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# Northeast Today

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## WATER WAR

### AN IMPENDING TRUTH

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# 365 DAYS

## OF TEAM ARUNACHAL

### GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

#### Seven Pay Commission

- In spite of limited fiscal headroom, the State has accepted and implemented the recommendation of 7th Central pay commission for regular government employees of the State.
- The wages of contingency workers also need to be rationalized, even though they were last revised in 2016. The wages of contingency workers were increased last year but we propose to enhance the monthly wages of all contingency workers by Rs. 1000 per month.
- 2% DA released.
- Superannuation for all government regular employees enhanced from 58 years to 60 years from January 2018.



*Arunachal* Rising



/PemaKhanduBJP

## 24 Cover Story WATER WAR: AN IMPENDING TRUTH



Cover Photo Credit- Virgin Khanikor Gogoi

The statement made by the Indian government regarding the Indus Water Treaty and the sudden rise in the turbidity of the Brahmaputra (with fingers being pointed at China of constructing dams over the Yarlung Tsangpo to divert its course) have raised quite a few eyebrows. Questions are being asked if there looms a threat of a Water War between India and Pakistan and India and China, where Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal would eventually turn out to be sorry spectators? It is a catch-22 situation for each of the countries. Partha Prawal tries to analyse the possibilities of a water war between India and China and India and Pakistan and its consequences. The author also tries to find out if at all there is a possibility of water wars and if there is then why?

## 32 Special Story DATING APPs' GREY WORLD



Sir Albert Einstein, while explaining what relativity is, once said, "Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute, and it seems like an hour. Sit with a pretty girl for an hour, and it seems like a minute. That's relativity." Analysing Einstein here, we can say that time spend with one's partner is always less and never enough. Meeting each other and to go out for a long drive or a walk is always exciting. But as the world has developed technologically, meeting in person has been gradually replaced by virtuosity. Kingson Chingakham gives an account about the advent of dating apps and how it has replaced the age-old tradition of dating and pushed the entire concept towards oblivion.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## IT IS TIME TO MAKE PEACE OVER WATER AND NOT WAR

When Don Williams sang *Till the rivers all run dry, Till the sun falls from the sky, Till life on earth is through, I'll be needing you* he must not have imagined that a day will certainly come when there will loom a threat of the rivers actually running dry. Thanks to rampant human abuse on nature which has catalysed climate change, and we have reached such a situation that may actually engage us in wars for a drop of water.

'Rivers are to unite and not divide' said former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in 2015 while inaugurating a conference on water conflicts. Rivers are not constant and they keep on flowing carrying water from one state to another or from one country to another. Even though every state/nation through which a river flows has equal right over its water, but the upper riparian nations/states have suddenly become possessive and now they want to control the water flow of the rivers that originate in their land. This has thrown the danger of water wars wide open.

From India-Pakistan water conflicts to China-India water conflicts, every single conflict now has begun to grab headlines and the population of the lower riparian nations are forced to think about their future where they may just not have enough water to meet even their basic daily needs.

Politics is gradually changing its gear and today the 'blue gold' is the all-important topic of discussion. To resolve a conflict, war cannot be a solution. A war will further worsen things.

It is time for the world to stand up and take notice and work for 'water peace' and shun the idea of 'water war' completely.



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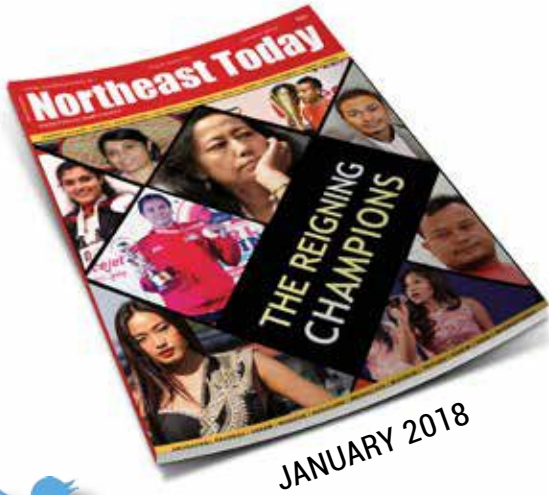
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The cover of Northeast Today's January 2018 issue was a good read. It is nice to know that young people from Northeast continue to bring accolades not only to the region but for the country as a whole. I hope the government will be more supportive of green entrepreneurs just as much they support the athletes.

Swastika Tamang, Gangtok, Sikkim



The statewide story of both Manipur and Nagaland were off-beat and were an excellent read. I request the team to carry out more such stories from other North-eastern states that normally don't get much coverage.

Rosalyn Lyndoh, New-Delhi



Went through the article about Guwahati Foodie and found it interesting. Do cover young people like them from Northeast India in your future issues.

Kankana Bordoloi, Guwahati



Hats off to the young farmer Tenzing Bodosa for his outstanding initiative. After reading his story in your magazine, I must say Assam needs more persons like Bodosa in order to curb the rising incidents of man-animal conflicts in and around the state.

Sagarika Goswami, Jorhat



Refer to Hobby "Happiness is Writing a journal". A secret kept goes deeper and deeper to subconscious layers' It is fear to disclose that keeps a secret. A journal or a diary is one of the most powerful therapeutic tools. Writing a diary is one of the best ways to share your thoughts with yourself. This is ideal for those who are introvert and lonely in life. And many matters are very personal which cannot be shared with anyone in life even with your near and dear ones. So best way to write a diary or on a piece of paper and tear it off if one does not wish to keep it for the fear of being caught or not to share with anyone as it may embarrass you! In this way mental stress is relieved. And one feels light on the heart.

Mahesh Kapasi, New Delhi



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## SWACHH BHARAT RUN ATTRACTS THOUSANDS

Over a thousand participants enthusiastically took part in the Swachh Bharat Run, which was organised in Guwahati, Dibrugarh, and Tezpur respectively on January 7, 16, and 28. On February 11 next, the Swachh Bharat Run will head towards Jorhat and from there it will move to Silchar on February 18.

The run is an extension of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Clean India' dream, which he shared while addressing the nation on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2014. On this day, the PM launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan with an aim to make India clean by October 2, 2019, which is also the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The 10-kilometre multicity run has been conceptualised by Leisure Sports Management of Kolkata. TIP-KAI, an Assam-based NGO, also joined hands with Leisure Sports to make the run a success. The run was also supported by Directorate of Sports and Welfare, Assam.

The first leg of the run was flagged off in Guwahati on January 7 by the city's Mayor Mrigen Sarania, and it was attended by a host of other dignitaries. All successful participants were given away medals and mementos.



THEY STATED



“NRC a conspiracy to drive Bengalis out of Assam”

**Saugata Roy, Trinamool Congress MP**  
(While raising the issue of draft National Register of Citizens during the zero hours of Lok Sabha session just a day after publishing of 1st draft NRC in Assam)

“BJP using dirty tricks to destabilise Tripura Government”

**Brinda Karat, CPI (M) politburo member**  
(Reacting on BJP's request to Election Commission for deploying maximum number of paramilitary forces in poll bound Tripura)



“BJP led NDA government in Centre is trying to legalise illegal immigrants”

**Mukul Sangma, Meghalaya Chief Minister**  
(Commenting on BJP's move to amend the Citizenship Act)



“Congress party has sabotaged Triple Talaq bill because they don't want Muslim women to get justice”

**Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office**  
(While speaking to a media regarding recently passed Triple Talaq bill)







**T**he World needs to be told about Sikkim”

**AR Rahman, Noted music composer, singer  
(Post becoming the first brand ambassador of Sikkim)**

**S**olution to the protracted Naga political issue must be finalised at the earliest for the sake of peace and harmony of all the Nagas”

**TR Zeliang, Nagaland Chief Minister  
(Inviting all Naga rebel groups to come together for a final settlement)**



**G**overnment’s focus on all-round development of Northeastern region will help BJP to win in Meghalaya and Tripura”

**Jitendra Singh, DoNER minister  
(Regarding the chances of BJP to win in two poll-bound states of Northeast)**

**I**ndia can develop only if Northeast develops”

**Jagadish Mukhi, Governor of Assam  
(Inaugurating the North East MSME Conclave 2018 in Guwahati)**



## MEGHALAYA SIGNS DEAL TO HOST NATIONAL GAMES IN 2022



The Meghalaya Government, Indian Olympic Association, and the Meghalaya Olympic Association recently signed the host city contract to hold the 39th National Games in the state in 2022. The mega sports event will coincide with the 50th year of Meghalaya's statehood. Meghalaya will become the second state after Assam to host the sporting extravaganza.

## SONOWAL URGES ASEAN COUNTRIES & NRIs TO INVEST IN ASSAM



Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonwal, while Sonwal while participating at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Singapore recently, asked ASEAN countries and NRIs to explore investment opportunities in Assam and join its development process by setting up industries there. He further said that his government is stepping up efforts in increasing interactions with ASEAN countries, adding that his government is working very hard for making Guwahati, the state capital India's gateway.

## MANIPUR VIGILANCE DEPARTMENT RENAMED

The Manipur State Cabinet has approved re-designation of the State Vigilance Department as the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Department. Accordingly, the new department, which will now have an Anti-Corruption Bureau, will function directly under the administrative control of the Chief Secretary-cum-Vigilance Commissioner with single file system. The office of SP (Vigilance and Anti-corruption) will now function as the Police Station (Anti-corruption), which shall have jurisdiction over the entire state of Manipur. The Anti-corruption Bureau will deal specifically with trap cases, disproportionate assets cases, embezzlement of Government funds and misuse of office. The bureau will have an SP, two additional SPs, eight Dy SPs, 22 Inspectors, 14 Sub-Inspectors and 22 Constables.





## SECOND FTII IN ARUNACHAL



In order to tap the hidden talents of the North-east, the Union Government has decided to establish a branch of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Arunachal Pradesh. This would be the second such institute in the country after Pune. FTII is an autonomous institute operating under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

## AKHIL GOGOI TO CONTEST ELECTIONS



Firebrand peasant leader and anti-corruption campaigner Akhil Gogoi will contest the next assembly elections in Assam. The state will go into polls in 2021. The groundwork for the polls will start from March. Gogoi might either rename his political party to the Gana Mukti Sangram Asom – or float a new one.

## NEIPHIU RIO JOINS NATIONALIST DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE PARTY

Former Nagaland Chief Minister and current Lok Sabha MP Meiphiu Rio resigned from the Maga People's Party and joined the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, a day before the Election Commission was likely to announce the schedule for Nagaland Assembly elections. NDPP President Chingwang Konyak said Rio will lead the party in the upcoming Assembly elections. "Rio formally accepted the invitation while also thanking the NDPP leadership for the appeal and invitation to join the party," said Konyak.





## CHINA'S ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN ARUNACHAL: A PLANNED MOVE?

When the Chinese road construction machines rolled, almost 1.25 km inside the imaginary Line of Actual Control or the McMohan Line at Bishing village in Arunachal Pradesh's Tuting area in Upper Siang district, one young boy Joni Yaying first noticed it and he took steps to not just stop the construction but he also destroyed one Chinese excavator. Even though his heroic act has been lauded by many, but China entering into the Indian territory with 'ease', however, once again opens up a lot of questions regarding the vigil along the India-China border, especially in Arunachal Pradesh. **Northeast Today** digs in deeper

NET Bureau

### Chinese Road Construction

India and China have been at loggerheads for the past 5-6 decades and the tension between the two countries refuses to die out. From Sichen to Arunachal Pradesh, the entire Himalayan belt is a hot-belt of conflicts. It was only in August 2017 when both the Indian and the Chinese army found themselves pointing guns towards each other at Doklam. A strategic solution was achieved in this matter and it was thought that things are gradually turning sweet from sour between the two Asian giants, but this presumption, however, was short-lived. Towards the end of December 2017, it was reported that China was constructing

a road at Bishing village in Arunachal Pradesh's Tuting area in Upper Siang district, the point closest to where the Chinese road construction machines rolled, almost 1.25 km inside the imaginary Line of Actual Control or the McMohan Line. This irked many and eventually, the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) had to step in and thwart off the Chinese construction workers.

Even though the Chinese government has later issued a clarification that the construction workers entered into the village by 'mistake'. But going by China's claim over Arunachal Pradesh, which they call as the Southern Tibet, the clarification is, however, difficult to buy.



## Joni Yaying Story

Joni Yaying is a local youth, working as a porter who carries supplies to ITBP posts. He first noticed the Chinese excavators at work while on a routine trek. He alerted the ITBP, which in turn got the Army there. He also destroyed an excavator at Tenggo-5 pass near Tuting. It was his alertness that prevented a major 'goof up' and hence stopped a possible intrusion by the Dragon.



Joni Yaying

“There are a lot of skeletons inside the closet. I feel the road construction by mistake is just a small chapter of an even larger book,” says Manish Talukdar, a doctoral student pursuing his PhD in international relations from Delhi.

### Mundane Government Interests

Connectivity is one of the pillars of development and the Narendra Modi-led NDA government over the past three years have put in a lot of thrust in constructing roads and connecting every nook and corner of the country. This, in fact, was also one of the primary goals of the Dr Manmohan Singh led previous UPA government. But even after so much of promises and claims, Bishing village stands tall as one of the symbols of India's yet-to-be-connected places. And it is an irony that Bishing does not have a motorable road.

“When Arunachal Pradesh has been the apple of discord for decades between India and China and when the Red neighbour is always on the lookout to make inroads into the Indian land through Arunachal Pradesh, the state should receive first priority and there should be proper roads in the entire state. But this is not the case so, thanks to some absurd policies of the Union government,” says a local resident of Itanagar seeking anonymity.

“As per my information, the norms of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are such that a village must have a population of 100 persons for the construction of a government road. But Bishing's population is a meagre 50 persons only and the village has 16 households. Due to this, there is no road. So does this mean that to protect the lives and properties of these 50 persons is not a

government obligation? Will the government always keep ignoring the developmental issues of the people of Bishing? This incident may seem simple and if we buy the Chinese version this being actually a mistake, but then can't mistakes like these lead to something grievous?” he further questions.

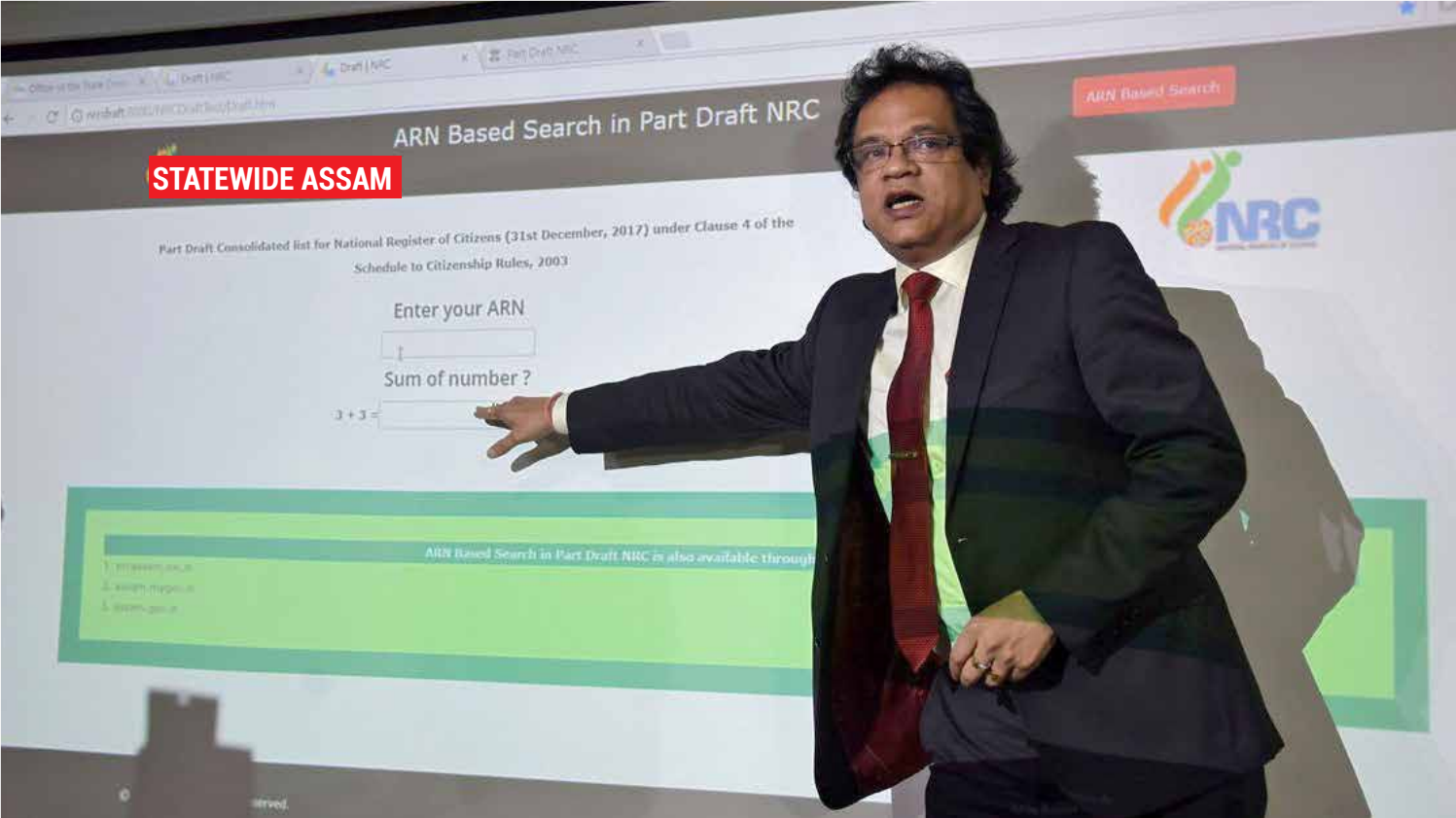
Biju Rajkumar, a Manipur-based social scientist, speaking on a similar vein said, “North-easterners have always been neglected. The Central policies have failed to reach and touch the emotions of the people. Arunachal Pradesh is a strategically placed state and China always has an eye for it. The road construction there by the Chinese is a serious issue and the government should now take some stringent steps against China and its policies regarding Arunachal Pradesh.”

“I salute the brave act of Joni. Had he noticed the excavators, wonder what would have been the situation now?” he further questions.

### Last Words

It may be mentioned here that the Chinese road-building move happened soon after the end of the Army's month-long annual EWT (early warning test) along the border. Because of the standoff at Doklam, this time the EWT deployment was larger and but the month's time ended all the additional soldiers were withdrawn and that is when this road building happened.

Does this point towards a planned move by China? Was the Chinese administration waiting for the Indian Army to move back and then carry out this 'move by mistake'? A lot of questions are still flying in the open seeking concrete answers.



State NRC Co-ordinator Prateek Hajela

## NRC'S FIRST DRAFT EVOKES MIXED REACTIONS

The release of the much-awaited first draft of the National Register of Citizen (NRC) on the very first day of 2018 has generated much heat-wave in every corner of Assam. The list identifies 1.9 crore people as an Indian and this has evoked mixed reactions across the state. **Sayantani Deb** reports

### Some Stories

**6** 2-year-old Sambhu Das, a Dhubri-based school teacher, was detained under the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act in July 2017 and since then he has been kept in a detention centre meant for detaining illegal or doubtful citizens. However, the question that remains to be answered- 'Is Shambhu Das an illegal citizen?'

"My grandfather's family migrated from Sylhet to Dhubri around 1950 and after coming to India, he worked at the Public Works Department (PWD) and served the department as a clerk for 15 years," said Shima, daughter of Shambhu Das, while sharing her story with Northeast Today.

"My father completed his

education- both school and college- from Dhubri. He even possesses the proper documents and papers. So, how can he be tagged as an illegal citizen?" she rose a question, adding, "I have already approached the local court for my father's bail. If he is denied a bail, I will approach the Gauhati High Court as well."

This is not the lone case as there are thousands of cases like Sambhu Das' where people are detained as authorities doubt them to be illegal.

Speaking on the same lines, Reena Paul, a student of Assam University said, "My mother Sabita (50) and my aunty Namita (45) were also kept in a detention camp for nearly two months as their pre- and post-nuptial names did not match."

### Throwback

National Register of Citizen (NRC) is the result of Assam Agitation that rocked the state for six years from 1979 to 1985. The demand to identify foreigners (mostly illegal immigrants from Bangladesh) was raised by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) - the two bodies that spearheaded the Assam Agitation.

In 1978, after the death of the then MP from Mangaldoi LS constituency Hiralal Patwari, a by-election was required to fill his seat. During the process of the election, observers noticed that the number of registered voters had grown dramatically. AASU demanded that the elections be postponed till the names



of foreign nationals were deleted from the electoral rolls and gradually this led to the development of Assam Agitation.

On 27 November 1979, AA-SU-AAGSP combine called for the closure of all educational institutes and picketing in state and central government offices. Mass picketing was arranged in front of all polling offices where candidate nominations could be filed, in the first week of December 1979. No candidates were allowed to file nomination papers in the Brahmaputra valley. December 10, the last date for submitting the nomination papers, was declared as a statewide bandh. The government proclaimed a curfew at different parts of the state, including Guwahati.

Even though the Movement was initially peaceful, but gradually violence spread across the state and the Centre sat for negotiations with the agitating faction. And after several rounds of talk, on August 15, the historic Assam Accord was signed in presence of the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. As per the Accord, it was mandated that foreigners who entered the state after March 24, 1971, would be identified and deported.

### RGI Speaks

Registrar General of India, Sailesh, while releasing the first draft of the NRC, said, "This is the first part of the draft, which constitutes the name of 1.9 crore people that have been verified till now. The names of rest of the people are under various stages of verification. As soon as the

verification is done, we will come out with another draft."

"I doubt if there is any other country in the world having such a complex methodology to determine the citizenship of the people," he further said, adding, "We are working with an intention to publish an error-free draft. What time and when we will publish the next draft will be as per the Supreme Court guidance. We will be able to complete the entire process this year."

The groundwork to upgrade the NRC began in December 2013 and so far 40 hearings have taken place in the Supreme Court in these years. The application process began in May 2015 and a total of 6.5 crore documents were received from 68.27 lakh families across Assam.

Echoing, Sailesh, NRC state co-ordinator Prateek Hajela while speaking to Northeast Today said, "Those people whose names have been excluded in the first list need not worry. Updating NRC is a tedious process and so there is a possibility that some names from a single family may not be there in the first draft."

Hajela also assured that there is no need to panic as rest of the documents are under verification.

### Opposition Reacts

TMC supremo and Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee have flayed the Assam government for excluding a large section of Bengali- and Hindi-speaking people from the NRC's list.

West Bengal CM believes that in Assam there is a trend to

drive away and oppress the Bengali-speaking people in the name of determining the state's original inhabitants.

"The names of a lot of genuine residents have been omitted from the NRC list. Out of 3.39 crore people in Assam, 1.29 crore have been excluded. This includes Bengali- and Hindi-speaking people," Banerjee claimed.

Meanwhile, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) has sent a memorandum to Registrar General of India alleging deliberate negligence of NRC authority in verifying the documents.

While speaking to Northeast Today on the issue, Ripun Bora, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) said, "After the release of the first draft it has come to light that NRC work was not been done properly in 208 Sewa Kendras of 13 districts—Darrang, Morigaon, Nagaon, Goalpara, Dhubri, Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, Kokrajhar, Barpeta, Mancachar, parts of Nalbari and Bongaigaon. NRC verification is a simple procedure. And if it was properly done then under no circumstances the names of 90 per cent population would have been left out."

Bora further added that the religious and linguistic minorities are predominant in these 13 districts. Thus it is required to verify the documents with utmost care in these districts.

Concluding the conversation, Bora promised full support and co-operation from Congress in making an error-free NRC by incorporating the names of all Indian citizens.



Photo Courtesy: Levion Jimmy

## BITTER STORY OF MANIPUR'S PRIZED LEMON

Manipur's prized Lemon, popularly known as "Kachai Lemon" one of the most sought after of all the fruits grown in Manipur, apparently is not getting enough attention and care it deserves. *Levion Jimmy* reports

### First Words

The uniqueness of the Kachai Lemon is that it has got the highest content of ascorbic acid of all the citrus fruit. According to experts the ascorbic acid content in this lemon is 51 percent with juice content 36-56 ml per fruit.

The unique lemon is found only in a remote village called Kachai in Ukhrul district of Manipur situated at a distance of 47 Km north from Ukhrul town and 131 Km away from Imphal. In 2014, Kachai lemon became one of the ten horticulture products that got the geographical indication (GI) tag in

the North eastern region.

Sadly, both the quality and production of Kachai lemon has been decreasing each passing year due to several factors including natural calamities and apathy of the authority concerned.

### Cultivators Speak

The Kachai village having over 300 households, alone produces 50 percent of the entire Lemon production of Manipur. The fruit is the main source of income for the village (Kachai) where agriculture is the primary occupation of the villagers.

The main source of in-

come for 74-year-old Hamring Vashung of Kachai, like every other villager, is lemon cultivation besides cultivating paddy and other seasonal vegetables. He has two sons and two daughters to look after.

Vashung began lemon plantation in the early 60s and grows over hundred lemon trees in his farm which generate an income of about Rs 40 thousands annually. Ranging from children's education and keeping the kitchen fire burning, the income from lemon though nominal, helped him tremendously, he said while interacting with our correspondent.



Out of his four children, one son is a college lecturer while the three children have also settled down with families.

PS Paise was the first persons to plant lemon tree in Kachai village and his family continues to grow lemon till today. His grandson, PS Wungnaokon, is another successful lemon grower today in Kachai village growing over 800 lemon trees on his farm with 300 trees bearing fruits.

He said that his farm produces around 3200 kilos of lemon annually generating income of roughly 2 lakh rupees. He claimed that he has not taken any form of loans or received any financial assistance from any institution be it government or private.

“I am a very busy man. I believe in hard work and I do not have time to go after MLAs or officers for financial help,” said Wungnaokon.

But, he observed that lemon growers need financial assistance, training, modern equipment to sustain the farming.

### Decreasing Cultivation

“The production of Kachai Lemon this year has dropped down to 40 percent of the annual production at an average,” said Dr Soleiluingam KVK scientist Ukhrul while pointing out that the annual yield of last year was 50 metric tonne.

“The sharp decline in production is due to the unprecedented rainfall the state received this year and pest (trunk borer) infestation,” he further added.

S Nigam Pheiray, another lemon cultivator of the Kachai, has over 600 Lemon trees including couple of hundreds saplings in his farm.

He said that he could produce around 100 tonnes annually but this year he only managed to get only 50 percent of his average production.

Blaming the weather and pest infestation, he revealed that around 20 of his Lemon trees have dried out and the size of the lemons has also shrunk.

These natural occurrences for sure are not permanent menace adding to the woes of the Lemon cultivators. But, deplorable road condition remains the biggest and constant factors keeping the Kachai Lemon from getting the much needed boost it requires.

Devadutta Sharma, project director, Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), acknowledge the fact that connectivity is the biggest problems confronting both farmers and authorities.

According to Sharma, farmers can fight the onslaught of the natural elements if they are equipped with proper knowledge of nutrient management like citrus rejuvenation, use of compost etc.

“In order to do so, experts is required to get to the field regularly with equipment to monitor and impart such training to prepare the farmers for any eventuality,” he asserted.

“However, with the road connectivity to the village in

such a deplorable condition the department sometimes cannot come to the rescue of the villagers particularly during raining season,” he continued.

### Final Words

Kachai is highly a sought after lemon not only in Manipur but in other states as well. This is solely for its unique quality and for the fact that it is hundred percent organic.

“There is a high demand for Kachai Lemon from companies based in metropolitan cities of the country but the grim reality is that we cannot even meet the local demands from company like Likla,” asserted Devdutta before adding that the annual demand outside is 100 tonne on an average.

Besides training, in order to keep up with the demands there should be a processing unit at the Kachai village, which is almost impossible, he said citing the road conditions.

Despite all the facts surrounding the Kachai Lemon, the village producing the fruit remains one of the most backwards places in the state due to poor infrastructure and connectivity. Although, the village is just 47 km away from Ukhrul town it takes about 2 hours to reach.

Most of the road stretch is not black topped and some parts of it remained muddy throughout the years making it almost impossible to travel during rainy season. The saddest part of all is that there is no mobile network in Kachai village.



Representational image

## NAGALAND VOTERS DEMAND SOLUTION BEFORE ELECTION

Amid tremendous pressure and demand from various Naga organisations for deferment of upcoming Nagaland Assembly elections until Centre comes up with a permanent solution of the Nagaland issue, Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced the final date of the polls. Nagaland will go into polls on February 27. **Northeast Today** digs in

### First Words

**M**anipur Assembly election in March 2017 was a smooth affair. But the same cannot be expected for the poll-bound Nagaland as the 'Solution before Election' slogan from various Naga civil society organisations continue to gain momentum. And this comes after the Election Commission of India has notified the scheduled dates for election in the state.

### Organisations Oppose

Speaking to **Northeast Today**, K Elu Ndong, Assembly Secretary of Naga Hoho, said, "We have made our point very

clear to the Indian Government. The process has been going for last 20 years. However, instead of coming up with a final agreement, Government of India is imposing elections."

Ndong further added that the expectations of Naga people are now beyond limits and that each and every person of Nagaland is unanimously waiting for the permanent solutions.

"In a democratic country like India, the voice of the people is supreme voice. So, how can the government ignore people's voices," Ndong questioned, adding, "When all the Nagas in one voice wants a solution to the long pending Indo-Naga polit-

ical issue, then why is the Government of India turning a deaf ear to the Nagas?"

"We don't demand anything from Government of India, rather we are facilitating the Government of India to bring out lasting peace and political solution," Ndong clarified.

Asked about the Centre's response he informed, "Centre has assured us to continue with peace talk and urged us to cooperate with them in conducting free and fair polls."

It may be mentioned here that in 1998, Naga Hoho had given the same call of 'No election without solution' along with the NSCN-IM. The ceasefire be-



tween the Government of India and the NSCN (IK) was just signed in 1997 and peace talks had begun.

Except the Indian National Congress, all other political parties responded or were coerced to withdraw from the elections. Later, Congress won in 53 seats and independents in seven. Almost 20 years later, in the 12th Nagaland Legislative Assembly on December 15, 2017, it was resolved to take the same stand and the Centre was called on to bring in a solution to the Naga political issue well before the elections.

Speaking on the same line, NSF President, Kesosul Christopher Ltu, said, "Naga Student's Federation continuously impresses the Government of India and the Naga negotiating parties for an early solution of the Naga political issue. We have already participated and shared our stands in every consultative talk called in regard to the Indo-Naga peace process vis-à-vis the political dialogue."

He further recalled that on October 2017, a seven-member NSF delegation went to Delhi and extensively shared the desire of the Nagas for solution to the long protracted Indo-Naga political dialogue to the Interlocutor R N Ravi.

"While discussion, Ravi also shared many things and assured us that solution will arrive before the festive season," he revealed, "Memorandums were also submitted to the President and Prime Minister of India through Ravi, but to our disappointment the representations could not be

taken into cognizance and the aspiration and desire of our people for solution to this political issue was totally sidelined."

### Fact-sheet

- This time a total of 11, 89,264 voters to exercise the franchise.
- Out of 2196 polling stations, 459 are urban and 1735 are rural polling stations.

According to NSF president, Nagas have regarded the ongoing peace process vis-a-vis political dialogue with utmost importance.

"The act of the Government of India through the Election Commission of India has once again revealed their arbitrary imposition upon the Nagas by declaring election," he lamented.

### CEO Speaks

Addressing the media after the declaration of polls' date, Nagaland State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Abhijit Sinha, said, "The Election Commission has taken various measures to ensure free and fair elections in Nagaland which is scheduled for February 27. ECI has worked to create conducive atmosphere in which each elector would be able to access polling stations and cast their vote without being obstructed or being unduly influenced or intimidated by anybody."

Regarding security arrangements Sinha informed, "273 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) along with 58 companies of State Armed Police and Dis-

trict Executive Force numbering 5698 will be deployed. The polling stations would be manned by CAPF, while state police forces will look into security and the Assam Rifles will provide environmental security."

The Commission will further deploy general observers in adequate number to ensure smooth conduct of elections. The observers will be asked to keep a close watch on every stage of the electoral process to ensure free and fair elections. Senior IPS officers as Police observers will be deployed depending upon the need, sensitivity and assessment of ground realities and prevailing law and order and security scenario, while Expenditure observers who will exclusively monitor the election expenditure for the contesting candidates.

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**"Holding of timely elections is a constitutional process and Union government is prepared to hold the elections in Nagaland. We believe that peaceful election in Nagaland will facilitate the ongoing peace talks and strengthen our commitment,"**

**Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Nagaland BJP in-charge.**

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Representational Image

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIP WITH TREES

Sikkim is considered as one of the cleanest and greenest states of India. And taking a step further in making the state greener and cleaner, the state has taken step a forward in preserving its greenery the state has allowed its population to adopt trees just like as their child or sibling. This will not only create environmental awareness but also will forge amity between people and trees of the state. **Sayantani Deb** finds out more

### A Different Feeling

**H**ow it will sound, if you are told that you can now adopt a child or sibling that doesn't bully or nag you and at the same time by doing this you are can contribute a lot towards making environment clean. The idea may sound vague but if it could be done in a sincere way, then this will definitely have a positive impact on our environment. In an endeavour to protect both the environment and strengthen the bond between man and fauna, Sikkim government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has recently launched a programme that allows a citizen to adopt a tree as a child or sibling in the remembrance of a departed soul.

### New Rule

On January 2018, the Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Govern-

ment of Sikkim, passed a notification titled— Sikkim Forest Tree (Amity & Reverence) Rules 2017, which stated that the “State government shall allow any person to associate with trees standing on his or her private land or on any public land by entering into a Mith/Mit or Mitini relationship.”

As per the information, the forest department has allowed people to form three types of bond with trees. An individual can enter a Mith/Mit or Mitini relationship with a tree, which literally means taking a sibling. However, a person can also adopt a tree like his or her own child; in such case the tree shall be called an adopted tree. The third way of forging a relationship with the tree is by preserving it in remembrance of a departed relative in which case the tree shall be called a 'smriti tree'.

According to Forest department officials, the motto behind coming up with this unique way of



**A**s per the Forest Survey of India, in 2015 the forest cover of Sikkim is 47.80 % of the State's total geographical area. Over the past few years the State government has also started an initiative of identifying heritage trees where 21 trees of 25-ft. girth and above and 32 trees of 20-25 ft. girth have been demarcated as heritage trees.

preserving trees is to encourage people to forge a relationship of child, brotherhood or sisterhood with trees through a local tradition which is locally known as Mith/Mit or Mitini. People can also remember their loved ones, by dedicating a tree.

The notification also mentions that if an individual wants to forge a relationship with a tree which does not stand on his or her land but another's, the person concerned shall execute an agreement with the owner and compensate him or her in terms of the market value of the timber or the wood contained in the tree.

### Formalising Format

In a bid formalise the relationship with trees, one will have to submit forms and appropriate documentation to forest authorities. Depending on the type of relationship one like to forge, the government has a special form. The form is available on the government website and which requires one to detail the reasons why he or she wishes to adopt a tree.

The tree will be registered under the individual's name after due verification and scrutiny. The registered trees may be part of the person's property or belong to someone else. In case of the tree growing in a public space, permissions will have to be sought from the concerned gov-

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**It is a wonderful way to connect with nature. We the people of Himalayas, mainly North-eastern states are known for worshipping and celebrating nature**

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--- Omi Gurung

ernment department. Any damage to a registered Mith, adopted or Smriti tree will be treated as a forest offense.

### Green Warriors Speak

Speaking about the move, Omi Gurung, who is popularly known Green Man of Sikkim said, "It is a wonderful way to connect with nature. We the people of Himalayas, mainly North-eastern states are known for worshipping and celebrating nature."

He further added that in Nepalese tradition, people in the olden days used to forge a relationship of brotherhood or sisterhood with each other through a practice locally known as Mith/Mit or Mitini. It helped to maintain respect and peace within the society.

"Adopting a tree is not about planting a sapling but nurturing it to life," he stated, adding, "It is a gradual process of growth and an emotional journey too. This is a sterling step taken by a Government of Sikkim to conserve tradition and greenery in the state."

Echoing, Omi Priyadarshini Shresta, project co-coordinator WWF, told Northeast Today, "Definitely it is a noble initiative by the state government for making people more nature friendly. Once we adopt a tree then automatically we will get a deeper connect with nature as well."



## WATER WAR: AN IMPENDING TRUTH

Water is the essential part of human life. 'Right over water' is one of the basic human rights. But over the past few years, this right has come under severe threat as several countries are trying to gain complete control over the rivers that flow through their heartland carrying major volumes of water and flowing into another country where the river is either on its downstream or the volume of water carried is less. In a nutshell, we can say that major conspiracies of gaining the benefits of the trans-boundary rivers by countries at the upstream are gradually gaining momentum. The recent statement made by the Indian government regarding the Indus Water Treaty and the sudden rise in the turbidity of the Brahmaputra (with fingers being pointed at China of constructing dams over the Yarlung Tsangpo to divert its course) have raised quite a few eyebrows. Questions are being asked if there looms a threat of a Water War between India and Pakistan and India and China, where Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal would eventually turn out to be sorry spectators? It is a catch-22 situation for each of the countries. Partha Prawal tries to analyse the possibilities of a water war between India and China and India and Pakistan and its consequences. The author also tries to find out if at all there is a possibility of water wars and if there is then why?

### Water Conflicts in India

Disputes over water/river in India is pretty old and it date backs to the time when the country was ruled by several princely kingdoms. However, under the British rule, these conflicts gradually came down but after independence, the sporadic disputes began to emerge from different parts of the country. And according to government information, these disputes

over the years have only increased and presently there are eight (8) major Inter-State water disputes in the country. The list below highlights the eight major water disputes of India.

Even though the conflict between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam over the Brahmaputra is not on official records, however, over the years it has become evident that there is an undercurrent regarding the water sharing of the river between the



River	States in Dispute
Krishna	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka
Godavari	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha
Narmada	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat
Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry
Krishna	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra
Model/ Mando- vi/Mahadayi	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra
Vansadhara	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha

two states.

Sharvan Bharali, a Dhemaji-based freelance journalist, while interacting with Northeast Today said, “I think it is very natural for any country or a state in the upstream of a river to take advantage of its water resources. I have lived my life here in Dhemaji. Over the decades I have witnessed the Brahmaputra behave abruptly in a number of occasions. And each time the Brahmaputra has inundated surprisingly, bringing in large-scale devastation in Assam, especially in Dhemaji. I feel, somewhere there is an Arunachal Pradesh hand in all these. I feel they are trying to control the Brahmaputra in their favour. But all these are my mere assumptions.”

“The Assam-Arunachal conflict over the Brahmaputra is a mere assumption as for both the states the bigger threat is China. Brahmaputra’s upstream portion flows through the Dragon country and the Brahmaputra in China is called as the Yarlung Tsangpo. There have been numerous reports about the construction of dams on the river to divert the water. Chinese policies regarding water sharing data have always been under the cover and this has made things murkier. Yes, the Brahmaputra is an apple of discord, but not between Assam and Arunachal, but India and China,” says a journalist based in Itanagar seeking anonymity.

### China Waging Water War?

Towards the end of 2017, the water of Brahmaputra turned turbid abruptly in Arunachal

Pradesh and in Assam. There were speculations by both the officials and residents that China might have had something to do with it. This suspicion stems from a widely cited news report about the Chinese government’s purported plan to build a tunnel to divert water from the Yarlung Tsangpo in southern Tibet to the parched Taklamakan desert area in the province of Xinjiang. However, later these claims were dismissed and it was proved that the turbidity was indeed caused by an earthquake of magnitude 6.3, which had struck the Nyingchi region of Tibet on November 18, 2017.

But people living in the Siang valley were convinced that there was indeed a “Chinese hand” in the river turning black.

To a media interaction, the general secretary of the Siang Indigenous Farmers’ Forum Tasil Pangkam had said, “We have got reliable reports in social media that the Chinese are building a tunnel. This is the first time such a thing is happening, so this can’t be a natural process.”

Budhan Saikia, a Dhemaji resident, speaking on the similar veins said, “The groundwater at several places across the world depleting at a rapid pace. The glaciers are melting and the inflow of water into the rivers is also increasing. So it is very natural for a country that has an upper edge to try and control the river/rivers. China may say a thousand times, but to believe on their claims is quite difficult.”

Saikia, who is also the president of a local NGO that engages educated unemployed youths



People in Uttar Pradesh line-up to collect water

into multiple crop farming further said, “Several scholars have said it long back that war for water is the future and I think, today we are on a verge of water war. It may have already begun, but we are yet to feel the wrath of it.”

“China has always carried this dream of harnessing the Brahmaputra. However, this dream of constructing dams over the Yarlung Tsangpo and also the proposed plans to divert the river have set off ripples of anxiety in the two lower riparian countries- India and Bangladesh. China, however, has always denied such claims made by India. If this claims even have an iota of truth, then I am sure that it is going to have repercussions for water flow, agriculture, ecology, and lives and livelihoods downstream. There is an almost certainty that these could also become another contentious issue undermining Sino-Indian relation,” Saikia further adds on.

“It is worth mentioning here that with Tibet being controlled by China, is a great strategic asset for China in its pursuit of an often improvident style of economic growth. The spreading Tibetan plateau also arms Beijing with water control over downstream countries because it is the

starting point for most of Asia’s great rivers, many of which are being heavily dammed just before they cross into neighbouring nations,” further says Saikia.

“Over the years, water has indeed emerged as a new divide in the relationships between India and China. The main reason for this has been Beijing’s continuous denial of building dams and other structures on rivers flowing to India. In fact, China has also rejected India’s proposal that two countries enter into a water treaty and share the water data of the shared rivers. The 2000 and 2005 flash floods in Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh respectively were also linked to the unannounced releases of water from the Chinese dams that were swollen due to heavy rain. Yes, these are all Indian speculations and there is nothing in concrete, but even then the Chinese role cannot be ruled out,” says Philip C Sangma, a Kolkata-based geologist.

“For a country or a state in the downstream of a river, it is essential that the country has some idea about the flood-related hydrological data from the country at the upstream. But China has always denied sharing this data. The question is



why? Why is that China wants to control the entire data inflow? Why this autocratic rule over the river data? These are some questions that make me confident of the fact that China is indeed waging a water war against India. Denial of China to share data has been crimping India's models to mitigate flash floods," Sangma adds further.

Brahma Chellaney, a geostrategist and author, in a Times of India article (China is waging a water war on India, August 21, 2017), wrote, "By embarking on a dangerous game of water poker, Beijing has demonstrated how the denial of hydrological data in the critically important monsoon season amounts to the use of water as a political tool against a downstream country. Indeed, even while supplying data in past years, China's lack of transparency raised questions. After all, like rice traded on the world market, hydrological data comes in different grades and qualities — from good, reliable data to inferior data and broken data."

"China's latest action actually violates two bilateral MOUs of 2013 and a 2014 accord, which obligate it to transfer hydrological data to India from three upstream monitoring stations in Tibet every year from May 15 to October 15. No data has been transferred thus far this year, although

India, in keeping with the MOUs, paid for the data in advance. While China sells hydrological data to downriver countries, India provides such data free to both the downstream neighbours- Pakistan and Bangladesh," Chellaney further writes.

In an August 2017 article published in the Asia Sentinel (India and China in a water war), Sripadh Menon, a water expert and former Secretary with the Ministry of Water Resources, quoted, "The tug-of-war between the neighbours over transboundary rivers, particularly the Brahmaputra River, is likely to intensify.

"With exponential economic growth and expanding the population, China is staring at crippling water shortages," he said.

"It is already one of the most world's water-stressed countries and relies on mega-infrastructure projects such as Three Gorge Dams and South-North Water Diversion projects to deal with its water challenges. It is also diverting waters from the Brahmaputra to its dry north. All these have ramifications for India," Menon further added.

Menon added that though Indian and China have mechanisms over water sharing, there's no bilateral water treaty without which water conflicts can potentially become a serious challenge

## INDUS WATER TREATY

1. The Indus Waters Treaty was signed on September 19, 1960, by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan.
2. It was brokered by the World Bank.
3. The treaty administers how river Indus and its tributaries that flow in both the countries will be utilised.
4. According to the treaty, Beas, Ravi and Sutlej are to be governed by India, while, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum are to be taken care by Pakistan.
5. However, since Indus flows from India, the country is allowed to use 20 percent of its water for irrigation, power generation and transport purposes.
6. A Permanent Indus Commission was set up as a bilateral commission to implement and manage the Treaty. The Commission solves disputes arising over water sharing.
7. The Treaty also provides arbitration mechanism to solve disputes amicably.
8. Though Indus originates from Tibet, China has been kept out of the Treaty. If China decides to stop or change the flow of the river, it will affect both India and Pakistan.
9. Climate change is causing melting of ice in Tibetan plateau, which scientists believe will affect the river in future.
10. Both India and Pakistan are still at loggerheads over various issues since partition, but there has been no fight over water after the Treaty was ratified.

(Source: The Hindu)



The Great Bend of the Yarlung Tsangpo. Photo Courtesy: Google

to Sino-Indian relations.

“It wouldn’t be far-fetched to imagine a scenario in which control over the river becomes enmeshed with a larger border conflict,” he said.

As Indian scholars and pundits continue to point fingers at China for waging a war over water in secret but gradual manner, the Chinese pundits, however, have been denying such claims. They have argued consistently that the Chinese activities will not have an adverse impact on the Indian rivers.

“The Chinese government has been continuously denying to any complaints raised against the regarding the Brahmaputra. And apart from partly believing them, we cannot do anything. But what about the facts and figures? These facts and figures point towards a different direction,” quotes several environmentalists unanimously.

### **Indo-Pak Water War!**

It is often said that ‘a victim today may be an assailant tomorrow’. If on one hand, India has suffered due to the non-sharing of hydrological data by China then, on the other hand, India too has made life tough for Pakistan. Time and again,

reports and claims from Pakistan surface in the media where they accuse India of blocking the rivers that flow into Pakistan from India and they point fingers at India of violating the Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960.

In November 2016, while inaugurating a new AIIMS at Punjab Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said, “The fields of our farmers must have adequate water. Water that belongs to India cannot be allowed to go to Pakistan...The government will do everything to give enough water to our farmers.”

After this, tensions prevailed in Pakistan and many pundits said that India was waging a water war against Pakistan.

“What Modi said was really uncalled for. I personally do not think that such magniloquence is required while addressing something for the farmers. Indian farmers have been dying due to the drought-like situation and instead of doing anything fruitful for these farmers, the political leaders are resorting to rhetorics. This is utter nonsense,” says SK Kapoor, a Pune-based journalist.

“Even though India and Pakistan have been

at loggerheads with each other since the days of partition, yet there has been no war over water. But what Modi said if at all it is implemented in reality, then mark my words, this is going to be the dawn of the World War 3 and it will be fought over water,” Kapoor further emphasised.

In the later turn of events after Modi's speech, India did soften its stance and it became clear that India does not plan to revoke the decades-old Indus Water Treaty and they only want to use more of the rivers' waters, which again is likely to hurt Pakistan as the Islamic Republic depends on snow-fed Himalayan rivers for everything from drinking water to agriculture.

However, the softer tone from India found fewer buyers in Pakistan and the nation's then Foreign Policy Adviser to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 2016 said, “Islamabad would seek arbitration with the Indus Water Commission which monitors the treaty if India increased the use of water from the Chenab, Jhelum and Indus rivers. However, if India revoked the treaty, Pakistan would treat that as an act of war or a hostile act against Pakistan. It's highly irresponsible on part of India to even consider revocation of the Indus Water Treaty.”

It may be mentioned here that in 1948, there was a water brawl between India and Pakistan. India being the upper riparian state had blocked the water flow towards Pakistan. This was possible because after partition, the headwaters were located within the Indian territory and it left Pakistan exposed to India's physical capacity to cut off vital irrigation water. India kept limiting Pakistan's share of water. Seeing the possibility of another conflict between the two neighbours, the international community plunged in to fix the Indo-Pak water crisis. With the help of the World Bank, both states eventually agreed to the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in 1960.

The Indian position when it comes to going

into water war, either with China or with Pakistan, is risky. If India wages a war against Pakistan, then there is a possibility that China would mount pressure on India to ease things out and for doing this, China would simply block a tributary of the Brahmaputra. With the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the friendship between the two nations has reached a different level. China remains the most valuable investor and facilitator in overcoming Pakistan's existing acute shortage of energy. If the water supply to Pakistan is choked, then several China-funded power projects in Pakistan would be jeopardised. China will certainly

not let that happen. China would resort to any means to put pressure on India so that it removes the water choke and allow the free-flow of water into Pakistan.

“As per reports and experts' views, India could become water-stressed by 2025. To ensure water availability during the dry period, India will certainly pursue alternative methods. Reserving river waters is one of the many alternative methods that India may look into. But doing the same may not be easy and not forget about the 30-year bilateral water-sharing agreement that India signed with Bangladesh in 1996. Question is, will India lose out on its own water when she herself would become water-starved? If India is successful in revoking the IWT and the international community can't effectively forestall the newly emerging Indo-Pak water crisis, New Delhi could also decide to obstruct water flowing towards Bangladesh for power production and irrigation. This is certainly going to start a war and then there is a possibility of more players joining in, with China being the key player,” Kapoor further stresses, adding, “India shares water issues with nearly all its seven neighbouring states. Sparking a water crisis will not give India a positive image. Revoking the IWT or any other agreement with neighbours could only add insult to injury. At a time when

**India currently generates about 3,000 megawatts of energy from hydropower plants along rivers in its portion of Kashmir but believes the region has the potential to produce 18,000 megawatts and says it can use more water and still remain within the terms of the treaty.**

(Source: Reuters)





The Theewaterskloof Dam near Cape Town. Photo Courtesy: EWN/Google

New Delhi is facing a number of water sharing disputes, reviewing a long-settled water-sharing formula with Pakistan would be a harmful option to experiment with. Instead of invalidating existent water-sharing procedures, India should try to find a mutual workable arrangement that could assist all, thus avoiding a water war.”

### A Serious Note

According to environmentalists across the globe, groundwater across the world is decreasing at an alarming rate. Experts say that with the current patterns of consumption, if continued unabated, then by 2025 two-thirds of the world’s population will be facing water shortages as a daily reality.

“Water is the new white oil and let us face this reality that water wars will be a reality in a decade from now. War will continue between countries and within states as well. We have been pumping groundwater so aggressively that the land above has begun to sink. Beijing is the world’s fifth most water-stressed city and there the land is sinking at a rate of 10 centimetres a year,” says Bidyut Bora, a Guwahati-based water activist.

“We are paying for our own deeds. We have abused the nature in every way in the name of urbanisation and in return we plagued ourselves with climate change. Climate change is a natural process, but we catalysed the rate. And as a result

of this, droughts have become common and far too many and a result of this, many cities across the world are on the verge of becoming waterless. There is a huge possibility that Cape Town in South Africa will dry out completely by April 2018. Beijing will soon follow Cape Town and to meet the water needs of its population, countries will adhere to any means. For China, diverting the Yarlung Tsangpo or any other tributaries of the rivers that flow towards and into India is one of the easiest things,” Bora further says.

“But the sad part is that here we are focussing only on the Sino-India water war, but we have never addressed the situations in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. Many of the rivers that flow into India, also pass through Bhutan and Nepal. If China wages a water war against India, then these two nations are going to suffer a lot. For Bangladesh, the Brahmaputra is an important Indian river that enters into its territory after travelling kilometres through the Northeast. Now if China chokes the Yarlung Tsangpo, not only Northeast India but Bangladesh is also going to suffer,” adds on Bora.

### Prologue

When the topic is water then how could we possibly not recall Samul Taylor Coleridge’s famous lines from his poem “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” - *Water, water, everywhere, And all*

*the boards did shrink, Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink.* Even though the context of the poem was different, but this is gradually going to be a reality in the 'extremely near future'. To imagine a life without water is simply unthinkable.

In our normal life, we do everything to preserve water. As residents of community flats and housing societies, we often preserve water in every possible utensil available as we know that water would be supplied only for a stipulated time period and if we miss that time, then we will have to live thirstily. As parents, we never want to see our children cry for a drop of water. Then a nation will also do anything and everything to conserve water for its citizens.

When Modi said "Water that belongs to India cannot be allowed to go to Pakistan" he probably might have forgotten a fact that China may also resort to not allow the water that belongs to them to flow to India. When there were reports that China is planning to dam the Yarlung Tsangpo at several places, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, took up the issue with their Chinese counterparts and demanded an of-

ficial report on it. The Indian government further said that China cannot dam the Yarlung Tsangpo without consulting India and Bangladesh as the river is a lifeline to both India and Pakistan.

If India can decide about its rivers, China can do the same as well. But are these decisions going to do any good? Certainly not. The high turbidity of the Brahmaputra, sporadic flash floods in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, the sudden drying of the Brahmaputra during pre-monsoons are some of the issues that may actually point towards a Chinese propaganda of trying to take complete control over the Yarlung Tsangpo aka the Brahmaputra. All we can do is speculate and even if there looms a threat of water war and the Central government is aware of it, there is a less possibility of it being made public immediately. Because if it is made public, there is going to be a complete chaos.

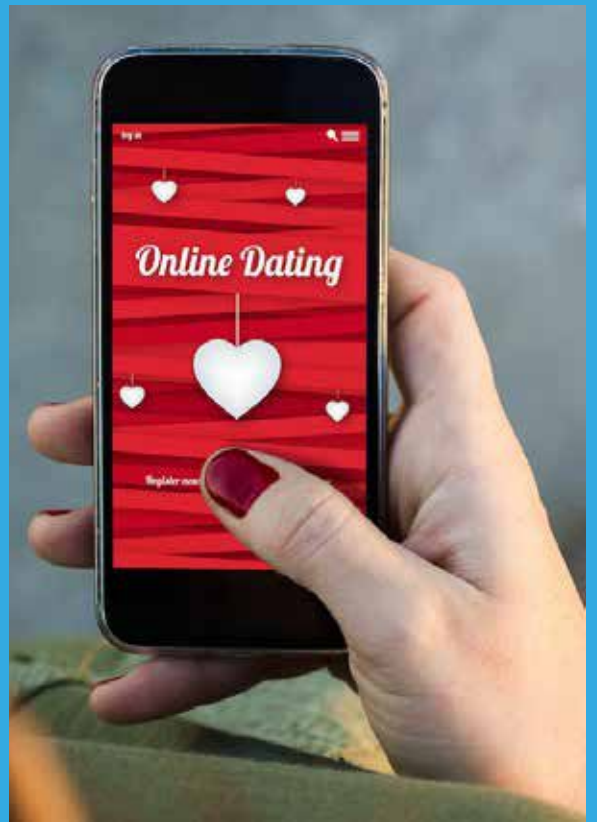
Instead of fighting over water, the best thing for the nations is to sit together and discuss the issue and reach an amicable solution. War brings only destruction and we have had enough of it. Instead of 'water war', the new slogan should be 'water peace'.

Beas River that is governed by India. Photo Courtesy: Google



# DATING APPS' GREY WORLD

*Sir Albert Einstein, while explaining what relativity is, once said, "Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute, and it seems like an hour. Sit with a pretty girl for an hour, and it seems like a minute. That's relativity." Analysing Einstein here, we can say that time spend with one's partner is always less and never enough. Meeting each other and to go out for a long drive or a walk is always exciting. But as the world has developed technologically, meeting in person has been gradually replaced by virtuosity. **Kingson Chingakham** gives an account about the advent of dating apps and how it has replaced the age-old tradition of dating and pushed the entire concept towards oblivion.*



## First Few Words

A decade ago, dating apps hardly existed. Everyone entered into a relationship organically. That was not the age when you were dating someone but still swiped (looked for) to check out more options. That was the era when technology did not reach (invade) the private space.

The availability of dating apps has developed the perception that 'apps have simplified the nature of dating'. In reality, it has become even more difficult. Now, people do not meet in person to see whether they want to go out on a date or not. They now choose from the plenty of options available on the various apps and show up on the dating day. As a consequence, a lot of people suffer from the paradox of choice- too many choices, too many decisions, too little time to do what is really important.

## Competition of Numbers

It has become a trend to go on multiple dates taking all the available options. This might be exciting at the outset, but the sad truth is that the addiction to these apps has resulted in the inability to give 100 percent attention to a single person. This is worrisome because you cannot know one person properly when you are dating multiple others.

Alicia, a British national working in Delhi, sharing her experience with dating apps said, "These apps have made dating far more exhausting and it consumes a lot of time as well. Still, I open the apps to swipe left and right. I have gone on four dates in one week just to find the 'Prince Charming'. But I just wasted my time and money by over consuming alcohol in all those four dates. I pledged to be pickier but it is getting harder."





Teddy Truchot, Co-founder of Gleeden, an extra-marital relationship app

### Future Of Dating

Nowadays, if you put your best on paper (resume), you get the best jobs. Likewise, people are looking to date those with the sexually appealing photos. Irrespective of sexes, all spend enough time not to remain fit and healthy but to build sexually appealing bodies. The same people spend most of their times grooming themselves in the salon to look the best in the pictures.

So will we be able to go back to the old fashion of dating? Yes, if we do not get addicted to the apps. It is good that you get to meet new people in your lives. But it is difficult to get the one you are looking for until and unless you give sufficient time to know a person. Nowadays, we get bored of someone easily, presuming that there can be a better person to date. The options are plenty but are they really worth exhausting your time and money to explore all the options? It has become really difficult to focus on just one person at a time. But that's the value that all must embrace.

When these apps/sites did not exist, it did not bother you whether you had to travel for miles for dates. At present, distance matters. Most of the apps show people who are nearby. People

have refused to go on dates because of long distance. Have we become lazy? No. Now, most of us have understood that there are options. But nobody cares to think what the person who stays far might turn better than the one nearby?

A lot of apps/sites have a certain commitment which caters to the consumers—a casual hook-up, an actual relationship, marriage, extra-marital affairs etc. Teddy Truchot, Co-founder of Gleeden, an extra-marital relationship app, said, "With the increasing adoption of modernized culture and ethics, the unique concept of extramarital dating is also making its place in the world of dating. The upcoming dating websites are majorly for single people. It was pretty difficult or nearly impossible for married people to meet new people as they had to find partners on some dark roads. We aim to forge a space for extramarital encounters which could be made indiscreet space".

He further said, "Gleeden is one of its kind websites, solely run by women, offering space to people seeking new partners. We provide a safe platform for anyone looking for experiences outside their relationship. We hope to give our users a confidential and secure environment



Representational Image

where they can explore people and have great experiences in an anonymous backdrop. Our prime focus is women who are either facing a broken marital relationship or are looking out to spice up their lives. Indian market is majorly being dominated by websites and applications specifically and solely dedicated to single people. With our arrival in the Indian market, we hope to help women and provide them with a convenient virtual space for new encounters. We are making roads in the Indian society for those seeking infidelity as it is now becoming a natural and common process. With the increasing Indi-

an subscribers, we hope to make the despondent group of people happy and contented”.

The apps/sites have also been misused several times. There are many people who ask for cash or kind in return of sexual pleasure. The amounts of fake profiles that exist portraying fake pictures and other details have violated the privacy of many people. A woman in her 30s recalling one of the horrors said, “I chatted with a guy for almost one and half year. He had uploaded good pictures and other details in his profile. I was innocent at that time and did not realise that it might be fake. When we decided to meet, he



Representational Image

turned out to be a completely different person. It did shock me but also broke my heart”.

A similar tale was narrated by Rajib Das, a 32-year-old banker from Guwahati.

“So, I met this girl in one of the most popular dating apps. I was bowled over by her personality. We chatted for around eight months. We shared a lot of personal things and to be honest enough, I became emotionally dependent on her. And after eight months of virtual dating, I felt it was the time to take our relationship to the next level. I wanted to start something serious in real and when I expressed the same to her, she agreed too. But when I saw her for the first time, I was taken aback. The account holder’s photo and the person in front were not the same. She, in reality, was a lady in her mid-40s and not the 27-year-old girl who she says she is in her profile. For courtesy sake I sat and talked to her and then she told me that all she wanted was a few nights together and nothing more. She said, that she got emotionally attached to me and she wanted to feel these emotions to calm her physical desires. I did not know what to say or how to react as I never wanted to have just a physical relationship with the girl whom I met in the app. I left the place heart-broken. And Since then, I have not used the app. It took me months to come out of the shock.”

### Getting Good At Being Dumped

These apps have given some therapy. People are so used to getting dumped that breakups and blow-offs go more easily. You can have a perfect date. But the person disappears after the first date. The first experience might be uneasy. But it gets used to and stronger and prepares us for such events in future.

Hardly people read the profile. Good pictures will lead to swipe right and bad pictures swipe left. Just because the pictures are not up to the mark, you might end up swiping left but you rejected a potentially good person and a potentially amazing relationship because of bad pictures. Those who have failed to get matches have shown lack of self-confidence and self-esteem and are worried about their physical appearance.

It is an addiction. What happens when you get a match? It gives you a boost of dopamine which will help you in thinking what’s the harm in playing more? The app makers have realised this addiction and exploit all of us.

One excited male from Delhi said, “It is fun to play the game of swipe left and right in the middle of the night. When I get a match, I continue swiping till the sunrise (laughs)”.



# ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK



In a bid to attract people from across the world to explore the unexplored beauty and experience the exotic and vibrant culture of Arunachal Pradesh, Abu Tayeng, a resident of Dambuk village and a senior bureaucrat of Arunachal government have been organising Orange Festival of Adventure and Music (OFAM) for the past few years. OFAM is the first of its kind festivals in India which combines adventure sports and musical gigs on the same platform. **Northeast Today** finds out more.

## New Beginning

The land of rising sun—Arunachal Pradesh is also known for its distinct culture and traditions. The plethora of tribes that inhabit the state makes the state quite vibrant with their colourful festivals. Besides a host of tribal festivals, the natives of the state are also taking initiating for organising various adventurous and music festivals, and one such festival is ‘Orange Festival of Adventure and Music’ (OFAM), which is the brain-child of Abu Tayeng.

While speaking to North-

east Today, Abu Tayeng, said, “OFAM came as a breath of fresh air. Hosted in the quaint village of Lower Dibang valley, the festival is the combination of high adrenaline adventure sports and musical gigs.”

He further added that the idea behind organising this festival is to attract people from across the world to explore the untouched beauty and experience the exotic culture amidst a bunch of exciting activities.

According to Tayeng, OFAM is a celebration of tenacious spir-

it of the locals offering others the opportunity to experience the tribal way of life and nature in its purest form.

“Orange festival is an effort to popularise Dambuk as a tourist destination while giving a boost to the local economy,” he said.

Asked about the local’s reaction, he informed, “Initially, the local people were quite skeptical about organising an event of such magnitude without proper roads, hotel infrastructure or electricity. However, with the passing time it has been whole heartedly welcomed

Nestled deep inside the Lower Dibang valley of Arunachal Pradesh, Dambuk is famous for producing some of the best oranges in the country and, hence the festival is named as Orange Festival. Dambuk is the 10th least populous district of the country. Owing to its geographical location, the district remains cut off from the rest of the world for almost six months a year. Surprisingly, till 2015 there was no electricity in Dambuk.



and now reaping the benefits.”

### Festival's USP

“As the name suggests, OFAM is India's first adventure and music festival. It has the national level Motorsports event sponsored by corporate giants JK Tyres. Besides, it has also the distinction of being headlined by some of the biggest names from the world of music,” he pointed.

### Contribution to Arunachal Tourism

“With every passing year there is a steady growth of visitors in the fest. In the last edition the footfall was more than 4500, and for a place like Dambuk it is indeed a great achievement,” Tayeng noted, adding, “The coverage OFAM in media such as BBC, NDTV, and Rolling Stones etc is really taking

the place to new heights.” “Besides, this year, the Dambuk oranges have gone global with exports to the Middle East,” he informed.

### Last Edition's Highlights

The 4th edition of OFAM was held from 15th-18th December, 2017 and continued to thrill the visitors which adventure sports such as river rafting, dirt biking, zip inning etc.

“Moreover, this time to add to the fun, local tribal sports such as archery, angling, tribal house building, orange plucking and forest food walks were included,” Tayeng added.

“The most popular event of OFAM was JK Tyre Orange 4X4 Fury. The event was held in the dense rainforests of Arunachal Pradesh, which is unique for its

challenges as it pits Man and Machine against Mother Nature's fury. 11 teams from all over the country took part in this event,” Tayeng informed.

As per Tayeng, OFAM has hosted a spectacular array of artists and bands over the years. From Grammy Award Nominees like Joseph Arthur and Lama Tashi to Legends of Rock like Yngwie Malmsteen, the event has managed to put together an extraordinary lineup of musical acts. The 4th Edition also showcased some of the remarkable Indian talent like Thermal And A Quarter, The F16s, Fiddler's Green, Uday Benegal, When Chai Met Toast, Feyago, Rain In Sahara and many more. Dare devil stunt performer Gourav Khatri also enthralled the audience with his death defying stunts.

# AADHAAR CARDS THAT GOVERNMENT PLAY



When the right to privacy has become one of the focal points of debate, the cases of Aadhaar database misuse have been on a rise. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has accepted the need of safeguarding the biometric data. But the only thing that is valuable to the UIDAI has been compromised. The data leak has become so vulnerable that the biometric data has become available to anonymous sellers. It is daunting that the personal details of a billion of people are on sale by anonymous sellers. **Kingson Chingakham** reports

## Yet Again

On January 4, The Tribune's reporter Rachna Khaira exposed the breach in the security database. The report talked about the procedures she followed to get the access to the billion identities on the UIDAI database by paying a small amount of Rs 500. The UIDAI, as usual, did not accept the bitter truth of breach in the data. In fact, the UIDAI

called Khaira's story "misreporting". The authorities still maintain their standard answer that 'the database is safe and secure'. Meanwhile, the authority said that legal action will be taken against those involved in the case. An FIR was filed against the reporter and the anonymous dealers for breaking the story on the breach of the database.

The frequency of breach has increased the doubts among the

people and denying these regular episodes of a data breach by the UIDAI has proved unconvincing. Media have been religiously following to report on any loopholes of the Aadhaar data breach. A big headline was made in November 2017 when some of the government websites and educational institutes put up the personal details along with the Unique Identification Number. The irony is that UIDAI accept-



ed that the breach happened in November but denied that the leak happened because of them. Even after admitting the breach happened, they are still reiterating that the 'the database is safe'. They also somehow threatened those who exposed the breaches with some legal actions. In another instance, Airtel misused the personal details to open accounts in its payment bank by using the details procured at the time of verifying the SIM cards. When some beneficiaries of subsidies complaint of not receiving subsidies, it was later on identified that the subsidies had gone to the accounts opened by the Airtel payment bank without the consent of the customers.

### Overpowering Government

According to the Aadhaar Act 2016, private companies are not given the permission to use the UID. Therefore, the government exercises its power to grant permission to the private companies like that of mobile phones and banks to collect the personal details. The state governments have been given the responsibility for enrolment of the UID; thereby they would collect the required Know Your Resident (KYR) as mandated by the UIDAI. The state government may also collect any other data that is not mandated by the UIDAI. With this, both the state governments and UIDAI have charted the way to put surveillance on the people and the communities. The state governments have initiated different schemes/programmes that will help in their endeavour of data collection e.g. in Haryana,

a programme like Jan Kalyan and Suraksha Survey requires the collection of household details along with the details of the individuals. How keen are our governments to know about us? Is it just for the betterment or are we moving towards the similar citizen surveillance like that in the United States?

When the Aadhaar enrolment began, it was not made mandatory for people to leave this digital footprint to avail the benefits of the government schemes and projects. Lately, with all the circulars and official notifications from the government, it has become a chaos and almost made mandatory to avail benefits. Students who want to avail scholarships need an Aadhaar number. There is also the bizarre story about Aadhaar requirement for mid-day meals. The level of coercion is high and the state is exercising its ultimate power to coerce its citizens. Is it right to achieve universality of Aadhaar through coercion? It should be left to the people's wish and Aadhaar should be just an Identity document and not be used to avail benefits.

### Not Effective Biometrics

The UIDAI can still claim that 'the biometrics is safe'. But even if the biometrics is safe, has it served the purpose? There are several reports of biometrics failure. In most of the north Indian states like Rajasthan and the Uttar Pradesh, there have been reports of exclusion of people from Public Distribution System (PDS) due to the problems of biometrics authentications. In parts of central India, farmers and some families belonging to below the poverty line have failed to link Aadhaar

with the ration card. This has led to many deaths and suicides. At the time of enrolment, while taking the fingerprints, the prints of all the fingers are not done successfully. We can see cross signs on those fingers which have failed to register. With this kind of procedure, it is not justified to make Aadhaar universal. It is still in the experimental phase and the citizens are coercing to participate in this experiment of breaching privacy. To increase the effectiveness of the Aadhaar authentication, high-speed internet connection should be provided along with the availability of high-quality equipment and machines for capturing the biometric details.

### Lessons Learnt

As one of the measures to strengthen privacy and to prevent any future event of data breach, the UIDAI has come up with the system of virtual authentication for the enrolled citizens in January. This move will give limited access to the database and other details to the service providers. This step was taken considering the widespread concern regarding breach of the database and the misuse of the biometrics. The UIDAI has assured that utmost care is taken for the 'world's largest repository of citizen data'. The 16 digits virtual ID can be used instead of the 12 digit Aadhaar number for any authentication purposes. The Virtual ID will be a temporary and revocable 16 digit random number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number and the Aadhaar-issuing body will start accepting it from March 1, 2018.



## WEF 2018: MODI PITCHES FOR GLOBAL INVESTMENT

The World Economic Forum (WEF) was perhaps the biggest platform for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to pitch India as a global investment destination and tell the world what India is? Modi through his strong and inclusive speech at the opening ceremony of WEF 2018, made it clear that he not only want the world to know more about India's growth story but also he dreams to make the nation a 'future super-power'. **Northeast Today** reports.

### First Words

India is mulling to achieve \$5 trillion dollar economy by 2025, this was stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the plenary session of the World Economic Forum 2018 in Davos.

"Almost all areas of Indian economy have been opened to foreign direct investment," said Modi.

It is to be mentioned here that Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister in last two decades to join the World Economic Forum. The last visit in Davos was made by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda in 1997.

Modi also pointed that over

1400 archaic laws that were an obstacle in doing business have been abolished in the last three years.

"India is removing the red tape and laying out the red carpet," he stated.

Modi further outlined climate change, terrorism and globalisation as three major global threats.

### Climate Change

Speaking about the climate change, Modi mentioned, "Glaciers are receding, ice caps are melting in the Arctic, many islands are sinking. There can be floods, or there can be drought, we are seeing the impact of extreme

weather conditions. But unfortunately, countries have failed to work together for keeping up their environmental pledges.

"To save the environment and to fight climate change, my government has planned a very big campaign and given itself very tough objective. By the year 2022, in India we want to produce 175 gigawatts of renewable energy," he informed.

### Terrorism

Speaking about the terrorism he noted, "Terrorism is dangerous but equally dangerous is the artificial distinction created between good and bad terrorists."

## Globalisation

During the speech, Modi also addressed the rejection of the principles of globalization in some parts of the world.

“Many societies and countries are becoming more and more focused on themselves. It feels like the opposite of globalisation is happening. The negative impact of this kind of mindset and wrong priorities cannot be considered less dangerous than climate change or terrorism,” he stressed, adding, “Everyone is talking about an interconnected world, but we will have to accept the fact that globalization is slowing losing its lustre.”

## Indian CEOs Speak

Apart from Modi’s speech, several top Indian CEOs also spoke about various economic and business/investment relat-

ed issues at the summit.

Uday Kotak, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank, speaking on the occasion said “A lot has been said on terrorism, and a fair amount has been said on climate change. I was enthused by his position on protectionism. His statement that we are making the world narrow by going for protectionism and that it is here that India will stand out was a big statement.”

According to Kotak, Prime Minister Modi has taken the lead in the whole area of what is the World Economic Forum (WEF). It was all about the environment, call for inclusiveness, and anti-protectionism. So, in essence, he hit all the right buttons.”

Echoing Kotak, Ajay Singh CEO of SpiceJet added, “It was a powerful message. This was

team India’s moment at Davos. And the Indian captain hit not one but many sixes. He reminded the world what an old country this was. What old wisdom India has and how it can be applied to solve global issues. He spoke about big data, AI and digital India - it was an incredible juxtaposition of old India and new India.”

In the same line, Mahindra and Mahindra Chairman Anand Mahindra added, “I think he has recognised the WEF is today’s one-stop-destination to put forward your vision, which I presume is going to be Prime Minister Modi’s vision too. In essence, he is here to tell the world his Mann Ki Baat’.”

Mahindra believes Modi’s decision to visit Davos for addressing WEF is perfect, which shows India is ready to play a big role.





## IN LOVE WITH THE SHAPE OF YOU



### Chirasmrita Devi

Of course, beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. But, the first thing that somebody notices about you is your physique. Yes, we all want to get that perfectly toned shape but snags like procrastination and sloth tend to push us back. Staying in shape isn't always a messy affair if you have made up your mind and this beauty with abs is the paradigm of fitness. **Claudia Jessica Bamon** is the reigning queen of fitness with the title of Miss Best Physique at Meghalaya's 43rd State Body

Building Championship 2017. Her success story is the proof that hurdles can never stop one from winning. With her recent exposure, Claudia is well set on her way to achieve her dreams. Northeast's first ever lady bouncer, Claudia is breaking the stereotype of seeing the fairer sex as the 'damsel in distress' and making them synonymous to frailty. Meet this lady from Meghalaya who is setting a benchmark for all the professional female body builders to aspire.



### Background

There's nothing much to tell. Shillong happens to be my birthplace. I was born to Late Elias Bamon and Camlin Bamon. I have three siblings. I am actually a mix race of Assamese, Chinese and Khasi Pnar. I have done my schooling from St Mary's College, Higher studies from Shankar Dev College and post graduation from IGNOU.

### Reason for choosing such an offbeat and unusual career

I did not plan for this career. I always wanted to be independent and I believe I am an independent women. I took up some other jobs before coming to this field. I never wanted to be dependent on anyone for my necessities. Moreover, I never felt that being a bouncer is an offbeat career option. I took it as a normal job and learned to love and enjoy what I do.

### Hiccups on the Way

Whatever I have achieved so far is not 'success' for me. I still have a long way to go to taste success. But yes, there have been hurdles. I had gone through financial problems but I never complained because I believe it's a part of my journey to success. The challenges make me stronger and

give me the strength and the inspiration to stand up and walk ahead.

### A normal day at work

Normally I spend 1 an half hour a day 6 days a week in the Gym. And that's pretty much it.

### Who behaves worse- Boys or girls?

When people are intoxicated there is no difference. They all behave the same.

### The secret behind your fitness and physique

There is no one fixed secret. A Well maintained diet and proper exercise are the ingredients for fitness.

### Tips for women who would like to have a physique like you

Know your body! Work according to your body type, what will look good on you. Have a diet plan. Don't just plan but follow it.

### Success Mantra

I always believe in the 3 'U's'-  
Update yourself in which ever field you are in  
Upgrade yourself to the next level  
Utilize what you have updated and upgraded to in your life

# HACK ETHICALLY

Ethical hacking is the perfect career choice for those interested in problem-solving, communication and IT security and currently it is regarded as one of the most appealing career options. Find out more what it takes to be an ethical hacker, also known as 'white hat hacker'.



## NET Bureau

### Who Are Ethical Hackers

**E**thical hackers know how to find and exploit vulnerabilities and weaknesses in various systems—just like a malicious hacker (or a black hat hacker). They work on the computer network of their clients to find areas which are susceptible to the attack. They buff up the computer security system by making safety modifications to plug any loopholes and prevent it from illegal hackers. They carry out penetration testing and intrusion testing for the computer network under their charge. They are concerned with encryptions, security protocols and firewalls and other areas of internet security.

### QUALIFICATION

For becoming an ethical hacker one needs to obtain a bachelor's degree in Computer Science or A+ Certificate to gain an understanding of the most common hardware and software technologies.

### PLACES TO STUDY

- Indian School of Ethical Hacking (ISOEH)—Kolkata.
- Institute of Information Technology (CISC) — Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Chandigarh.
- Arizona Infotech— Pune.
- Appin Technology Institute, Guwahati.

### Employment Opportunities

- Financial Institutions
- IT and ITES companies
- All online businesses and organisations
- Consultancies
- Government
- Diplomatic set ups
- Security installations
- Security agencies
- Defence organisations
- Telecommunication sector
- Immigration services
- Aviation industry
- Hotels
- Forensic Laboratories

### PAY PACKAGE

In India, many MNC's and other companies look for ethical hackers for various security purposes. The average salary ranges between Rs.2-5 lakhs for a fresher, and after an experience of five to six years, one can easily command a salary of Rs. 10-12 lakhs annually, depending upon the skills.

(Compiled from various websites on ethical hacking)



## NATIONAL GAMES FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CONCLUDES



The three-day National Games for Visually Impaired, organised by the Punjab unit of the National Federation for Blind, concluded at Guru Nanak Stadium in Ludhiana on January 15. Over 300 participants accompanied by their guardians from across the country, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh and Assam, took part in approximately 114 track and field events held during the games. Every visitor expressed satisfaction over arrangements made for them during their stay in the city.

## L SARITA DEVI ELECTED WOMEN BOXERS' REPRESENTATIVE



Former world and Asian champion L Sarita Devi on January 10 elected representative of women boxers in the national federation's Executive Council. She beat Railways Sports Promotion Board's Seema Punia, the lone candidate up against her in the polls. "I would be aiming to raise the problems faced by women boxers because I have practical experience of how things work," said the Manipuri pugilist, who is a four-time Asian champion. Sarita, who won a bronze medal at the Asian Championships last year, was voted in by 22 of the 31 team captains at the election conducted during the ongoing National Championships in Rohtak.

## NIAW WASA WIN MSL TITLE

Niaw Wasa won the Meghalaya State League (MSL) championship by defeating Tynrongmawsaw on penalties. The final match was played in Jowai on January 6. In total 19 teams participated in the tournament. The match was evenly poised and a closely fought one, which went goalless- during the official 90 minutes of play and also during the extra time. The winner was decided on the basis of a penalty shootout and Niaw Wasa came through 4-3 in front. The champions' goalkeeper Aibor Suchiang was the star on the day after saving one penalty and scoring off the last for Niaw Wasa.



## THE ASTUTE MAN IN KHAKI

Born and brought up in Hong village of Ziro district in Arunachal Pradesh, Robin Hibu is the 1st IGP from Northeast to serve the President of India. He is regarded as one of the most intelligent police officers to have served the Delhi Police. In conversation with **Sayantani Deb**, Hibu spoke at length about his life- both personal and professional.



### Early Life

“During my childhood, I used to travel 8 kilometres to attend classes at Kasturba Gandhi Sanstha. Besides, at that time the condition of Hong village was quite pitiable without basic amenities such as electricity, proper water supply etc. I still remember back then we used to carry water and fire-woods for our teachers,” recalls Hibu while speaking about his early school life.

Even though his early life was not a bed of roses, yet Hibu passed the higher secondary examination with flying colours.

“Financial condition of my family was such that it couldn’t allow me to study outside the state. So, my only choice of completing my graduation was from Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat. The three years of struggle during my graduation days motivated me a lot and it helped me to top the class and with this, I became the first graduate

from my village,” he further said, adding, “Later, I completed my post-graduation in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi.”

### Work Experiences

On being asked about his feeling of serving the President of India, Hibu said, “It is a great satisfaction for me to work at the Rashtrapati Bhavan as the first IGP to be selected for the coveted post. I am proud to serve the nation with President of India.”

Before, serving the President of India, Hibu was posted as Joint Commissioner of Special Unit for Women & Children and also the nodal officer for Northeast people in Delhi.

Mostly for their looks a majority of people, especially students, feel alienated in the national capital and there have been numerous records and incidents of racial discrimination and abuse. But



Robin Hibu (R) greeting President Ramnath Kovind (L)

## Achievements

- President of India Medal for Distinguish Services 2017
- NE Angel Award by Delhi NE Organisations
- Best IPS Award by National Newspaper Association
- Best Social work Award by Delhi Artist Forum
- Guru ka Ladla Award by Delhi Sikh Samaj.
- President of India Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2010.
- United Nations Peace service in Kosovo in 2000 and Bosnia in 1999.
- Bagged Gold Medal twice in 2003 and 2009.

A cadre from the 1993 IPS batch, who despite being posted as the Joint Commissioner in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Secretariat, Hibu is mulling to bridge the gap between the North-easterners and the mainland Indians

with Hibu's appointment as the nodal officer for the people of the region residing in New Delhi, not only did the incidents of racial discrimination come down, but the people even feel connected with the city.

"People from the Northeast know that whenever they are in a crisis, there is someone on whom they can repose their trust in. This is a definite way to address the problems of the people," he added.

Be it looking for a house on rent, finding a cemetery, arranging for blood, or ensuring good medical treatment Hibu has always assured the Northeasterners in Delhi that there is a man they can look up to.

"We often forget those who need our care, warmth, and support on a regular basis," says Hibu

while referring to girls, women, children, and the elderly people from the Northeast, who visit Delhi for a variety of reasons.

While winding-up his interaction, Hibu said, "A number of initiatives like awareness on racial discrimination have been created among the North-easterners residing in Delhi. However, there is much more to do in this regard."

### Message to the Readers

As his message for the readers of Northeast Today, Hibu said, "If you are genuinely working hard, have a positive attitude, and you are leading a disciplined life, and you are humble and you are willing to help others, you will be successful and you will be liked by others."



# THE MASTER'S STROKE



**A**mit Kapoor is a leading master of water-colour medium in India, who has been recognised with top international honours for his paintings and his art graces the walls of many private and corporate collectors. When this master water colourist was in Shillong to take part at an En Plein Air demo as a rundown to the 2018 Metropolis Asia, Shillong, *Northeast Today* caught up with him for a brief chat...

## NET: How did the rendezvous with art begin?

Amit Kapoor: My relationship with art dates back to my childhood. I have always been in love with colours, canvass and sketches. I decided in my schooldays itself that I would join an arts college and pursue a career in arts. I studied in Government Art College, Delhi. I learnt a lot. All thanks to the efficient faculty. Although, I did my graduation in Applied Arts, which was related to designing and all, yet I had always been intrigued by watercolours, paints and all. Since the past 10-12 years I have been painting watercolours. Currently, I am the vice president of International Watercolour Society (IWS) also the founder of Watercolour Society of India (WSI). Since the last few years I have been doing awareness programmes and demonstrations on watercolours in different parts of India and abroad as well. Thanks to the Almighty that I have got this opportunity to travel

different places and adding some more colours to it through my art.

## NET: Even today when a child decides to take art as a career option, parents are mostly apprehensive. Were your parents supportive when you decided to endeavour in this field?

Amit Kapoor: This is a very sad scenario in India. I have seen parents forcing their children to take up medical and engineering etc. Luckily, my parents were very supportive and encouraged me to join the Government Art College. Even though my father was not from arts background, yet he supported my career choice. And I am very thankful to them for being supportive. I would like to tell all the parents who feel reluctant to let their children pursue a career in arts that this field is a vast one with a myriad of job opportunities. Not only as a painter, but one can also work as a



designer in advertisement agencies, magazines, newspapers etc. Many news and entertainment channels have their creative departments and the animation sector is also there. It's a massive field, there are no limits.

**NET: You have been a part of the animation industry as well. Tell us more about it.**

Amit Kapoor: After completing my graduation in Applied Arts, I joined an animation studio in New Delhi. I learnt a lot there, from my animation guru Puneet Makhija. I did 2D animation where one has to draw frame by frame, on paper on light boxes etc. I did many TV commercials like Vicks, Eveready, Whirlpool, Tata Tea etc. and also a number short film, serials for Doordarshan and other channels as well. I did short films for Japan, Europe etc. It has been a nice journey for me.

**NET: You have to a lot of places and this is your first**

**trip to Northeast. Did you find any difference in Northeast in comparison to the other places?**

Amit Kapoor: First of all, if we compare Northeast with the rest of the country, then I must say that Northeast is really amazing. This is a paradise for an artist. You can just sit anywhere and start painting because there's beauty everywhere. The people, the hospitality that they show, that encourages an artist. This is not same with other places. You just can't sit anywhere and start painting. Sometimes the people are not that friendly. Sometimes, the weather condition doesn't allow you to work.

**NET: Any message you would like to give to the aspiring artists?**

Amit Kapoor: I would like to tell all the budding artists that there is no shortcut in our field. One has to work hard, you have to paint and draw.

# GIVE ME RED!



### Chirasmrita Devi

**Intro:** Passion, desire, power- Red is, perhaps, the most manipulative colours of all time. It has been there since the evolution of fashion and it's still the most contemporary colour inspiring many fashion gurus. As they say, "there is a shade of Red for every women", the shade also can be worn for every occasion. And when it's the Valentine month how can the pretty you do without 'Red'. Check out some classy and non-cheesy ways of donning this hue this Valentine's Day.

### *The Little Red Dress*

Just like the little black dress, the versatility of the little red dress is why one should opt for it. Trends may change, but a little red dress is never going get out of style. A day out or a night party, this option is never going to disappoint you. Make it the focal point and be simple as the colour itself is a striking one. Keep it less when it comes to accessories to avoid appearing over the top. To beat the chill, add on a cardigan and pair of lace-up boots and you are good to go.

*Make a statement with a Red clutch*  
Accessories are a great way to build up your style. Draw all the attention to what you are holding. A bright red clutch is all you need. Be it outfits with nude colours, less prints or even blacks, that edgy little thing will grab all the eyes.

*Life is better in Red Lipstick*  
When this powerful colour sits on your lips, the movements of your words become more elegant and strong. A couple of coats of a bright red lip colour







will draw all the attention towards your face, making you look confident and alluring. Subtle makeup and red lips- perfect for winters, festivals, dates and valentine! Be that femme fatale this valentine and slay your partner with your look.

*Sweep off Feet*

Your footwear can tell a lot about your personality. High heels don't just elongate your legs but high up your look, adding some extra inches of grace and confidence. Just know the trick to carry the pair well because it's definitely going to make you look glam. A pair of red stilettos or pumps will go well with sweatshirts, jackets and even your denims giving you that edgy look.





## Say it with Chocolates!

NET Bureau

Nothing says 'I love you' like a chocolate does, so this valentines' day, gift your loved ones some homemade truffles and make them feel special.

### **Chocolate Almond Clusters** **Ingredients**

8 oz semisweet or bitter-sweet chocolate. 1½ c. roasted salted almonds.

### **Direction**

On large cookie sheet, arrange 48 paper—foil, mini-muffin or candy cups in a single layer. In large microwave half of chocolate on high 20 seconds. Stir around 1 minute 20 seconds until chocolate melts, about. Stir in remaining chocolate until melted. Cool 3 minutes (for a shiny finish). Stir in almonds

until evenly coated. With measuring teaspoon, drop 1 spoonful of mixture into mini-muffin cup or onto waxed paper. Repeat with remaining mixture and cups.

Refrigerate at least 20 minutes or until set. Chocolate clusters can be refrigerated in an airtight container up to 1 month.

### **Pumpkin Spice Truffle**

6 oz. White chocolate (chopped or use chips), 2 oz. Cream cheese (room temperature), 1/4 cup Pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling) 1 tsp, pumpkin pie spice, 3/4 cup Pow-

dered dry milk, 3/4 cup powdered sugar, 1.5 cups Graham cracker crumbs, 1 lb. Orange colored candy coating, 3 oz. Green colored candy coating.

### **Direction**

In a small bowl, melt the white chocolate in the microwave in short bursts until it gets melted and entirely smooth. Set aside for now. Combine the softened cream cheese and the pumpkin puree in the bowl of a stand mixer and beat until smooth and combined. Scrape the bowl and beat again to make





*Chocolate Almond Clusters*

sure there are no lumps in the cream cheese. Add the powdered milk, the powdered sugar, and pumpkin pie spice. Beat on low until incorporated, then scrape down the mixing bowl and beat on medium speed for 2 minutes, until very smooth. Add the melted white chocolate and mix until incorporated. Finally, stir in the graham cracker crumbs. The mixture will be fairly soft at this point. Press cling wrap on the top and refrigerate it until firm enough to roll, about 2 hours.

When the candy is firm, use a candy scoop or a teaspoon to scoop up small balls. Dust your hands with powdered sugar and roll the truffles between your palms to make them round. Melt the orange candy coating in a microwave-safe bowl until melted and fluid. Dip the truffles in the coating and set them on a foil-lined baking sheet when finished. To make them look, add a bit of melted chocolate.

Refrigerate the truffles for around 10 minutes to set the coating. You can store Pumpkin Spice Truffles in an airtight container for up to two weeks.



*Pumpkin Spice Truffle*



# Ibarisha Lyngdoh: Beyond Choir

At 24, she has already carved a niche for herself. An invincible part of the Shillong Chamber Choir and regarded as one of the finest soloist, Shillong's Ibarisha Lyngdoh was recently in Colombo as one of the judges at the 4th Pacific Choir Games and Grand Prix of Nations Colombo 2017. **Northeast Today** caught up with this the melodious singer from Shillong and learnt a lot about her present, past, and the future.



**NET:** How has been your musical journey so far?

**Ibarisha** Firstly, if I had not been introduced to a great musician like Uncle Neil, I would have ended up taking singing as just another hobby. It was a cold winter day in 2005 when I first recall having met Uncle Neil. I was 12 years of age. I can clearly remember when I had taken some backing tracks with me and I was all set to present a couple of songs to him. After an audition of not knowing what to expect, I was presented with my first venture- to sing for the former President of India, Late APJ Abdul Kalam. A few

months later, I did a solo recital in Switzerland accompanied by Uncle Neil's sister Aunty Pauline. My first concert abroad was a success. That was when my journey began.

As an artist, I would say that over the years, I've also developed as an individual. Of course, in the beginning, things did look rather uncertain, but through the many seasons, I persevered in pursuing my passion for music. What I then began to notice was that the time and years I invested were not in vain.

As a musician, I have learnt and picked up many things- from singing to arranging music

for choirs and orchestras, to conducting members of the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra at the occasion of Maestro Zubin Mehta's 80th birthday and of course, to being selected as the sole Indian adjudicator for the Asia Pacific Choir Games '17. Looking back now, I have no regrets about the decisions that once seemed like a risk.

**NET:** What drew you to music and why did you choose the choir?

**Ibarisha:** I have loved music right from when I can remember. I would spend my leisure time singing. I could never see myself becoming a doctor or an

engineer. I would say it was my sheer passion and interest in singing that drove me to pursue music as a profession.

Why did I choose the choir? I have always dreamed of being a part of the Shillong Chamber Choir. I would watch their performances whenever it came on television. I was a great fan of Uncle Neil and his work!

**NET:** Can you enlighten us on the choir scene of Northeast?

**Ibarisha:** The choir concept has always been a part of the Northeast because of the strong influence of the Christianity in most states. Apart from the SCC, other noteworthy choirs that I'm aware of are the Mizo Cardinal Choir- the reigning Champions of the Chamber Choir/Vocal Ensembles Category in the Asia Pacific Choir Games. Then there's our very own Serenity Choir and the Nagaland Chamber Choir. Over the years, choirs have started to come out of the idea of just being confined to a church and have allowed themselves to explore all kinds of other forms of music. The perception of the word "choir" has slowly evolved over time.

**NET:** Share your experience of judging the 4th Pacific Choir Games?

**Ibarisha:** It was indeed a great honour to have represented India as an adjudicator at the Asia Pacific Choir Games. It was a wonderful experience to hear talented choirs from all over Asia and different parts of the world. I was very impressed with the fact that though most of the choirs were not professional, yet they produced such an excellent

standard of choral singing. Their dedication and hard work touched me the most.

**NET:** Share something about the music making process of SCC.

**Ibarisha:** Before working on the music, Uncle Neil would first and foremost emphasise on the word "attitudes". I still remember him saying to me that he'd teach me 1 hour of singing and 8 hours on how to remain humble; and I must say, this has been a saving grace for me and as well as the choir. We have stuck together for 11 good years and this is mainly attributed to putting a conscious effort into going against those 'wrong attitudes'.

As a group, we like to work together. The first stage is to identify a song which we like, and then Keviseno and I would have to write the basic melody. Then Uncle Neil would weave his magic on the song, to which the choir would then sit together and discuss the parts, and finally, we would often have a small concert at Whispering Pines (our home) for our close friends. This is a great way to put our new stuff out there and see if they would work for the bigger shows.

**NET:** Your biggest inspirations?

**Ibarisha:** Goes without saying really, but Uncle Neil has been my inspiration. He has been the one to inspire and mentor me right from the beginning. He has taught me not only about music but, but about life in general.

**NET:** Your favourite musicians, singers?

**Ibarisha:** I love western classical music! From Mozart to

Beethoven, from Tchaikovsky to Rachmaninoff and from Puccini and Bellini; I am in love with all. These will always be the greatest for me. And of course, the one and only, Freddie Mercury and his band, Queen!

**NET:** Suggestions for budding singers.

**Ibarisha:** As a singer, I believe that one has to have one's own identity. After all, nobody can be another Whitney Houston or Elvis but you can be yourself and no one can take that away from you. Another key factor is not staying within your comfort zone. Always feel free to try out different things and explore your voice because it's in doing this that you will get new ideas and revelations which eventually will be yours and will eventually be a part of you.

**NET:** What are your future projects and goals?

**Ibarisha:** I don't know what the future holds, but since you're asking me at this present time, all I can say is that my heart is with the choir and wherever their journey leads, I will be there. Whether it is the concerts in India or in abroad that this New Year will bring or whether it's the new school that's taking flight or even the movie projects that wait ahead. In a nutshell, Shillong Chamber Choir's future is my future.

**NET:** Any message for the readers of Northeast Today

**Ibarisha:** My message for the readers of Northeast Today is in the context of these words, "for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." If we sow in bad or good, either ways we shall reap.



PHOTOGRAM



Eye on the horizon

Camouflage







Beautiful lives \_\_\_\_\_

I can see you



## THE SWM SUPERDUAL

**T**he SWM SuperDual adventure motorcycle will be launched in India in early 2018. The SWM SuperDual will be marketed by Kinetic-owned premium motorcycle initiative MotoRoyale, which also sells MV Agusta bikes in India. MotoRoyale has also announced a partnership with British motorcycle brand Norton to assemble and sell Norton bikes in India and the rest of the South East Asia.



## MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER

**T**his third-gen Outlander was launched in international markets in 2012 and received a comprehensive update in 2015. As part of the refresh, the crossover got revised styling in line with newer Mitsubishi. The Outlander crossover has been prominently displayed as 'Com-

ing Soon' on Mitsubishi's India website for quite some time now, but dealers have finally confirmed they will start taking orders with deliveries set to commence by May. The Outlander will go on sale for about Rs 30 lakh (ex-showroom).



## TECH BITES

**1** Sony announced the launch of a wide range of headphones, wireless speakers, and sound bars at CES 2018. Parts of the new lineup were the HT-ZF9 3.1 channel soundbar and the HT-XF9000 2.1 channel soundbar. Apart from that, the company also unveiled three wireless earphones and three extra bass portable speakers. The WI-SP500 sports headphones will be priced at \$79.99 (roughly Rs. 5,100) and will be made available from April 2018.

**2** Samsung announced numerous new products across several categories at CES 2018. The most notable highlight of these products was the integration of Samsung's virtual assistant Bixby on to the company's range of TVs and home appliances. Other announcements by Samsung include the Samsung Flip digital display, a 146-inch 'The Wall' TV, the Notebook 7 Spin (2018), new Family Hub refrigerators, a new washing machine, some new audio equipment, and software upgrades for platforms like SmartThings. On this last front, the company said it aims to enable AI in each of its connected devices by 2020.



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## A ROMANTIC GETAWAY IN NORTHEAST INDIA

What is your idea of a Romantic Getaway? Is it Kashmir, or Himachal Pradesh or maybe even Kerala? Not all of us subscribe to the typical lovey-dovey kind of relationships. The definition of romance also involves travelling to beautiful places, an adventure away from the maddening crowd. Some time alone with loved ones, in the lap of nature is a kind of a perfect date.

Hence here is a list of places compiled by **Sisir** for 'Romantic Getaways' in Northeast India where you would like to take your loved ones to.

### TAWANG

It is said that no beautiful thing is easily available. We need to work hard and become worthy for it. This idea is so true for the mountain town of Tawang. Nestled in the majestic Himalayas, this town can be reached after a very tiring journey through the Sela Pass. But once you reach Tawang, you will be enthralled by its natural beauty and the warm and welcoming

nature of the people of the region.

Out of the traffic, the pollution and the noise, this is one of those places where you can enjoy some quality time with your loved one. Some long walks with no one to disturb you or simply basking in the sun on the sunny side of the hills are inviting enough.

## TEZPUR

Legend says that Usha, the daughter of Banasura had fallen in love with Anirudha, the grandson of Lord Krishna after she saw him in her dream. Chitrlekha, a talented artist drew a portrait from the description given by Usha and recognized him. This was followed by a great battle between the forces of Banasura and Krishna causing the death of lot of people. Eventually the couple got married and moved to Dwarka, the city of Lord Krishna.

They call it the City of Eternal Love due to its historical background. The cleanest city of the state of Assam, the narrow lanes and the parks all sum up to make Tezpur a beautiful place. A romantic evening in the Usha Udyan overlooking the mighty Brahmaputra is an experience worth remembering forever.



<https://upload.wikimedia.org>

## LACHUNG

A small mountain town with very less population and an energetic river with extra cold water flowing through the middle of it- Sounds interesting? Well that is Lachung for you. Small houses, few hotels, fresh air and abundant time with yourself. This is also the last place in North Sikkim with proper accommodation and other necessary services.

This is another place of delight for any nature loving couple who wants to get out of the busy city lives. It's also a paradise for anyone who loves mountain. You can also go to Yumthang Valley or Zero Point from Lachung. Yumthang is one of the Valley of Flowers attributed to the large number of wild species of flowering plants. And since Zero Point is above the permanent snowline, you can find snow or ice all the year round. So if you want to play with ice with your loved one even in the peak summers, you know where to go.



[www.holidify.com](http://www.holidify.com)

## SOHRA

It is the local name for Cherrapunjee, which till quite recently was the Rainiest Place in the World. Although the new record is held by nearby Mousindram, Sohra still receives ample amount of rainfall. Large flat spaces and beautiful valleys with innumerable waterfalls is what one shall about Sohra.

Ain't it just romantic to go on long walks without any goal in mind, in the rain, under one umbrella with your loved one? If you want to do that, Sohra is the best place to be. There are also a lot of waterfalls and some amazing places to take photos with yopur dear one and make the trip a memorable one.

*(The author is a travel enthusiast from Guwahati)*



<https://upload.wikimedia.org>





## REWATI CHETRI TO MAKE HER BOLLYWOOD DEBUT

**H**aflong beauty Rewati Chetri is all set to hit the big screen with her Bollywood debut movie *Khatoon*. She will be casted opposite Santosh Shukla who was seen in *Jai Ho*. The movie is based on the story of a gallant soldier of 1962 Indo-China war. Rewati was one the finalists of Femina Miss India 2015 and bagged the title of Miss Asia at the World Miss University 2016 which was held in Beijing. This law student debuted as an actor in a music video for the album *Tumi Mur*. Later she was in the movie *Gangs of Northeast*, an action thriller film directed by Rupak Gogoi.

## CHOLOMA, FIRST TIWA FILM CERTIFIED BY CBFC

**F**eature film *Choloma* shall be the first Tiwa film to be certified by CBFC. The film has been directed and produced by Sumir Dewri Damlong under the banner of 'The Wild Lalungs'. The movie portrays two stories based on real incidents. The first story tells the story of a forest villager and his pregnant wife. The second one, too, portrays a mentally challenged girl who is living with her alcoholic father and a hardworking mother.



## NORTH EAST'S GOT TALENT IS BACK

**A**fter the grand success of the first two seasons and winning 'Best Reality Show' award by NEBCUS Media Award, Sanchita Production has again started the Season 3 of the reality Show 'Northeast Got Talent' at Rengoni Channel. It is a talent show that features singers, dancers, musicians, jugglers, riders, actors, magicians, comedians, artist (drawing, painting), and other performers of all ages ranging from six to sixty, competing for the advertised top prize money with gift hampers, and also a chance to strut and perform



on stage hoping to win North East's hearts. Directed by International award winner Film Director Sanchita Talukdar, the audition for the show was held in 21 different location of North East and also participants from outside region from Northeast also participated.



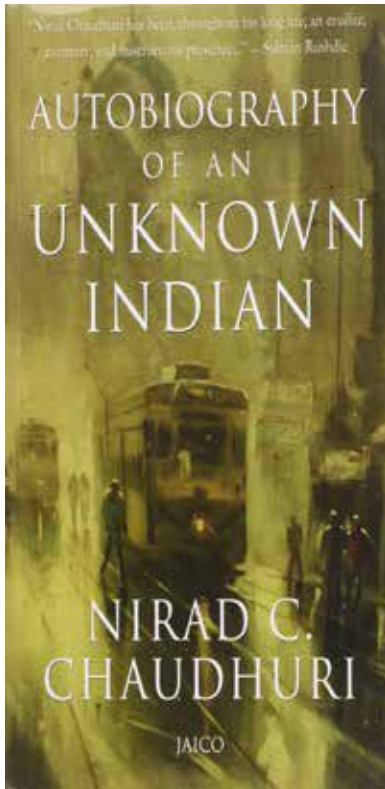




## BOOKS NOT TO MISS

### AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN UNKNOWN INDIAN

**AUTHOR: NIRAD C CHAUDHURI**



The *Autobiography of an Unknown Indian* by Nirad C Chaudhuri is an astonishing work of self-discovery and the revelation of a peerless and provocative sensibility. Describing his childhood in the Bengali countryside and his youth in erstwhile Calcutta- and telling the story of modern India from his own fiercely independent viewpoint-Chaudhuri fashions a book of deep conviction, charm, and intimacy that is also a masterpiece of the writer's art. Possibly, this is one of the greatest books of all time and a wonderful chronicle of the times. This voluminous presentation is much more than his autobiography. The book leaves the reader in no doubt about the levels of erudition that the author had achieved and his command over the English language. First half of the book deals with his personal

life and is the more difficult part from reader's perspective. His elaborate description of the days spent in the village and then his ruminations about what he found in Kolkata are perhaps for the purists and not a casual reader. However, when he shifts gears to provide his insights into the freedom movement, the narration becomes interesting. There is no doubt that he is forthright and blunt about whatever he has to say be it his understanding of nationalism or even what Gandhi was doing to the national movement. The book ultimately attempts to provide an understanding of Indian history giving it a new twist altogether. One wonders how this could be treated as part of an autobiography. A must read for all and definitely not a book to miss.

**Words: NET Bureau**

## MOVIE WATCH

### THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR



The *House Next Door* is a Hindi horror movie starring an ensemble cast of Siddharth, Atul Kulkarni, Victor Banerjee, Andrea Jeremiah and others. It was simultaneously shot in Tamil and Telugu where it was respectively titled as *Aval* and *Gruham*. Horror is one such

genre, which is yet very raw in Bollywood. Apart from a bunch of movies, most of the horror movies leave the audience laughing out loud, scaring is still a distant reality. But THND is able to break this stereotype to a great extent and the audience is indeed left scared

on a number of occasions. A tight script, brilliant cinematography, superb acting and polished direction make the movie gripping. Proper use of VFX is an added bonus. Surprise and shock are the two of the most necessary elements for a horror movie and THND doesn't disappoint at all. The second half, however, could have been a little better in terms of unfolding the twists and secrets of the story. If one is a die-hard fan of the horror genre, THND is a must watch and I am sure no one will be left much disappointed. In your wish-list of 'movies to watch before you die', THND is a must addition.

**Words: Rajib Lochan**



# BRAIN GAME

As we gradually march ahead in to a fresh year, let us activate our brain cells further. Northeast Today brings to you an array of brain twisters, just for your liking. So, enjoy...

**1** Govinda's is a chain of pure vegetarian restaurants, found in different cities around the world, offering a variety of cuisines such as Indian, Italian, Mexican, Chinese and Thai. Which international owns this restaurant chain?

**2** They can originate from only one place in India. In April 2004, to mark a 400th anniversary, about 150 of them made the journey from this place to Canada, to be distributed to various organisations across the country. They were carried on the head on a four-kilometre-journey to the airport, and each one was provided with its own linen-draped seat and pillow on the airplane. Something similar happened in 2011, this time about 450 of them making the journey to Italy. What are we talking about? Why separate seats on the plane for each one?

**3** Which Oscar winning actor's name is Krishna Pandit Bhanji?

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 mail your answer to [info@northeasttoday.in](mailto:info@northeasttoday.in)

**4** A Beretta M1934, serial number 606834 fired n shots at X. Name X.

**5** Where in the world would you find 'Victoria' written in Devnagiri script (Hindi), a Bible verse in Hebrew, and angel with text 'In the face of adversity' and a black and white image of the Chirst inspired by the painting 'the man of sorrows' by Mathew R Brooks?

Identify the robot below and why was it in the news recently



1.ISKCON 2.Guru Granth Sahib 3.Sir Ben Kingsley 4.Mahatma Gandhi 5.David Beckham's Body





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# HOROSCOPE



**ARIES (Mar 22 - Apr 20)**

Professional prospects depend on hard work and financial progress will be superb. Relationship with family members shows signs of tension. Health will be adequate.



**TAURAS (Apr 21 - May 21)**

Venus is boosting your love life and family members are helping you to succeed in your financial arena. Social life will be active and health prospects are bright. Take care of your health.



**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**

Love life with your spouse requires mutual understanding. Health can be maintained with more rest after the 19th. Retrograde of planets is holding you back. But don't be pessimistic.



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

Career and outer success dominate your life during February. Turmoil in the financial situation will be there. Health will be wonderful. Relationship with your spouse will face some disturbances.



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

Love life will be pleasant. Health prospects brighten after the 19th. Monetary situation is retarded till the 16th. Your emotional strength will propel your career success.



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

Financial success is backed by your creativity and new career openings for career are available. Perfection of a Virgo will limit choice of love partners for singles. Health will be problematic.



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

Love is quite active and singles will have no problem in getting into romantic alliances in February 2018. Health can be improved with a good fitness and diet regime.



**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 21)**

Finances require more effort to earn the same amount after the 19th. Career development will be great, but health will require more rest. Love relationships will be exciting.



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

Health will improve. A perfect time for travel and rejuvenation. Don't bother yourself with work related issues. A month of positivity will flow.



**CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20)**

Financial prosperity is supported by the family members. Though love life is not exciting, singles will face no problem in getting new partners. Career is more for enjoyment.



**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 21)**

Career prospects are driven by ambition and hard work. Finances are very encouraging with the monetary support of your spouse. Family environment is full of turmoil.



**PISCES (Feb 22 - Mar 21)**

Finances are improved by indulging in philanthropic activities. Health will be wonderful in February 2018. Your spouse is busy with her professional activities.

“সমস্যাসমূহ মনতে পুহি নাৰাখি এবাৰ লগ ধৰক”

অসম সন্তান

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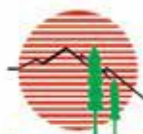
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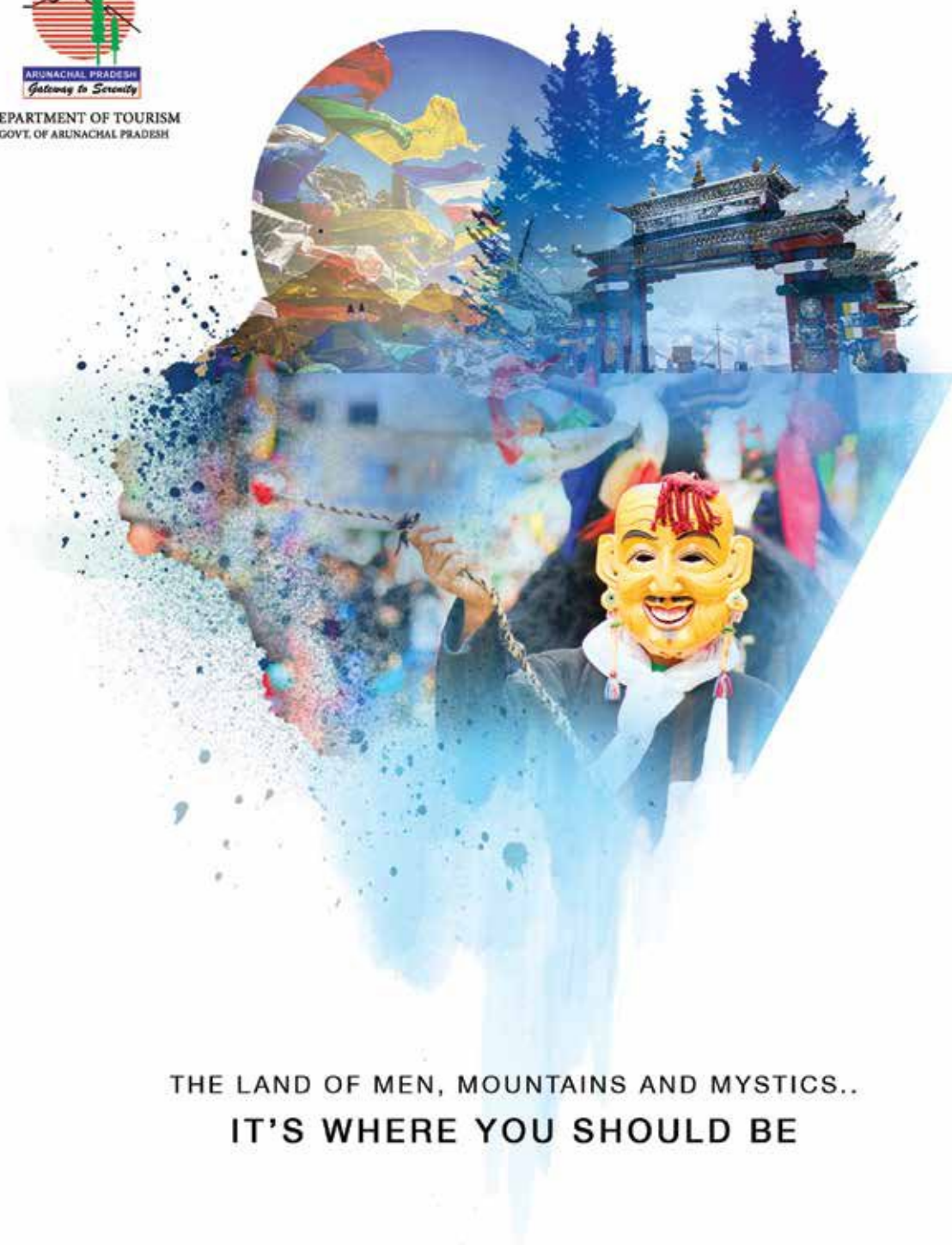
# Arunachal Pradesh

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