate bench.

The EC had rejected the

"above limit would be automatically raised by 25 per cent every time the Dearness Allowance on the revised pay structure goes up by 50 per cent," said the DoPT order, issued two days ago.

The decision to hike the allowance is based on the recommendations of Seventh Central Pay Commission. The Central government has accepted most of the recommendations of the pay panel.

"The Commission recognises the huge responsibility that these women shoulder while raising their children. Therefore, instead of the factor of 1.5 that we have mostly used for salary DA indexed allowances, it is recommended that this allowance be raised by a factor of 2 to Rs

3,000 per month," the commission had said in its report.

The DoPT has abolished desk allowance granted to Desk Officers in the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) and other headquarters services at a rate of Rs 900 per month.

The pay commission had also recom-

mended abolishing this allowance as it is virtually non-existent since 2010.

The DoPT has also issued orders for the reimbursement of children education allowance, which will be Rs 2,250 per month.

"The amount fixed for reimbursement of hostel subsidy will be Rs 6,750 per month," it said. — PTI

## Centre doubles child care allowance for women with disabilities

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: The Centre has doubled to Rs 3,000 per month the child care allowance for women employees with disabilities.

At present, the allowance of Rs 1,500 per month is given to differently-abled female employees for taking care of their newborn child.

"Women with disabilities shall be paid Rs 3,000 per month as special allowance for child care. The allowance shall be payable from the time of the child's birth till the child is two years old," an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.

It shall be payable for a maximum of two eldest surviving children, it said.

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## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

## ACHIEVEMENT



Md. Bodruz Zaman, Asstt. Professor in the department of Arabic, Samaguri College, Samaguri, Nagaon has been awarded Doctor of Philosophy by the Technological Institute, Shillong in the Department of Arabic for his thesis entitled "Contributions of Major Poets to the Evolution of Modern Arabic Poetry". He carried his research work under the supervision of Dr. Abul Kashem Mondal, Associate Professor, Department of Arabic Technological University, Shillong. He is the son of Alhaj Abul Hasim and Mrs. Romisa Khatun of Borbari, Dist. Nagaon (Assam). Achieve/2232/

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have corrected my name as Syed Jamilur Rohman instead of Jamilur Rohman as in Arabic. I hope the Notary Public at Nazir on 9-7-2017. I shall be known by this name for all purpose from today. Name Syed Jamilur Rohman, So/- Late Ataur Rahman, Nazir Town, Barpeta, Path, Ward No.-3

PNP/KP173/1

I, Mrs. Kheila Rani Das has changed my name to Kheila Das before the Notary Kanrum (P) on 08.07.2017 and hereafter I will be known as Kheila Das from this day.

PNP/16161/1

I, have change my name from Lilawati Mudoi to Lakshi Prabha Das by Affidavit given before the Notary Public, Kamrup (M) at Guwahati on 09.07.2017.

PNP/KP153/4

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Shifting? Shifting? Shifting? Local & Outside, Household & Official Goods, 8584066099, 700230986, P&M/P/A350/10



Palestinian protesters run in front of Israeli troops during clashes in the West Bank village of Kofr Qadom near Nablus, on Friday - UNI

11 million people affected due to floods in India

GENEVA, Aug 18: A "severe" humanitarian crisis is unfolding across South Asia where "devastating" monsoon floods have affected more than 16 million people, including over 11 million in India, the Red Cross said today.

According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), over 16 million people have been affected by monsoon flooding across India, Nepal and Bangladesh with more than 400 deaths in the three countries.

"This is fast becoming one of the most serious humanitarian crises this region has seen in many years and urgent action is needed to meet the growing needs of millions of people affected by these devastating floods," said Martin Faller, Deputy Regional Director for Asia Pacific IFRC.

"Millions of people across Nepal, Bangladesh and India face severe food shortages and disease caused by polluted flood waters," Faller said.

In India over 11 million people are affected by floods in four states across the north of the country. India's meteorological department is forecasting more heavy rain for the region in the coming days, the IFRC said in a report.

Around 74 more deaths were reported yesterday from the deluge-battered areas of Bihar, Assam and West Bengal, taking the figure of flood casualties to 119 in Bihar.

Flood levels have already reached record highs in Bangladesh. Flooding of major rivers such as the Jamuna has surpassed levels set in 1988 - the deadliest floods the country has ever faced, it said.

"More than one third of Bangladesh and Nepal have been flooded and we fear the humanitarian crisis will get worse in the days and weeks ahead," Faller said.

In Nepal, many areas remain cut off after the most recent destructive floods and landslides, on August 11 and 12 PTI

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CD/PN/223/1

These places have consistently recorded higher than acceptable particulate matter (PM10) levels and the CPCB has listed them as polluted cities in which the prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are violated.

## Stabbing spree in Finnish city, suspects hunted

HELSINKI, Aug 18: Several people were stabbed in the street in the Finnish city of Turku today, with police shooting a suspect and warning several others could still be at large.

Police had yet to confirm how many people had been wounded but witnesses said they had seen several bodies lying on the ground in a busy area of the southwestern city.

Police shot one suspect in the leg and arrested him, while security forces wrote on Twitter that police were looking for other possible perpetrators".

"They ask the population to leave and avoid central Turku," the tweet added.

Public television station Yle reported that central Turku was on lockdown, with businesses shut.

MTV television reported that police have secured safety at Helsinki airport and at train stations.

The stabbing spree comes with Europe on high alert a day after drivers slammed into pedestrians in twin attacks in Spain, killing at least 14 people and injuring more than 100 others. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the Barcelona attack.

"The government is following the situation in Turku closely and police operation is under way," tweeted Prime Minister Juha Siipala ahead of a cabinet meeting.

In 2012, Finland's then-prime minister Jyrki Katainen escaped a knife attack in Turku while campaigning for municipal elections. -AFP

## Sonowal calls for ...

(Contd from page 1)

use anti-corrosion agent to lend durability to the fences. The construction agencies also informed that there are no issue regarding land acquisition which would help them to complete the fencing work within the stipulated time.

The Chief Minister, further asked BSP to use proven technology to guard Indo-Bangla border and rein in all illegal movements along the border. The BSP informed the Chief Minister that the organisation has upped its ante with latest technological solutions developed by IIT Delhi, DRDO and Ministry of Information and Technology as it will be discussing nitty-gritty of the technology in a high level meeting to be held on August 21 in the national capital. He moreover urged the BSP to use their manpower besides deploying equipment like camera, radar, sensor, fibre optic, etc., for an error-free vigilance on the entire stretch of Indo-Bangla border that Assam shares with Bangladesh.

Sonowal also suggested that the proposed 30-km-long Phulari bridge over the Brahmaputra connecting Dhubri with South Salmara may also have this technological solution in place to help the bridge bolster border security with Bangladesh.

The Chief Minister also emphasised on improving the quality of roads leading to border areas for better patrolling. He said that quality border roads apart from encouraging seamless border communication would strengthen security mechanism.

## China has not ...

(Contd from page 1)

The Government of India, under the Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Cooperation on Trans-border Rivers with China, signed in October 2013, obtains hydrological data from China on rivers Brahmaputra and Sutlej, Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (retd) VK Singh had told the Parliament last year.

The borrower having failed to repeat the amount notice is hereby advised to the borrower and the guarantors in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein in exercise of the right of replevin under Section 94(1) of the Sale Act with effect from 11/08/2017 of the year 2017.

The borrower and the guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and will be subject to the charge of criminal contempt if they do so.

"More than one third of Bangladesh and Nepal have been flooded and we fear the humanitarian crisis will get worse in the days and weeks ahead," Faller said.

In Nepal, many areas remain cut off after the most recent destructive floods and landslides, on August 11 and 12 PTI

## 14-day police ...

(Contd from page 1)

Baudha Bikash Das of Tezpur today wherein he alleged that Paul and his associate Musarrat Hussain had demanded Rs 15 lakh to secure the former's appointment as an agricultural development officer.

Das even stated that an amount of Rs 50,000 was paid to Paul as advance on the Satsang Vihar premises at Bhangagarh here.

## 3 NE ...

(Contd from page 1)

towns and cities of the region, including five in Assam.

Since 2011, at least 94 Indian cities have not met national air quality standards. Many of these cities have been on the list from the 1990s. Among them are Guwahati, Nagaon, Nalbari, Silchar and Sivasagar besides Byrnihat in Meghalaya and Kohima and Dimapur in Nagaland.

These places have consistently recorded higher than acceptable particulate matter (PM10) levels and the CPCB has listed them as polluted cities in which the prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are violated.

## Death toll from Sierra Leone floods over 400: Red Cross

GENEVA, Aug 18: The death toll from devastating floods in Sierra Leone has passed 400 while an estimated 600 others remain missing, a senior Red Cross official said today.

"Today we are counting more than 400 people dead," the president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, Elhadj As Sy told reporters in Geneva. An unofficial morgue toll had previously put the toll at around 400 dead, but the figure had not been officially confirmed. Sy said the government of the West African country was facing a crisis "way beyond its capacity" and appealed to the international community to significantly ramp up its support. - AFP

## IN THE COURT OF MUNISIP NO 2 AT GUWAHATI

MONEY SUIT NO : 32/2013

Central Bank of India, Malagon Branch, Guwahati ... Plaintiff

versus

Shri Kiran Singh and others... Defendants,

To,

Sri Kiran Singh,

Son of late Lakshmi Singh, Debata Nagar, Marigaon Guwahati-781011, Assam.

Sri Kamal Singh

Debata Nagar, Marigaon, Guwahati-781011, Assam.

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff above named has filed the aforesaid Money Suit on 30/03/2013 for a sum of Rs.9,95,973/- (Rupees nine lakh fifty nine thousand five hundred seventy three only) along with interest, cost and other expenses of suit.

Tender Value : ₹12,96,933.21.

Earnest Money : ₹25,940.00

Estimated Date of Settlement : 20/09/2017.

Details of tender notice & document can be seen at [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)

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Tender Value : ₹63,89,561.35. Earnest Money : ₹11,87,800.00. Date of Submission of Tender : 20-08-2017. E-tender

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Sri Dhiren Kumar Jha (DEFENDANT)

Son of Late Surendra Jha, Burgesswar, Assam. Present address : 10, Dighi Road, Guwahati-781009, Assam.

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff above named has filed the aforesaid Money Suit on 30/03/2013 for a sum of Rs.9,95,973/- along with interest, cost and other expenses of suit.

Tender Value : ₹12,96,933.21.

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Address : Central Bank of India, Malagon Branch, Guwahati-781011, Assam.

Alternate Address

CO. MO. Kamarkya Sten, 31 Meir Market, Paltan Bazaar, Guwahati-781001, Assam.

Sri Dhiren Kumar Jha (DEFENDANT)

Son of Late Surendra Jha, Burgesswar, Assam. Present address : 10, Dighi Road, Guwahati-781009, Assam.

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff above named has filed the aforesaid Money Suit on 30/03/2013 for a sum of Rs.9,95,973/- along with interest, cost and other expenses of suit.

Tender Value : ₹12,96,933.21.

Earnest Money : ₹25,940.00

Estimated Date of Settlement : 20/09/2017.

Details of tender notice & document can be seen at [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)

Restoration / Maintenance In DPDU-JMI section

E-Tender Notice No. SNT-17-

dated : 10-08-2017. E-tender

is invited for the same.

REPLACEMENT OF OLD & DEFECTIVE SIGNALING CABLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT IN THE STATE OF ASSAM (REPS) : [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)

For detailed necessary guidelines for bidding please refer to the website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)

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Details of tender notice &

**Saplings planted****STAFF REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: Re-live, a city-based NGO, in association with Guwahati Social Forestry Division, organised a tree plantation programme on Thursday, where around 100 saplings were planted from Chandmari flyover to Gauhati Commerce College.

The programme was attended by film director Chandrasekhar Das and Forester Grade 1 Khitewar Baruah, among others, besides many environmental enthusiasts and morning walkers.

**OBITUARY****MM Patowary****STAFF REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: Educationist and former principal of Maligaon Railway HS School Madan Mohan Patowary, passed away at the GRNC Hospital today. He was 78.

A resident of Gotanagar in the city, Patowary was a recipient of the President Award for teachers. After retirement in 2001, he started a private school Banasthali Academy at Gotanagar. He was associated with various organisations including the Assam Natya Sammelani. He also contributed generously towards educational causes and had been instrumental in setting up several educational institutions.

He will be cremated tomorrow. He leaves behind his wife, four sons and a host of relatives.

**Siva Kt Sharma****GUWAHATI**

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: Siva Kanta Sharma, a resident here, died today after a brief illness. He was 75.

He served in the capacity of government district maliarchi officer in different districts of the State. Sharma was loved and admired for his amiable disposition.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons and one daughter, besides a host of relatives.

**Menace of power cuts**

Daily life in a growing city like Guwahati fully depends on electricity and community water supply. But both these essential services have been shockingly getting worse since the new government came to power at Dispur. Frequent power cuts in this grueling summer and irregular supply of water to the households have become a regular feature here. Immediate measures should be taken by the government to deal with these problems. If necessary, the government must purchase power from outside the State to meet the shortage. The government should also put stress on completion of all the pending power projects in the State.

— Pannalal Dey,  
Maligaon Chariali

**Dilapidated roads**

It is really embarrassing to see the dilapidated conditions of the roads in many areas of this capital city. Ever since the new government came to power at Dispur, it has been talking about the improvement of the tourist sector in the State and spending huge funds for the purpose. But will it be possible on the part of

**Bomb scare at railway station****STAFF REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: A packed 'ticking' device detected among a heap of parcels in the Guwahati Railway Station today created a flutter in the city, until it was discovered late in the evening that the 10-kg packet contained a battery-operated spraying machine used for agricultural purposes.

The packet was "detonated" by security personnel at the Rani Firing Range, using a counter explosive.

The incident raised questions on the expertise of the State's bomb disposal squad which failed to detect the device. "After a home guard heard the ticking inside the parcel, he alerted the GRP. Senior officials soon rushed to the spot. To ensure public safety, it was immediately taken to Rani by the bomb disposal squad," a senior police official said. DCP (central) Ranjan Bhuyan told *The Assam Tribune* that it emerged during follow-up investigations that the 'ticking' device was a battery-operated agriculture spraying machine.

"It was sent by Veda Enterprise of Ahmednagar in Maharashtra and to be delivered in Aizawl via Silchar. We spoke to the post master general of Ahmednagar and he confirmed it. The parts we found from the place where the device was exploded also corroborated it," Bhuyan said.

The packet had arrived at Meghdoor Bhawan on August 9 last and was there till August 17.

**HC directive to GMC on garbage collection tender****STAFF REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: The Guwahati High Court has asked the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) not to issue any final order on the invitation for bid (IFB), dated August 7, 2017, without the leave of the Court.

It may be noted that the contract for conservancy was awarded to the NGOs initially for three years, ending on June 30, 2017. Later, the service was extended for another two months. The corporation has invited bids from new NGOs and parties from August 7, 2017 for awarding the contract.

Whereas the technical bid of the tender was opened today, the date for opening the financial bid is on August 22.

tained and the authorities shall not issue any final order on the invitation for bid (IFB), dated August 7, 2017, without the leave of the Court.

During the tenure of respected GMC Commissioner Narayan Konwar, IAS, a team of officers raided the area and seized three to four pumps but no action was taken against the persons who were found drawing water illegally with the help of motors.

The authorities concerned may look into the matter and enforce compulsory power cuts from 5.30 am to 7.00 am in the area to solve the problem of illegal tapping of water.

— Imon Deka

**citizens'  
voice**

Citizens are requested to express their Guwahati-specific views within 100 words and mail the same to: citizensvoice6@gmail.com

**Potable water**

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to bring to the notice of the authorities concerned about the illegal tapping of potable water at the Bylane-6, Pub Sarania in Chandmari. The so-called law breakers use to draw water from the water supply pipes for long hours, irrespec-

**CITY****State legal authority asked to form family welfare committee without delay****Violence against women in matrimonial homes****STAFF REPORTER**

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: Worried about the safety of women facing violence in their matrimonial homes, women's organisations of Assam have approached the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) to accelerate the process of forming a 'family welfare committee' as directed by the apex court in its recent ruling to prevent the misuse of Section 498A of the IPC.

North East Network; Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS); Mumbai's Special Cell for Women; Sishu Sarothi, Assam; All India Progressive Women's Association; Sakhiv One Stop Centre – Kamrup Metro; Legal Cell for Human



ry complaint under Section 498A received by the police or the magistrate will be referred to, and looked into by the family welfare committee, instead of the accused being arrested directly. The committee may hold interactions with the parties personally or by means of telephone or any other mode of communication including

Further asking the SLSA to ensure that the three-member committee is comprised of experienced people, the organisations recommended that the members must have the experience of working in the field of violence against women for minimum three years and that they should be well versed with legal remedies for women affected by violence.

The organisations further recommended that members belonging to women's rights bodies active on gender-based violence against women and citizens and retired persons who have experience of working effectively and sensitively on women's issues from the gender perspective should find a place in the committee.

**Need to hone our inbuilt skill: Patowary****STAFF REPORTER**

Chandra Mohan Patowary

said, "Skill is inbuilt in every human being. But we need to explore, utilise and hone it for betterment of the person and society at large. Human resource of our country is very rich and we need to make India the skill capital of the world as per the vision of our Prime Minister."

Referring to the skilled workers of China, Patowary added, "We must make our human resources skilled so that the country becomes a

production destination for the industries of the world. This will be in accordance with our 'Make in India' initiative."

The Minister requested NSDC to open an office in Guwahati so that the department, organisations and training partners can work in a co-ordinated manner to achieve skilled manpower in Assam."

Patowary declared that there would be a skill development centre in every block, municipality and town committee with a target to skill

1.5 lakh youths of the State.

Additional Chief Secretary KV Kapoor said, "The department will collaborate with ITE Education Services, Singapore to set up a skill centre in Assam."

Commissioner and Secretary of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department Ashutosh Agnihotri in his welcome address said,

"The vast pool of young talent in India and their energy needs to be channelised through proper implementation of skill development initiatives."

Mahendra Singh Payal of NSDC assured of full cooperation and support to the State government in terms of accreditation, certification, training, employment and empowerment of the youths.

Three MoUs were signed by Mission Director of Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) AP Tiwari with the representatives of Plumbing, Logistic and Beauty and Wellness Sector Skill Councils at today's workshop.

**NATION TAX MARKET**

**GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

# CLARIFICATION

on Tax payment, filing of GSTR-3B  
Return & Transitional Credit for July, 2017

**A** Registered persons planning not to avail transitional credit for discharging the tax liability for the month of July, 2017 or new registrants who do not have any transitional credit to avail, need to follow the steps as detailed below:-

- Calculate the tax payable as per the following formula:

Tax payable = (Output tax liability + Tax payable under reverse charge) – input tax credit availed for the month of July, 2017

- Tax payable as per (I) above to be deposited on or before 20.08.2017 which will get credited to the electronic cash ledger.

- File the return in FORM GST 3B on or before 20.08.2017 after discharging the tax liability by debiting the electronic credit or cash ledger.

**B** Registered persons planning to avail transitional credit for discharging the tax liability for the month of July, 2017 need to follow the steps as detailed below:-

- Calculate the tax payable as per the following formula:

Tax payable = (Output tax liability + Tax payable under reverse charge) – (transitional credit + input tax credit availed for the month of July, 2017)

- Tax payable as per (I) above to be deposited on or before 20.08.2017 which will get credited to the electronic cash ledger.

- File FORM GST TRAN-I (which will be available on the Common Portal from 21.08.2017) before filing the return in FORM GST 3B.

- In case the tax payable as per the return in FORM GST 3B is greater than the cash amount deposited as per (II) above, deposit the balance in cash along with interest @18% calculated from 21.08.2017 till the date of such deposit. This amount will also get credited to the electronic cash ledger.

- File the return in FORM GST 3B on or before 28.08.2017 after discharging the tax liability by debiting the electronic credit or cash ledger.

**Please note**

- FORM GST - 3B once filed cannot be revised.
- Transitional credit shall be available on filing of FORM GST TRAN - I only. Since, last date of filing FORM GST TRAN - I is 30.09.2017, transitional credit can be availed in subsequent months also.
- Deemed credit would be available only after filing FORM GST TRAN-II, which can be filed only after making payment of tax against the supply for which deemed credit is to be availed. Therefore, credit through FORM GST TRAN-II will be available on tax periods subsequent to the tax period in which payment for such supply has been made.

For more information & help on filing GSTR-3B please visit URL:- [goo.gl/S29KVw](http://goo.gl/S29KVw)  
**GST - A Good & Simple Tax**

**Central Board of Excise and Customs & Commercial Taxes Departments of States/Union Territories**  
[www.cbec.gov.in](http://www.cbec.gov.in), [www.cbec-gst.gov.in](http://www.cbec-gst.gov.in)

## MESSAGE FOR TODAY

*Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.*

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

**The Assam Tribune**

## Relief and rehab

The unprecedented flood situation in Assam that has so far claimed 134 lives besides damaging vast swathes of cropland, property and infrastructure calls for a rethink on the strategies to be adopted to ease the growing magnitude of the menace. Over 33 lakh people have been affected by the floods, compelling the families to endure immense hardships in makeshift, highly-unhygienic relief camps. Children, women and the elderly have been particularly vulnerable in such a situation. Providing the basic requirements including food and medical facilities to such a large number of people is undoubtedly challenging. But as the ground situation reveals, the government authorities have not been quite up to the task, with many flood-affected people continuing to languish in inadequate relief camps. The authorities need to act on a war-footing to provide some succour to the marooned masses. Once the floodwaters recede, the affected will need a lot of assistance in rebuilding their homes and hearths and starting their lives afresh. Indeed, rehabilitation of those who have lost their livelihood will pose the biggest challenge for the Government. Reclamation of cropland that lies buried in deep layers of sand—a conspicuous flood-induced phenomenon of late—is something that the authorities need to accord priority on. Reorienting our agricultural policy with emphasis on developing flood-resilient crop varieties is another imperative. The ongoing wave of floods has also triggered fears (though unfounded) of an impending food crisis and the unscrupulous traders might use the situation to their advantage unless the Government remains alert and active. Education has been another area seriously hit by the floods. With schools in large numbers having to be closed down for a prolonged period—and many school buildings destroyed or badly damaged by floodwaters—the Government has to ensure that the schools becomes functional as soon as possible. The flood-hit students also need to be provided with the necessary books and learning materials that they had lost in the floods.

Floods in Assam being a complex phenomenon having its own peculiarities, and given that a permanent solution is far from an instant possibility, the immediate course of action for the State Government is to put in place an effective disaster preparedness and disaster relief and rehab mechanism. While the mounting flood-induced toll on crop, infrastructure, human lives, livestock, and property warrants the State Government to come up with a long-term strategy to deal with the menace, short-term measures involving preparedness and a streamlined relief and rehabilitation mechanism can mitigate the sufferings of the flood-affected considerably. The recurring floods also make a strong case for blending traditional wisdom with modern technology to ease the situation. Stress should be given on having housing structures on elevated platforms in the low-lying flood-prone areas. We can also think of erecting highlands in flood-prone settlements for sheltering people and livestock during a deluge.

## Forgotten people

Global history is replete with examples of bigger socio-cultural groups displacing and ultimately gobbling up smaller socio-cultural groups. There are numerous instances of this happening in the past in places such as the north-eastern region of India. One example is Tripura where the original inhabitants have been outnumbered by migrants from elsewhere and their language and customs dispatched to the edge of oblivion. In most cases it is intervention in some point of time by outside forces which causes communities to be displaced and their cultures debilitated. One tragic illustration is the Chakmas, the vibrant tribal group dwelling since primordial times in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) now within Bangladesh. Imperial Britain is the prime culprit in the suffering this group has been subjected to. The Radcliffe Commission, while bringing about the partition of Bengal prior to granting independence to India awarded the CHT, the age-old homeland of the Chakmas, to East Pakistan. It may be recalled that even Assam almost suffered the same fate and it had been only the fierce opposition of the regional political entities which prevented that calamity from occurring. But the Chakmas then had no voice and the British could with a stroke of a pen determine where destiny would take them. Persecuted by the Pakistanis in the name of quelling unrest, many of them were forced to flee to India for an alternative homeland.

Since then the Chakmas have been reduced to becoming the 'forgotten people'. The Government of free India never took up their cause seriously; there had been an attempt to resettle the Chakma refugees in Arunachal but it was aborted because of local opposition. This group continues to be persecuted in the CHT while the refugees are concentrated in the Chakma Autonomous District Council in Mizoram. It is heartening to note that the community is attempting to organize and empower itself with a voice. Recently, the Chakmas of Mizoram observed a 'Black Day' to protest the occupation of their original home in the CHT and demanded that, as the perpetrator of the injustice done to them, Great Britain should pressure Bangladesh to resolve the crisis of the Chakmas within Bangladesh. Since imperial Britain had washed its hands of most of its former colonies, that today it would come to the succour of the beleaguered Chakmas is, of course, remote. However, political changes have occurred in Bangladesh and the relationship with the Sheikh Hasina Government in that nation and India have become friendly. Under such circumstances, India can take up the initiative with Bangladesh to try and undo the historical injustice done to the Chakma community. It is not known whether India has brought up the Chakma refugee question with Bangladesh during the numerous talks held with her; but as another victim of Partition she has a moral obligation to do so.

# Memories of other floods

## PLAIN-SPEAK

Arup Kumar Dutta

**F**loods have been a natural hazard faced by the communities living in the Brahmaputra and the Barak valleys since primordial times. Ahom *burnjis*, for instance, give details of the travails due to floods confronted by the founder of their dynasty, Prince Sukapha, when he first entered the Brahmaputra Valley. They also record calamities such as the great flood of 1570, which nearly reduced the Brahmaputra Valley to almost nothing.

After they annexed Assam, the British officers in their reports or writings made numerous references to the prevalence of a surfeit of water bodies in this region and the consequent annual inundation. In 1863, Ferguson of the Geological Survey of India called Assam "a region under the dominion of water". But surely the oldest and most vivid account of floods and personal difficulties faced on their account is provided by Major John Butler of the 55th Regiment, Bengal Native Infantry, who in 1841 was appointed as the Principal Assistant to the Governor-General, North East Frontier of Assam and whose book, *Travels and Adventures in the Province of Assam*, was first published as early as 1845.

"In the year 1841," Butler wrote, "it was my good fortune to be appointed to the Civil branch of the service as an Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, North East Frontier, Assam, and after a residence of about three years in Lower Assam and, in the month of February, 1844, I was placed in charge of the Hill Tribes subject to the Political Agent of Upper Assam. Here, again, it fell to my lot to take up my

residence with my family at the desolate and remote station of Saikwali on the banks of the Burupiporter.

"A dreary trip of six weeks' trekking up against a rapid stream, with heavy west-country boats, brought us to our destination in the month of April. On our arrival we were fortunate in meeting with a small bungalow, made of bamboo, grass, and reed walls; but it was void of the luxury of a door or glass window. Having frequently before felt the discomfort of being without windows, I had learned experience, and took the precaution of carrying with me, whenever I went, two windows, one for a sitting (room) and one for a bedroom. The rainy season being close at hand, we made ourselves as comfortable as circumstances would admit, by laying down bamboo mats to protect us from the damp earth floor; and having plastered the outside reed wall with mud, we vainly imagined we were securely sheltered for some time to come. But we know not what a day

I in our new dwelling, when we were again destined to be summarily ousted. The river continued to advance and cut away the bank; we, therefore, had no alternative but to retreat further inland close to a dense forest, and erect a small hut or house in the best way we could, six paces from Colonel White's grave, which was the only cleared high ground available for a dwelling.

"It was in the midst of the rainy season (July); torrents of rain fell daily and the country became inundated, reeds could with difficulty be procured for the walls of our new abode, and being doubtful whether the house

would remain on dry land another night, we hastily decamped with all our baggage to the residence of the Commandant of the post further in the rear to the south, nearer to the jungle, and thankful were we for the shelter thus afforded us, till we prepared a room as a temporary arrangement at one end of the Kutchery, or court for public business. A week after we left our abode, the site of our old house was in the middle of the river; and we had not been many days

discomfort. We had erected a two-sided grass roof, and put the kanats, or sides of our tent, round the posts, to answer the purpose of walls; but we were so happy to be escaping to the jungles beyond the reach of the merciless river, that we thought nothing of discomfort; on the contrary, we diligently employed our time in improving our position, and in a few days we felt as settled and comfortable as we should have been in the best brick houses in Assam...."

This, indeed, is a fascinating account of flood and erosion experienced by ordinary individuals a hundred and seventy-five years ago. There, of course, were no embankments then, the thoughtless construction of which is considered to be one of the major reasons for the continuous severity of floods in more recent times. Moreover, the population of the Brahmaputra Valley has literally exploded since then due to the advent of illegal migrants of Bangladesh and people from outside the region. The loss

of lives and property, therefore, has increased tremendously as also the number of people affected, the two devastating waves of floods this year bearing witness to this distressing phenomenon.

Even before the advent of 'technology', many communities in Assam had learnt to live with the floods. Tribes which lived close to rivers built their houses on stilts so as to safely tide over the months of high floods. Every household had dugout canoes for travel, while higher structures were built where food grains could be stored and family livestock could take shelter. The Ahoms had

**There is a need for modern technology to take stock of traditional methods and devise new strategies in spheres such as house construction to minimize infrastructural loss. Agriculture scientists have to create new cropping patterns so that farmers are not entirely devastated due to losses suffered if high floods occur.**

## PM's 'new India' pledge: rhetoric and reality

■ Shibdas Bhattacharjee

Independence Day is not the right occasion for hyping political agenda of the Government but successive Prime Ministers of this country have utilized this auspicious day for the same purpose: countering the success story of the government of the day at the Centre. In fact, Independence Day speeches have always been a joint manifesto, an account of what has been done and what will be in future. This is especially true when the Prime Ministers address the nation in the middle of their term. This better defines Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on the 71st anniversary of India's Independence. What is significant in this year's Independence Day speech of the Prime Minister is the effort of tactfully unfolding his political agenda to sail through the battle of ballot scheduled for 2019. So from the rampart of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Modi has made all efforts to convince the nation that the tasks undertaken by his Government cannot be completed in a single term in the office. The present one will expire in 2019. The Modi Government needs at least one more term to implement the development agenda. This is the reason the Prime Minister has re-

peatedly stressed on the year 2022, the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. He knows that a new idea is needed to articulate fresh enthusiasm among the countrymen. After all, his slogan of '*Achhe Din*', followed by Swabhav Bharat, Stand Up India, Skill India, Make in India, Startup India, Act East Policy and the longish list of aims have become weary and failed to deliver so far. That is why he has addressed the nation with a fresh idea and asked people to dream of a New India.

The New India pledge of the Prime Minister has been at the centre of his Independence Day speech this year and through articulating this, Modi has tried to sell a long-term vision to Indians, a vision that goes beyond the limit of his current term in office.

The concept of new India is a visionary idea which includes almost the entire socio-economic uplift of the Indians, particularly the poor, unemployed and the downtrodden. Meanwhile, the impact, effectiveness and outcome of the policies already implemented have been elaborately stated in his speech that included demonetization, expanding the income tax net, GST, decline in inflation rate, One Rank, One Pension

policy for soldiers, increased support price for pulses and an improved procurement system, 20% pension increment to freedom fighters and their families, converting post offices into payment banks, rural electrification, depositing cooking gas subsidies in bank accounts, separate toilets for girls in all government schools, medical insurance through Atal Amrit Yojana, etc. But the fresh idea of a new India is based on social justice and better internal security as per Modi's lexicon – New India will be free of castes, terrorism, corruption and nepotism. The Prime Minister has stated that the perception of the Indians has already changed. The PM in his address took credit that India under his leadership was incentivizing honesty in citizen and business conduct. His new India concept has called for support asking the people of this country to change their *chalta hai* (anything goes) attitude to *badal saka hai* (can be changed).

But as far as the present state of politics in the country is concerned, Prime Minister has dared to address certain embarrassing issues. This shows that Modi is well aware of the fact that his image as the new age leader of India has declined substantially. This demanded some clean-up act. At least, two things that strew

the path to success.

But the PM's speech has also raised some concerns. Nowdays it has turned into a grazing ground for cows and goats. Mention may be made here that the stadium complex houses a swimming pool too; a couple of years ago, youngsters were seen practising swimming under the guidance of coaches. But in the meantime, the swimming pool has also become unusable because of lack of maintenance. The State Chief Minister as well as Sports Minister should look into the matter and take immediate steps for the development of the Raichai Rural Stadium. Yours etc., DIPAK AUROBINDA DEY, Demow, KUMAR DAS, New Sarania, Sivasagar.

**AFSPA withdrawal**

Sir – There is a rural stadium situated in Raichai near Demow of Sivasagar district. It is one of the

largest rural stadiums in Asia. Unfortunately, this has been in a pathetic condition for the last few years. The Raichai Rural Stadium was inaugurated in 1990. But due to its dilapidated condition, it has become unsuitable for all sportspersons. Nowdays it has turned into a grazing ground for cows and goats. Mention may be made here that the stadium complex houses a swimming pool too; a couple of years ago, youngsters were seen practising swimming under the guidance of coaches. But in the meantime, the swimming pool has also become unusable because of lack of maintenance. The State Chief Minister as well as Sports Minister should look into the matter and take immediate steps for the development of the Raichai Rural Stadium. Yours etc., DIPAK AUROBINDA DEY, Demow, KUMAR DAS, New Sarania, Sivasagar.

**Rural stadium**

Sir – There is a rural stadium situated in Raichai near Demow of Sivasagar district. It is one of the

governments to decide if they want to continue with it in entirety or impel it in a few pockets where disturbance is expected. Earlier, the Assam Government had requested for an extension of the Act for a month which was ending on August 4 last, keeping in view the Independence Day. The Centre agreed to extend it till August 27. Now that the disturbances have decreased considerably and peace is prevalent in most parts, it seems there is no need of giving special powers to the central armed forces. But again in the border areas like Dhubri where more than 50% of the crimes have the involvement of the Bangladeshi immigrants, the AFSPA can help curb the crime rate till a permanent solution is enforced. The State Government can follow the policy adopted by its neighbouring States like Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya to continue with the Act in some of its disturbed areas, mainly the border areas, where illegal immigration is posing a threat to the law-and-order situation. Yours etc., ASHIM JYOTI DUTTA, North Lakhimpur.

andred public opinion regarding the Modi Government and the political party he represents are the investigation into corruption at the state level (the Vyapam scandal in MP for example) and the political finance (the purchase of the Congress MLAs in the recent Gujarat RS polls).

So Modi has tried to address some issues of the common man's interests in a convincing manner during his speech from the Red Fort and shared data-filled development indices like how many villages were without electricity when he came to power and how many have electricity today; how much black money has entered the banking mainstream after demonetization; how many income taxpayers have been added; how many fake shell companies have been shut down; how many tons of pulses the Government had procured from the farmers at remunerative prices; how many farmers had used the crop insurance scheme for the first time and so on. So also, he has given a clear message to Kashmir, saying a solution to the Kashmir issue can be found by embracing them and not through *zaor or gol*. For some, the call for compassion, not coercion, comes as a reminder of Atal Behari Vajpayee's famous *hamarooyat and insmyaat* (democracy and humanity) proposal.

But Modi has hardly mentioned anything regarding the China-Pakistan nexus. Significantly the Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Yang was the 'special guest' at Pakistan's Independence Day celebration this year. Addressing the Independence Day ceremony in Islamabad, he said China stands with Pakistan in its efforts to achieve progress and development. The Chinese leader also stated, "China and Pakistan have always stood by each other in difficult times and their friendship will stand the test of time and grow with coming generations. Our friendship is stronger than steel [and] sweeter than honey." This bears greater significance for India considering the recent confrontation between India and China and the all-weather hostility between New Delhi and Islamabad.

However, Modi's statement in the speech is really disappointing. The havoc of recent floods in Assam and a roadmap for the permanent solution to the problem did not get a deserving place in the PM's speech. All these make the point clear that Modi through his Independence Day speech asked people to keep relying on rhetoric and vision, wait for New India to take birth, undermining the grim reality prevailing in the country.

## Protecting children

Sir – Even after long 70 years of freedom, we have totally failed to protect our children from abuse and trafficking. According to the NCRB, in 2015, 10,854 children were raped, 8,930 girls were assaulted and 3,350 cases of sexual harassment were reported. This year these numbers increased by 18 to 20% nationwide. Our State's share is approximately 35%. Though we consider our children to be the future of our country, we give little importance to them. We generally speak of the betterment of one's childhood, but at the same time, we actually deny their rights. It is a shame that our governments have failed to protect the children from abuse and torture. It is high time to start a vigorous propaganda for the betterment of the children. Yours etc., ASHIM KUMAR CHAKRABORTY, Pandu, Guwahati.

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

## Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, — The Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL), situated at Lepakshi near Dibrugarh, was set up with GAIL, Oil India Limited, Numaligarh Refinery Ltd and the Government of Assam as its shareholders.

Although it is located in Assam, a recent recruitment of engineers in the organization goes to show how it is depriving the local talented engineers from getting the due benefit from its recruitment process. A group of engineers were recruited in the month of April-May this year for which no advertisement was made in any local newspapers while the interviews were conducted outside Assam. Therefore, no one from the State was aware of such a recruitment process and hence could not apply.

The local engineering graduates who are employed in the plant, mostly in contractual positions, were thus deprived of getting into the regular workforce of the

company. GAIL being the major shareholder does not give much importance to the other shareholders; on the contrary, the other shareholders also may not be taking much interest in the operational issues of the plant.

Through this letter, I would like to request the Industries Department of Government of Assam to look into the matter as already many positive in various other wings of the company are being filled with candidates from outside the State. As a public sector undertaking, the organization cannot recruit without giving due publicity of its recruitment process locally. The local MP also must take up the case in the right platform so that such irregularities do not occur in the future and a proper enquiry is made into the recent recruitment of engineers. Yours etc., DIPAK AUROBINDA DEY, Demow, KUMAR DAS, New Sarania, Guwahati.

**AFSPA withdrawal**

Sir – There is a rural stadium situated in Raichai near Demow of Sivasagar district. It is one of the

governments to decide if they want to continue with it in entirety or impel it in a few pockets where disturbance is expected. Earlier, the Assam Government had requested for an extension of the Act for a month which was ending on August 4 last, keeping in view the Independence Day. The Centre agreed to extend it till August 27. Now that the disturbances have decreased considerably and peace is prevalent in most parts, it seems there is no need of giving special powers to the central armed forces. But again in the border areas like Dhubri where more than 50% of the crimes have the involvement of the Bangladeshi immigrants, the AFSPA can help curb the crime rate till a permanent solution is enforced. The State Government can follow the policy adopted by its neighbouring States like Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya to continue with the Act in some of its disturbed areas, mainly the border areas, where illegal immigration is posing a threat to the law-and-order situation. Yours etc., ASHIM JYOTI DUTTA, North Lakhimpur.

# Ministry expansion put off due to floods

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: The long-anticipated expansion of the Sarbananda Sonowal-led ministry, which was expected to take place this month, is now likely to be delayed, with senior BJP leaders stating that introducing new members in the team at a time when the State is experiencing unprecedented floods would be unwise.

Senior BJP leaders told *The Assam Tribune* that the expansion and reshuffle is now only likely in September. It was car-

ier scheduled to take place in the second half of August itself.

"To expand the ministry at this juncture would be very bad politically. At a time when lakhs of people are reeling under floods it would be naive to imagine that voters of Assam will accept any argument put forth justifying expansion of the ministry," said a party leader on the condition of anonymity.

Sonowal has over the last couple of months held talks with senior central BJP leaders including party chief Amit Shah regarding the expansion of the ministry.

Asked if criticism from various quarters, including former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, regarding expanding the ministry during the time of severe floods may have prompted the ruling alliance to opt for a delay, a senior BJP leader said, "Absolutely not. Tarun Gogoi's relevance in Assam's politics is nowadays a sham. The Congress party is in a shambles."

"The decision to delay the expansion was arrived at after Sonowal spoke with senior party leaders in New Delhi, where I am currently on a visit," said sources.

Meanwhile, Assam BJP spokesperson Dr Rajdeep Roy said that Sonowal's visit to New Delhi is primarily focused on flood-related matters.

"Mitigating the suffering of the people of Assam and finding a permanent solution to the State's flood and erosion problems is the priority of the government. The Central government is also interested in assisting our State. The Chief Minister is meeting officials concerned and others in New Delhi in this regard," Dr Roy said.

He, however refused to comment on the issue of ministry expansion or likelihood of delay in the exercise.

To a question if any delay, if that happens, may be on account of dissension among multiple claimants to ministerial berths, Dr Roy categorically denied such a scenario.

"Expansion and reshuffle of the ministry is the prerogative of the Chief Minister and he will take a decision in consultation with our senior party leadership as well as leaders of our alliance partners. There is no question of having multiple claimants for ministerial vacancies," said Dr Roy.

## Oncology Nursing Programme at BBCI

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: Nurses often have a better opportunity than any other member of the healthcare team to develop the required rapport for effective communication with patients and their families.

This crucial aspect of healthcare delivery that also hastens a patient's recovery process was emphasised at the ongoing Oncology Nursing Programme that got underway at the Dr Bhu-

baneswar Borooali Cancer Institute (BBCI) on Thursday under the aegis of BBCI in association with the National Cancer Grid.

The three-day event will conclude tomorrow.

"The field of oncology nursing in particular is probably one of the most challenging and rewarding fields in nursing care. With the introduction of new scientific advancements into cancer care and changes in health-care delivery, the role of the oncology nurse will contin-

ue to evolve," Dr Amal Chandra Katak, Director of BBCI, said.

The National Cancer Grid is a flagship programme of the Department of Atomic Energy with a network of 108 major cancer centres, research institutes, patient groups and charitable institutions across India with the mandate of establishing uniform standards of patient care for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, and also for providing specialised training and education in oncology.

"The Oncology Nursing Programme is being attended by trainees from across

### Nurses' opportunity to develop rapport with patients and their kin highlighted

the North East. It is covering various topics like nursing management of patients undergoing chemotherapy and palliative care, taking care of surgical stoma after major cancer surgeries, effective communication strategy of nurses with patients, nutritional and rehabilitation care of cancer patients, and the role of research in oncology nursing," a BBCI spokesperson said.

On Thursday, a practical session was held at BBCI and Cancer Hospital, GMCH.

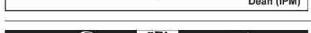
Anita D'Souza, Principal of Nursing College, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, lauded the BBCI and the Na-

tional Cancer Grid for organising such oncology training programmes for nurses.

Other guest faculties for the Oncology Nursing Programme were Maria Carvalho, former principal and Prathepa Jagdish, Associate Professor, College of Nursing, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai; Anupama Sushmita, nursing officer, Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum; Gunaji Sundary, nursing educator, Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai and Sunita Gupta, senior nurse, Tata Memorial Centre, Kolkata.

"BBCI has tied up with the Asian Institute of Nursing Education and Regional College of Nursing of Guwahati to conduct regular updates on oncology nursing. There is also a proposal under consideration for starting post basic diploma training in oncology at BBCI," Dr Katak said, adding that specialised oncology training of nurses working in cancer treatment centres of the region is very important to raise the standard of cancer care to the level of the best in country.

He, however refused to



No. ITT/ENGCO/17/IT/36 Ptd. 14-08-2017

Sealed tenders invited from registered contractors/firms for "Repair & renovation of second floor lobby area at Centre for Educational Technology IT Campuses."

Download of tender paper : 21-08-2017 to 30-08-2017

For further details visit IITG website www.ittg.ernet.in Any further clarification including corrigendum, amendments, time extension etc. for the above tender will be posted in the website only.

Bidders should therefore regularly visit the website.

Dean (IPM)



Start / Opening Date of online submission of Tender is 18.08.2017 from 11.00 AM. Last Date of online submission of Tender alongwith Tender fees is 08.09.2017 upto 1.30 PM and Opening Date of Tender is 11.09.2017 at 3.00 PM.

For detailed information please refer to the Notice, bid documents, terms & conditions etc. on the portal. All relevant documents are available at websites (1) www.fcweb.mca.nic.in and (2) https://procure.gov.in/e-procure.gov as well as at FCI RO Guwahati.

All corrigenda, addenda, amendments, time extension, clarification etc. to the tenderer will be hosted on the website and e-procure portal only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Prospective bidders are requested to regularly visit the website and e-portals to keep themselves updated.

Sd/-, Asstt. General Manager (Vigilance)

## Photo exhibition at GU

CORRESPONDENT

JALUKBARI Aug 18: The Department of Communication and Journalism, GU which has started a new course in photojournalism under the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), organised a photo exhibition today in which around 100 photos captured by the students of the department were displayed. The exhibition was organised on the occasion of World Photography Day which is to be observed tomorrow all over the world.

The photo exhibition was based on themes like 50 years of Media Education in Northeast, On the Go, Pattern in Nature, Freedom and Men at Work. Photographs of historical significance were also displayed at the event.

All the students, faculty and non-teaching staff of the department also remembered Sharampa Choudhury, an eminent photojournalist of the country. Better known as S P Paul, he had passed away recently.

### Exhibition

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: The Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatra (BJV) is organising a mobile exhibition on 'Science exhibition on wheels.'

The inaugural session of the programme will be held at 11 am on August 20 at the Regional Science Centre, Khanapara here.

Science and Technology Minister Keshab Mahanta will inaugurate the exhibition at 10.30 am.



### IN THE CITY TODAY

● Workshop on meditation, supported by Rotary Club of Guwahati, by Subhash Patri from Pyramid Valley Bangalore at Assam Down Town University at 2 pm.

● Meeting of Guwahati Senior Citizens' Association at Pensioners' Bhaban, Chandmari at 10.30 am.

2.3 crores passengers travelling daily

12 lakh meals served everyday

360 pairs of trains with pantry cars

Over 9000 food stalls on Railway Stations

Prompt action on suggestions & complaints

### Salient features of the New Catering Policy 2017 to bring in paradigm change

- To unbundle catering services and create a primary distinction between food preparation and food distribution
- Professionally managed catering services on all trains and stalls
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- Women empowerment by introducing 33% sub quota in allotment of stalls
- IRCTC will introduce standardization in packaging and serving of food on trains and at stations

### We follow Zero Tolerance Policy

40,000 catering inspections every year

Fine of ₹4.56 Cr. levied in January to June 2017

16 Catering contracts terminated from January to July 2017

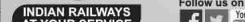
16 contractors blacklisted



All India Helpline No.: 138

Twitter handle @ IR CATERING to cater complaints/ suggestions

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RailMinIndia

### ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

#### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Request for EOI from the Cost Accountant / Cost Accountant Firms for Appointment as Cost Auditor of APDCL for the F.Y. 2017-18. For details and Bid Documents please visit [www.apdcl.org](http://www.apdcl.org)

Sd/- Chief General Manager (F&A)

APDCL, Bijulee Bhaban, Guwahati - 01

EA/2017/54

State Bank of India

STRRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH

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e-mail ID : [asr@sbirecovery.com](mailto:asr@sbirecovery.com)

NOTICE ON AUCTION SALE OF VEHICLE PUBLISHED ON 10.08.2017

CORRIGENDUM

In reference to the Auction Notice published in "The Assam Tribune" in its issue dated 10.08.2017 at page no. 9 of this edition, we hereby inform that the date of submission of offers in sealed envelopes may be read as 28.08.2017 at 2:00 P.M. instead of 27.08.2017. The Sealed Quotations will be opened at 4:00 P.M. on 28.08.2017. The other contents of the Auction Notice shall remain unchanged.

One Manager  
(Authorized Officer)

Date: 10.08.2017

North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited

(A Mini Ratna Category-I, Government of India Enterprise)

CIN: U40919ML1976G010163

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR MANAGER (TENDERING OFFICE)

Anil Bora Path, Hazaribari, Tezpur-784001

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. 01 Dtd. 04-08-2017

NEEPCO Ltd., invites online electronic bids under single-stage bidding process for the execution of works of minor works Running and Maintenance including Housekeeping of NEEPCO Guest House, Tripurati Bhawan, Kumargram, Tezpur-784001".

Last date for submission of Bid is 18-09-2017. For detailed NIB Bidders may visit NEEPCO website [www.neepco.co.in](http://www.neepco.co.in) or <https://neepco.abcprocure.com>

Sr. Manager (C) Liaison

CAS/2017/54

Sd/-, Chief General Manager (Hydro & Civil), APGCL

Date: 18.08.2017

The Chief General Manager (Hydro & Civil), APGCL, Bijulee Bhaban, Guwahati, Centre, Kolkata.

The bid document may be obtained from office of the Chief General Manager (Hydro & Civil), APGCL during office hours on all working days with effect from 22-08-2017 to 30-08-2017 on payment of Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees one thousand only) in the shape of Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque from Nationalized/Schedule Bank, which is not refundable. Please favour of DGM (F&A), APGCL. The bid document may also be downloaded from the website [www.apgcl.org](http://www.apgcl.org).

The cost of bid is to be deposited separately with the downloaded tenders along with Earnest Money. The bid will be received up to 14.00 hrs. of 01-09-2017 and will be opened at 15.00 hrs. on the same day in presence of tenders or their authorised representatives. The CGM (Hydro & Civil) is not bound to accept the lowest rate and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-, Chief General Manager (Hydro & Civil), APGCL

Date: 18.08.2017

Transformational initiatives towards providing fresh, hygienic & delicious food

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2.3 crores passengers travelling daily

12 lakh meals served everyday

360 pairs of trains with pantry cars

Over 9000 food stalls on Railway Stations

Prompt action on suggestions & complaints

## CM to open new judicial building in Dibrugarh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, Aug 18: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal will inaugurate the new Additional Judicial Building-cum-Dibrugarh Bar Building at a ceremony here on Sunday morning. Those who have confirmed their participation on the occasion include Supreme Court judges Ranjan Gogoi and Dipak Misra, the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, Ajit Singh and a galaxy of other eminent judges and advocates.

The Dibrugarh District Judge and the secretary of the Dibrugarh Bar Association have invited members of the public to attend the function at the Dibrugarh Judicial Courts complex on Sunday.

## Two children drown in pond

A CORRESPONDENT

GOSAIGAON, Aug 18: Fatima Khatun (10), daughter of Molim Hoque of village Hudem Khatun studying in Class IV at Hudem Khatun LP School and Afzana Khatun (6) of Class III of the same school and the daughter of Nur Amin Sk drowned in the same pond while playing on August 16 evening. They were declared dead at the RNB Civil Hospital, Gossagao.

**Death condoned:** The Gossagao branch of the Assam Sahitya Sabha has condemned the death of former Union Minister and veteran trade union leader Renuka Devi Borkataki recently, in a meeting held on August 15.

**Demonstration:** The Gossagao AASU staged a demonstration at the Gossagao Traffic Police Point on August 14, in protest against the non-implementation of the Assam Accord.

The protest demonstration, held by lighting candles, also blamed both the Central and the State Governments for supporting citizenship for Hinduists from other nations.

## OBITUARY Amar Barua

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: Amar Barua, son of Late Jyotirmoy Barua and Late Sabiru Barua of Guwahati died on August 15 in a city hospital after a brief illness. He was born on January 2, 1954. He leaves behind his wife Monjushri (Marami), two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

## Kankana Saharia

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: Kankana Saharia, daughter of Mukul Saharia and Kiran Devi Saharia and a resident of Shitalbari, Sipajhar in Darrang district passed away on August 9 last at the Guwahati Apollo Hospital, following kidney-related illness. She was 9 years old. She was a student of Class IV of Jatiya Vidyalay, Sipajhar.



Houses submerged by floods at a Mising village of Gohpur, on Thursday. — UB Photos

## Flood scene in Doomdooma circle improving

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, Aug 18:

The overall flood situation in Doomdooma revenue circle has improved today. The people who took shelter in two relief camps have returned to their homes.

According to an official report, 32 revenue villages of the circle had been affected by flooding. Some 150 families have returned to their homes.

On the other hand 54 agricultural villages covering 3706

hectares of cropland under Doomdooma Agricultural Division were submerged by floodwaters. The local administration is continuously monitoring the situation.

Meanwhile, a team of All Tinsukia District Students' Union (ATDSU) visited the flood-affected villages of Dirak-Chomoni area on Thursday and distributed food materials and medicines among the affected people.

## Nalbari becomes first open defecation-free dist in State

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, Aug 18: Nalbari district has become the first open defecation-free district in the State under the Swachh Bharat Mission that is being implemented by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to improve the sanitation, solid liquid waste management and drinking water.

While talking to this correspondent, the Deputy Commissioner Ananta Lal Gyani said that as per information uploaded in the website 'Swachhta Darpan' under the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the position of the district is at the top in the State. According to him, the national rank of the district is 127 among 634 in case of cleanliness. Gyani added that as per the base line survey in 2012-13, the district was given a target of 69,580 individual household latrines to make the district, an open defecation free district.

Though the time to achieve the target was fixed on October 2, 2017, the district fulfilled it before two months. However, the Deputy Commissioner said that as the district achieved the target as per the survey of 2012, some families may be without sanitary latrines. Those families will also be covered within this year through the fund of Swachh Bharat Kosh, MP and MLAs Local Area Development Fund and MGNREGA,

## Darrang DC moved over safety of KV students

CORRESPONDENT

Wednesday.

According to Lohit Chandra Rabha, officer-in-charge of the Mangaldoi Police Station, two local youths have been picked up for interrogation. It may be mentioned here that a dispute between the school authorities and a section of local villagers has been hanging fire over the erection of the portion of a road passing through the school campus, which was originally not on the official revenue map for completion of the boundary wall.

The chairman of the VMC, Ashok Kumar Barman, has held a series of discussions with representatives of local villagers in March and constructed an alternative concrete road just outside the eastern boundary of the school. However, some sections of people have been trying to disrupt the matter, allegedly at the behest of political circles.

Meanwhile, the school authorities have suspended classes till Saturday. Mangaldoi Police registered a case (No. 674 /17 u/s 447/336/427/34 of the IPC wrt 3 of the PDPP Act) on the basis of an FIR lodged by the principal of the school

## I-Day celebrated with children

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: This year the Bikrami Nagrik Manch celebrated Independence Day with the children of Sukhdeo Rai Primary school at Tarun Nagar, ABC, Guwahati, a press release stated.

Kamal Golcha, the president of the Manch addressed the students. Then members of BNM interacted with the children and sang patriotic songs. They also emphasized the importance of education for the progress of our country. This was followed by a drawing competition with the theme of the National Flag, which gave the children the platform to display their artistic talents with a twist of patriotism, for which the three entries were selected for prizes. At the end, Puspa Lata Devi, the school principal offered thanks to Bikrami Nagrik Manch for sparing time and motivating the children.

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, Aug 18: The Governor of Assam Banwarilal Purohit on August 16 visited the flood-affected Morigaon district and spent time with the flood-hit people in the relief camps of Modonabori revenue village. He took stock of the relief materials being provided to the camp inmates and directed the district administration to make adequate arrangements for pure drinking water, medicines, sanitization and baby food.

## Governor visits flood-hit Modonabori village

CORRESPONDENT

Swollen by heavy monsoon rains, Brahmaputra and its tributaries have flooded large parts of Morigaon district affecting more than 5 lakh people in five revenue circles, prompting the district administration to set up 89 relief camps and 68 distribution centres in the district. The death toll in the current wave of floods in the district is 10 while a large number of cattle have also died in the floods. The Governor took a speedboat to reach out to the marooned people at Modonabori village, a large part of which has remained



Living with floods: A house constructed on a sturdy platform escapes the wrath of the floodwaters at Kaziranga on Thursday.

A boat serves as the only means of communication with the outside world. — UB Photos

## Hajo revenue circle areas still under floodwaters

ANN SERVICE

BAIHATA CHARIALI, Aug 18:

Several places of North Kamrup are still under floodwaters, which have damaged *sali* paddy cultivation as also causing other losses to the people of those areas in the second wave of floods. Among those, the Hajo revenue circle area has been the worst-hit area as the floodwaters of Puthimuri river has inundated a number of villages like Bhamariborgon, Ekad, Heerajeni, Bullit Konwarpar, Hablaka, Baru, Panijapara, Sanijyoti and several parts of north Hajo, Satalda and Barchali area and agricultural lands of the entire area. The Puthi-

mari (Lakhaitora) had washed away the North and South Hajo connecting makeshift wood and bamboo bridge on Lakhaitora at Satalda and Barchali-Barni connecting bridge due to which the normal communication in the area has been hit. Besides this, the floodwaters have also inundated Barchali Hatchkola ME School, Panditorpam LP School, Barchali High School, Gaonburhampur LP School and some other schools of the area. On the other hand, floodwaters of Barnadi have also affected several places of North and South Lenga under North Guwahati revenue Circle and distributed some relief materials like biscuits, candles and matches, packaged drinking water etc., among the floodhit victims of the area.

Flood relief distribution: The Bezera Mandal committee of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Anil Deka, Bhaskar Kalita, Ajit Deka and Rajib Bora under Jalukbari LAC on August 14 visited the flood-hit areas of North and South Lenga under North Guwahati revenue Circle and distributed some relief materials like biscuits, candles and matches, packaged drinking water etc., among the floodhit victims of the area.

## Villagers showed no remorse in lynching couple

MAMATA MISHRA

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: Thirty-one out of the 50 villagers interrogated by the police in the gruesome mob lynching of a couple in Tinsukia district on Tuesday last have confessed to their role in killing them, arguing that the couple were "witches" responsible for spreading evil, and that by killing them the villagers brought "freedom" to the village coinciding with the country's Independence Day!

The scourge has once again caught the State off guard in dealing with superstition-linked crimes like witch-hunting, with even the law enforcers realising its enormity beyond just a law-and-order situation.

While the strong legal tool in the form of the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Bill 2015 is gathering dust at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the President's nod, a mechanism to deal with superstition-infested mindsets, with illiteracy and health issues in the backdrop, is yet to be designed.

Dilip Kishan (55) and his wife, Shiba-

atri Kishan (50), of Line No. 10 of the Hansara Estate of Raidang Tea Estate under Doomdooma were killed on Tuesday night. "Police have collected evidence and fingerprints, etc., and 31 accused, including 17 women, have been sent to judicial custody. However, the accused confessed to their crime with weird pride, equating themselves with freedom fighters for freeing the village from evil forces," Mungabayogi Mahanta, Tinsukia SP told this reporter.

It may be noted that the place of the incident had already been identified as a 'black zone' by the police for high prevalence of superstition practices, precisely witch-hunting. Another 10 accusations were also conducted in the village nearly two months back. In Tinsukia alone, the police have identified nine such vulnerable spots, mostly in and around tea gardens with high prevalence of superstitions misconceptions, and holding the threat perception of violent incidents due to such beliefs.

The police are further investigating a possible mental health angle like the prevalence of Parkinson's disease among the

elderly in such backward areas.

"Preliminary investigations suggest the possibility of some mental health issues with the victim, Dilip Kishan, that might have been misunderstood as 'witchery' by the villagers. We are trying to fetch some medical records of the victims to ascertain the facts. Large-scale usage of aluminium utensils and some other food and sanitation habits among the communities of interior areas is a matter of further investigation studies," Mahanta added.

The Assam Tea Tribes Students' Association (ATTS) president Rajen Kumar said that illiteracy and dismal health facilities provide ample breeding ground for such practices among tea communities, which is a grave cause of concern.

"Of late, we have realised that the number of superstition-related cases has gone up among the tea tribe population. We are planning a concerted awareness drive, making the people understand the socio-legal implications of such crimes. Only a sustainable awareness programme can help people come out of age-old superstitious beliefs," Kumar said.

## Atal-Amrit Yojna begins journey in Silchar AASU units demand dissolution of Tinsukia civic body

CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, Aug 18: Atal Amrit Yojna, the flagship health scheme of the State Government began its journey in Silchar on Thursday. In a briefly-held function at the SM Dev Civil Hospital, the Deputy Speaker and local MLA Dilip Kumar Paul gave away the ceremonial Atal Amrit Yojna card to Lakhi Paul to begin the proceedings. "This is a landmark development of the Government which should have been accorded to the people of Assam in the past 70 years. The Chief Minister and the Health Minister have given due importance to develop the health infrastructure of the State. Al-

ready 50,000 cards have been given away and 5 lakh beneficiaries have been enrolled in Cachar district so far.

The Deputy Speaker said that soon an Urban Health Centre will be opened at Trunk Road.

On the other hand, speaking on the issues at the SM Dev Civil Hospital, the Silchar legislator said that the number of beds in the hospital has increased to 400 which is a clear indicator that people have not lost their faith in government health services. The MLA has urged the local commissioners to maintain and monitor the enrolment and issuing of cards to the beneficiaries in each municipal ward of the city.

It may be mentioned that out of 7313 specially-abled

persons in the district, there are 5584 persons with disability certificates and the administration, in the forthcoming month from August 21 to October 25 will try to identify others as well. "There are many such persons in the district who have not been enrolled in the list of beneficiaries. The government has made it clear that no such specially-abled persons should be left out and hence there will be an elaborate camp with assistance from the Departments of Social Welfare and Health will take part in the camp and certificates will be issued after proper verification. We have plans to host 14 such camps across 15 development blocks in the

district," the Deputy Commissioner added.

Further, Vishwanathan

informed that another camp will be held at the Silchar Medical College and Hospital for those with multiple disabilities. The government is anticipating approximately 4,00,000 disabled persons across the State out of whom around 10,000 could be expected in Cachar district, the Deputy Commissioner added.

Moreover, since the financial aid shall be transferred into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries, the banks have been asked to open kiosks on the sidelines of the camps to assist the beneficiaries sans bank accounts.

Joint Director of Health Services, Cachar Dr Sudip Das, ADC Rajib Roy, Assistant Commissioner Basabi Thakuria, Superintendent of Civil Hospital Dr Ashutosh Burman and other officials of the Health Department took part in the inaugural ceremony.

**Bid to assist specially-abled persons:** Following the decision of the State Government to assist the specially-abled persons in the State with

the Department of Social Welfare and Health, the Silchar district administration has decided to organise camps across the district for verification. We have plans to host 14 such camps across 15 development blocks in the

district," the Deputy Commissioner added.

In a memorandum submitted to the Deputy Commissioner in this regard, the AASU units alleged that there was a gross misappropriation of an amount of Rs 7.23 crore in the construction of the new building of the civic body. The ongoing construction of the water supply project of the town is also unplanned and unscientific, the student bodies further alleged. They added that the Tengnaf river bank on the Tinsukia-Bordoli Road had been turned into a garbage disposal site by the Tinsukia Municipal Board. The civic body has failed to adopt proper scientific methods to free the town from artificial floods.

The other allegations of the two student bodies against the civic body include its 'failure' to shift the weekly Sunday market from the Gopinath Bardoloi Road to a suitable

site. Some staff of the civic body are making money illegally from parking places and small shops set up on the roads and footpaths, the AASU units alleged, adding that illegal construction of big buildings in the municipal area is also being allowed in lieu of money.

The student bodies demanded that the Deputy Commissioner should administer the civic body himself and a probe should be ordered to unearth the rampant corruption going on in the municipal board. They threatened to intensify their stir in the interest of ushering in better amenities for the people of the town.



**WEATHER****NORTHEAST**

**Forecast for NE:** Moderate rain/thunderstorm is very likely to occur at most places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and many places in Tripura and at many places over Arunachal Pradesh.

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

**Temperatures :**

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	28.9	26.0
Tezpur	28.4	25.3
Gauhati	32.4	27.0
Dhubri	31.1	27.4
Jorhat	28.7	25.5
N Lakhimpur	27.7	25.6
Silong	23.2	14.7
Imphal	29.2	22.5
Itanagar	27.5	22.9
Aizawl	28.0	13.0
Agartala	31.4	26.5
Kohima	28.9	12.6
Pasighat	33.2	24.8
Cherrapunjee	22.4	17.5

**Medical suptd's office vandalised at Aalo**

ITANAGAR, Aug 18: The office of Medical Superintendent of General Hospital, Aalo in West Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh was vandalised by a group of people.

The incident occurred following a reported denial of the hospital's ambulance by the medical superintendent to lift body of a man, who died in a road accident at Aalo on Wednesday.

Arunachal State Branch of Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Arunachal Pradesh Doctors Association (APDA) have vehemently condemned the incident.

The IMA demanded immediate arrest of the culprits and for awarding them exemplary punishment. It said, the doctors working in the hospital should be provided with adequate security so that they could perform their duty without any mental disturbance.

The IMA also appealed to the State Government to enact a stringent law like, Arunachal Pradesh Protection of Medical Service Persons and Medical Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss of Property) Act so that such incidents are prevented in future. - Correspondent

**140 gold bars seized in Manipur**

IMPHAL, Aug 18: In a major catch, the personnel of Assam Rifles arrested one person and seized 140 gold bars weighing 23 kg and valued at Rs 6.9 crore from his possession. The seizure was made during a routine check at Tengnoupal on Thursday, according to Assam Rifles sources.

The gold bars were recovered from a bus (MN 04 7351) carrying wooden planks when the troops intercepted the vehicle at Tengnoupal check post. The gold bars were kept in small packets. On opening the packets, gold bars weighing approximately 23 kg were recovered.

The driver of the bus Md Kamal Hassan of Kwakta in Bishnupur district revealed about the gold bars that were concealed in the bus. The person was later handed over to the authorities stationed at Moreh town.

Assam Rifles personnel also arrested one drug peddler for carrying heroin and bawal sugar valued at Rs 2.52 crore at Khudenghali Check Post in Tengnoupal district around 11.45 am on Friday. - Correspondent

# NORTH EAST

## NSCN-IM not to decommission arms

**CORRESPONDENT**

DIMAPUR, Aug 18: NSCN-IM will not decommission arms after the final accord is signed with the Government of India, a local daily here reported.

According to the report, an NSCN-IM source said they will not decommission the arms and that the present "Naga army" will be commissioned as a regular army as part of the agreement to have joint defence between the NSCN-IM and Union Government to look after the security of Nagaland (Nagin).

"There will be no decommissioning of arms in our agreement as we will have a joint defence force," said a

source from NSCN-IM. A source said Naga army will be commissioned as a regular armed force and jointly look after the defence of Nagaland.

According to another local daily, setting at rest various media speculations that Government of India and NSCN-IM would be signing "final accord" by September 2017, interlocutor for Naga talks RN Ravi and NSCN-IM member, collective leadership, VS Atam made it clear that there is no such deadline for signing a permanent agreement between the Government of India and NSCN-IM.

There are around 6,000 regular "Naga armymen" in NSCN-IM set-up, spread over Nagaland, Manipur,

Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. There was also report of presence of NSCN-IM cadres in Myanmar. Apart from armed cadres, there are also several hundred workers in civil establishment of the group's shadow government – Government of People's Republic of Nagaland (GPRN).

Our army will look after the borders of Nagaland," a source said. To commission "Naga Army" into a regular force, the Union Government is most likely to create around seven battalions, according to a source. The cadres are likely to be absorbed into paramilitary forces. The new battalions are likely to be deployed along Indo-Myanmar border as part of the

effort to seal the border to check the movement of North East militants.

In 1972, when cadres of "Revolutionary Government of Nagaland" surrendered, the Union Government absorbed the cadres into Border Security Force (BSF). Hundreds of arms were surrendered to the authorities.

The 1975 Shillong Accord also witnessed surrender of dozens of arms by the cadres of Nagaland National Council (NNC).

According to a source, the newly created battalions are likely to be looked after by Union Home Ministry. Earlier, Nagaland Governor PB Acharya also said the Centre would create new battalions for the cadres.

**Arunachal CM calls on Vice President****CORRESPONDENT**

ITANAGAR, Aug 18: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has called on Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi and congratulated him on becoming the Vice President of India.

The Chief Minister thanked Naidu for his guidance during his earlier tenure as Union Minister of Urban Development in helping Pasighat achieve the status of Smart City, and for his cooperation to consider the State Government's request to get Itanagar under the Smart City Mission. Khandu informed that it is the only State capital in the North East that has been left out.

Naidu advised the Chief Minister to work dedicatedly for the people and to set examples for other leaders to follow. He expressed his keen interest to visit Arunachal during the launch of DD channel – Arun Prabha.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by State BJP president Tapir Gao, Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, Deputy CM Chowna Mein and others.

Earlier on Thursday, the Chief Minister, in a bid to expand avenues for film making in Arunachal Pradesh, along with Gao, Mein and others visited the Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad – the world's largest integrated film studio complex.

While interacting with Ramoji Rao, head of the Ramoji Group, which owns the Ramoji Film City, Khandu informed about the Film Institute.

In response, Ramoji told the CM that he is very interested in working for the NE States.

**4 dead, 40 hurt in Sikkim mishap**

GANGTOK, Aug 18: Four persons died on the spot and 40 others were injured, seven of them critically, when a Sikkim Nationalised Transport (SNT) bus rolled down 300 feet from a mountain road at Ambithang in North Sikkim district yesterday evening.

Official reports said the accident took place when the SNT bus driver tried to overtake another vehicle at the narrow stretch near the North district headquarter town and fell on the road below.

The bus was on way to Mangmari, the North district headquarter from Gangtok, about 70 km away. The accident took

**Death threat to Tripura CM**

AGARTALA, Aug 18: An unidentified person has issued a death threat to Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar. The threat appeared in a Facebook post by one Roy Roy on behalf of the 'World Anti-Communist Council' yesterday. An FIR was filed on charges of anti-national activities, creating fermenting and causing terror and violation of IT Act at West Agartala police station on Friday.

Roy's faw is that she will be paid a reward of Rs 5.5 lakh to anyone who will be able to chop off the head of Chief Minister Manik Sarkar on absolutely unspecified 'crimes'. She has introduced herself as an activist of the 'World Anti-Communist Council', also as one attached to 'PB24'.

Strange as it may sound, fake Roy's personal details are not available in the 'Facebook' profile. It is still not known whether the State police have knowledge of or access to the pernicious Facebook post of the notorious Roy. - Correspondent

**532 held for not having ILP**

AIZAWL, Aug 18: At least 532 non-tribals, living in Mizoram without valid Inner Line Permit (ILP), were arrested for violating social rules in 2010. "It is an internal matter of the village and has nothing to do with Christian denominations," the headman added.

However, supporting Yangming's claim, the JAC submitted a memorandum to the CM demanding the peace rally, demanding constitution of a fact-finding body to administer justice.

Those arrested would be produced before the local courts here.

People visiting tribal areas, including Mizoram, require valid ILP in accordance with the provisions of the Inner Line Regulation Act 1873. - PTI

**Tripura to seek Centre's help for flood victims****CORRESPONDENT**

AGARTALA, Aug 18: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar has asked the administration to provide financial assistance to those families whose dwelling homes and other properties were severely damaged by the recent flood in the State's three districts – West, Khowai and Sepahijala. The State Government has also decided to seek help from the Centre for the flood victims.

Once the damages gets assessed, the State will send a report to the Centre seeking financial assistance for the flood-affected families. Three persons perished and at least 50,000 people were marooned in the flood.

According to preliminary reports, crops spreading over 8,500 hectares were damaged due to the flood, while around 30,000 farmers were affected as their crops got damaged in the flood. But it is not ascertainable.

Once the damages gets assessed, the State will send a report to the Centre seeking financial assistance for the flood-affected families. Three persons perished and at least 50,000 people were marooned in the flash flood.

According to preliminary reports, crops spreading over 8,500 hectares were damaged due to the flood, while around 30,000 farmers were affected as their crops got damaged in the flood. But it is not ascertainable.

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## TRAI slaps penalty upto Rs 10 lakh on call drops

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: Telecom regulator TRAI today issued stringent guidelines to curb call drops along with a penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh on service providers if they fail to meet the benchmark for three consecutive quarters.

"We have proposed financial disincentives in the range of Rs 1-5 lakh. It is a graded penalty system depending on the performance of a network," TRAI Chairman RS Sharma told reporters here.

TRAI Secretary (acting) SK Gupta said if an operator fails to meet the call drop benchmark during the consecutive quarter, the penalty amount will be increased 1.5 times and in the third consecutive month it will double.

"However, there is a cap of Rs 10 lakh on financial disincentive," Gupta said.

Under the previous Quality of Service Rule, penalty on call drop was Rs 50,000 per violation.

After the revision, the regulator has made measurement of call drop rate more granular from circle level to mobile towers in a circle.

"There have been some issues in measure-

ment of call drop. Averages hide a lot of things. Under new rules, we are taking into account temporary issues that may be there in the network as well as geographical spread of the network," Sharma said.

Under the revised rule, 90 per cent of base transceiver station or mobile site in a telecom circle 90 per cent of time should not fail to handle 98 per cent of the call, which means not more than 2 per cent calls handled by them should drop.

In worst-affected case or busy hour of the day, not more than 3 per cent of call drop should be registered on 90 per cent of mobile towers in a telecom circle.

The regulator also fixed a benchmark for radio-link time or technology (RLT) - allegedly used by telecom operators for masking call drop.

RLT is used for confirmation of a call in case a subscriber is moving or is in base network area for a short period. It is the time used for connecting call of a subscriber from one mobile tower to another. - PTI

## Problems confronting tea industry discussed

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: The State Innovation and Transformation Ayog (SITA) convened a meeting today with representatives of the State's tea industry to discuss the issues relating to the industry where Government intervention is required.

The meeting was held at the Conference Hall of Balaji Temple Complex here under the chairmanship of Dipak Borahkar, vice-chairman of SITA, said an official press release.

The meeting discussed a gamut of issues that are presently distressing the industry and attempted at finding ways and means to mitigate them.

Earlier, the vice chairman explained the objective of holding the meeting and requested all for their support to revive the industry, looking into its huge contribution towards the State's economy and employment aspects. The VC of Gauhati Uni-

### RBI may deliver final rate cut in Dec

MUMBAI, Aug 18: The Reserve Bank of India will pause at the next policy review and go in for a final 0.25 per cent rate cut in the December review on comfortable inflation, a foreign brokerage said today.

"We continue to see a final 0.25 per cent RBI repo rate cut on December 6 after dovish Monetary Policy Committee minutes. The RBI should pause in October," analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch said in a note.

The brokerage added that it will be a "long pause" after the cut in December.

The note said that inflation risks are being "overdone", and a cool-off in price rise will be one of "compelling factors" that will make the RBI cut rates.

Inflation, excluding the impact of house rent allowance which the RBI will be watching in its policymaking, will come at between 2.75-3 per cent for August after accounting for the spur in onion and tomato prices.

The imported inflation

is expected to ebb on lower oil prices and softer US dollar, it said.

The output gap wherein the RBI's own capacity utilisation levels slipped to 74.1 per cent in March 2017 - is unlikely to close any time soon, it said, pointing out that high lending rates of the banks are an impediment.

Supporting RBI Governor Urjit Patel's view on the need for banks to bring down lending rates, it said there may be a further 0.25 per cent reduction in rates by banks before October.

It can be noted that RBI is mandated to keep the inflation at 4 per cent as a medium-term target according to an agreement with the Government. It delivered a 0.25 per cent cut in rates at the last policy review but asked the banks to work more on transmission of its earlier rate cuts. - PTI

A veteran of Microsoft, Intel, Turner Broadcasting and InStadium, a Chicago marketing company that works with sports venues, Khaund, 45, became interested in ticketing when he realized how easy it was to print fake tickets from PDFs.

He got the idea to use blockchain technology, the technology behind Bitcoin, to create one-of-a-kind digital tickets. Since his

software can collect data on individual ticket holders and communicate with them directly, it also allows event owners to target fans with pitches for products or additional tickets. In March 2016, he launched UpgratedInc in Walnut Creek, CA.

In the Forbes interview, Sandy told Forbes staff Susan Adams that he believes his technology can turn event tickers into high-tech marketing tools that prevent fraud.

## US-based Assamese entrepreneur features in Forbes magazine

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: Sandy (Nazia) Khaund, son of an Assamese couple Late Dr Rabindranath Khaund and Gouri Khaund, now residing in New Jersey, USA, has been featured in the July 27 issue of the prestigious Forbes magazine for his startup (A Tech Startup Wants To Use Blockchain To Make Event ... wwwforbes.com).

Sandy is a graduate in electronics from Cornell University and an MBA from Wharton Business School, Philadelphia, is an entrepreneur and the creator of a startup company based in Walnut Creek, California.

In the Forbes interview, Sandy told Forbes staff Susan Adams that he believes his technology can turn event tickers into high-tech marketing tools that prevent fraud.

### CAPSULE

#### Rupee rebounds

MUMBAI, Aug 18: The rupee rebounded by 5 paise to 64.10 against the US currency in late morning deals following sustained bouts of dollar selling by banks and exporters. - PTI

#### Power Grid

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: State-run power transmission utility Power Grid Corp today said it will get a loan of USD 500 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for its various projects. - PTI

#### Ricoh India

CHENNAI, Aug 18: Leader in the field of imaging Solutions and IT services, Ricoh India today launched new range of colour printers - Pro C5200s series. - PTI



Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (i/c), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Jitendra Singh at a World Entrepreneurs' Day function, in New Delhi on Friday. - UNI

## Infosys Board blames Murthy's scathing attack for Sikka's exit

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: In a scathing attack on NR Narayana Murthy, the Infosys Board today blamed his "continuous assault" as the primary reason for CEO Vishal Sikka quitting the company and ruled out a formal role for the co-founder in the company's governance.

There were no immediate comments from Murthy on the allegations. In a strongly worded statement, the country's second largest software services firm defended Sikka's performance, saying under him, Infosys had delivered profitable revenue growth.

The Board argued that Murthy's "campaign" has intensified over time. "Over time the demands have intensified, which when decided in the Board, resulted in the threats of media attacks being carried out," it said.

The statement added that the Board had tried earnestly to find "feasible solutions within the boundaries of law and without compromising its independence".

It also cautioned that Murthy's actions and demands are damaging the company.

The Board sought to assure shareholders, employees and customers

mours, and statements extracted out of context from his conversations with Board members," it said.

The Board said Murthy has repeatedly made "inappropriate" demands, which are inconsistent with his stated desire for stronger governance.

The Board argued that Murthy's "campaign" has intensified over time. "Over time the demands have intensified, which when decided in the Board, resulted in the threats of media attacks being carried out," it said.

The statement added that the Board had tried earnestly to find "feasible solutions within the boundaries of law and without compromising its independence".

"Murthy's letter contains factual inaccuracies, already disproved ru-

that it will not be distracted by this misguided campaign" by Murthy and will continue to adhere to the highest international standards of corporate governance.

During an investor call, Sikka said the "continued drubbing" about former CFO Rajiv Bansal's severance package and Panaya deal in the last 4-5 quarters have been "sickening".

Infosys co-chairman Ratan Tata said the management is highly distressed by the continuing allegations against Sikka and Board members.

In the meantime, shares of Infosys today slumped over 13 per cent, eroding Rs 24,839 crore from its market valuation, after Vishal Sikka resigned.

The IT major's price plummeted 13.39 per cent to Rs 884.40 - its 52-week low level - on BSE.

At NSE, the stock crashed 13.38 per cent to hit its one-year low of Rs 884.20.

The stock was the worst performer among the bluechips on both the key indices.

The sharp plunge in the stock wiped out Rs 24,839 crore from its market valuation during the late afternoon trade.

Sikka resigned amid heightened acrimony between the board and the high-profile founders led by NR Narayana Murthy, saying he faced "false, baseless, malicious and increasingly personal attacks".

Pravin Rao, currently the chief operating officer, will be the interim CEO, India's second largest software services exporter said in a statement.

Sikka, 50, a former German IT major SAP executive who was roped in as CEO and MD of USD 10 billion revenue company three years back, has been appointed as the executive vice-chairman until a new MD and CEO is hired. - PTI

## 'Bring back Nilekani as Infosys chairman'

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: With Infosys' first non-founder CEO Vishal Sikka calling it quits, an investor advisory firm today favoured Nandan Nilekani - one of the most high-profile founders of the IT firm - being brought back on its board as its non-executive chairman.

The Institutional Investor Advisory Services (IIAS) said the Infosys board has been "unable to protect its CEO" and to select a successor it must begin by "reinventing itself".

"It must convince Nandan Nilekani to join the board once again, as its Non-Executive Chairperson," it said in a report, while adding that Nilekani should not see this as any other corporate job as Infosys is at the heart of Indian IT and its success will foretell how the sector will position itself for the future.

Nilekani was one of the seven founders that set up Infosys more than three decades ago and served as its CEO between March 2002 to April 2007.

Sikka was brought in as the company's first non-founder CEO in June 2014, prior to which the position was held by one or the other founders of the company.

Corporate governance experts and market analysts blamed the recent spat between Infosys founders and management for the resignation.

It can be noted that NIH is mandated to keep the inflation at 4 per cent as a medium-term target according to an agreement with the Government. It delivered a 0.25 per cent cut in rates at the last policy review but asked the banks to work more on transmission of its earlier rate cuts. - PTI

The board and Vishal Sikka

have spent considerable amount of time addressing the concerns - to a point where the company, in its 20-F filing, disclosed distinctions from "activist shareholders" as a possible risk to achieving the company's strategic goals, the report said.

According to IIAS, Nandan Nilekani is possibly the very best candidate Infosys can find globally.

"He has kept pace with technology advances, has been instrumental in digitising the country, and is well-networked with the bureaucracy and global leaders. He also has skin in the game: having started with Infosys early in his journey, Nandan Nilekani will intuitively understand the corporate culture, and what also have "matching of minds" with some of Infosys' founders," it said, adding he possesses the stature to bring an end to the public discourse.

Commenting on the development, VK Sharma, Head - PCG, HDFC securities said while Infosys did better than the industry during Sikka's tenure, it was nowhere near achieving Sikka's own USD 20 billion target by 2020.

"Sikka's allegation that he was continuously being harassed does not wash as he had long enough a honeymoon period to make his mark," Sharma said. - PTI

## Promoter vs outsider debate on for top job

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: The promoter-versus-outsider debate has returned to the fore on running a blue-chip enterprise with distinct differences between the top management and some founders for Vishal Sikka quitting the company.

This is the second high-profile exit of an "outsider" from the top post of a big enterprise in India, after Cyrus Mistry was removed as the head of the over USD 100 billion Tata Group.

While Mistry's family has a significant stake in Tata Sons, he was still seen as a non-Tata. The main reason cited for his exit by several experts was difference with Ratan Tata.

Tata Group has appointed N Chandrasekaran, again a non-Tata but a long-timer at the group TCS, as its new chief.

A large number of Indian blue-chips are run by promoter family members and include Bajaj, Hero Group, Bharti, Mahindra, Dr Reddy's, Lupin and Sun Pharma.

While several of these appoint professional outsiders as CEOs and for other top positions, the top-most executive positions (including Executive Chairperson) are held by the promoters.

At the same time, there are also large groups like ICICI, HDFC, ITC, L&T and Axis Bank where the top-management positions are held by non-promoters and for several years together without any disruptions in several such cases. - PTI

## India Inc profits dip 11% following GST impact

MUMBAI, Aug 18: The impending goods and services tax (GST) regime has made a dent on India Inc's earnings for the April-June period, with profit growth falling to a five-quarter low of 11 per cent, says a Morgan Stanley report.

"Companies in the materials, consumer discretionary and consumer staple sectors reported impact (from GST execution)," the report said.

"Most of the impact was caused by channel destocking and dealer incentivisation which probably explains why both revenue growth and particular margin performance was weak in the quarter for the first quarter of the current fiscal, with companies in the materials, consumer discretionary sharing bulk of the burden.

Financials, utilities, technology and telecom sector companies did not report impact of GST on their earnings either in their earnings release or the management commentary.

However, corporates' revenues saw strong growth at 10 per cent, the highest in the last 12 quarters, for April-June period of 2017, compared to the same period year-ago.

"Broad market (1020 companies) revenue growth accelerated to 10 per cent year-on-year even as the net profit fell 11 per cent year-on-year," the report said. - PTI

Chandra Mohan Patowary, Minister for Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship, inaugurating a workshop on skill development at the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati, on Friday. - UB Photos

details of the scheme, the Central Government has provided for budgetary support of its share of the Central taxes to be refunded under the GST regime under the heads of CGST and IGST payments.

"We thank the State Government, the Chief Minister, the Finance Minister, and the Industries and Commerce Minister and departmental officials for articulating the case of the North East industries in the GST Standing Committees and Councils. We also urge the State governments in the region to come up with their schemes and detailed operating guidelines for the refund of SGST component to the eligible industries under the extant schemes, so that the units are able to enjoy the promised benefits under the new tax regime," it added.

As per the indication, and in absence of the

details of the scheme, the Central Government has provided for budgetary support of its share of the Central taxes to be refunded under the GST regime under the heads of CGST and IGST payments.

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**U**tpal Das, one of the most sought-after amongst the new generation stars of Assamese cinema, has made a comeback to the stage after a break of a few seasons and is all set to hit the mobile theatre stage this coming season. In this freewheeling chat, the star performer talks about the present condition of Assamese films, show business and about his future acting assignments. Excerpts:

You have been in this field for quite some time now. You started your career with VCDs and finally became a poster boy with films like Dhom Kuberor Dhom. Ramdhemu also did good business and Rowd was definitely a well-made movie. After all this while, what do you think is the future of Assamese cinema?

It has been a fun ride for me for the last 12 to 13 years. I have seen a lot of ups and downs, but at the same time, I am very hopeful that the whole environment of filmmaking and creativity will prosper in the near future. As I am not a trained actor, it is difficult to nurture this craft of performing art which is very challenging. Also, there are many unskilled people working in this field, creating a nuisance, though I have been lucky enough to get the opportunity to work with the topmost directors and co-actors so far. What I have learnt from my experiences is that there is a big gap and we need to develop a lot in terms of filmmaking, subject treatment, technical knowhow and presentation.

**Dibendu Goswami**

Coming to mobile theatre, how has your experience been? Do you feel that this system is good enough to be the only surviving entertainment industry in Assam?

I have been lucky enough to be part of this medium, which is the one and only exclusively surviving entertainment industry. My experience so far has been

fabulous, though a lot of mishaps have happened in the past. But eventually, they have helped me become a mature decision-maker and a better person and actor too. As the highest revenue grosser in the entertainment sector, this is indeed a huge success story. People through the *pandals* despite their financial constraints as they are fascinated by the unique presentation techniques and gimmicks.

*Musical videos are the soap-operas of today, for they exhibit the singer who wants to promote his/her album, at the same time, it provides a lucrative space for the actors. How do you rate this move from a viewer's perspective?*

I think any medium works for an actor's career, whether it's a television serial, a movie, play or music videos, which act road shows as well. These are like hot cakes that sell and are thereby supporting a lot of video directors, technicians, choreographers and promising singers.

The whole medium, though limited, is quite worthwhile; as it provides space for showing one's talent and creativity and is becoming very popular, especially in these days of social media.

*Assamese celluloid today is far more competitive than what it was earlier, which is definitely a welcome sign. But do you think the field is big enough to provide ample work space to prove oneself?*

National-level films, i.e., Hindi films have always had an edge over regional films. Moreover, the scarcity of cinema halls here has added to the woes. We urgently need an effective infrastructure to showcase our films to the remoter pockets. Experiences and new concepts are creeping in and definitely there is no dearth of space for exposing one's potential. Assamese films have also made their mark in the national circuit, though we still have a long way to go compared to other regional film industries. Certainly, opportunities today are much more than when I had entered the industry.

*It has been opined by some quarters that mobile theatres have lost its previous dignity, both in terms of subject and treatment. What's your take?*

The audience's preferences keep changing, and they are mature enough to accept or discard any product. Today, in the age of so-

cial media, when the world is easily accessible, it is very difficult to adapt the ever-changing trends. Yet the script-writers always try to feed their requirements, but with assumptions only. And so there are hits and misses, which, anyway, has been a part and parcel of this field.

*Is it said that facing the crowd is more challenging than facing the camera. But do you have done less work on stage? What do you say?*

Well, I have only worked for one season in mobile theatre till now, and the current season is my second one. But this very limited experience has boosted me up and I am looking forward to good assignments in the near future. There is still time to explore this world.

*Your future projects...*

I have signed an agreement with Brindan Theatre for the current season and have to abstain from other proposals till April next year. Other than that, I have recently completed my part in the multi-starrer *The Underworld*, produced by S J Films and Entertainment Limited, Mumbai.



## The comeback star

## Preserving ethnicity

**A**ssam is enriched with a colourful cultural tapestry. But in spite of being blessed with a rich heritage, many of the precious cultural resources of the State are on the verge of extinction. At such a critical juncture, Sukladhwaj – a socio-cultural organisation from Abhayapuri of Bongaigaon district, has been taking up initiatives to keep our folk culture alive. The voluntary organisation, led by Bikram Ranjan Roy, a local journalist, along with a group of young people, has been working to preserve the culture of the State.

The sole aim of the organisation is to revive the folk songs and dances of the different ethnic groups without causing any distortion. They are trying to make the young generation aware of the opulence of our culture by organising different programmes. Last year, during the summer vacation, Sukladhwaj took up the initiative to organise a workshop on folk dances of the Koch-Rajbongshis. The magnificent dances of the community like the *Gowlini, Kusun, Karika*, and the *Hudum Puja* were taught at the workshop. It may be noted that there is a practice known as *Hudum Puja* among the Koch Rajbongshi women to worship the God of Rain. According to this tradition, which has al-



**Rinkumani Pathak**

most gone into oblivion, the women dance into the midnight hours. The presence of the male folk is restricted at the venue of the *Hudum Puja*. Though the performance of the *Hudum dance* was never done in public, Sukladhwaj initiated this dance form in its workshop. The organisation has exhibited tremendous responsibility in reviving the enchanting cultural practices of the State.

Recently, under the aegis of Sukladhwaj, a workshop on *Borgat, Holigeti, Kamrupi Lokageet, Jyoti-prasad, Bishnu Rabha* and *Bhupenda Songet* was held. The participants were trained by Mrinali Maiti, Buddhadeb Das, Basanta Patguri, Sauv Jayoti Das, etc. The organisation, as part of their initiative to encourage the hidden talents, provided free training to many economically backward participants as well. On the other hand, Sukladhwaj is working in the field of environmental awareness through the means of street plays. They are also preparing a documentary on the historical town of Abhayapuri, which was the capital of the ancient Bijni Kingdom.

## A new experiment

**Anurag Barman**

**T**he Northeastern people have always had a keen affinity towards the world of motion pictures. Although there have been many remarkable films produced in the various regional languages of our Seven Sister States in the past years, yet there hasn't been any movie that has traced the boundary of the entire Northeastern region. But debutant director Rupak Gogoi has come up with an unusual film which has not been experienced by the people of the North-East before. Released on August 18, *Gangs of North East* has been made with a unique visual outlook, along with a captivating story and appealing characters representing North-East India. Co-produced by Sanjiva Narain and Konny Lyngdoh under the banner of AM Television and TUNE IN Infotainment, it is the first film to be released in Hindi and Khasi languages.

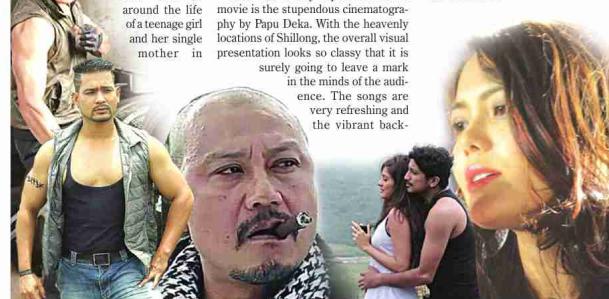
*Gangs of North East* revolves around the life of a teenage girl and her single mother in

the majestic land of Shillong, and how everything changes when fate has something else stored for them, reconnecting them to their past. The screenplay basically runs over three different storylines, which comprises of youth romance, tragic love and the underworld drug business prevalent in the present times. Beautifully penned by Avishka Phukan, it is very interesting to watch the mixed emotions at different times and how finally the three storylines unfold their past and merge into a single climax. Debutant lead actor Vivek Bora shines in the entire film with his mind-blowing action skills, while on the other hand, Rewati Chetri looks confident in her role. Udayan Daurah, Faiyryia Ahmed and Manimal Das have done full justice to their characters. The eye-catchers of the film would definitely be the three stylish and stunning villains portrayed by RK Barindra, Pradhan Deuri, and Chiranjeeb Dutta.

The noteworthy aspect about the movie is the stupendous cinematography by Papu Deka. With the heavenly locations of Shillong, the overall visual presentation looks so classy that it is surely going to leave a mark in the minds of the audience. The songs are very refreshing and the vibrant back-

ground music by Poran Borkatoky goes in tune with the emotions of the film. The action sequences designed by Pradhan Deuri need special mention because the fights have been kept raw, simple and have been performed with the use of any wires and visual effects. Ratan Sil Sarma has beautifully edited the entire film.

As a Northeastern film, *Gangs of North East* has almost all the elements and sentiments connected to the people of the land of North-East India. With limited resources, Rupak Gogoi has tried his level best to present an unconventional treat to the cine-goers. Starting from drama to action, he has put up an engaging tale of our native land on the silver screen. This is for the first time that a film has unitied the sentiments of the Northeastern region. The film will make you feel like you are watching a movie with a fresh take because of its brand new look and unexplored beauty of our native paradise. It is sure and certain that *Gangs of North East* will mark a new beginning and prove worthy of being one of its kind.



### Tumi Ahibaane set for release on September 22

**A** ssamese film *Tumi Ahibaane* is scheduled for release on September 22. The film has been directed by Prerana Barcarooh and produced by the Assam State Film (Finance & Development) Corporation Ltd. and Bibi Devi Barcarooh, under the banner of Preanca Creations.

*Tumi Ahibaane* revolves around a couple named Nihar and Binita and their love for each other. The key roles in the film have been essayed by Ravi Sarma, Barsha Ram Bishaya, Gunjan Bhardwaj, Moonmi Phukan, Samabhi Hazarika, Nipon Goswami, Arun Nath, Bibhuti Bhushan Hazarika, Madhusmita Saikia, Nilupali Baruah, Pratibha Choudhury, Madhurima Choudhury, Tarulata Kutum and Priyanka Boruah.

### Arangetram of Jhankar Nrityangan

**A**n Arangetram programme of Bharatnatyam was held recently under the auspices of Jhankar Nrityangan at the Madhavdev International Auditorium of the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra. The upcoming dancers who performed there

included Anita Goel, Mahasweta Goswami, Himashri Deka and Shehnaz Saikia Rahman, who were trained for eight years under Guru Upasana Mahanta, a Bharatnatyam-Sattriya dance exponent and head of Jhankar Nrityangan.

**Sandeep Khaund's new single**

**T**he legendary Leslie Lewis, apart from being timeless with his voice and compositions, has now brought to the fore a fantastic young talent from Assam, Sandeep Khaund, with his new single, *Junoon Paar Ka*.

At the tender age of six, Sandeep began learning music from his vocalist mother and guru, Pranati Khaund, a vocalist for AIR (All India Radio) for over four-and-a-half decades. After being part of various musical festivals spanning the nation and doing television shows across home state Assam, Sandeep Khaund, armed with a Mechanical Engineering degree and an MBA, decided to follow his heart and pursue music. He has sung for various regional albums and has rendered his voice to Hindi

### Web-series on Subhas Chandra Bose

**N**ational Award winning filmmaker Hansal Mehta says his upcoming web series - *Bose - Dead/Alive*, featuring Rajkumar Rao as Subhas Chandra Bose, is not a boring story about the freedom fighter.

The show is not another boring biography. It is the unveiling of India's biggest cover up. It is a fast-paced, gripping tale on a man whose trajectory is one of the most fascinating stories ever," Mehta said in a statement.

"The web series is structured like a thriller, so while one will learn about his life, it will also leave you on the edge of the seat. Our intention is to portray Bose as a contemporary hero, a rebel who worked in different ways, thereby making him relevant and a part of today's youth," he added.

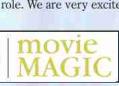
The show is coming up on ALT Balaji, backed by Ekta Kapoor, who says Bose's "story is exciting, extraordinary and one that deserves to be told with great pride." The show's teasers have been doing the rounds on social media. Rajkumar not just worked towards getting a potbelly for the show, but also went half-bald to look the part.

### Shraddha Kapoor to be a part of Prabhas' Saaho

**B**ollywood actor Shraddha Kapoor is on a roll this year. The 30-year-old actress has bagged some interesting projects, and now she is going to be a part of the much-awaited film *Saaho*, starring Baahubali fame Prabhas. Shraddha was confirmed as the female lead a few days ago and recently she shared on Twitter her excitement about the film. Shraddha wrote, "So excited to be a part of the *Saaho* team and to be working with Prabhas! Woohoo."

Producers (Vamsi and Pramod) of UV Creations earlier confirmed the news, saying, "Shraddha is absolutely the perfect choice for the role. We are very excited to have her on board with us."

They further added, "Saaho is Prabhas' first film being shot in Hindi and so it's very special for all of us. It is a highly ambitious project and there will be some really high-octane action scenes in the film."



### ROVING EYE Apurba Kumar Das

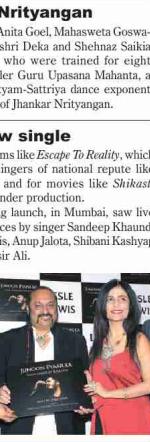
#### Award to Bidyut Kotoky's Guns and Guitars

A 98-minute documentary film by Bidyut Kotoky – *Guns and Guitars*, won in the Best Music category at the Finisterra Arribada Film, Art and Tourism Festival in Portugal, last month. The documentary, a musical travelogue, is about the existence of melody despite the people of the North-East being crippled by relentless violence. While making the film, Kotoky met eight musical bands of the North-East in their respective states and heard their different, yet similar stories. The story of violence moves to Tripura where the indigenous people have become a minority. He depicts the arms struggles of the Mizos National Front, the AFSPA in Manipur, where the rape of a woman in custody shook the country. Kotoky then moves to Nagaland, the place of the oldest insurgency in the world which boasts of a Ministry of Culture and a Music Task Force. Also, musicians from Arunachal Pradesh speak of Tibet and the constant insurgency.



#### Award to Bidyut Kotoky's Guns and Guitars

Readers are hereby invited to contribute original articles related to the culture of the North-East (film, music, drama, etc.), along with photographs. They may be e-mailed to cultural@assamtribune.com.



- Features Editor

# Ripples of melody

Sometime back in May 2015, a grand show of Shankar Mahadevan, one of the most prolific musicians of the country, with his dream theme – ‘My country, My music’, was about to start in Singapore. Suddenly the singer receives an SMS on his cellphone: “Good luck, Sir. But why did you not incorporate Assamese folk in your fusion band?” It was from an artiste, known to Mahadevan, from Mumbai. He looked at it for a moment, then replied, “Thank you for your wishes.”

**Minmoy Bhuyan**

Surely a short reply from the singer on tour, but with a long note of significance within. The result was the inclusion of Bihu and *Borgat* in his subsequent shows the world over. The artiste who messaged

Mahadevan in Singapore was singer Anindita Pal, a daughter of Assam whose popular song *Kor ejak sapon jen bonosun* had won millions of Assamese hearts.

Mahadevan not only took up Bihu and *Borgat*, but included Anindita too in his band.

Today, she's an indispensable part of the band that stretches its route

throughout the globe, cutting across all language barriers, music genres, caste, creed and religion.

Anindita Pal was first spotted by the iconic singer in an informal evening *mohfil* sometime back in 2013.

“It was musical madness for 12 long hours at his residence, up until early morning,” an excited Anindita recollects.

Figures like Toufigi Qureshi, the legendary *tabla* player, were among those present. I got a chance to sit in one corner as my husband – Dibyajyoti Nath, was already a bass guitarist with Mahadevan. Unexpectedly, I was asked to sing a *bhajan*. I tried, it was perhaps not my best because I was a bit nervous in front of the great masters. But as I finished, Mahadevan stood up to praise me, a dream still unbelievable for me.”

Anindita had little idea about the turn that her life was about to take following the *mohfil*. Mahadevan soon offered her a music class for corporations in his online academy where 67 countries are affiliated members. It was a challenging job for Anindita to give corporate people lessons on the benefits of music in releasing stress and strain. “Anindita not only sings well, but she talks well too,” commented Mahadevan after a few classes.

In a workshop in Guwahati, at the age of 10, Anindita was noticed by violin maestro V Balaji from the Baranasi Hindu University, who offered to take her to Varanasi for higher studies in classical music. But she was perhaps destined to take the same course in Guwahati under the Bhatkhande Music Institute of Lucknow. When asked if she ever regretted not taking up the Banaras offer from a stalwart like Balaji, she says, “No, I never did. My parents rightly wanted me to complete my education, along with my music. With an MA in English from Cotton College, it's my lit-

erature course that has helped me take up the online corporate classes comfortably in Mahadevan's academy.”

While *Kor ejak sapon jen bonosun* is her trademark song in Assam, her first recorded song was *Bilat tire bira*, sung for All India Radio, Nagaon, in 1994 during her higher secondary studies, before it was included in her first album with Zubeen Garg in 2000. “The three years of my stay in Nagaon were very important for me,” Anindita states. Referring to Parveen Sultana and other noted poets of the district, she says, “Nagaon is the Bhatkhande of Assam. I learned many *Ragas, thumris* and *tokaris* in Nagaon.” Today, the Mumbai-based Anindita never for-



## A film for change

The creative minds of Assam have shown immense potential in the world of cinema by trying their craft in varying backgrounds. Hemant Nilim Das, a Mumbai-based filmmaker from Assam, who started his career with his critically acclaimed flick *Pocket Gangsters* in 2015 is all set to release his bilingual film *Khalnayika* on August 25.

He came to the limelight when he directed India's first uncut movie starring Madhur Mittal, Raghubir Yadav and Mukesh Bhatt, produced by VM Shah. Written by Hemant Nilim Das himself, *Pocket Gangsters* signified the dark world of ‘pocketing’ human lives, putting their lives at stake and demanding obscene amounts of ransom from the relatives or friends of the hostage. The film was screened at several international film festivals and won laurels like the Best Director Award at the Los Angeles International Film Festival, the Audience’s Choice Award at The Bioscope Global Film Festival – 2016, and was the second runner-up in the competition in the Los Angeles CineFest. His second directorial project was a noir thriller called *Black September*, which is a true story in the Indo-Pak border and was shot on live camera inside a real bunker.

After these two ventures in Hindi, he is ready to present his third film, which has been titled *Khalnayika* in Assamese and *Banned Love Stories* in Hindi. The story and screenplay had been penned by Hemant Nilim Das, along with the co-writer, Tapan Deka. Made for the youth of today, the film is a saga of love, deceit, and revenge. The film stars Fairyyah Ahmed, Sonia, Aarti Rana, Jayant Negi, Alok Singh, Chanchalesh

**Anurag Barman**



Singh, Drashyam, Gagan, Utkarsh, Harshant, Upasana, Gauri Shankar, Ramesh Singh, and many others. Shree Gururath Shree, Zubeen Garg and Anupama have worked on the music, while the lyrics have been penned by Hemant Nilim Das himself.

The playback singers for the film are Rakesh Reeyan, Dibash Kashyap, Satadhi Borah, Sagna Pathak and, of course, Zubeen Garg. The cinematography has been done by Chittaranjan Dhal and Narayan Dixit. The songs have been choreographed by Jeetu-Sandy, while the action sequences have been designed by Pradeep Bhabesh ATC and Rajabhai. The costumes have been designed by Palash Gogoi. The production of the movie is being supervised by Sarthak Kumar and the di-

rector himself under the banner of Golden Shakespeare Productions and Innovation Next Media.

The director reveals that *Khalnayika* is a film that has been inspired from legendary characters like Draupadi, Sita, and Ganga. According to him, *Khalnayika* is about having fun in the most outrageously limitless way. He feels that women have been suppressed in our society for a very long time and in this film, he wants to show that women are far more intellectually and emotionally balanced than men, by portraying the modern versions of Ganga, Sita, and Draupadi. So, he appeals to the people of Assam to watch *Khalnayika* as it has all the elements of a socially relevant entertainer. He also states that he wants to make films that will endeavour to bring a positive change in the society.

### prelude

The Bodleian Library is the principal library of the University of Oxford, and the second-largest library in the United Kingdom, with over 6.3 million books. It is a national library of copyright deposit, entitled to claim a copy of every work published in the British Isles. Books are held in various libraries in Oxford, as well as in the Book Repository nearby. Special treasures within its extensive collection include the earliest surviving manuscript of *La Chanson de Roland* (12th century), four copies of *The Rule of St Benedict* (early eighth century), the *Magna Carta* of 1215, and the main collection of manuscripts of Percy Bysshe Shelley.

The Bodleian Library traces the history of its current form back to 1602 when it was opened by Sir Thomas Bodley, an academic and retired diplomat. Over the following centuries, as more space was required, the library built or extended into neighbouring areas. Today it occupies several buildings, and its libraries include the Old Library, the New Library, the Radcliffe Camera, the Radcliffe Science Library, the Bodleian Law Library, the Indian Institute Library, and Rhodes House

Library. There are places for over 2,400 readers in 29 reading rooms.

E-mail your questions with answers to: [coloseum@assamtribune.com](http://coloseum@assamtribune.com).

### harmonisers

From Adish Agarwalla, Moranhat –

- 2) A collection of poems by which actor was published as *Tanha Chaudhuri*?
- 3) In 1947 whom did Karna kill using India's 'Sankar Shakti'?
- 4) Which poet was awarded the Jnanpith award in 1969 for his work *Gul-e-Naghma*?
- 5) She was born in 1929 in Germany. She founded the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre in Karachi in 1962. She was popularly known as Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' for dedicating her life to eradicate leprosy in the country. She died recently on August 10, 2017. Name her.

### unities

From Shajid Khan, Tangla –

- 6) Who said, “The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of human bladder”?

### the colosseum

■ Neelopal Deka

#### side screen

- 1) Picture Clue: She founded the Paris Indian Society in 1905 in Paris. Identify her. (From Adish Agarwalla, Moranhat)



- 7) This Dev Anand-Madhulika starrer offered a moneyback guarantee if viewers did not like the movie. The offer, however, was withdrawn after just one day. Name the movie.

- 8) Richard Attenborough's film *Cry Freedom* was based on the life of whom?

#### do-re-me

- 9) What was founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale in 1951 to build a dedicated group of people for social service and reforms? (Jayanta Topadar, Dhemaji)

- 10) This Arabic name for the food item means fried meat and not grilled meat. *Sheekh, Domer, Chelow, Kathi* are its popular variants. Name this famous food item. (Deepjoyti Deka, Nalbari)

- 11) Who has classified his style of singing as “Urdu Blues”? (Suman Das, Guwahati)

#### ANSWERS

- 1) Madam Bhikaji Cama 2) Meena Kumari 3) Ghatotkach 4) Firaq Gorakhpuri
- 5) Dr Ruth Kartha 6) Martin Pifau 7) Nitrali 8) Activist Steve Biko 9) Servants of India Society 10) Kohab 11) Hariharan 12) Wuthering Heights 13) Derived from *Passa* or gambling games using chessboard 14) Jagjit Singh.



## A monumental work

RD Goswami

Srimanta Sankaradeva is unarguably

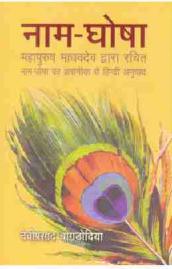
the greatest icon of, at least, our State. His monumental work on the formation of a classless society is unparalleled in history, and the beauty of his work lies in the fact that the classless society that he created five centuries ago in Assam still exists and is thriving. That he is still largely unknown among the general people of the mainland is unfortunate and the Indian society is definitely the loser in this regard.

Sankaradeva's chief disciple Madhadev composed the *Namghosa*, a book containing hymns in praise of Lord Krishna, beckoning the common people to become His devotees and chant His name. Sankaradeva rejected idol worship, and the religion that he founded – *Ek Sarana Naam�herma*, enjoined upon believers to change his name as the only way of worship. *Namghosa* contains 1,000 verses, which Madhadev composed and believed to be the core of Sankaradeva's philosophy.

*Namghosa* was written in the Brajawali language, a language which Sankaradeva invented. Brajawali is derived from the Maithili dialect, experts believe, and is different from Brajabhasha of Surdas. Devi Prasad Bagodia – a well-established name in the literary circles of Assam, has completed the monumental task of rendering *Namghosa* into Hindi, the national language of India. The first verse of the *Namghosa* has been translated as: *Mukti Se Nishtira Jo! Us Bhakti Ko Namastha Mastak Mani Nij Bhakt-Vash/Bhaju Aise Deeva Yadupati*, which is a fair rendering of the original text.

Spiritual and religious texts and that too, in poetry are not very easy to understand. To the layman, an explanation is often necessary as to what the Master wants His subjects to know. A prosaic religious/spiritual text is different. More easy to follow than the metrical ones – even if philosophy and spiritualism are not everybody's cup of tea, Bagodia has done a commendable work by explaining each of the verses of the epic in Hindi after the translation, which adds to the beauty of the work.

It is unfortunate that of a country of which Assam has been an integral part since millennia, where saint-poets like Nanak, Kabir, Chaitanya, Ramdas, etc., are quite well-known all over the rest of the country, as well as in this region, Sankaradeva, whose life and work are no less exemplary, is very unknown to the rest of India, except scholars. Works like these need to be promoted extensively all over the country – so that every man, woman and child knows the value of peace and worship in this strife-torn world.



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## A slice of life

A Mathur

In the book *Revelations of an Imperfect Life* by Sankhya Samhita, the conflicts and contradictions, the innocent, yet complicated whereabouts of our minds, the humbling knowledge of not knowing your own self have been portrayed so simply and flawlessly that it feels like you yourself are going through all that. It is not easy to be this honest, not at all.

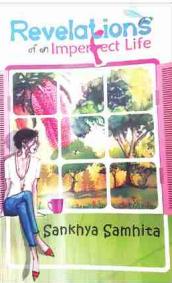
The book has moments of ups and downs. There are moments when I am happy with Tanaya and there are times when I am sad too. The turmoil of the so-called “advanced modern society” has been portrayed brilliantly.

A marriage, its intricacies, its beauty, its complications, and more so its compromises are not something that people really talk about before getting married, let alone about ways to handle a relationship that has been strained. The characters are so genuine that I feel as if I know them. The characters are definitely what makes this book. And *Aita* is the best of them all, witty and touchy, ignorant and caring – all at the same time. I'm left wishing she was my grandmother.

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable read. Lovable characters, flawed, yet endearing; exactly how people are in real life. Expected the end to be quite different, love what it is, though. The miracles aren't in the big changes that are brought about by life-altering decisions but in small moments that come together and make life more meaningful. I love how close it is to real life, and without being preachy, cuts across the message of believing in life and its wonders.

The title sums up not just Tanaya's story, but also real life perfectly. Her family and her friends, each one brings something important into the story and contributes to her development in their own way. They are realistic, in that the way they behave and speak doesn't feel scripted to fit the plot. Rather, the plot feels like it is guided by the interactions between the characters.

Even for people who didn't grow up in India, the flashbacks to childhood in a sleepy, close-knit town are still relatable. We all have those particular memories that stand out for us, those certain foods that take us back. The author paints a nostalgic image of the Tezpur of her childhood, but does it in such a way that one can feel the zeal of one's own childhood. Lastly, avoiding any spoilers, I will simply say that the ending manages to surprise me. That is unusual in a book, and I do appreciate it when it happens!



**Revelations of an Imperfect Life**  
Sankhya Samhita,  
Readmania.  
Price: Rs 250/-

- 12) Which 19th century novel is also the name of poems by both Ted Hughes and his wife Sylvia Plath, and was made into a film in 1939? (Sunil Barman, Hengrabari, Guwahati)

- 13) Pasapali Saree or Vichitravati Saree is a handloom saree woven mainly in the Bargarh district of Odisha. They have intricate check patterns of contrast colours resembling the chessboard. How did it get its name? (Jayanta Topadar, Dhemaji)

#### crescendo

- 14) On May 10, 2001, who sang the ghazal – *Lata nahin dil mera* – in the Parliament to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the First War of Indian Independence? (Adish Agarwalla, Moranhat)

## HC pulls up TN govt in Rajiv convicts case

CHENNAI, Aug 18: The Madras High Court today pulled up the Tamil Nadu government after it wanted to file a fresh counter affidavit on a plea by two lifers in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case seeking premature release.

"How many counters you will file?" Justice A Selvan heading a division bench asked the Additional Public Prosecutor (APP), VMR Rajendran. The bench later adjourned the hearing to August 22.

The judge's reaction came after Rajendran said the government wanted to file a fresh counter affi-

davit in place of the one dated December 10, 2012. The APP sought one week's time for filing the fresh counter.

The previous counter, served on the petitioners Robert Payas and Jayakumar on August 16, had opposed their plea for including their names in the list of 180 prisoners proposed to be released prematurely in 2012 on Republic Day eve.

This was in contrast to the State government's decision taken later to set free all the seven convicts in the case, a matter pending in the Supreme Court

after the Centre opposed it. The State government, in the affidavit, had submitted that Payas, according to his own admission, was a Sri Lankan national and hence his claim that his incarceration was violative of the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India was incorrect.

The Centre in its counter had said Payas and Jayakumar were not entitled to premature release in view of the Supreme Court's ruling that life sentence meant imprisonment for the entire life of a person. — PTI

## Akhilesh Yadav makes light of Amit Shah's 'Mission 2019'

LUCKNOW, Aug 18: Former UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav today poked fun at BJP president Amit Shah, saying the Opposition may well have to leave for Nepal if the party won its target of 350 plus seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The Samajwadi Party lead-

er was asked by reporters here about Shah's Mission 2019 – a poll strategy on winning 350 seats or more in the next Parliamentary poll. "If Shah is saying so, he must be right. If this is so, the opposition should go on a trip to Nepal... We should leave UP," he said. — PTI



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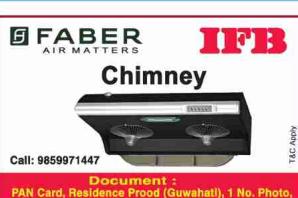
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## EC flags use of PR firms to shape public opinion

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: With public relations firms being used by parties to shape public opinion online, the Election Commission is formulating a social media policy to address the issue.

The use of PR firms to shape public opinion on the social media was flagged by Election Commissioner OP Rawat. "It has come to the notice of the commission that paid operators run by PR firms are being actively deployed to shape public opinion online," he said.

With increasing spread of mobile internet technology, the influence of social media was also increasing and it was high time that was recognised as media and its content was monitored, he added.

"I'm happy to state that the ECI

is formulating its social media policy and we are hopeful that it is likely to address such issues," he added.

Addressing a consultation on electoral and political reforms organised by there Association for Democratic Reforms here yesterday, Rawat also hit out at the political class, saying winning today was more important without consideration of ethics.

"Democracy thrives when elections are free, fair and transparent. However, it appears to a cynical commentator that we have been scripting a narrative that places maximum premium on winning at all costs to the total exclusion of ethical considerations. In this narrative, packaging of legislators is extolled as smart political management; strategic introduction of money for allurement,

tough-minded use of state machinery for intimidation, etc., are all commended as resourcefulness," he said.

His remarks came just days after the political drama in Gujarat ended. The EC had invalidated votes of

cians, media, civil society organisations, constitutional authorities and all those having faith in democratic polity for "a better election, a better tomorrow."

He said although money was necessary for political parties and candidates, experience had shown that there was a "real and present risk" that some parties and candidates, once in office, would be more responsive to the interests of a particular group of donors rather than to wider public interest. "Policy capture occurs when the interests of a narrow group dominate those of other stakeholders to the benefit of that narrow group," he said.

He reiterated the commission's objections to the Electoral Bonds introduced by the government, saying it might lead to the use of black money in electoral politics.

Rawat said the recent amendments in election and income tax laws make it clear that any donation received by a political party through an electoral bond had been taken out of the ambit of reporting in the Contribution Report.

"Furthermore, where contributions received through Electoral Bonds are not reported, a perusal of contribution reports will not make it clear whether the party in question has taken any donations in violation of Section 29B of the Representation of People Act, which prohibits political parties from taking donations from government companies and foreign sources," he added. - PTI

### Social media

Two Congress MLAs during Raigarh Sabha polls for violating secrecy norms and the Congress' Ahmed Patel had won narrowly.

Rawat said under the new narrative, "the winner can commit no sin.

He said it was this "creeping new normal of political morality" that should be the target for "exemplary action" by all political parties, politi-

## Probe on thefts in Rajdhani Express

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) suspects that a group of "ticketed passengers" could be behind a series of thefts on Rajdhani Express trains, including the one on August Kranti Rajdhani on August 16, a senior RPF official told PTI.

The RPF believes that thieves who stole valuables and cash worth Rs 10-15 lakh from sleeping passengers on board August Kranti Rajdhani Express said cash and valuables worth Rs 10-15 lakh were stolen from their compartments early Wednesday.

Many complained of being drugged and accused the railway staff as well as other employees of being involved. - PTI

they travelled on the Mumbai-Delhi Rajdhani on August 9, when three passengers complained of thefts under similar circumstances.

"We are checking to see if groups of passengers travelled on both the trains and also scanning them on the basis of gender, age and other parameters," a senior official said.

Twenty-five passengers on the Mumbai-Delhi August Kranti Rajdhani Express said cash and valuables worth Rs 10-15 lakh were stolen from their compartments early Wednesday.

Many complained of being drugged and accused the railway staff as well as other employees of being involved. - PTI



Karnataka BJP president BS Yeddyurappa with party leaders R Ashok, KS Eshwarappa and Jagadeesh Shettar, leading a protest against Karnataka government demanding resignation of corrupt ministers, at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Friday. - UNI

### PUBLIC NOTICE (PROVISIONAL MERIT LIST OF ASSISTANT TEACHER UNDER SSA, ASSAM)

No. SSA/TTE/Engagement of Ass't Teacher/149/2017/2416 Date: 2017/08/17

This is for general information that the Provisional Merit List for the post of Assistant Teacher (Lower Primary, Upper Primary/Social Science, Upper Primary-Maths & Science) on contractual basis under Sarba Siksha Abhyans, Assam in connection with this office Advertisement No. SSA/TTE/Engagement of Ass't Teacher/109/2017/2416 dated 2017/08/17 is now available on the website [www.ssa-assam.gov.in](http://www.ssa-assam.gov.in). The list of proposed candidates whose candidature was not considered for preparation of Merit list is published in the Notice Board of respective District Mission Office (where the candidates had verified their documents) of Sarba Siksha Abhyans.

Candidates in respect to Provisional Merit List, may submit their complaint/ grievance, if any, at the respective District Mission Office (where they had verified their documents) of Sarba Siksha Abhyans in Specific Format along with photocopies of all relevant documents in support of their claim on 19.08.2017, 21.08.2017 and 22.08.2017. Complaints/grievances communicated through FAX, email, phone, postal communication or after the due date will not be entertained.

Candidates who have applied in the districts of Biswanath, Charaideo, Hojai, Majuli, South Salma Manekhat will have to submit their complaints/grievances in the District Mission Office of SSA, Sonpur, Sivasagar, Nagaon, Jorhat, Dhubri respectively within the stipulated date.

The authority reserves the right for further verification/authentication of any information pertaining to the eligibility criteria of any candidate.

Sd/-Executive Director  
SSA, Assam. Kalihipara, Guwahati-19  
Janasanyog/CF/1171/17

## JD(U) rebels' convention in Patna today

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: Jadavpatna Dal (United) rebels, led by Sharad Yadav, will tomorrow hold a convention in Patna, coinciding with the national executive meet convened by the party headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The convention follows a mega meeting of anti-BJP parties held yesterday in the National Capital, seeking to save the "composite culture" of the country.

The rebels have been up in arms ever since Kumar decided to sever ties with the grand alliance partners - RJD-Congress - and joined hands with the BJP to form the government in Bihar.

The party's former national general secretary Arun Kumar Srivastava, who was expelled after the JD(U) legislator in Gujarat voted against the NDA candidate in the recent vice presidential polls, said that the rebels could approach the Election Commission for a claim on party name and symbol in case of a split. - PTI

Sharpening the attack on Nitish Kumar for giving up "democratic norms", Rajya Sabha MP Ali Anwar Ansari asserted that those opposed to the Bihar CM represented the "real" JD(U), and added:

### Kejriwal govt threats to take over 449 schools

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: The Delhi government will take over around 449 private schools, which have been served show cause notices over charging extra fee, only as a "last resort" if they do not roll back their decision, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said today.

Addressing a press conference, his first in nearly four months, Kejriwal said the government does not intend to "interfere", but will surely "discipline" the schools, if needed.

The schools are among the ones identified by a committee headed by Justice Anil Dev Singh as having over-charged parents on the pretext of implementing recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was also present, said the show cause notices were served four days ago with a deadline to respond within two weeks.

"Schools will not be allowed to exploit students like they used to do under previous governments due to political collusion," Kejriwal said. - PTI

No. SEM//T/P-VIII/2009

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Sl. District Name of Works Approx. Value of works Rs. In Lakh

1	Cachar	Construction of road from Gajahat PMGSY Road to Debjuri (Ch. 0.00 m to Ch. 600.00 m) under A.P (SCSP area); for the year 2016-17 under Silchar Rural Road Division, PWRD in Dholai (SC Reserved) LAC	49.99940
2	Cachar	Construction of road from Bagha-Sherkan PWD Road to Sharanchanpur (from Ch. 0.00 m to Ch.630.00 m) under A.P (SCSPareas) for the year 2016-17 under Silchar Rural Road Division, PWRD in Dholai (SC Reserved) LAC	49.99940

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD  
Border Roads and NEC Works,  
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

### অসম লোকসেবা আয়োজন

### ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

No. 23 PSC/CON/Exam-17/2016-17

### NOTIFICATION

The Assam Public Service Commission do hereby declare the result today (17th August, 2017) of the Screening Test for the Post of Asstt. Engineer Civil/Mechanical/Electrical under PHE Department which was conducted by the Commission on 26/02/2017. Candidates bearing the following Roll Numbers are declared to have qualified for the interview (Viva-Voce). The date of interview (Viva-Voce) will be notified separately.

Serially, in order of Roll numbers only (horizontally):

(i) Asstt. Engineer (Civil Engineering):

00000003	00000017	00000019	00000015	00000027	00000029	00000029	00000029
00000043	00000049	00000051	00000056	00000058	00000059	00000060	00000061
00000063	00000066	00000071	00000072	00000073	00000098	0000100	0000114
0000117	0000161	0000233	0000242	0000259	0000266	0000273	0000295
0000290	0000308	0000372	0000377	0000395	0000400	0000425	0000441
0000451	0000452	0000455	0000461	0000465	0000466	0000467	0000468
0000482	0000487	0000488	0000490	0000491	0000492	0000493	0000495
0000548	0000569	0000573	0000574	0000581	0000582	0000583	0000591
0000603	0000614	0000645	0000653	0000674	0000679	0000690	0000707
0000711	0000786	0000824	0000831	0000885	0000886	0000887	0000914
0000915	0000916	0000918	0000923	0000930	0000935	0000970	0000985
0000994	0001002	0001015	0001039	0001056	0001058	0001090	0001110
0001119	0001120	0001144	0001177	0001179	0001180	0001189	0001190
0001221	0001223	0001231	0001236	0001243	0001244	0001246	0001509
0001514	0001541	0001548	0001553	0001554			

(ii) Asstt. Engineer (Mechanical Engineering):

00000008	0000014	0000024	0000084	0000090	0000097	0000121	0000129
0000167	0000171	0000273	0000358	0000359	0000376	0000413	0000428
0000434	0000435	0000467	0000491	0000499	0000513	0000517	0000589
0000590	0000595	0000596	0000618	0000663	0000668	0000699	0000732
0000739	0000793	0000805	0000811	0000893	0000928	0000964	
0000974	0000994	0000995	0001043	0001060	0001112	0001114	0001123
0001271	0001325						

(iii) Asstt. Engineer (Electrical Engineering):

00000005	0000030	0000040	0000074	0000114	0000168		
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N.B.: 1. The Commission will not be responsible for any printing mistakes.

Sd/- (Dr. Babul Sahariah, ACS)  
Principal Controller of Examinations, APSC.

Janasanyog/D/679/17

জিলা উদ্যোগ আৰু বাসিঙ্গ কেন্দ্ৰ, বৰপ্ৰাৰ্থা

জিলা উদ্যোগ আৰু বাসিঙ্গ কেন্দ্ৰ (DICC), খৰচ

জিলা উদ্যোগ আৰু বাসিঙ্গ কেন্দ্ৰ (KVIC) কেন্দ্ৰ

জিলা উদ

## ISIS fighters almost encircled in Syrian desert

BEIRUT, Aug 18: Syrian regime troops have seized more territory from the Islamic State jihadist group in a central desert region, almost entirely surrounding its fighters there, a monitor said today.

Backed by Russian warplanes and pro-government militias, the Syrian army has made considerable progress in its months-long offensive to retake the Badaia. The vast desert region, which stretches from the country's centre to the Iraqi and Jordanian borders, has been held by IS since 2014.

"The regime managed to encircle the area of Okayhat and the surrounding 44 hamlets, straddling the central provinces of Hama and Homs," said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Syria's official SANA news agency also reported that Okayhat had been surrounded. Russia's defence ministry said the Syrian army had taken control of the last supply route for arms, ammunition and equipment in the area. - AFP

No.AYUSH/28/2017/7485

### CORRIGENDUM

**Request for Qualification (RFQ) from Private Parties for setting up Ayurvedic Medical College & Hospitals in Assam through Public Private Partnership (PPP).**

In partial modification of the Notice inviting RFO vide no.HLB.421/2017/65 dated 10th August, 2017, Directorate of AYUSH, Assam invites offers from interested and eligible Private Parties for setting up Ayurvedic Medical College & Hospitals in Assam through PPP. The RFO document and Terms of Reference (ToR) can be downloaded from the websites viz., [www.assam.gov.in](http://www.assam.gov.in) and [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) or can be obtained from the office of the Directorate of AYUSH, Assam, Banphool Nagar Path, Bassisha Road, House No.01, Dispur, Orvishali-781006 from 19th August, 2017 to 30th August, 2017, on all working days between 10.00 hrs and 16.00 hrs. Last date for submission of RFQ is 31st August, 2017 up to 14.00 hrs. The cost of RFO document for an amount of Rs. 1000/- (One Thousand only) is exempted.

The authority reserves the right to modify, accept or reject any or all RFO without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Director of AYUSH Assam,  
Dispur, Guwahati-06.

**"RECRUITMENT OF 1416 POSTS OF CONSTABLES AB IRE-TEST IN PURSUANCE TO THE ADVERTISEMENT PUBLISHED ON 24-12-2014"**

THE WRITTEN TEST FOR RECRUITMENT OF 1416 POSTS OF CONSTABLES AB (IRE-TEST) IN DHUARI, BARPETA & NAGAN DISTRICT SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON 20-08-2017 AT DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OF THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT IS HEREBY POSTPONED DUE TO GRIEV FLOOD SITUATION IN THE STATE AFFECTING THE THREE ABOVE DISTRICTS.

THE DATE FOR THE WRITTEN EXAMINATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

FOR ANY QUERIES CANDIDATES MAY CONTACT THE FOLLOWING HELPLINE NUMBERS:-

(I) WHATAPP NO. -7636071991 /HELP DESK NUMBER (1) 9 AM TO 6 PM

(II) PHONE NO. -7636071991 /HELP DESK NUMBER (2) 9 AM TO 6 PM

(III) PHONE NO. -7636071992 /HELP DESK NUMBER (3) 9 AM TO 6 PM

(IV) PHONE NO. -7636071993 /HELP DESK NUMBER (4) 9 AM TO 6 PM

HOWEVER, THE CANDIDATES SHOULD PRESERVE THEIR ADMIT CARDS ALREADY ISSUED SO AS TO ENABLE THEM TO APPEAR IN THE EXAMINATION AS AND WHEN HELD IN OUR COURSE.

Sd/- CHARMAN,  
STATE LEVEL POLICE RECRUITMENT  
BOARD,ASSAM  
REHABARI, GUWAHATI

Janasanyog/C/2519/17

**COTTON UNIVERSITY**  
Panbari, Guwahati- 781001  
Assam, India  
Website: [www.cottonuniversity.ac.in](http://www.cottonuniversity.ac.in)

### NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations from manufacturers/vendors/dealers/suppliers are invited in two bid system (technical and price bid) for supply and installation of Microprocessor Trainer Kit for Cotton University.

SNo.	NIQ No.	Date	Particulars
1	NIQ No.- CU/S&P/2017/06/45	Dated: August 17, 2017	"Supply and installation of Microprocessor Trainer Kit"

The detailed NIQ document may be collected on payment of a fee of Rs. 500/- from the Office of the Registrar, Cotton University payable through ICICI Bank Challan - FEE CODE 011 available in Cotton University website [www.cottonuniversity.ac.in](http://www.cottonuniversity.ac.in). Sealed quotations are to be submitted during office hours. Last date of submission of sealed quotations to the undersigned is 7th September, 2017 up-to 2:00 PM and the quotations will be opened on the same day at 3:00 PM. Participating firms may attend at the time of opening of the quotations.

Registrar.

No CR/CW/25/2017  
**E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE / NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR I.I.T.F. 2017**

Commissioner of Industries & Commerce, Assam invites tenders from experienced Delegates / Contractors / Firms in two bid system for the supply of temporary Design & Decoration of both interior and exterior of Assam Pavilion at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi including Theme Pavilion for India International Trade Fair 2017 to be held from 14th to 27th November, 2017. Theme for this year I.I.T.F is "Start Up India Stand Up India".

Maximum tendered amount should not exceed Rs. 36,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh). There must be adequate reflection of the cultural ethos & heritage of Assam and the theme for this year I.I.T.F in the facade design.

The contractor/bidder must be registered with Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam (website: [htpsandwiches.gov.in](http://htpsandwiches.gov.in)) details of bids can be viewed in the portal [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) from 22.08.2017 to 11.09.2017.

Online bid preparation and last date and time of manual submission of hard copy of bid Document and Bid Security separately in original as mentioned in the bid documents and self seal of documents up to 10.00 AM on 20.08.2017 up to 14.00 hours on 11.09.2017. Date and time of opening of bid is at 15.00 hours of 11.09.2017.

The bid/tender will be available through the link <http://assamtenders.gov.in> from 10.00 hours of 22.08.2017 up to 14.00 hours of 11.09.2017.

Sd/- Commissioner of Industries & Commerce, Assam, Udyog Bhawan, Bannumaidan, Guwahati- 781021

Janasanyog/C/2527/17

# INTERNATIONAL

## US, Japan vow to boost defence cooperation

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: The US and Japan have agreed to advance their multilateral security and defence cooperation with countries like India, South Korea and Australia, amidst China's growing assertiveness in the Asia Pacific region.

"We will cooperate to advance trilateral and multilateral security and defence cooperation with other partners in the region, notably the Republic of Korea, Australia, India and other southeast Asian countries," US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told reporters at a news conference here with Defence Secretary James Mattis. The news conference was also jointly addressed by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono and Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera.

"(With) ROK (South Korea), Australia, India and Southeast Asian countries, we will promote more than ever before cooperation in security and defence," Kono said in Japanese which was translated into English. The four top officials were interacting with reporters after the newly launched US-Japan two plus two dialogue.

During the meeting held yesterday at the headquarters of the State Department, the four leaders among other issues discussed the increasing challenge posed by China in the region and the need to enhance multilateral cooperation with other countries, including India, in the region.

The ministers highlighted ongoing Alliance efforts to advance trilateral and multilateral security and defence coop-

Pacific Strategy," the statement said.

According to the joint statement, the ministers strongly encourage China to take decisive measures to urge North Korea to change its course of action.

Expressing continuing concerns about the security environment in the East China Sea, they reaffirmed the importance of working together to safeguard the peace and stability of the East China Sea. Expressing serious concern about the situation in the South China Sea, they reaffirmed their opposition to unilateral coercive actions by claimants, including the reclamation and militarisation of disputed features, that alter the status quo and increase tensions.

Reiterating the importance of the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes through full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, including arbitration, they emphasised the importance of compliance with the international law of the sea, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including respect for freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea. - PTI

### INDIA, S KOREA, AUSTRALIA

eration with other partners in the region, notably the Republic of Korea, Australia, India and Southeast Asian countries," a joint statement issued after the meeting said.

The ministers underscored the importance of cooperating to promote a rules-based international order, taking note of the United States' continued commitment to maintain a strong presence in the region and Japan's initiatives demonstrated by its Free and Open Indo-

## Int'l judges can't operate in Sri Lanka'

MANDED foreign judges cannot work in Sri Lanka to hear cases of alleged war crimes blamed on the government troops and the LTTE as the Constitution does not permit it, new Foreign Minister Thilak Marapana said today.

The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution co-sponsored by Sri Lanka in 2015 called for a hybrid international mechanism to hear alleged cases of war crimes blamed on the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). "Sri Lanka's Constitution does not allow foreign judges to operate in the country and hear cases," Marapana told reporters here.

"We have told the international community that our constitution does not permit that and they have accepted it," Marapana said.

The minister said the UNHRC has adopted a conciliatory attitude towards the UN mechanism by allowing UN special rapporteurs to visit the country. According to UN figures, up to 40,000 civilians were killed by security forces during Rajapaksa's regime that brought an end to the brutal civil war with the defeat of LTTE in 2009. - PTI

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Armed Basque police patrol next to the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain on Friday, after a suspected Islamist militant drove a van into crowds in Barcelona. — UNI

## Spain suffers second terror attack after 14 die in Barcelona

MADRID, Aug 18: Police on Friday killed five suspected terrorists in Spain's Cambrils town during a second terror attack also using a van after an earlier one in Barcelona left 14 Spaniards and foreigners dead and over 100 injured.

The five terrorists were killed when police opened fire after a van ploughed into a crowd in Cambrils, about 120 km from Barcelona, injuring seven people, including a police officer, news reports said.

One of the injured was in critical condition. Spanish media reported that the speeding vehicle driven by the terrorists overturned and when the attackers, wearing explosive belts, got out, they were quickly gunned down.

Policia said the five men may be linked to the Thursday night attack in Barcelona that was claimed by the Islamic State. That attack too was carried out by terrorists who drove into a crowd of Spaniards and foreigners on a pavement in Barcelona's Las Ramblas boulevard.

A hunt is still on for 18-year-old Moussa Oubakir who drove the van, BBC reported.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy called the Barcelona horror a "jihadist attack". He announced three days of national mourning and a minute's silence was held at noon and also in EU buildings in Brussels. Flags were lowered across Europe.

But even before Spain could come to

### ISIS owns up first attack in Barcelona

BARCELONA, Aug 18: The ISIS terrorist group claimed responsibility for attacks in which a van ran over pedestrians here in Las Ramblas boulevard, killing at least 12 persons were killed and more than 100 injured.

Confirming the death toll, Head of Catalonia's Regional Interior Department Joaquim Forn said in a tweet on Thursday: "My strongest condemnation of the terrorist attack in Barcelona. We can confirm 13 deaths."

He added that 15 of the injured were in serious condition and that the death toll was likely to rise, Efe news reported.

Claiming the attack, jihadi-affiliated news agency Amaq said the attackers were "soldiers of Islamic State".

The Mossos d'Esquadra, regional police force said two men had been detained in connection with the attack, though neither of them was the driver of the van. A third person was found dead in his car 3 km from a police checkpoint where he exchanged shots with officers.

One of the arrested is Driss el-Oukabir, a man of northwestern African origin who is believed to have rented the van used in the attack.

He told police his identity papers have been stolen.

Spanish media reported that his 18-year-old brother could have stolen the papers and could also be involved in the attack. — Xinhua news agency reported.

Ouakbir is a legal permanent resident of Spain, spent a month in pre-trial detention in 2012 after being accused of sexual assault in the town of Figueres, sources said. — IANS

grids with the Thursday tragedy, terrorists struck again – this time in Cambrils.

Citizens of 24 countries including the US, Britain, China and Pakistan were killed or injured in Barcelona. There were children among victims, authorities said.

Other countries whose nationals suffered included France, Germany, Argentina, Venezuela, Australia, Belgium, Peru, Romania, Greece, Taiwan, Canada and Kuwait.

The terror attacks drew global condemnation. President Donald Trump said: "The US condemns the terror attack in Barcelona and will do whatever is necessary to help. Be tough and strong, we love you!"

Indian Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said: "I am deeply shocked by the terrorist attack in Barcelona. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those killed and injured."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the attack was a "cruel and cynical crime committed by terrorists".

The Moussa Oubakir who is on the run is the younger brother of Driss Oubakir, who was earlier arrested on suspicion of hiring the van used in the Barcelona attack, officials said.

But Driss Oubakir, a 20-year-old from Morocco, has denied involvement and said his identity documents had been stolen and used to obtain the van used in the attack. — IANS

**Commander dismissed after US Navy ship crashed off Japan**

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: The commander of a US Navy ship that collided with a Philippine-flagged cargo ship off Japan, killing seven American seamen, will be relieved of duty and several other sailors face punishment, a senior admiral said today.

Among those being disciplined from the crew of the USS Fitzgerald are its commanding officer, executive officer and senior enlisted sailor, who will all be relieved of their duties aboard the ship, said Admiral Bill Moran, the senior admiral said today.

"They will be detached from the ship for cause, which (means) we've lost trust and confidence for their ability to lead in those positions and they will not return to the ship," Moran told reporters.

Seven sailors drowned in their sleeping berth when the USS Fitzgerald collided with the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal in a busy shipping channel off Japan's coast early on June 17. — AFP

### Prepared militarily, will act if N Korea launches missile: US

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: The US has warned North Korea that it was prepared to meet any eventuality and will take "immediate specific actions" if Pyongyang launches a missile attack against it or its allies.

The US' strong assertion comes days after President Donald Trump pledged to answer further aggression from North Korea with "fire and fury".

Speaking at a news conference jointly addressed by US Defence Secretary James Mattis, Japanese Foreign minister Taro Kono and Defence minister Itsunori Onodera, Tillerson said the country was prepared to meet any eventuality from the North Koreans, and sought to make it clear that use of the force was not the "preferred pathway" of the US.

"We are prepared, we are prepared militarily, we are prepared with our allies to respond, if that is necessary. That (military) is not our preferred pathway. That's been made clear as well," he said.

Defence Secretary Mattis said that the US would take immediate specific actions in the event of a missile launch towards US or its allies.

"In the event of a missile launch towards the territory of Japan, Guam, the United States, Korea (South Korea), we would take immediate specific actions to take it down," Mattis said.

Responding to a question after the two-

plus-two US-Japan talks, Japanese Defence minister Onodera said that in the event there is an attack on Japan, they will use assets available to them for the missile defence.

"But should different circumstances occur, then we will solidify the relation that we have with the US with close communication. We will defend the country, and that is what we discussed today," he said.

Tillerson said the North Korean regime should engage in diplomatic talks to bring better results, unlike in the past.

"So, our effort is to cause them (North Korean regime) to want to engage in talks, but engage in talks with an understanding that these talks will lead to a different conclusion than talks of the past. We will continue that effort diplomatically, first and foremost," he said.

But, knowing that North Korea sits with a significant capability already within their grasp, I think it is only prudent that they fully understand the consequences, should they make a bad choice for themselves. And, obviously, there are consequences for others as well," Tillerson added.

According to Onodera, North Korea has plans to launch ballistic missiles to the waters close to Guam. It is also advancing on their efforts to launch ICBM-class ballistic missiles minimising nuclear weapons to warheads. — PTI

### Pelosi for removal of Confederate statues

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi has called for the removal of Confederate statues from the US Capitol as the contentious debate over the appropriateness of such memorials moved to the halls of Congress.

Pelosi asked Speaker Paul Ryan to join Democrats in supporting legislation to remove the Confederate statues. The legislation can't pass without support from Republicans, who control both chambers of Congress.

Pelosi said yesterday the statues in the Capitol should

"embody our highest ideals as Americans, expressing who we are and who we aspire to be as a nation."

Pelosi's challenge comes as violence during a rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, has stoked calls to remove Confederate statues elsewhere. About 10 statues in the Capitol's Statuary Hall are of men who served as Confederate soldiers or politicians. — AP

### World gifted to have known Elvis, says Priscilla Presley

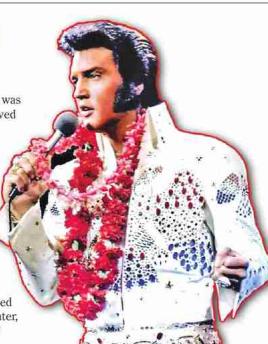
LOS ANGELES, Aug 18: Actor Priscilla Presley said the world was lucky to have had heard a legendary musician and person such as Elvis Presley.

The 72-year-old actor was married to the 'King of Rock and Roll' and recently visited his famous estate Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee, to observe his 40th death anniversary, reported Entertainment Tonight.

"When you come here (Graceland) and you see everything that he accomplished, I think even when he was able to afford so much, he

never lost who he was. He was still God-fearing, he still loved to entertain.

"He was very, very generous. He was very authentic. What you see is what you got with Elvis. He wasn't trying to be anyone else. And he was a very, very special human being and we were all gifted to have him," says Priscilla. The couple got married in 1967 and divorced in 1973. They have a daughter, actor Lisa Marie, 49. — PTI



### Trump hasn't shown stability to lead nation: Corker

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: A powerful Republican Senator has questioned the competency of Donald Trump saying that he has not demonstrated the "stability" or "competence" necessary to effectively lead the country, days after the president made controversial comment about the racist violence in Virginia.

Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he fears the nation will be in peril unless Trump makes radical changes at the White House.

"The president has not yet been able to demonstrate the stability nor some of the competence that he needs to demonstrate in order to be successful," Corker told reporters after a townhall in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Corker's remains gains significance given that once he was considered for vice presidential position by Trump and also for that of the secretary of state after his elections.

As a chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Tennessee plays a key role in shaping US foreign policy.

"We should hope that (Trump) aspires that he does some self-reflection, that he does what is necessary to demonstrate stability, to demonstrate competence, to demonstrate that he understands the character of our nation and works daily to bring out the best of the people in our nation," Corker said.

Democratic Congressman Anthony G Brown said that Trump is unfit for office.

"Donald Trump is unfit for office. His despotic actions this week have confirmed that he lacks the moral fortitude and simply cannot be trusted to preserve, protect and defend our Constitution against all threats, foreign and domestic. I will vote in favour of censure, and call on Congressional Republicans to take meaningful action to rein in this Administration," he said. — PTI

### CORIGENDUM

Refer advertisement published in the Assam Tribune on 08.07.2017 and Dainik Janambhumi on 08.07.2017 of Dibrugarh Treasury establishment. In response to para 5 and para 10 of the advertisement, all the eligible candidates who have applied for the post of Jr. A.A. in the Dibrugarh Treasury Establishment are hereby informed that written test (MCQ) will be held on 27.08.2018 (Sunday) from 10 AM to 1 PM at Govt. Boys H.S. School, Milan Nagar, Dibrugarh. Admit Cards have already been sent by post. If any candidate does not receive admit card till 24th Aug, 2017, they may personally report to the Treasury Officer, Dibrugarh Treasury, Dibrugarh on 25th August, 2017 and collect the duplicate copy.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh

Janasanyog/C/2569/17

### Short Quotation Notice

No. SMEJ/JMCH/2088/2017/2256 Date: 16.08.2017 Sealed quotations are invited from Manufacturers/ Firms/ Dealers/ Suppliers for supply of Pentahed Microscope (Indian) for Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat

Last date & Time of submission of SQN 11.00 AM of 25.08.2017

Opening of SQN 12.00 PM of 25.08.2017

For complete details, formats, terms and conditions of the SQN and subsequent addendum, corrigendum, cancellation, re-tender etc. may be obtained from the institutional website: www.jmch.org.in. The institute reserve the right to reject any / all applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- Principal cum Chief Superintendent Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat

Janasanyog/C/2511/17

### CORIGENDUM TO BOQ FOR PACKAGE-1

Kindly refer to our Notice inviting e-Tender for Selection of professional companies/firms/agencies for 360-Degree Media, Publicity & Branding Campaign of FIFA U-17 World Cup, Guwahati-2017 published vide this office letter No. DSY/FIFA/P/2012/192 Dtd. 10.08.2017. There have been some clerical errors in the schedule of items mentioned in the BOQ for Package 1.

The bidders are requested kindly to go through the official website of www.assamtenders.gov.in for further details.

Sd/- Director, Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam Dispur, Guwahati-6

### SHORT QUOTATION NOTICE

No. SMEJ/MC/2088/2017/2258 Date: 16.08.2017 Sealed quotations are invited from Manufacturers/ Firms/ Dealers/ Suppliers for supply of Sodium Hypochloride Solution and Folley's Catheter size 12'/14'/16' for Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat

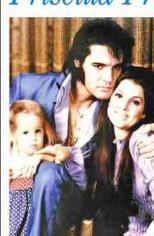
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Sd/- Principal cum Chief Superintendent Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat

Janasanyog/C/2515/17



LOS ANGELES, Aug 18: Actor Priscilla Presley said the world was lucky to have had heard a legendary musician and person such as Elvis Presley.

The 72-year-old actor was married to the 'King of Rock and Roll' and recently visited his famous estate Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee, to observe his 40th death anniversary, reported Entertainment Tonight.

"When you come here (Graceland) and you see everything that he accomplished, I think even when he was able to afford so much, he

never lost who he was. He was still God-fearing, he still loved to entertain.

"He was very, very generous. He was very authentic. What you see is what you got with Elvis. He wasn't trying to be anyone else. And he was a very, very special human being and we were all gifted to have him," says Priscilla. The couple got married in 1967 and divorced in 1973. They have a daughter, actor Lisa Marie, 49. — PTI

### E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE/ INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

The office of the Executive Engineer, Industries & Commerce Deptt., Assam, Guwahati-21 invites fresh bid from eligible registered contractors under class (A, B, C) & Class-II of Industries & Commerce Department, Assam for the following works ON TWO BID SYSTEM:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Amount (in Rs.)	Bid Security (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.)	Time of Completion
			General Category		
1	Construction of Main Gate with Security Room and Approach Road at Industrial Estate, Nalbari (sub-group-A), Group No. 1	26,63,05/-	53,261/-	26,631/-	900/- 180 days
2	Construction of Main Gate with Security Room and Approach Read at Industrial Estate, Nalbari (sub-group-B), Group No. 2	26,63,05/-	53,261/-	26,631/-	900/- 180 days
3	Construction of Internal Road at Industrial Estate, Nalbari (sub-group-C), Group No. 3	47,12,895/-	99,258/-	47,129/-	1,600/- 180 days
4	Construction of Internal Road at Industrial Area, Beharapara, District - Dibrugarh (Section-A), Group No. 4	41,24,978/-	82,500/-	41,250/-	1,400/- 180 days
5	Construction of Internal Road at Industrial Area, Beharapara, District - Dibrugarh (Section-B), Group No. 5	41,24,978/-	82,500/-	41,250/-	1,400/- 180 days
6	Development of site by Earth Filling at M/E, Pathsala, District - Barpeta, Group No. 12	45,92,740/-	91,855/-	45,927/-	1,500/- 90 days
7	Development of site by Earth Filling at M/E, Pathsala, District - Barpeta, Group No. 13	45,92,740/-	91,855/-	45,927/-	1,500/- 90 days
8	Development of site by Earth Filling at M/E, Pathsala, District - Barpeta, Group No. 14	45,92,740/-	91,855/-	45,927/-	1,500/- 90 days
9	Development of site by Earth Filling at M/E, Pathsala, District - Barpeta, Group No. 15	45,92,740/-	91,855/-	45,927/-	1,500/- 90 days
10	Development of site by Earth Filling at M/E, Pathsala, District - Barpeta, Group No. 16	45,92,740/-	91,855/-	45,927/-	1,500/- 90 days
11	Development of site by Earth Filling at M/E, Pathsala, District - Barpeta, Group No. 17	45,92,740/-	91,855/-	45,927/-	1,500/- 90 days
12	Construction of Internal Road at Industrial Estate, Senchowla, District - Nagaon (Section-A), Group No. 18	44,18,357/-	88,367/-	44,184/-	1,500/- 180 days
13	Construction of Internal Road at Industrial Estate, Senchowla, District - Nagaon (Section-B), Group No. 19	44,18,357/-	88,367/-	44,184/-	1,500/- 180 days

### Execution Criteria

Bidders (except Unemployed Engineer) must have satisfactorily completed:

(i) Two similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of the estimated cost or

(ii) Two similar completed works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of the estimated cost or

(iii) One similar completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost in the last day of the year previous to the one in which the tenders are invited, executed during last seven years (i.e. 01.08.2010 to 31.07.2017).

The bidder/bidders must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam ([website: http://www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in)). Bidders have to necessarily upload the bidding documents through the ETS using their own (Digital Signature Certificate). Bidders submitting bids online have to submit copy of the documents of Technical Bid manually along with cost of Bid Document in the form of Banker's Cheque/ Bank Draft or Demand Draft and stamp in the form of FD/RD/Bank Guarantee, any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank, duly signed and sealed in front of "State Bank of India, Branch, Industries & Commerce Deptt., Assam" on or before 31st August, 2017 before the expiry of Online Bid Submission date and time as mentioned in the tender schedule. Bid will be rejected if Financial Bid submitted off line/ hard copy.

Online bid preparation and last date and time of manual submission of hard copy of cost of Bid Document is at 12.00 hours of 08.09.2017.

The bid/ tender will be available through the link <http://assamtenders.gov.in> from 10.00 hours of 21.08.2017 up to 14.00 hours of 07.09.2017. Date & time of opening/decrypt of bid is at 12.00 hours of 08.09.2017.

The bid/ tender will be available through the link <http://assamtenders.gov.in> from 10.00 hours of 21.08.2017 up to 14.00 hours of 07.09.2017.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE DEPTT.

ASSAM, GUWAHATI-21

Janasanyog/C/2496/17

# Cook, Root put England in command against Windies

BIRMINGHAM (UK), Aug 18: Alastair Cook and captain Joe Root both scored hundreds as England dominated the West Indies in the inaugural day/night Test on English soil at Edgbaston on Thursday.

England were 348 for three at stumps on the first day of what is just the fifth day/night Test worldwide.

Cook was 153 not out after more than six hours at the crease. Together with Root (136), he put on 248 for the third wicket.

The past and present England skipper has come together with their side faltering at 39 for two after both debutant Mark Stoneman and Tom Westley had been dismissed for eight. David Malan, given a reprieve on two, was 28 not out at the close.

"Today was about making sure if we got into a position of strength and drive it forward," Root told Sky Sports.

"After the start, it felt like a one-dayer, because we got off to a flier. The atmosphere was electric and for Cook to be 150 not out is great."

Boundaries flowed throughout the day and West Indies bowling coach Roddy Estwick admitted: "We didn't have one of our better days. We were poor."

"If you are conceding 53 boundaries in a day it shows a lack of discipline."

Root's 116 fifty in successive Tests was a new England record and just one shy of South Africa star AB de Villiers' mark of 12.

For Cook, already England's leading Test run-scorer and century-maker, this was his 31st hundred in this level.

The West Indies, Test cricket's dominant force in the 1970s and 1980s, have long struggled away from home.

During the past 20 years, excluding matches against Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, they've won just three



England's Alastair Cook drives one through the off side during day one of the 1st Test against West Indies in Edgbaston, on Thursday.

out of 86 Tests outside the Caribbean.

They arrived in England without several star players, the legacy of a bitter dispute with West Indies administrators and the lure of the Caribbean Premier League Twenty20 tournament that is taking

place at the same time as this series.

Yet they still had two early wickets under sunny skies that promised ideal batting conditions. Left-hander Stoneman's first two scoring shots in Test cricket were fours off Kemar Roach.

But that was as good as it got for Stoneman, brought in after England dropped Keaton Jennings following a run of low scores during the preceding 3-1 home Test series victory against South Africa.

Roach clean bowled Stoneman with a superb

## Starc out; Faulkner back in Australia squad for India tour

MELBOURNE, Aug 18: Australia today recalled the pace duo of James Faulkner and Nathan Coulter-Nile for the five-match ODI series against India next month but Mitchell Starc was left out owing to a foot injury.

Faulkner, who was man of the match in the 2015 World Cup final, was omitted from Australia's Champions Trophy squad. The 27-year-old has played 67 ODIs, grabbing 96 wickets.

India and Australia are set to play five ODIs and three Twenty20s between September 17 and October 13.

"Paceren James Faulkner and Nathan Coulter-Nile have been recalled to Australia's ODI squad for their tour of India in September and October, as have all-rounders Ashton Agar and Hilton Cartwright," Cricket Australia said in a statement.

The 29-year-old Coulter-Nile, who has also been picked in the Twenty20 squad, has been battling injuries in recent years, which has resulted in a mere 16 ODI appearances. He has 27

wickets to his credit in the 50-over format.

Cricket Australia stated that Coulter-Nile had been picked after having "shown impressive signs in the Indian Premier League earlier this year". The pacer turns up for Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL.

"Nathan brings raw pace to the side with good variation. It is great to see him back from injury and we are hopeful he will have a big impact in this series," selector Trevor Hohns said.

"James Faulkner is a solid one-day campaigner and is very familiar with subcontinent conditions, coming off a very good tour of Sri Lanka last year. We hope that he will take his chance returning to the one-day side," he added. - PTI

## Dimitrov beats Del Potro to reach quarters

MASON, Aug 18: Grigor Dimitrov recorded his first win in his sixth match against Juan Martin del Potro on Thursday for a place in the Cincinnati Open quarterfinals.

Seventh seed Dimitrov advanced to his eighth ATP World Tour Masters 1000 quarterfinal with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over del

Potro, who struggled due to the intense heat in the closing stages of the pair's sixth meeting that lasted one hour and 39 minutes.

Dimitrov will now look to reach the Cincinnati semifinals for the second straight year when he challenges Japan's Yuichi Sugita. Dimitrov won their lone match at last year's

Masters 1000 tournament in Canada over three sets.

Dimitrov got off to the best possible start by opening up a 3-0 lead against del Potro, who was unable to convert one break-point on his Bulgarian opponent's serve at 7-6 (4), 7-5 win over fellow American Frances Tiafoe.

Isner rocketed two aces to close out the match and punch his card to the quarterfinals where he will face another American in Jared Donaldson.

Donaldson, who defeated Nikoloz Basilashvili in straight sets, will be one of four undefeated players in the quarters following a series of upsets early in the tournament.

Third seed Dominic Thiem took the first two breakers to dispatch France's Adrian Mannarino 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3) and set up a meeting with Spain's David Ferrer, who upset 11th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta 6-4, 6-4. - Agencies



Grigor Dimitrov plays a return to Juan Martin del Potro during the Cincinnati Open match at Mason, Ohio.

## Everton beat Hajduk Split, AC Milan cruise to win

PARIS, Aug 18: Everton took a 2-0 lead in a Europa League qualifying play-off first leg clash on Thursday against Hajduk Split in Liverpool in a game stopped temporarily due to crowd trouble.

Hajduk fans surged towards the Goodison Park pitch and threw objects with play stopped shortly after Michael Keane's 30th-minute header had put the hosts in front.

After police brought the situation under control players returned to the pitch and Everton doubled their lead in the 45th minute thanks to Idrissa Gueye's strike off a Wayne Rooney cross.

"I was really happy with the first half and unhappy about the second. We lost a big opportunity to score more goals," said Everton coach Ronald Koeman.

Keane said he was delighted to score his first goal for Everton since his move from Burnley in the summer.

"I'm delighted – first and foremost, to get a clean sheet," the England defender told www.evertonfc.com.

"That's what we aim for, especially

in European games at home. It's massive and makes it a lot easier when they don't score.

*Michael Keane of Everton scores the opening goal during the UEFA Europa League qualifying play-offs round first leg match against Hajduk Split at Goodison Park in Liverpool.*



"It was the same case as in the last tie, when we took a 1-0 win over there. We managed to go one better

today. I thought we played well in the first half, we weren't really ourselves in the second half but at least

we got the clean sheet."

In Milan, defender Leonardo Bonucci captained AC Milan to a 6-0 win on his competitive debut for the Italian side against modest Macedonians Skendzani two months after playing for Juventus in the Champions League final.

The Chinese-owned club were too strong for the Macedonians with a double from new signing Andre Silva in the first half and Riccardo Montolivo after 45 and 85 minutes.

Fabio Borini and Luca Antonelli added the second midway through the second half to set the Italians on the road to the group stages with the second leg away on August 24.

Vincenzo Montella's side have never won the second-tier European competition which they last competed in the 2008-2009 season.

Meanwhile, last year's finalists Ajax Amsterdam lost 1-0 at home against Rosenborg with substitute Samuel Adeghebo scoring the winner for the Norwegians after 77 minutes in the Netherlands. - AFP

## SU DO KU

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

### Solution of last problem

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

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. It is a 9x9 grid with the numbers 1-9 placed in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

## Kohli continues to top ICC ODI rankings

DUBAI, Aug 18: India captain Virat Kohli continued to be the world's top-ranked One-day batsman in the latest ICC ODI rankings, released here today.

Having 873 points in his kitty, Kohli will have a chance to increase the 12-point lead over second-placed Australian David Warner at the upcoming five-match ODI series against Sri Lanka, starting in Dambulla on Sunday.

Other Indian batsmen in the top-15 are former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (12th), Shikhar Dhawan (13th) and vice-captain Rohit Sharma (14th).

However, no Indian bowler figure in the top-10 list. Pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar (13th) is

the lone Indian in top 15.

As for the ICC ODI Team Rankings, India are currently at number three and they would have to win the upcoming series at least by a 4-1 margin to ensure that they stay at that position, ahead of England.

At 114 points, India, even if they win the series 3-2, will slip to 113 points and will be behind England on decimal points.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka will be eying the chance to seal direct qualification for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 during the upcoming series.

The 1990 World Champions will have to win at least two matches to secure a place in the pinnacle 50-over competi-

tion by staving off the challenge from the West Indies.

The cut-off date for direct qualification is September 30. Sri Lanka are placed eighth with 88 points, 10 points more than the West Indies team, which has an unenviable task in its aim of being among the seven top-ranked sides apart from host England to gain direct qualification.

The bottom four sides on the ICC ODI Team Rankings will need to play a qualifying event, also featuring the top four sides from the ICC World Cricket League Championship and top two sides from the ICC World Cricket League.

The 1990 World Champions will have to win at least two matches to secure a place in the pinnacle 50-over competi-

tion by staving off the challenge from the West Indies.

The West Indies side will go out of contention if it loses to Ireland as from there it will at best reach 86 points and remain behind Sri Lanka on decimal points, even if Sri Lanka lose 0-5 to India. — PTI

## NSA Trophy football from August 21

TIHU, Aug 18: The Nalbari Sports Association (NSA) will celebrate the Golden Jubilee year of the NSA Trophy Football Championship which will kick start at Gurdon HS School playground, Nalbari on August 21.

The 1st match of the tournament will be played between Blue Star Club, Nalbari and Saronthai FC, Boksa. The others teams which confirmed their participation are – Gorkha Regiment, ASEB, Assam Police Blues, South Eastern Railways, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh Krira Sangha, Eleven Star, Bongaigaon, Nabajyoti AC Club, Guwahati, Brahmaputra Club Kokrajhar.

On the other hand, the 40th Naroram Barman Football Tournament, conducted by the Chamata Anchalik Krira Sangha, at Chamata, which was called off due to inclement weather, will resume on August 20. South Eastern Railways, Jharkhand will play against Kamrup FC of Guwahati on August 20 in the third quarterfinal of the championship.

## Football training centre mooted

SPORTS REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 18: With an ambition to develop the game of football among the underprivileged kids in the rural areas, an NGO – Football for Development

of Sports (F4DS), in association with Kamrup FC is planning to set up a training centre at Bongpara, Boko.

The organisers, a non profit organisation will conduct a selection trial at the Janata Ground, Bongpara on August 26 for boys over 150 kids. They are very much interested in expanding our model across the North East and initially we are planning to start it in Boko." It will be a non residential project among the kids of the Boko area, Dutta added.

Praising the F4DS officials for taking up the project in the State, the Assam Football Association (AFA) secretary Anikur Dutta said that it will definitely help in producing quality players as highly qualified coaching staff will train the kids of the Boko area where several talented footballers have been already spotted. He further revealed that the AFA does not have any financial involvement in the project but they will provide all the possible support in running the project.

## Karate championships of different styles

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of Sports (F4DS), in association with Kamrup FC is planning to set up a training centre at Bongpara, Boko.

The organisers, a non profit organisation will conduct a selection trial at the Janata Ground, Bongpara on August 26 for boys over 150 kids. They are very much interested in expanding our model across the North East and initially we are planning to start it in Boko." It will be a non residential project among the kids of the Boko area, Dutta added.

Praising the F4DS officials for taking up the project in the State, the Assam Football Association (AFA) secretary Anikur Dutta said that it will definitely help in producing quality players as highly qualified coaching staff will train the kids of the Boko area where several talented footballers have been already spotted. He further revealed that the AFA does not have any financial involvement in the project but they will provide all the possible support in running the project.

Meanwhile around 200 different karate style organisations have been approved by the national sports federation for karate in India – the Karate Association of India (KAI) which is recognised by the Indian Olympic Association and Government of India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

As being the affiliated unit of KAI, the United Karate-Do Association, Assam (UKAA) also approved around 22 different style karate associations in the State, stated a release.

**MARUTI SUZUKI**

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