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# Gplus

Guwahati's Own English Weekly

VOLUME 03 | ISSUE 48  
SEP 24 - SEP 30, 2016  
PRICE ₹ 10

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## Priyanka Chopra as Brand Ambassador is mere speculation

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# Priyanka Chopra as Brand Ambassador is mere speculation

JUTHIKA BARUAH

■ Priyanka Chopra has not yet given confirmation to the proposal of brand ambassador of Assam tourism

■ The campaign of Awesome Assam will be launched by the end of September, 2016

■ The state government has allocated Rs. 15 crores for the campaign

■ The objective of Awesome Assam is to promote Assam tourism globally

■ To promote home stay, the government will construct 500 to 700 houses



**The news of Priyanka Chopra being appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Assam Tourism and that she will be paid Rs. 1.5 crores per day has been denied by ATDC which says that it is a speculative piece of news with no confirmation by the department**

The government of Assam has launched Awesome Assam and it has also been published and broadcast that leading Bollywood film actor Priyanka Chopra will be the Brand Ambassador of Assam Tourism. The same has been termed fallacious by Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC).

Speaking exclusively to G Plus, Managing Director of ATDC, Anurag Singh said that Priyanka Chopra has not yet confirmed the deal and the news that has been published is speculative. "We have offered her the role of Brand Ambassador but she has not yet confirmed and all issues like she will shoot in a foreign country and will be paid Rs 1.5 crores per day are speculative. No one has confirmed the news with ATDC before publishing it," said Singh.

The state is set to take a big leap into the money-spinning world of tourism which includes 'Awesome Assam,' a campaign to boost tourism in all its sectors of wildlife, spirituality, tea, golf, adventure, leisure, monsoon, film and so on and the campaign will be launched by the end of September, 2016.

"Assam will first have to overhaul its image of a militancy-hit zone by re-branding itself and putting the latest technological innovations to use, the draft Assam Tourism Policy, 2016, says. The policy proposes the creation of a framework to transform tourism into a major economic sector of the state and increase tourist inflow two to three-fold in the next five years. In 2014, around 48,00,000 domestic and

20,000 foreign tourists visited the state," said Director of ATDC, Paul Baruah.

Baruah added, "Assam has special things to offer but it needs to get a framework in place to realize the benefits. Promotion is a major way through which the rise in footfall can be witnessed. We are working towards promoting Assam in different states by penetrating into other cultures and showcasing our culture on a national platform. Activities such as cultural shows, road-shows, direct interaction with tour operators are being carried out. We have been to Bangalore, Pune, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad with Barsha Rani Bishaya as our ambassador."

With the launching of the Awesome Assam logo, the tourism department will aggressively promote the new brand entity. Launching the logo, state tourism minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the Awesome

Assam campaign has been launched to promote tourism around the world so that Assam tourism should not be confined within the country. Assam has huge resources in the tourism sector which needs to be promoted and the tourist is aware of only some of the tourist destinations and many other tourist spots need to be promoted. The government will promote tourism as an industry. Sarma said, "Young foreign tourists are keen on visiting Assam and seeing the tea gardens where their forefathers used to work at one point of time."

The state government has allocated Rs. 15 crores for the Awesome Assam campaign.

To promote home stay, the government will construct 500 to 700 houses, Sarma said adding, "We will also rope in film producers for shooting in Assam and for this a single-window clearance mechanism will be put in place."

However, according to a recent report of Govt. of India's Ministry of Tourism, Assam along with the rest of the northeast has been in a race downhill in the recent past. It is neither Goa nor Kerala but Tamil Nadu which has emerged as India's most popular state for foreign tourists.

The top five frequented states were Tamil Nadu (4.68 million), Maharashtra (4.41 million), Uttar Pradesh (3.1 million), Delhi (2.38 million) and West Bengal (1.49 million) and these states have been the consistently top ranked states in the country in terms of tourism. The top 10 states contributed about 88.4% to the total number of foreign tourist visits in the country during 2015. These states also have some of the major international airports of India where tourists usually arrive, before they go on to explore other parts of the country. Meanwhile, Assam is endowed with plenty of natural and cultural resources which can form the basis of a very lucrative tourism industry, creating employment and generating income not only in the urban centres but also in the rural areas.

Assam can become one of the most sought after destinations in the country because of its magnificent tourism products like exotic wildlife, awesome scenic beauty, colourful fairs and festivals, age-old historical monuments, lush green tea gardens and golf courses, the massive Brahmaputra River and its tributaries, serene and tranquil country side and warm and hospitable people.

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## GPLUS NEWS

## John Abraham discusses issues related to ISL with CM



Bollywood actor John Abraham, who is also the owner of North East United Football Club, met Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday evening, at the CM's office chamber in Assam Secretariat, and discussed with him the preparations of Guwahati as the venue for the opening ceremony of the third edition of the Indian Super League (ISL).

It may be mentioned that the opening ceremony of the third session of ISL will be held before the crowd in Sarusajai Stadium, Guwahati. The duo, besides talking about a flurry of steps that were pressed in to service for the opening ceremony, also talked on North East's contribution to the development of Indian football, and its potential in shaping the future of the game in the country.

Sonowal also informed Abraham that the administration would extend all possible support and assistance for Guwahati to play the host of the football carnival and assured all help to North East United FC.

## Kolia Bhomora Setu to shut down toll gate

The toll gate on the Kolia Bhomora bridge was shut down today w.e.f. from 10 AM Thursday following an order from the Centre. The Centre ruled that toll could not be levied on bridges that cost less than Rs 100 crore on its construction. The Kolia Bhomora bridge was built at a cost of Rs 80 crore.

# 4 commit suicide fearing impending bribe-for-job scam

Kingpin, allegedly from the police department, arrested late on Thursday night from upper Assam by Dibrugarh police

KALYAN DEB

In a bizarre incident four members of a family were found dead in a hotel in Guwahati city on Wednesday last. According to initial investigations, four members of the family - father, mother, a relative and a child - committed suicide due to a supposed bribe-for-job feud. However, police said they were looking at every possible angle. They were lodged in Room No. 102 in the Sun City Hotel in Ganeshguri area where the bodies were found. The deceased have been identified as Prasanta Kumar (36), his wife Pompi Kalita (26), her cousin Anamika Kalita (21), and the couple's four-year-old daughter.

"The family came to the hotel on Tuesday evening and booked the room. However, no one came out until late morning today. On suspicion, we peeped inside through the ventilator only to see that all the four were lying on one bed," said the manager of the hotel, adding that thereafter, they informed the police.

## The incident

On 21st September at about 12 noon, information was received by Dispur PS from the manager of Sun City Lodge located at Ganeshguri Chariali that the room number 102 of the lodge was found locked from the inside and dead bodies of four persons were seen inside the room. Immediately after receiving the information the police rushed to the spot and observed through the ventilator of the room that the dead bodies of one male, two females and a child were lying on the bed. The information was soon passed on to senior police officials who also rushed to the spot. The police then broke open the room in the presence of a magistrate and re-



PULIN GOGOI IN CUSTODY | FILE PHOTO

covered the bodies

The deceased were identified thereafter and it soon came to light that one Prasanta Kumar of Sipajhar in Darrang District along with two women and a child had checked into the lodge at 7 pm of Tuesday on 20th September. They had entered the room at around 8 pm after having dinner in a restaurant outside the lodge. As the

door of the lodge was locked from the inside it was suspected that the family had committed suicide.

After observing the crime scene, an FSL team was requisitioned along with CID and a team of Crime Branch in order to take follow-up actions. Two suicide notes were recovered from the room of the lodge. Of the two notes, one was addressed to the chief minis-

ter, health minister and DGP of Assam where the deceased, Prasanta, admitted that he committed suicide because of cheating and fraudulent acts of one Pulin Gogoi who is working in Assam Police. It needs mention that Gogoi had collected Rs. 77 lakhs from 62 persons by promising them government jobs through his connections.

The note also mentioned that it was due to mental pressure created by several others for which he had to take this extreme step of committing suicide with his family and sought exemplary punishment for the guilty persons. In another suicide note addressed to his parent, the deceased elaborated his family matters and begged for forgiveness for taking such an extreme step. Along with the suicide notes, three containers, a packet of which is suspected to be pesticides, two mobile phone and some edibles were also recovered from the room.

## The Pulin Gogoi connection

According to sources, Prasanta Kumar was reportedly involved in a scam and took huge sums of money amounting to Rs. 77 lakhs from 62 people on the promise of giving them jobs. He was associated with one Pulin Gogoi and Prasanta worked as a mediator between him and the job aspirants. Pulin had asked Prashanta to assure the unemployed youths of providing jobs in the police and administrative departments. However, according to preliminary investigations it was clear that Prashanta was unaware of Pulin's suspension from the police department. Pulin was suspended on 12th September, 2011 for his involvement in many illegal activities. It may be mentioned, that several cases have

been registered against Pulin in Dispur, Dhakuakhana and Moran police stations.

In his suicide note which he wrote to the chief minister and other higher government officials, he mentioned that he and a police official from Nazira was involved in the matter and urged them to carry out an inquiry into the matter. Prasanta mentioned in his suicide note that he was forced to take such a step as he was under pressure.

After receiving news of the deaths, Prasanta's elder brother, Hemanta reached here this afternoon along with his relatives and friends. They too blamed Pulin for the tragedy. "Prasanta was under severe mental pressure for the past few days as the job aspirants from whom he had taken money had given him a deadline for tomorrow to refund the money," Hemanta said.

## Investigation so far

As informed by police officials, preliminary investigation indicates this is a case of suicide. However the cause of death can be confirmed after the post-mortem report is acquired. It was also mentioned that according to family members of Prasanta, he was in depression for the past few days as he had collected huge sums of money from various people over the past year assuring them of government jobs in different departments. However, Prasanta had failed to secure such jobs for those people and was under pressure to return their money.

"The cause of death seems to be consumption of poison but we are waiting for the post-mortem reports," a police official said. "However, we will investigate the matter thoroughly. There might be more to it than what meets the eye. We will take stringent measures," the official added.

Meanwhile, a case (Case number 2295/2016) has been registered and investigation on the same has started. Police officials mentioned that a Special Investigation Team has been put in place following which Gogoi, whose name surfaced in the suicide note of Prashanta Kumar, was arrested from Pothalibam of Moran late Thursday night by a team from Dibrugarh Police.

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# Guwahati based bullion trader busted: Rs. 2000 cr racket comes to a halt

GPLUS NEWS



A Guwahati-based bullion trader, Narendra Kumar Jain has been arrested for smuggling 7,000 kgs of gold through Indo-Myanmar land border and bringing it to Delhi through an airline. A probe by the officials of revenue department has revealed that the trader made hundreds of smuggling trips and is said to be the mastermind of a Rs 2,000 crore smuggling racket. This probably is the single biggest case of

detection of gold smuggling by any agency in India.

Interrogation has revealed that Jain had made 617 trips to Guwahati for the purpose of smuggling gold over a period of past two and a half years. So far smugglers had been known to be using train and bus routes to carry smuggled gold into different parts of India. However, Jain had adopted a new modus operandi. He used to smuggle 24 carat

purity gold bars into India through Indo-Myanmar land borders. Once the gold bars were received in Guwahati, he would declare and book gold as valuable cargo in domestic flights between Guwahati and Delhi. Interestingly he was using a particular private airline for this purpose. This has also led to the questioning of the airline staff. Investigation has revealed that the airline staff was aware of the gold being transported

through cargo.

The Guwahati based bullion trader fell into the Directorate of Intelligence net when his 10 kg gold consignment was seized at the domestic terminal of IGI Airport early this month. He along with his Delhi-based aide was arrested by the sleuths. He smuggled the gold into India's Mizoram and Manipur states from Chin State and Sagaing Division.

# COFA seeks govt intervention to regulate digitization of cable TV

JUTHIKA BARUAH

■ COFA demands intervention of state government to regulate digitization

■ Cable TV operators demand tax holiday up to 2018

■ The digitization of 4th phase has been extended till 31st December, 2016

■ 100% digitization has been done in Guwahati

■ COFA demands implementation of the Cable TV Act

■ Subsidy in A&BT demanded for multiple connections



| ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

**A monopoly has been established as the DM, ADM and SDM fail to investigate the actual scenario of digitization of cable TV; COFA demands intervention of the state government**

The Cable TV Operators Forum of Assam (COFA) has demanded intervention of the state government for the irregularities that have taken place in the digitization of cable TV and the TRAI has implemented an Act which is not being followed by most of the operators.

It has been alleged by the cable TV operators that they are being subjected to harassment from various quarters due to ignorance of rules and regulations by the authorised officers under state government leading to closure of networks. Presently, the state government has conferred the responsibility on Information and Public Relation Department to look after matters related to cable TV which is not the competent authority as per act. They also alleged that the state government is unable to collect a single penny from the pay channel broadcasters who are collecting huge amounts of revenue.

Speaking to G Plus, General Secretary of COFA, Iqbal Ahmed said, "It has been clearly mentioned in the TRAI website regarding the customers' right about the rules and regulations of digitization of cable TV which needs to be followed at the ground level. The cable TV industry is governed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the

Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995. The various provisions of the Act and Regulation have entrusted the District Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate, Sub-divisional Magistrate at ground level as the authorised officer for implementation of the same but the authorised persons have not taken any action regarding the implementation of the Act."

Ahmed said that the TRAI and the government have drafted the Act for the benefit of the consumers but as it has not been implemented the customers and operators have to face the problem. There is also an order issued by the Supreme Court of India mentioning that a distributor of a pay channel cannot be an operator but a CEO of a reputed news channel is an operator and the government has chosen to remain silent in this regard.

The consumers are not aware of their rights and it is the responsibility of the DM, ADM and SDM to create awareness among the people about their rights and see that it is followed at the ground level. Ahmed said that a service centre and a customer care centre should be established between 6 am and 10 pm which is mentioned in the quality of service agreement. "It is because of the irregularities that we are facing problems as the rules have been followed by some and

those who do not follow the rules are not being hauled up by anyone. As we abide by the law we have to face the problem," said Ahmed.

Earlier, COFA also demanded that a tax holiday up to 2018 as operators are already over burdened with investments in the transition from analogue to digital. They have also demanded that subsidy should be given in A&BT (Amusement & Betting Tax) in multiple connections as most of the subscribers are having more than one TV and therefore the operators appealed to subsidise the A&BT rate for the multiple connections giving a relief to the subscribers. The state government shall take immediate and urgent steps to press the authorised officers as defined in the cable TV act to do the needful for implementation of provisions of the cable TV act.

The government has taken the decision to make cable TV operation digital through which they will have the information on how many households are having cable connections. The government will collect entertainment tax accordingly and the pay channels will also get the advantage out of it. The pay channels will get to know how many households are viewing which channels and accordingly they will fix the rate. Through the analogue system they used to get

a minimum amount but after things get digitalized they will be able to charge fees according to.

According to the TRAI Act mentioned in broadcasting and cable services, the Multi-System Operator (MSO) shall continue to have a right of ownership of its network used to deliver cable TV services under this agreement and it may expand/upgrade/change/replace/redesign any part or entire network subject to the condition that any such activity does not interrupt or degrade the quality of service provided to the subscribers. The MSO shall sign the interconnection agreement with broadcasters for retransmission of signals of TV Channels as per prevailing norms, policies, the applicable laws and rules, regulations, directions and orders of the concerned authorities. The MSO shall have the right to finalise the maximum retail price of each channel, as payable by the subscriber in compliance with the provisions of applicable laws and rules, regulations and tariff orders. The MSO shall have the right to package the channels/services offered on the network, as per its business plan and as per prevailing norms, policies, the applicable laws and rules, regulations and tariff orders.

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## Assam Govt requests UK and Australia Govt to make urgent changes in travel advisories

G PLUS NEWS

The Assam state government, on Wednesday urged the United Kingdom and Australia to immediately 'rectify' their recent travel advisories in which they cautioned their citizens against travelling to Assam and four other north-eastern states.

The two nations had updated their advisories on Friday and had asked their citizens to either cancel or reconsider their visit to the northeast India considering the incidents of terrorism and insurgency. They also cited the incidents of the recent Kokrajhar shootings that happened last month and the killing of 18 soldiers by NSCN Khaplang rebels in Manipur last year.

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office in its advisory said, "Although the overall security situation in the northeast of India is improving, some areas, especially in Manipur and Assam, still experience sudden and random outbreaks of violence. There have been several incidents of violence in Assam including a shooting in Kokrajhar on August 5 resulting in 14 deaths and grenade explosions in Lakhimpur, Karbi Anglong and Guwahati."

The Australian advisory said, "We advise you to reconsider your need to travel to these areas due to risk of armed robbery, kidnapping, extortion and separatist and insurgent violence, including in rural areas. Insurgent groups have attacked civilians and bombed buildings in these states."

However, state tourism minister Himanta Biswa Sarma described the inclusion of Assam in a list of disturbed areas of the country 'a careless oversight' and urged his counterparts in the two countries to avoid referring to the state as a forbidden destination.

In a request sent out to the government of the two nations, Himanta said, "Assam is an abode of natural beauty. Its people are peace-loving and give immense love and affection to all those who come here. Any misrepresentation of the actual situation creates unnecessary fear and adversely impacts tourism potential of the state."

He further said that, Assam is a land of diverse ethnic and cultural groups which have co-existed with enormous harmony and unity. Incidents like that of Kokrajhar is unfortunate, but was a 'rare occurrence', and something of that sort could have taken place in any modern society.

# App based call cabs pushing Guwahati autos out of business?

CHANDRIKA DAS

This is the golden age of transport options. Forget buses and owning your own car: Uber, Ola and the likes are offering fares that are turning out to be cheaper than auto-rickshaws. Well, the cherry on the cake is the fact that while all the facilities are available with a tap of your phone, it brings along the convenience of getting to travel in an air-conditioned cab.

It seems that the revolutionary app based call taxis are fast invading the public commuting scenario in Guwahati with every passing day. And with the nascent but fast growing app based cab services, like Uber reducing its minimum fare to Rs 7 per km, and Ola Cabs reducing its base fare to Rs 45, the segment has challenged the auto-rickshaws of the city on their own turf. The growing popularity of app based cab services like Uber and Ola has already eaten into the incomes of traditional auto and taxi drivers in Guwahati.

Taxi aggregators like Ola and Uber claim to cover near about 10 lakh rides daily. Ola alone says that it carries out 7,50,000 rides each day within the country. In getting so popular, these services are seen to be offering transparent pricing, ensuring 'what you ride is what you pay for' sparing people the trouble of having to haggle with the auto drivers to ply by the meter and imploring them not to overcharge, leave alone 'taking a little extra.'

Unfortunately in recent times, the situation has become bleak for the auto drivers in the city with the regulations of the app based cabs, which are designed to create a smooth plying option round the clock.

A quick price check between the auto rickshaws and the app based cabs within the city at various times of day:

## Zoo road Tin Ali to Guwahati Railway Station (9 AM - 9:30 AM)

Reserved auto - Rs 150 - Rs 180  
Stand auto - Rs 200  
Uber - Rs 80 - Rs 100  
Ola - Rs 100 - Rs 120

## Gitanagar to ISBT (6:30 AM)

Reserved auto - Rs 400 - Rs 450  
Ola (Sedan) - Rs 329  
Uber - Rs 207 - Rs 263

## Guwahati Railway Station to Jalukbari (5 PM - 5:30 PM)

Reserved auto - Rs 500 plus  
Ola - Rs 450 - Rs 500  
Uber - Rs 410 - Rs 535

## Ulubari to Khanapara (6 PM)

Reserved auto - Rs 200 - Rs 250  
Ola - Approx Rs 200  
Uber - Rs 140 - Rs 175



| ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

Uber has clearly emerged as the leader in terms of fares, bringing a much needed relief for the people of the city

### What, apart from the price, is making Guwahati people switch to app based cabs?

Most popular taxi cabs accept bookings only through applications. And with the GPS option built in the apps making customers instantly aware of where the cabs are and how long it would take to reach them, running autos and taxis may be assured of a dip in business.

### OLA CABS

- Founded in Mumbai, December 2010
- Active in 100 Indian cities
- 100% aggregated
- Cabs booked only through app
- Aggregates autos
- Cash payments accepted everywhere / wallet option

FUNDING RAISED  
**\$700 million+**

INVESTORS  
DST Global, SoftBank, Falcon Edge, GIC, Sequoia, Steadview, Matrix, Tiger Global

TOTAL INCOME	2013/14	2012/13
	51.05	16.41
PAT	-34.22	-22.80

"One reason for the shift could be that the cab drivers have captured the market for long distance trips, and autos are still plying on shorter distances" said an auto driver.

"Ola and Uber have brought relief for the people who need to stay out for some work or the other. Guwahati streets would hardly see any auto after 9 PM. That is when the cabs come to your rescue, be it 10 PM or 11 PM", said a female professional of Guwahati.

Here's how the two most popular app based cab services have taken the city in hand, in the global market.

### UBER

- Founded in San Francisco, June 2009
- Active in 18 Indian cities
- 100% aggregated
- Cabs booked only through app
- Aggregates autos
- Cash payments accepted in six cities
- Paytm wallet, credit and debit card work

FUNDING RAISED  
**\$6 billion**  
India specific: \$1 billion

INVESTORS  
Lowercase Capital, Menlo, First Round, Benchmark, Goldman Sachs, Google Ventures, Baidu

TOTAL INCOME	2013/14	2012/13
	2.26	N.A.
PAT	0.07	N.A.

Figures in ₹ crore Source: ROC

### What's wrong with the auto scenario in Guwahati?

The stubborn (read rude) behavior of the auto drivers and high fares have compelled the public to go for options other than hiring an auto for commuting.

The Gauhati High Court in a recent verdict said that the auto rickshaws should install fare meters immediately and that the auto-rickshaw owners' association coordination committee should implement the government rate, i.e. Rs. 30 for the first 2 km against the meter reading of Rs 10 and Rs 3 for subsequent 200 meters or part, i.e. Rs 15 for subsequent 1 km. The waiting charge should be Rs. 3 for every 5 minutes, i.e. Rs 36 for every hour. The fare at night time, i.e. from 10 pm to 5 am will increase by 50% over the normal fare. However, only a few autos could be found following these guidelines directed by the court.

With auto drivers refusing to follow government guidelines, the sight of a working meter still being a rare phenomenon and the app based cabs providing hassle-free experience, a sharp decline in the number of auto-rickshaws in Guwahati could become a reality in the near future.



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## What the Tweet!?

### #Brangelina divorce #Braxit and 2016's biggest tragedy

#### Sorabh Pant @hankypanty

Who gives a shit about #Brangelina breaking up? I'm still not over Sehwaag and Tendulkar not opening together!

#### Bhak Sala @bhak\_sala

After reading hashtags like #Brangelina, I am really glad that Chunkey Pandey never dated Tiya Sircar.

#### Sand-d Singh @Sand\_In\_Deed

This #Brangelina is a great opportunity for Arijit Singh to make some global fans.

#### Madhavan Narayanan @madversity

Someone on Facebook has a new term for #brangelina divorce: #braxit

#### Faizal Rosly @ijaicool

Quite shocked to hear about #Brangelina I guess no one told you life was gonna be this way  
\*clap clap clap clap\*

#### Joy @Joydas

The sacrifice #Brangelina has made to divert IndiaPak Twitter from triggering Nuclear War is admirable

#### Sagar @sagarcasm

Breaking Brad

#### Angad Singh Ranyal @PiratedSardar

Forget Angelina-Brad, I just want to know whether Hrithik left Kangana or Kangana left Hrithik.

#### billoo @MohitParmarr

brad pitt aur angelina bhi alag ho gaye, ab toh shaadi karle - indian mother

#### The Deuce @IBeBibby

Don't fall for it. This just marketing for Mr. And Mrs. Smith 2. #Brangelina

#### Ashley Gunn @ViraGunn

#BRANGELINA IS OVER. ROMANCE IS DEAD. LOVE IS A LIE. IF THEY COULDN'T MAKE IT WORK, NO ONE CAN.

#### Sierra Dallas @SierraDallas

Females all over the world just became "single" #brangelina

#### Erin Gloria Ryan @morninggloria

Bless Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie for opening a door into a room in my brain that isn't full of Donald Trump.

# Dengue onslaught alarming in Kamrup (M), more than 1000 cases reported

JUTHIKA BARUAH

Cases of dengue has reached the 1,000-mark and might increase as the season of epidemic disease continues till December

In 2013, the number of cases of dengue were 4,121 while in 2014 it was 41 and in 2015 there were 933 cases

Dengue mosquitoes bite during daytime

There are more cases in urban areas as the mosquito breeds in clean water

GMC has a more important role to play to prevent spreading of dengue by continuously fogging and spraying DDT in the vulnerable city areas



| ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

**Cases of dengue will only increase as the season of epidemic disease continues till December and this year cases have been reported before the onset of the season**

Cases of dengue in Kamrup (M) have reached the 1,000-mark and the number is likely to be increase as the season of the epidemic disease continues till December.

It was in 2013 that Kamrup (M) witnessed the highest number of dengue cases with 4,121 from which two people died followed by 41 cases in 2014 and 933 cases in 2015. The state this year has recorded 1,205 dengue cases till date (1,080 in Kamrup-M alone) with Dibrugarh reporting the second highest number of cases of the epidemic disease.

"The city has four zones namely the Capital Zone (Dispur), South Zone (Dhirenpara), West Zone (Pandu FRU) and East Zone (East Guwahati State Dispensary) and out of the four zones South Zone is the most affected. The highly affected areas under the zone are Lal Ganesh, Odalbakra, Kalapahar, Pahartoli and Fatasil Ambari. In the Capital Zone, areas like Kahilipara, Sarusajai, Gorolia, Nalapara and 8th mile are affected while in East Zone, Noonmati area is affected and one has been reported dead from the area," said Dr PC Hazarika, Epidemiologist, IDSP, Kamrup (M) while speaking to G Plus.

Dr Hazarika said that there are three types of dengue - general dengue, dengue shock syndrome and dengue hemorrhagic and the one who had died in Noonmati was from the dengue shock syndrome. In dengue hemorrhagic, when the platelet comes down to less than 50,000, the patient might reach the danger level and can lose his or her life. "There is no vaccine for dengue and the treatment is supportive as the dengue patient is prescribed medicines for fever, headache, pneumonia etc.," said Dr Hazarika. He said that the cases of dengue are more in the urban areas than in rural as the dengue mosquito breeds in clean water.

Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes opt for breeding in tyres while the Aedes Albopictus prefer breeding in open battery boxes. Open dumping of solid waste material is common in the city and this contributes towards increased breeding of mosquitoes. Discarded earthenware, paper cups and glass bottles are other sources of mosquito's larvae.

Though dengue cases are reported after the rainy season, this year incidents were unexpectedly reported from the month of July itself when temperatures were favourable for proliferation of the

Aedes mosquito. Malaria and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) are reported mainly in the rainy season.

Dr Hazarika said, "The people residing in the hills are mostly affected as they preserve rain water and use it for household purpose as there is no municipal water supply in these areas. If they are asked not to use the rain water they get angry as they do not have proper water sources. They do not even keep the preserved water covered making it easy for mosquitoes to lay eggs which is harmful. A larva is formed and after seven days the larvae turn into mosquitoes. All we can do is to ask them to purify the water after seven days so that it doesn't affect them."

"We have organised camps in the vulnerable areas and have found patients with cold, cough and fever which are the symptoms of viral fever. As dengue does not have any treatment we have given medicines of cold, cough and fever and asked them to keep a healthy diet which is equally important. The vaccination of dengue has not yet been launched as it is still in trial process. Unlike the JE treatment being made free, the government has not yet declared the treatment of dengue as free," said Dr Hazarika.

Dr Hazarika said that they have been updating the daily report to Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) and asked them to do fogging in the areas. It has also been suggested to the people to use mosquito nets even in the afternoon and wear full-sleeved apparel. He also said that Assam is vulnerable to vector-borne diseases like dengue, Japanese encephalitis and malaria. Open dumping of solid waste is common in the city and contributes towards the high breeding of mosquitoes.

Moreover, it has been informed by an official of health department that active part should be taken by GMC by fogging areas and spraying DDT in and around the city. GMC has been sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2 crores for fogging. The people are also not aware of the facts and they don't allow spraying of DDT in the surroundings saying that it affects people adversely and walls of houses get damaged. But they are not aware that the lives of the people are more important than the walls of the houses. The dengue mosquitoes are daytime biters and people should be more alert during daytime.

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## Super-computing facility "Param-Ishan" unveiled at IIT Guwahati



Union Human Resource Development Minister Praksh Javadekar on Monday unveiled "Param-Ishan" - a super-computing facility at IIT Guwahati. The high-performance "Param-Ishan" has computing speed of 250 teraFLOPS and capacity of 300 tera bites (TB). The 250 teraFLOPS means that the computer is capable of performing 250 trillion operations per second. The supercomputer was installed in a partnership between the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and IIT Guwahati.

"It is a one of the glad moments to have fastest and most powerful computer in north-eastern, eastern and southern regions," Javadekar said after unveiling the Param-Ishan super computer. He said that C-DAC and IIT Guwahati partnership will provide a boost to both the high performance computer users and the community through the deployed Param-Ishan and several technology areas will be positively affected through the introduction of the new supercomputer. With a peak computing power of 250 Teraflops, PARAM-ISHAN is the fastest and most powerful supercomputer to be deployed in the north-eastern, eastern and southern regions, outside Bangalore.

Prof. Gautam Biswas, Director of IIT Guwahati, said that Param-Ishan will not only augment the research initiatives in the institute but also help in creating an ecosystem for attracting right talents to the field of research. Param-Ishan can be used in several scientific and engineering application areas including weather, climate modelling and seismic data processing. This would be helpful as northeast India receives heavy rainfall during monsoon, which leads to flooding and landslides.

In his inaugural address, Shri Prakash Javadekar said, "We reiterated our commitment to give a big push to research and innovation by empowering the educational institutes to transform into higher seats of learning and platforms for advanced research. A nation's potential for growth today, is evaluated on the quality of its research and development. As a big nation, we certainly face a number of problems. Effective R&D activities carried out in a strategic mode can be the solution to our most pressing problems. We need to amalgamate our strengths, skills and resources to provide the right direction to our research initiatives. The coming together of C-DAC and IIT Guwahati is a strategic move that will provide a boost to both the HPC users and the community through the now deployed PARAM-ISHAN. I am sure that several technology areas will be positively affected through the introduction of this new supercomputer."

# NHAI to come up with 'Go Green' project at Jalukbari

JUTHIKA BARUAH

Beautification around the Jalukbari rotary, which is the location of the Bhupen Hazarika Samadhikhetra and which is currently losing its appeal due to the illegal bus stoppage, filth and dust, is a crying need and NHAI has stepped in with a feasible project

■ NHAI to take up 'Go Green' project in Jalukbari

■ The new bridge over the Brahmaputra River will be opened soon for vehicular traffic

■ The illegal bus stoppage that has been established right in front of the Bhupen Hazarika Samadhikhetra will be shifted out from the place



JALUKBARI ROTARY | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will come up with a 'Go Green' project in Jalukbari under the flyover so as to create a better situation than the present where vehicles entering the area are creating various hazards to the point of becoming a nuisance.

The NHAI authorities are con-

cerned about the present scenario of the Jalukbari Rotary as the illegal bus stoppage and street vendors have made the area so filthy that one cannot walk through it. "We have already sent the proposal to the Centre and after it gets approved we will start the work on the beautification project. The illegal bus stoppage will be moved out

and it is the state government which has to think of the alternative place to establish the bus stoppage so that the entire area of the Jalukbari rotary gets cleared," said an official source while speaking to G Plus.

"It is very unfortunate that the state government has allowed a stoppage for buses and other public vehi-

cles right in front of the Bhupen Hazarika Samadhikhetra for which the memorial has lost its appeal. We will undertake the project to make the area green where a fountain will be put in place and the green project will be initiated covering the entire area in such a way that it will add to the dignity of the memorial," informed the official.

The official said, "Initially, we thought of making a park but that will not be a proper place for a park as the Lachit Park is already there and therefore we thought of making the entire area green. Solar powered lights will be used in and around the area and the flyover will be illuminated with such lights."

He also informed that the new bridge over the Brahmaputra River will be opened from 24th September and from November the bridge can be used in a full-fledged manner as the little amount of work which is left will be completed by then. He said that they could have completed the work by September but due to the rainy season the work got slightly delayed. A stretch of 300-400 metres is left to be completed and the same will be done soon.

Sources said the traffic burden on the Saraighat Bridge would be drastically reduced when the second bridge over the Brahmaputra starts functioning. "The travelling distance between Guwahati and the north bank will also be reduced by this," sources said.

It has been alleged by the NHAI authorities that the street vendors have made the place so dirty that a visitor will think several times about visiting the Samadhikhetra. The project will be made in such a way that it will attract visitors. The project will also help to reduce petty crimes taking place in the area after dark. The street vendors have been evicted many times but after some days they again occupy the area and set up their business. The place has become commercial and will be transformed into a tourist spot with the beautification project.

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## Alfresco Grand to start lunch cruise, story-telling sessions while sailing

GPLUS NEWS



ALFRESCO GRAND SHIP

It is always a mesmerising feeling to be on a boat on the mighty Brahmaputra. One can feel the gentle wind while sailing on the river while gazing at the rhythmic waves of Bor Luit that envelopes several stories within itself.

A great experience of this kind is provided by the good ship Alfresco Grand, a pioneer in the concept of river cruising on the Brahmaputra. Every day Alfresco Grand takes a tour of the mighty Brahmaputra with a Sunset Cruise and a Dinner Cruise. Adding to the magnificence Alfresco has come up with the idea of starting a lunch cruise from 24th September that will sail every Saturday and Sunday. However, these cruises will have a difference.

As known to all, the Brahmaputra has its origin in the Angsi Glacier in Tibet and flows up to Arunachal Pradesh in India as the Tarlung Tsangpo River. It enters Arunachal Pradesh with the name Dihang/Siang and as it enters Assam valley it is known by names such as Brahmaputra, Bor Luit and Mahabahu. However, in this particular area of Guwahati the river has several stories. During the cruise, Alfresco will sail around the Panbazar area moving through the Umananda and Pandu port. The cruises will have story telling

sessions which will tell stories that hold historical and mythological significance of the particular part of the river. Few are well known such as the Battle of Saraighat, Umananda, Kamakhya Temple and Nilachal Hills while others are lesser known such as Battle of Itakhuli and Andharu Bali. The cruise will also host folk music sessions that will include folk instruments such as Dutara, Kamrupia Lok Geet and various folk dance forms among several others.

"The idea behind the cruise incepted long ago as we had the concept of hosting four cruises each day, breakfast cruise, lunch cruise, sunset cruise and dinner cruise. While the sunset and dinner cruise had gained prominence over the years we thought of starting the lunch cruise. However, during the sunset and dinner cruise we hold live music sessions but there was no space to discuss about the history this part of the river holds. So the lunch cruise will be a better slot for the same," said Shanti Doley, co-owner, Brahmaputra Cruise Pvt. Ltd. and Alfresco grand.

The initiative will neither just breathe life to the glorious history of Guwahati in regard to Brahmaputra but also provide a major boost to the tourism scenario of Guwahati.

# Milind Soman: chain-smoker to marathon runner

CHANDRIKA DAS



Favourite movie: **On Golden Pond**  
 Favorite actor: **Balraj Sahni**  
 Favorite Indian movie: **Do Beegha Zameen, Mother India**  
 Your favorite music artist: **Elvis Presley**

Pinkathon saying that it is not for runners; rather it is for the non-runners. The idea of Pinkathon is to empower women through something they never thought they could do. It is for women who have never been out of home or never done any sport. And when such women complete 3 kms or 10 kms, it is indeed a personal achievement of sorts.

To Milind, Pinkathon is more than just a marathon. The former super-model, actor turned producer, and ace runner feels Pinkathon is the 'wind of change' that the society needs today. Milind himself is peculiar in the sense that he runs barefoot, speaks about the society with enthusiasm which is very rare to see and desires to empower women not by any government subsidies, but with a feeling that only an individual woman can realize. Milind, who has been to Guwahati before, says that the city and people here are just amazing. Milind also shared the thought that he wish to take Pinkathon to every northeastern state and Guwahati was the best place he could start with.

While others plan to make their 50th birth anniversary a big one, Milind decided to go an extra mile and

accomplish 'Ironman'. He has always liked to challenge himself as a kid. He enjoys figuring out his potential. Ironman was a challenge he was looking forward to accomplish for his 50th birthday. He checked for the details of the event and chose the one that was held in the month of July in Zurich. And he accomplished it!

Milind chose running for Pinkathon rather than any other form of exercise or sport because he feels that running is the easiest form of exercise. He opined that yoga is also fantastic but running is like a mother sport. It is the easiest and the safest community activity. The thing with running is, it can take one to levels that could never be imagined was possible for you and the best thing about this activity is that it requires zero equipment and zero infrastructure.

Milind has yet had any bad experience with Pinkathon. "But again, every city is different, the culture is different, women are different, their mindsets are different. They have different doubts and fears. It's a great learning experience for me and my team, to visit new cities, and meet new women. I think what women can teach you about what is happening in the so-

ciety, nobody else can teach you that. Otherwise, everything is marketing," said Milind.

Milind's remarkable change has been to become non-smoker being a chain smoker. Apparently, he started smoking at the age of 29 when he started working for television. He mentioned that the life of an actor is mostly about waiting. It's about waiting for the light direction, waiting for the art direction, waiting for the shot to be ready. "80% you are waiting, 20% of the time you are working. I started stupidly, and I got hooked. Because, it's a drug, and it's difficult to avoid this drug, especially in our society, because it's available everywhere. It's accessible, it's acceptable and it's addictive. I smoked for like 4 or 5 years, but then eventually I stopped. I took me around 3 years, but I stopped," said a visibly proud Milind.

Milind added that he ran barefoot because it is only natural. He doesn't really have a diet plan in place but eats a lot of fruits and a lot of vegetable juice. The only thing he doesn't consume is sugar as he believes it is the worst refined food.

Milind believes that everything and anything one does can bring about a change and proactiveness is very important to bring in the good change in the society. He is someone who loves and has a healthy respect for himself. When asked to describe himself, with that self belief, and childish smile on face, he replied, "I think I am incredible! You can quote me on that."

Milind Soman was in Guwahati last week for the Pinkathon and set aside some time for an exclusive meeting with G Plus. He felt that Guwahati was special for the event because, in his opinion, the women of Guwahati are just free in

their mind, so much so that the gender equality that one can see in Guwahati cannot be seen anywhere in the country. Women from northeast are go-getters and they remarkably make it big in the bigger cities and in their careers. Soman talked at length about

## Early diagnosis of uterine cervical cancer significantly improves survival: study

GPLUS NEWS

A study conducted at Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI) in Guwahati has shown that early diagnosis of uterine cervical cancers leads to significantly better survival in these patients. Uterine cervical cancer is a leading cause of cancers in females in our country. In India, estimates indicate that there will be nearly 1,22,844 new uterine cervical cancer cases each year and it will comprise around 18% of all cancers in Indian women. In Assam, the incidence of uterine cervical cancers are around 5, 13 and 15 new cases per one lakh women in Dibrugarh, Cachar and Kamrup Districts, respectively. Information on patient survival is essential in assessing cancer treatment services. The study was conducted on data of 193 uterine cervical patients diagnosed from January 2010 to December 2010 at BBCI. The study has for the first time shown the 5-year survival of patients afflicted with uterine cervical cancers in the north east India and the state in particular. The study has shown that around 40% of women diagnosed with uterine cervical cancers survive for 5 years in our settings.

It is believed that 5-year survival is considered as surrogate indicator for cancer cure.

According to Dr Amal Chandra Katak, Director of BBCI, every effort should be made to improve the access of patients with uterine cervical cancers to a cancer centre equipped with radiotherapy facilities. Dr Katak further stated that, population-based screening program for uterine cervical cancers should be implemented in our population for its control. The vital finding from this study showed that the 5 year survival significantly improved from around 30% to 48% in patients diagnosed in early stages in comparison with advanced staged patients. This study also showed that patient who have had received chemotherapy along with radiotherapy had better 5-year survival rates. Across India, every year, 38,771 patients with uterine cervical cancer do not get the benefit of the combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and thus they have relatively poor survival. The study has been published ahead of print in the Journal of Cancer Research and Therapeutics, an official publication of the Association

of Radiation Oncologists of India.

Dr Manigreeva Krishnatraya, lead investigator of the study, has stated that the biggest challenge in conducting the study was to gather information on the vital statuses of patients, as vital registration of birth and death is not complete in the state. Furthermore, this information is not linked to conduct survival studies. He has stated that telephonic calls and even home visits have to be made to ascertain the vital status of patients in carrying out survival analysis. The study has received technical support from the National Centre for Disease Informatics under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

It may be mentioned here that, the Government of Assam has made cancer a notifiable disease in the Kamrup-Urban District. All diagnostic centers and hospitals in the Kamrup-Urban are to notify cancer cases to the Population-based Cancer Registry of ICMR located at BBCI. BBCI is also participating in a nationwide multi-centric study on pattern of care and survival studies on head and neck, breast and uterine cervical cancers.

## কৃষক বাইজৰ জ্ঞাতার্থে

নিম্নোক্ত ব্যৱস্থাসমূহ অৱলম্বন কৰি ধাননি পথাৰৰ শুঁৰ পোক নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰক।

যোৱা কিছুদিনৰ পৰা অসমৰ বিভিন্ন জিলাত শালিধানৰ খেতিত শুঁৰ পোকৰ আক্ৰমণ পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে। শুঁৰ পোক নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিবলৈ নিম্নোক্ত ব্যৱস্থাসমূহ গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ বাবে বাইজক অনুৰোধ জনোৱা হ'ল :

- এডৰা খেতিৰ পৰা আন এডৰা খেতিলৈ শুঁৰ পোকৰ বিস্তাৰ ৰোধ কৰিবলৈ খেতিডৰাৰ চাৰিওফালে পথাৰৰ আলিত মালাথিয়ন 5 শতাংশ গুড়ি ওষধ ছটিয়াওঁক।

- ক্ল'ৰপাইৰিফ'চ 20 ই.চি. নামৰ দৰৱ 2 মিলিলিটাৰ নাইবা কুইনালফ'চ 25 ই.চি. নামৰ দৰৱ 2.5 মিলিলিটাৰ 1 লিটাৰ পানীত মিহলাই স্প্ৰে' কৰক। প্ৰতিবিঘাৰ বাবে 60-70 লিটাৰ এনে দৰৱ মিশ্ৰণৰ প্ৰয়োজন। এই দৰৱ আবেলি পৰত স্প্ৰে' কৰক।

- কীটনাশক দৰৱ প্ৰয়োগ কৰোতে আক্ৰান্ত পথাৰখনৰ চাৰিওফালৰ পৰা মাজভাগলৈ ঘূৰণীয়াকৈ লাহে লাহে আগবাঢ়ি দৰৱ স্প্ৰে' কৰক।

- নিয়মিতভাৱে ধাননিডৰাত দেখা দিব পৰা বিভিন্ন ৰোগ বা পোক-পৰুৱাৰ উপস্থিতি পৰ্যবেক্ষণ কৰি বিভাগীয় বিষয়া কৰ্মীৰ পৰামৰ্শ অনুযায়ী বিহিত ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰক।

- সতৰ্কতামূলক ব্যৱস্থা হিচাপে কীটনাশক দৰৱ প্ৰয়োগ কৰা পথাৰৰ পানীৰ পৰা চফৰচীয়া জীৱ-জন্তুক আঁতৰাই ৰাখক।

সবিশেষ জানিবলৈ আপোনাৰ ওচৰৰ কৃষি সম্প্ৰসাৰণ সহায়ক, কৃষি উন্নয়ন বিষয়া বা মহকুমা কৃষি বিষয়াৰ সৈতে যোগাযোগ কৰক।



# Every 4th Guwahatian suffers the risk of mental illness in lifetime

RONMI BORA

It took entire nation by storm when leading Bollywood actress, Deepika Padukone, broke all stigmas and expressed to the world how she felt empty and directionless during her battle with depression. Later she founded "Live Love Laugh Foundation," a common platform for masses to connect with professionals in order to get comprehensive knowledge and timely treatment.

The Indian government estimates that 6% - 7% of the population lives with major to minor mental health concerns. That's approximately 70 million Indians and this number is increasing every year. Despite the large number of people who require mental health attention, India has only 3,500 trained psychiatrists and even fewer psychologists. What's worse is that stigma and discrimination faced by these people and their families prevent them from seeking guidance. Hence it is a wake-up call to the majority as untreated depression can lead to serious complications that can put one's life at risk with increasing number of suicides among youths. Fortunately, most people can be effectively treated.

There are several mental disorders like panic attack, anxiety, stress, eating disorder, clinical depression, schizophrenia and dementia to name a few. So, how is our own Guwahati faring in battling these mental problems? Are we still lagging behind without advanced techniques and treatments compared to other cities?

Dr. Shayamanta Das, MBBS, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Gauhati Medical College Hospital gave a deep insight regarding the mental wellness scenario in our city. He shared, "Every fourth individual has the risk of suffering from mental illness in a lifetime. The fact that majority of the mental illnesses have their first manifestation before one reaches adulthood is becoming increasingly clear. Unfortunately, this population, i.e. children and adolescents come across various 'gatekeepers' in their way to proper management in the form of parents, teachers, and paediatricians. By talking about diagnoses, psychiatrists may draw criticism and ask for trouble because of allegation of 'medicalizing' a child's problems. In Guwahati, a few years back we interviewed 680 participants from six schools in a study of cross-sectional exploratory research design with the use of questionnaire. 151 (22.2%) subjects have ever had alcoholic beverages like beer, wine or liquor. 7% of alcohol users had been absent from school, 5% had done poorly in school, 4% had family problems, and 3% had been arrested because they used alcohol. 3% had driven under the influence of alcohol and 13% had been passengers in a vehicle in which the driver was under the influence of alcohol; 2% had been drunk and 29% had been drunk at a party. 80.1% of alcohol users had



**"Depression can seem worse than terminal cancer, because most cancer patients feel loved and they have hope and self-esteem," David D. Burns, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Stanford University School of Medicine.**



DR. SHYAMANTA DAS

not been ever asked about their age while obtaining alcohol. 21.2% had successfully faked their age to obtain alcohol. 13.2% had obtained alcohol by misrepresenting their age. Bar/restaurant (52.98%) was the primary source from where people under the age of 18 obtain alcohol, followed by friends/relatives (32.45%), liquor store (24.50%), parents' cabinet (5.30%), and others (1.32%)."

Dr Gaurav Deka is a Clinical Psychotherapist specializing in Transpersonal Regression, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) & Inner Child Therapy and also a writer. Recently he conducted regression sessions in Guwahati and shared overwhelming response from the residents here.

According to Dr Gaurav, "The whole Idea of therapy is to make one feel empowered. Emotional well being is much vital over mental and both are two separate aspects though considered same by the majority. In India, provisions are comparatively

less for medical set up and therapy techniques. In India, doctors are treated like Gods but in West, clients are Gods. Counselling in Guwahati is scattered. Solution based work is need of the hour."

He mentions Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBIT) technique which is medically approved and aims to teach people that it is possible to have control over their thoughts, feelings and behaviour. It is effective for the treatment of a variety of conditions including - Phobias, Addictions, Schizophrenia, Depression. There is another technique, Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT), which is a form of counselling intervention that draws on various theories of alternative medicine which helps remove negative emotions, reduce food cravings, eliminate pain and implement positive goals.

The technique of regression is going back in time to past or same life itself to locate the point of trauma. Medical science believes in going back to subconscious memory connecting to collective pool of consciousness. As a doctor and studying regression therapy, Dr Gaurav himself underwent several sessions of regressions. He studied regression therapy at the world renowned Tasso International. He added, "What exactly our ancestors spoke about reincarnation Eastern European countries, Netherlands, Germany put into practice using specialized tools and advanced technology."

In Guwahati, he started sessions two months ago. The response has

been good. But the major loophole in Guwahati is that practitioners don't give much time to clients. So focussed and solution based work is not happening yet in the city. He wants people to have faith in therapy and encourage the same. There is a skewed understanding of philosophy. Intelligent perspective over advice oriented is very much required in Guwahati.



DR GAURAV DEKA

**"Meeting Dr.Gaurav was a boon to me. He introduced me to effective techniques which have helped me to understand my core issues. Now I am able to cognitively inculcate and work continuously towards my emotional well-being. By using, Emotional Freedom Technique, I was able to overcome my depressive phases very easily," said Pooja Kotoky who works in the development sector.**

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## "Kamakhya will be a shining example of Swachta Abhiyan", says CM



After the inauguration of Swachta Abhiyan programme at the Kamakhya temple premises under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, on Tuesday, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Kamakhya temple will become a prime example of cleanliness amongst all the ten iconic places chosen for the scheme all over the country."

He is hopeful of building a civil society along with the government which will achieve Gandhiji's dream of a clean India and Assam will stand as an example of cleanliness and hygienic practices in the country.

The target specific pilot project of Swachh Abhiyan will be carried out in ten iconic places from all over the country, primarily with religious and spiritual significance. The places which have been selected are and Kamakhya Temple in Assam, Vaishno Devi Temple in Jammu and Kashmir, Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh, Tirupati Temple in Andhra Pradesh, Golden Temple in Punjab, Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan, Jagannath Temple in Orissa, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Maharashtra, Manikarnika Ghat in Uttar Pradesh, Meenakshi Temple in Tamil Nadu. A total of 100 such iconic places are planned for Swachta Abhiyan and after completion of scheme in the initial 10 places it will be rolled out to 90 such places.

Sarbananda Sonowal, while delivering his speech at the inauguration ceremony, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that Maa Kamakhya's blessings would guide the team to make the humble initiative a success. He also laid emphasis on the fact that along with worshipping Maa Kamakhya, the devotees must take it as their solemn duty to keep the shrine clean to worship in truest sense of the term.

Snippets

# Everything Outdoor

One stop solution for all your outdoor and adventure needs

GPLUS NEWS



## ABOUT US

North-east India, a region of bewildering landscapes and biodiversity and a genuine treasure trove for nature and adventure lovers. It's not surprising that the northeastern states of India have now garnered much attention from travel and outdoor enthusiasts.

Even less surprising is that Guwahati, the gateway to the northeast, has received much of this attention, earning a global name on the growth market with a constant (and recurring) influx of visitors.

With this in mind, EverythingOutdoor takes the initiative to serve to the growth of the northeast as the prime location for all kinds of

adventure activities. Camping, kayaking, canoeing, backpacking, trekking, hiking, water sports, zip lining, aerobics, biking, and rock climbing are some of the major activities organised by us and we hope to bring together a community of avid outdoor enthusiasts, with a chance to experience first-hand some of the great wonders of this region.

Experienced guides give today's youth and their families an opportunity they might otherwise miss - a chance to spend time outdoors, gather knowledge about nature, de-stress, be healthy and balanced and meet like-minded individuals along their journey.

Supporting this cause by EverythingOutdoor and being convinced that if he weren't a singer, Angaraag Papon Mahanta says he would have been out exploring the wilderness of the North-east. The much-admired singer made an appearance at an event organised by us on 18th September, 2016 at Brindavan Gardens, Zoo Tiniali, Guwahati, and surely roused the audiences' interest in all things outdoor even more.

## AT THE EVENT

The 18th of September, 2016 marked the launch of EverythingOutdoor as an information centre about adventure activities happening in the North-east. The event turned out to be a meeting point of adventure enthusiasts and service providers of outdoor activities. It was a stage for many notable people to discuss mountaineering, cycling, angling, trekking and much more. Taking part in the stage discussions were ..... Gaming stalls, product displays, food stalls, a live band and DJ, karate workshop, cycling and motor bike workshops livened up the crowd, as we saw young children and adults alike display a lot of enthusiasm and interest

in the event and the introduction of EverythingOutdoor as its information hub.

Says Papon about the event, "This is about the development of the city. Guwahati being a hub of the North-east, it's extremely important to have a source of information and services for adventure travel and sports. I am glad to be with EverythingOutdoor as this is the first initiative towards eco-tourism and connecting the right people in the industry. This is not only promoting awareness but showcasing Guwahati as the place to get any information when you want to backpack!"

With participants such as Mishimi Hills trekking company (Arunachal Pradesh), Campfire trails (Shillong), Assam Mountaineering Association, All Style Karate Association, Greater Guwahati District Cycling Association, Royal Enfield, Yellowboat, Casio G Shock, Wildcraft and Yellow Stone, we are very happy the event turned out to be a major success. We would like to thank Airtel, Decathlon Guwahati, Kurls & Spikes, By the Way, Fast Track (outdoor media partner), Wildcraft, DY 365 and Radio Gupshup for their support.

EverythingOutdoors is based in Guwahati and has its doors open for people of all ages who want an opportunity to experience outdoor adventure.

For any information, please contact us on +91 97060 63377 or +91 90850 92586. We would love to address your queries, do write to us at everythingoutdoorne@gmail.com

## Weather report for the week

Guwahati	SUN 25 Sept	MON 26 Sept	TUE 27 Sept	WED 28 Sept	THU 29 Sept	FRI 30 Sept
<b>SATURDAY</b> 24 September T-Storms 32 / 23 °C	 T-storm 32 / 23 °C	 Cloudy with t-storm 34 / 24 °C	 Clouds with Showers 33 / 24 °C	 Cloudy 29 / 24 °C	 Cloudy with T-storm 34 / 28 °C	 Cloudy with Sun 35 / 27 °C

# Bollywood stars in exclusive conversation with G Plus

Saurabh Shukla

Interviews by Kalyan Deb at Hotel Mayflower



**As a screenwriter how challenging was it to portray the three vastly different characters in 2 To Tango 3 To Jive?**

The very first thing is, though the play is told from the male protagonist's point of view because it is Parminder Singh Sethi's journey, the views are of the women. All Sethi wants is an extra marital affair - a one night stand. That's it. But when he meets the three women, three perspectives of life come out which teaches heck of a lot to the protagonist.

**Is there a secret ingredient that you use while portraying the numerous different characters that you have played throughout since your first venture in 1984?**

There is no secret ingredient; the only ingredient is that whatever you

do, you should like what you are doing and everything will happen naturally. There is no rocket science in how you get into one mould, change to another mould and then to another. If you think very carefully, we keep doing this in our real lives. We are somebody's son, somebody's daughter, we are lovers, we are friends, we are also professionals. So we keep playing many parts at a given point of time. If we can do that, why not this?

**You mentioned during the talk back session after your play that your mother is from Silchar. So, how would you describe your memories from childhood?**

I have great memories of my childhood because we used to come to Assam every year. Since my father was in Delhi University as Head of Department of Fine Arts, we used to travel to Silchar from Delhi and it would take us four days to reach as we used to travel by train. We had to change four trains at different junctions. We used to travel from Delhi to a place called Bahraich and then from there we used to take another train to Guwahati. Till Guwahati there were broad gauge trains and then from Guwahati to Lumding we had to take narrow gauge trains which were comparatively smaller. From Lumding to Silchar

we had to take an even smaller train which ran on metre gauge. So it would take us wonderful four days. We used to cross Siliguri and we used to see the beautiful Himalayan Mountains and bits of Sikkim on the way. Then the Haflong range post Lumding had the most beautiful thick jungles and we used to cross a number of tunnels. I specifically remember one tunnel which was a very long one and there was a waterfall inside the tunnel on one side of it. In the dark we could hear the waterfall inside the tunnel.

The veteran actor's mother Jogamaya Shukla also happens to be the first female Tabla player in the world. She was born in Silchar. She got a scholarship from the government of Assam to go and study music in Lucknow and she took her training there.

**In terms of response how would you rate the audience in Guwahati in comparison to other parts of the country?**

I am nobody to rate anyone because I don't judge but I would say that my first impression of the Guwahati audience is that it is very receptive, very patient and it listens to you very carefully. I do not expect the Guwahati audience to be very fluent in Hindi since the primary language here is Assamese but on the day I observed that

they listen to each word. Though my play was half in Hindi and half in English I found that they reacted at the right points of time. I think they were a great audience.

**One thing you liked and disliked about Guwahati.**

I liked thousands of things about Guwahati. I loved the food here, the people, I loved the boat ride, I loved the audience, I loved the whole experience with the Guwahati Theatre Festival. What I don't like is that it is far off and when I say far off it means that somehow Assam (and there are many parts in India) is not developed in the sense that it has great connectivity. So, if I am living in Assam, going to Bombay (or western India) would not be as easy as it would be if I were living in Delhi. So I hope that the connectivity gets improved and the distance gets reduced so that I can come more often.

**With your roots connected to Assam can we expect to see a movie or a play based on this part of the country?**

I will be absolutely honest here. It is not that you work on an idea keeping in mind something external. My roots being based in Assam is an external thing. The internal thing is that we are human beings and we have the same emotions. So I do not decide by the external factor first but decide by the internal factor that we are all human beings. Our plays portray stories of human beings. Maybe if I visit Assam more, interact with the people more, know their culture and know

the incidents which have happened here, I might come up with a story.

**Are there any other plays that you are working on right now?**

Yes, as we are talking, my other play, which is a brand new one called Barf, has been received very well and is a huge success. It opened this year in the biggest festival of Asia called Bharangam where there were more than fifty countries participating. What is more unique about this play is that it is a thriller which is hardly seen in theatres in India. It is a play set in Kashmir during the deep winters in the snowfall in the middle of the mountains so there is a visual treatment which is again very new. You can experience snowfall, blizzard and seclusion and things like that - visual experiences which are very important in theatre.

**What do you prefer doing more - acting, directing or writing?**

Frankly speaking, my prime interest is in direction. Writing I do by default because if you want to direct you must know how to write and since I write it is easy for me to act because I understand the text easily.

**How was your experience being a part of the Guwahati Theatre Festival?**

It was very nice and I was very happy. It is one of the finest theatre festivals I have been to and the best thing is that this is the first season of the theatre festival. So, if in the very first attempt it is so beautiful, the fineness will only increase.

## Rajat Kapoor and Vinay Pathak

**How did the idea of transforming a tragedy such as Hamlet into a comedy occur to you?**

Rajat Kapoor: The idea was basically was not to do a funny play but to do Hamlet with clowns and we did not know where it would go once we started. The last five to six plays that I have done with Vinay, the idea has been to start with a creation, to start something and see how it evolves. That is when we started Hamlet because it is something that I always wanted to do and gave it a try with clowns. Of course when we did with clowns some of it became funny. However, I am doing Macbeth with clowns and that one is not really funny because I am doing it with different kinds of clowns. It is also true that clowns fascinate me and I don't really know why I keep going back to them. Clowns kind of give me a pure essence; it is not Sharmaji or Mukherjee but you can go directly to the feeling of joy without any social baggage. But I still do not know the real reason why I go back to clowns. If you are in the right space and the right people it happens and I am grateful that it worked out.

**In terms of audience response, what difference have you seen in the audience of Guwahati and the other places you have performed in?**

Rajat Kapoor: There is no difference at all. We have travelled to almost every city in the country and all over the world and everywhere the audience has been the same. The kind of audience that had come for the play will always be there; this is a certain class of people who are educated who



have means and this class remains the same in every city. If the audience is more literate and know Shakespeare they respond in a certain way. Here we were very happy to have an educated and responsive audience.

**What can be done in order to promote theatre among the youth?**

Vinay Pathak: The way I look at it anything we do has its own teeming problems and struggles. I believe in the way we educate ourselves. I was speaking to somebody who is a professor here in Gauhati University and she was saying that now they are thinking of having a faculty in theatre and the government has approved of bestowing an under graduate degree in Fine Arts which we never had before. Now we are waking up to it but we can ask the same thing about other art forms. I do not know if it would ever become mainstream. Cinema is more ingrained in us as we grew up

with cinema ever since it has been around. I have no formula about how theatre can evolve and become mainstream but what we can do is promote such talents. The way we aspire for MBAs and engineers, we never encourage our children to be writers or a playwrights or theatre persons. It is still a hobby.

**Vinay you have played numerous roles. How do you mould yourself into a character and in what other avatars can we expect to see you next?**

Vinay Pathak: When a job comes it is the script that tells you what to do. It is the script that guides you throughout. That is why we are talking about the dearth of writers. We do not have enough people who can create stories. About the second question, I just had a movie released last week called Island City. So I hope it does well.

**As far as Hamlet goes, how**

**easy or difficult was it to perform in so many languages for two long hours?**

Vinay Pathak: With this particular play the initial brunt and tempest had been borne by another actor called Atul Kumar who created this. Soso in Hamlet - The Clown Prince has been created by Rajat, VN Samble and Atul. Atul had played the role for 160 odd shows before I stepped in. So I wouldn't say it's easy but it is also joyous. Because of the ensemble you can remember the lines and deliver them which is the easiest part. But the play is not about the lines but about the life that you create. However, alienating it is you somewhere feel connected and just put forward what you are supposed to do.

**This was your second performance in Guwahati, how would you rate the quality of Pragjyoti ITA?**

Vinay Pathak: To me it is an old constructed hall and it was a surprise that it could fit in a thousand people. In terms of acoustics it was really good and we did not have to use lapel microphones.

**We have seen both of you numerous times together in different plays and movies. We are sure there is a story behind this.**

Rajat Kapoor: We met when neither of us had any work and we had just come back from the US. So we became friends before we became collaborators. Those days we had lots of time so we used to spend lot of time together watching movies, cooking, eating and then we did a play together which was also my first play with clowns. It

just continued from there. If I write a script and there is a role obviously I'll ask him. Somewhere, to tell you the truth, it is also a way of spending time with your friends and making new friends. The fact of travelling to a new city is still strengthening our friendship somehow. You work with people you want to spend time with and enjoy being with.

**With the trend in Bollywood to have a well-sculpted physique, is it necessary for an actor to have an appealing body?**

Rajat Kapoor: It is an appealing personality what we need because what cinema looks for is a unique personality. It is not your body that you bring to the camera but it is your being. I think Nawaz is a wonderful actor because you'd want to know the person. Why don't we talk about talent and why talk about body? It is the talented actor who shines through.

Vinay Pathak: Asking that question to me has the answer within itself. Most actors who do not have a unique personality try to make up for it with their physiques. But some people have the personality and the body. One of my most favourite actors in Indian cinema is Irrfan Khan. The first time I saw him, he played a 55 year old man in a television series and I said to myself: What an actor! He did his time by playing a father at the beginning of his career. But now, years later, I don't think anyone has a success graph like Irrfan Khan; he is 'the leading man.' He is the only actor I would put all my money on in the sense that he can do any role. He has a specific personality but he is so versatile and so wonderful.

# Guwahati's theatre extravaganza: the organizers' perspective

SWAPNIL BHARALI



**G** Plus the tabloid is basically a product of a passionate love affair between itself and the city of Guwahati. All endeavours taken in publishing issue after issue of the weekly stem from the love for the city and G Plus tries to cover Guwahati as comprehensively as it uncovers it at the same time. The evolution of the tabloid over the years and the affection given to it by Guwahatians has often led the management to ponder over offering more viable by-products to the citizens than just regular weekly news and features. Ward Talks, Guwahati Food Awards and the book called Guwahati Food Guide were endearing results of this evolution process and this year G Plus went one step further.

A proper theatre festival showcasing the best of Indian theatre was seen as a need of Guwahati and G Plus sought to fulfil this vacuum. That Guwahati had a soft centre for absorbing culturally vibrant events was always apparent. That theatre was *the* favourite of the Guwahatians was amply clear. And that G Plus had to stamp its class with the very first season was its greatest prerogative. It was an ambitious project that demanded foresight, precision planning and clinically perfect execution. To curate the event, we approached Dr. Asha Kuthari Chaudhuri, Professor of English with specialization in Theatre Studies, Gauhati University who agreed to take on the mantle of Director, G Plus Guwahati Theatre Festival, 2016.



A VIEW FROM THE BALCONY OF PRAGJYOTI ITA | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

The various activity hierarchies were put into place, the marketing strategies were decided and put into practice, accommodation for the visitors was fixed and a huge buzz preceding the event was successfully generated. The city caught on to the fever and geared up to watch performers like Saurabh Shukla, Vinay Pathak, Rajat Kapoor, Kalki Koechlin, Neil Bhoopalam, Achint Kaur, Namit Das, Sumeet Vyas and a host of others through 6 plays over 5 days on the stage of Pragjyoti ITA at Machkhowa between 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. The sponsors came in supporting the extravaganza playing a vital role in its success. The organizers are eternally grateful to Pernod Ricard (Ballantine brand to be precise), Audi, State Bank of India, Servo from Indian Oil, FICCI (FLO), radio partner Radio Mirchi and outdoor publicity partner, Outreach Advertising. The rest, as they say, is history.



4 OF THE 6 PLAYS RECEIVED A SPONTANEOUS STANDING OVATION | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS



SERPENTINE QUEUES WAITING TO BE SEATED | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS



THEATRE AFICIONADOS OF GUWAHATI ENJOYED A GREAT WEEK | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS



ASHUTOSH AGNIHOTRI (R) PRESENTING LIFE IN THE THEATRE AWARD TO KULADA BHATTACHARJEE | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS



HAMLET - THE CLOWN PRINCE; THE ENTIRE CAST IN ONE FRAME | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

The event started gathering momentum over the past three weeks. The hype had been created and the enquiries from patrons came in thick and fast. The entry passes began to move and theatre connoisseurs of Guwahati awaited the veritable feast. On 14<sup>th</sup> September, in Pragjyoti ITA, Machkhowa, the ceremonial lamp was lit by chief guest Anand Prakash Tiwari (IPS), Managing Director of Assam State Transport Corporation and the first play staged was *Hamlet - The Clown Prince* directed by Rajat Kapoor starring Vinay Pathak, Neil Bhoopalam, Sujay Saple, Namit Das, Puja Sarup and Mansi Multani. The play was an imaginative reinterpretation of the iconic Shakespearean tragedy performed by six highly talented actors/clowns. With a pastiche of varied accents and a healthy dose of gibberish for its language, the deep philosophy, the brilliance of the actors and the clever improvisations made the play an exceptional experience that left Guwahati enriched. The performers received a standing ovation.

*The Living Room* directed by Kalki Koechlin was staged on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The play was a comedy on death with 'Death' itself taking a sinister human form taking its target through various emotional memories of her life. Koechlin came on stage at the end of the play for the final bow and mentioned that the cast comprising of Ratnabali Bhattacharjee, Jim Sarbh, Shaun Williams and Hussain Dalal was performing together for the first time.



SHAUN WILLIAMS AND RATNABALI BHATTACHARJEE IN THE LIVING ROOM | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS



THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES IN PROGRESS | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

Mona Ambegaonkar, Dilnaz Irani, Mahabanoo Mody-Kotwal, Dolly Thakore and Swati Das got together on 17<sup>th</sup> September for *The Vagina Monologues* and delivered the most unique theatrical piece ever in Guwahati. Directed by Mahabanoo Mody-Kotwal and Kaizaad Kotwal, the play gave an entirely unique perspective on female sexuality and made the audience writhe and laugh at the same time. The play comprised of a collection of monologues from all over the world and shed all inhibitions surrounding biggest human taboo: the female genital organ. Yes, it got a huge standing ovation as well. Later that evening *The Truths of Womanhood*, a solo performance by Kalki Koechlin was staged. It was a short 40-minute monologue where Koechlin dramatically talked about feminism: its perspective to life in general. It was an attempt to portray to the world the immense powers of the supposedly weaker sex.

KALKI KOECHLIN PERFORMING TRUTHS OF WOMANHOOD  
| ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

*Two to Tango Three to Jive* directed by Saurabh Shukla was staged on 16<sup>th</sup> September. A brilliant contemporary story on modern life, its problems and demands, the play was a roller-coaster ride of emotions. The performances by Achint Kaur, Sadiya Siddiqui, Preity Mangain and Shukla himself were exhilarating, and had the audience laughing themselves hoarse over the two-hour enactment and they rose to give a standing ovation at the end of it.



ACHINT KAUR AND SAURABH SHUKLA IN 2 TO TANGO 3 TO JIVE | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

The last day of the theatre festival had Rajit Kapur's *One on One - Part 2*. Kapur himself, Anu Menon, Neil Bhoopalam, Shernaaz Patel, Sumeet Vyas, Shikha Talsania, Gopal Dutt and Vrajesh Hirjee performed a succession of monologues each based on short scripts that portrayed the tribulations of people in normal situations of career, family life, business ventures, etc. It was another performance that received a spontaneous standing ovation.

On the final day, the organizers honoured Kulada Bhattacharjee, with the "Life in the Theatre" award. Bhattacharjee received the award from Ashutosh Agnihotri, Secretary & Commissioner, Transport. Each play had talk back sessions held at the end of the performance where the audience got opportunities to talk to the actors. The interactions for each play were hosted by Dr. Abhijit Hazarika, Tinat Atifa Masood, Rohan Das, Swapnil Bharali, Kauser Hilaly and Dr. Asha Kuthari Chaudhuri.

Come the Septembers, for the sheer response and good feedback, the G Plus Theatre Festival will be mounted as an annual cultural landmark and citizens can hope to have more iconic plays staged in their own city.



TALK BACK SESSION WITH THE ENTIRE CAST OF ONE ON ONE - 2 | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

# Nurturing Audiences – Workshops at Guwahati Theatre Festival 2016

DR. ASHA KUTHARI CHAUDHURI



NEIL BHOOPALAM CONDUCTING HIS WORKSHOP | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

When Sunit Jain and Swapnil Bharali of G Plus got in touch with me to discuss the germ of an idea regarding a theatre festival, I came on board without the least bit of hesitation. Having spent a full five months in New York City, watching some 50-odd plays, I was starving for some more, anyway. So the planning began and soon we had short-listed a number of the best known running productions in the country – most of them from Mumbai. We got in touch with them and after an arduous process of locking and cancelling and adjusting dates, we had our magic number – 6 plays in English and Hindi – with some top-notch names in Indian theatre.

While that story is being carried elsewhere in this edition of G Plus, I want to focus here on the add-ons for the event. Was it enough to lay out a mouth-watering array of star-studded theatre for the audiences of Guwahati? Theatre is a community art form, and

the more we have people engaging actively in the mechanics of making theatre, the better their understanding would be, and thereby we would be able to create a whole new generation of audiences that would be true-blue participants in any future theatre event. We needed to have hands-on workshops that could be conducted by the professionals who knew their job.

Since our larger vision was to initiate and educate as well as entertain, we decided that we would rope in some of the key performers at Guwahati Theatre Festival to have workshops with students who loved theatre – this would ensure that we were helping in the formation of a whole new generation of theatre aficionados who were all hooked to good theatre – and some who would carry this forward in more intimate ways. Neil Bhoopalam and Saurabh Shukla came on board and agreed to the 3 hour workshops on Voice and Movement on the 15th & 16th

September in the mornings.

Initially the response of the students was a trifle slow – but soon we had numbers that had us refusing more participants. Participants from Army Public School, Narangi, Assam Institute of Management and Technology (AIMT), Arya Vidyapeeth College, Gauhati University and IIT-G and few from an acting background made up the group of around 45 participants. And then we even had to agree to include a cute little 8-year old into the workshop, because he just wouldn't stop pleading!

While Neil Bhoopalam's workshop was more physical or 'embodied' in nature, Shukla brought in a wealth of experience to bear upon his acting exercises with students. Through

both the sessions, the participants sat enthralled and energized by the wealth of experience that both Bhoopalam and Shukla brought into their sessions on consecutive days.

Bhoopalam's session was made use of a range of rhythmic beats, percussion instruments and electronic noises to demonstrate timing and tempo that is in some sense, at the heart of all theatrical work. These, in tandem with the moving body and speech acts constituted the core of the exercises he conducted. Using some of Shakespeare's best known speeches, he again demonstrated how different bodies on the stage can coordinate and function as one unit. Saurabh Shukla, assisted ably by his co-actors, Sadiya Siddiqui and Achint Kaur performed

exercises to engage the participants in dialogue delivery, and demonstrated as to how the dialogues must exhibit some manner of synchronicity with the actor's body. They also shared with the participants their journey as actors.

While both these workshops did make use of various acting exercises to engage both the voice and movement factors that are so critical to the art of acting, their interactions with the students revealed the sets of ethical and pragmatic considerations that are also an indelible part of it. By the end of these sessions, the student-participants had a fairly workable idea of the grime and dust through which the aspiring actor must roll – and just how much sweat and blood is involved in the art.

The actor-trainers on their part were full of praise and appreciation for the active engagement of the students in the workshop. To give the participants their due, they emerged from the sessions with something in their heads and hearts that would lead them unfailingly to an appreciation of good theatre; for some, we hope it will mean an even deeper involvement.



SAURABH SHUKLA CONDUCTING HIS WORKSHOP | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

## The Life in the Theatre Award to Sri Kulada Bhattacharjee

DR. ASHA KUTHARI CHAUDHURI



ASHUTOSH AGNIHOTRI (R) PRESENTING LIFE IN THE THEATRE AWARD TO KULADA BHATTACHARJEE | ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

As plans for the Guwahati Theatre Festival were underway, we had on our

minds a very important thing – the need to recognize and honour people in Assam who have dedicated their

lives to the theatre. To many of us who love the theatre, we understand and empathize with the unfailing passion of the people in the theatre. We know that there have been numerous lives that have dedicated their entire energy to the growth and development of this art form. So the Guwahati Theatre Festival would not really be complete if we did not shout out applause to one of the luminaries of theatre in Assam. And the idea of an annual 'Life in the Theatre Award' was born.

The recognition would be given to such an eminent personality from Assam every year during the Guwahati Theatre Festival. And so, after some deliberations, the jury unanimously decided to award this year's 'Life in the Theatre Award' to Sri Kulada Bhattacharjee – a man who has devoted an entire lifetime singularly to the growth and development of

the theatre arts in the state. He was conferred the honour on the closing day of the Guwahati Theatre Festival, with a citation, a shawl and a cheque for Rs 21,000/-.

'Benuda' as he is fondly referred to, was born in 1933 and began life on the stage at the age of six; he later went on to learn his craft in Europe, training ANEA (London), at the British Drama League (London), and then at the studio of Nord und West Deutse Rundfunk und Fernsehen. In his formative years, he associated with the IPTA which consolidated his social commitment via theatre. After his return, he worked with English language theatre in Delhi - with colleagues like Habib Tanvir among others. In the mid-1960s, he launched Assam's maiden acting training centre and spearheaded a national theatre movement under the banner of Asom

Jatiya Natyasala Andolan Samiti. As producer in-charge, Drama, All India Radio, Guwahati, he wrote thought provoking essays on theatre and directed the debut productions of Arun Sarma's *Sri Nibaran Bhattacharya*, which along with other productions like *Matir Gari*, *Baagh Jaal*, *Saraguri Chapori* and *Parasuram* created a new epoch in Assamese theatre. He was also a pioneer in the field of Radio drama, and revived a number of classic Assamese stage plays and introduced a regular forum for world classics in their stage format called the 'Naat Chora'. He produced the translations of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and Sudraka's *Mrichhakatikam* in their entirety for the Guwahati station of AIR.

Kulada Bhattacharjee's immense contribution to the theatrical scenario of Assam has gone a long way in drawing out new audiences, and singular focus and unfailing passion for the theatre in its multiple forms have helped enrich the cultural fabric of the world, and GPlus is proud to recognize his contribution with the 'Life in the Theatre Award', 2016, at the Guwahati Theatre Festival, 2016.

# Complete apathy, anarchy dominate Sijubari with the worst 'main road' in the city

GAURAV PRATIM DEY

WARD NO  
**29**



ADIB ZAMALI/G PLUS

CONCENTRATED AREA: **SIJUBARI (HATIGAON)**WARD NUMBER: **29**COUNCILLOR OF WARD: **ANU HANDIQUE**PHONE NUMBER: **99577961460**AREA SABHA MEMBER(B) : **ARJINA BEGUM**PHONE NUMBER: **8471857012**POPULATION: **8,000 (APPROX)**

**Issues: Potholes, poor drainage system, illegal migrant residents**

Located quite near the capital complex, Sijubari is a thoroughly neglected area. One of the principal roads exiting from Hatigaon Chariali, Sijubari Road extends up to the Sukapha Mandir. It has remained deprived of a proper road and drainage system. The whole area remains clouded with dust in the absence of rain while the entire Sijubari road that goes via Natboma is damaged right up to Sukapha Mandir. The road has potholes covered with mud and remains water-logged. Drains are clogged with polythene bags and garbage with no cleaning activities. "During monsoon the entire street comes under water and one smart shower brings the water to waist level. The clogged drains ensure that the water gets logged which thereafter flows onto the streets and then into our homes. I hope our new government takes immediate initiative for the revival of Sijubari as Guwahati is in the list of the future Smart Cities in India," said Jonali Zibran, BJP Member and resident of Sijubari. "Recently, the authorities have provided with door-to-door garbage collection service that has resulted in some reduction in the pile-up of garbage, which earlier could be seen lying by the streets," said Ilyas Hussain, resident of Sijubari.

The people of the area complain that the authorities are negligent towards its development and no proper steps have been taken since the

*"Why are you doing your Ward Watch here? Nothing is going to happen or change here at Sijubari. It has always been this way and shall remain this way forever," said a resident.*

last construction took place two years ago. The stretch of Sijubari can be considered as one of the worst roads in city. There being a hospital in the area, patients have an extremely bumpy ride. "I have come from Jaleswar, Goalpara as my son Jalal is admitted here at Global Hospital. But he really had to suffer a lot travelling on these roads," said Mohd. Peer, whose son has come for an operation.

People are habituated to the situation and expect nothing from the government. Rumours abound that Sijubari is used as a vote bank by political parties who do not want the situation to improve. Rumours also abound that illegal migrants are settled in the interior pockets of Sijubari – all with the blessings

of a few powerful political leaders. Sijubari can also be portrayed as being inhabited by people of questionable origin and has shops settled and established on footpaths and GMC is not in any position to evict these illegal establishments. A person who did not want to be named said, "Yes, inside Sijubari near Natboma locality, there is clear indication of illegal migrant settlements which can be observed but as they play an important role as vote banks during elections they remain under the umbrella of minority party political leaders." As one goes further inside Sijubari the situation worsens. The condition of the sub-lanes is pathetic as they remain water logged all year round. One such example is the Khanka Road connecting Sijubari with Hockey Stadium Road at Ghoramara (Bhetapara). According to locals, the pathetic condition of the muddy and slippery roads results in numerous accidents. "It is the lack of timely clearing of the drains that create such problems. During the past monsoon two buses got stuck near Sijubari Charali in different potholes which were not visible as the street was filled with water. It took hours for the buses to be pulled out and the same caused severe traffic snarls," said Firdaus Azahar, resident of Sijubari Chariali. Moreover, the traffic scenario is horrendous given that most of the time buses from Dhubri and Goalpara remain parked near the Musaffir

Khana.

Other problems like lack of street lights also abound. "Street lights are a major concern here. It is very difficult and unsafe to walk on these roads in the dark. Our councillor doesn't seem to give any importance on any of the issues of our society. Rash biking by boys on these roads has also led to a lot of accidents and other incidents. Total lawlessness seems to prevail here," said Gitashree Rabha, resident of Pragiyotish Housing Complex, Sijubari.

G Plus also found a few brokers

who peddle marijuana (ganja) near spots like Pakiza Path where it is available for sale for a selected and regular clientele.

Fazlum Islam, staff at Munni Medicos opposite to Global Hospital summed up the morose situation of Sijubari well when he blasted this journalist, "Why are you doing your Ward Watch here? Nothing is going to happen or change here at Sijubari. It has been this way and shall remain this way only!"

[gauravpratim.dey@g-plus.in](mailto:gauravpratim.dey@g-plus.in)

## Councillor Say:

G Plus tried to contact Councillor Anu Handique but failed to connect to her and could not elicit a response. Thereafter, G Plus contacted its Area Sabha Member, Arjina Begum. Here is what she had to say, "No I have received no funds from the GMC or Ward Councillor. I cannot comment anything on its development. Now everything has changed, new government has arrived so there is no cooperation from the Mayor either." When asked about how her cooperation and relation was with the Ward Councillor, she said, "We hardly speak. We only meet during meetings and that's it. Kindly contact the Ward Councillor and ask her regarding the ward and its other projects." vigil while patrolling but for the moment, I don't have any report on burglary at Shiv Mandir Path," said Swapan Das, Councillor of Ward Number 31.

## CLEANSING KAZIRANGA

A drive to upper Assam necessitates passing through Kaziranga. For me the viewpoints were my mandatory halts; the rhinos there were virtual exhibitionists posing languidly for my photographs even as they grazed to satisfy their big bellies. This pristine sight remained until about 15 years ago. Cometh the time, cometh the change! The drives remained the same, got better perhaps with the highway improving but the scenes changed for the worse. Human settlements – the worst enemy of Nature – began to spring up, sparsely initially and rapidly thereafter. These were temporary hovels initially. Concerned as I was with the surety that these obviously could not be new Assamese villages and just had to be illegal settlements, I helplessly began to get alarmed at the sudden pace at which the settlements started acquiring permanent characteristics. Concrete huts had sprung up with shiny new CI sheets for roofs. This sight greeted me about 5 years back and uncannily, rhino poaching activities began to surge parallelly.

Our Kaziranga was assaulted by an alien breed of people who had the complete blessings of the erstwhile government and rather than stop at viewpoints to click pictures, the safest bet was to get the hell out of the place as fast as I could. Mournful dining table discussions abounded whenever the topic came up and the worst fear that Kaziranga would be lost forever to Bangladeshi migrants was an acceptable and justified fear.

Today, the headlines in major national newspapers are of two (including a woman) being killed in a bold eviction drive carried out by the present government. The successful cleans-

ing of the despicable infection of illegal migration in Kaziranga is being digressed from. The headline is of a bandh disrupting normal life in several districts of the state in response to a call by a minority students' union who seeks to protest that the BJP-led government is specifically targeting a minority community during the Kaziranga clean-up. That the glory of Kaziranga is gradually being restored is not important. That factor may conveniently stand diluted. Now this begets a funny question: where does the government find a majority community to evict? For God's sake, what brainwave needs to be injected into these misguided souls to make them understand that this is a foreign invasion that the government is thwarting?

For long, politics has been played with the minority card being the joker in the pack. For long, successive governments have allowed the demographic content of the state to alter so drastically that the indigenous have started fearing for their own space. Bodoland areas have borne the brunt of this political nonsense and have lost precious lives, home and hearth. Not anymore. The current government was blown in on a wind of change and the choice of action that they have made to crack down on illegal migration is worthy of applause. Two killed? One of them a woman? Doesn't matter because they were foreigners illegally present in the country. They can go to hell!

SWAPNIL BHARALI  
EDITOR

## PORTENTOUS PAKISTAN

2001, 2006, 2008, 2013, 2015 and now 2016: these years over the past decade have marked the number of times India has faced external aggression from Pakistan, a country that needs no introduction in terms of being a terror sympathizer, a label that even US wants to brand Pakistan with.

The government's use of diplomacy to tackle Pakistan seems to be heading nowhere. Of course, you cannot talk sense with a wall. However, the media seems excited by the fact that countries like France, Germany, Sri Lanka and USA have all condemned the attacks on India. But is that really what we want?

Soldiers, on the frontiers of defence are dying because of external aggressors and we have time and again failed to take relevant action and deliver justice to the fallen. "This inaction will reflect very poorly on the Indian Prime Minister," audibly roars the public. But why are there time consuming NIA probes, and diplomatic meetings away from the public eyes? It's because if mob mentality were to dictate how the country governs, we'd have been a failed state like Pakistan. Pakistan is superficially divided into 4 major states governed by the military

and features rampant inflation, starvation, poverty, religious killings - things even India has in common with them. But we are better because we have more responsible heads governing the nation - people we elected and so we should trust unto them to choose better. We have the entire world and UN forums with us and it is only obvious that Pakistan is digging itself a hole from which it will not be able to climb out of. Several researchers have also mentioned that terrorism is imported to Pakistan from Afghanistan. No proof there but it is a fact. Don't you think even Pakistan wants to be left alone in peace so that they can complete their projects of the CPEC or the Gwadar port pipeline? In this era of globalization, Pakistan knows better than to meddle in the affairs of one of the most powerful nations militarily and hegemonically.

As for calling for boycott of Pakistani stars and artists, it is an irrelevant demand. Their songs will continue to play on YouTube, on our iPods and Fawad Khan's photo will be on thousands of girls' phones. You do not have to call for a boycott; it's something our own terror groups do, someone like the MNS.

SIDHARTH BEDI VARMA

## Opinion Re-watchability: the comeback vehicle for Assamese cinema

SWAPNIL BHARALI

As I sat to write this piece, I thought it would be a good idea to catch Julia Roberts saying "I'm just a girl, standing in front of a boy, wanting him to love her," to Hugh Grant in *Notting Hill*. I watched the scene thrice on YouTube and went on to catch the last scene of the movie as well – a movie that I have already watched umpteen numbers of times on TV and video.

What is it about certain movies that bring about this compelling desire to watch and re-watch them again? And again? Closer home from Bollywood, there have been movies made which I would watch at any given moment that they are showing on TV. *Lage Raho Munna Bhai*, *A Wednesday* and *Jolly LLB* among quite a few others have that attribute in them. *3 Idiots* and *Chak De India* also for that matter. Of course, the mentioned movies are from my personal taste in movies but I am sure all cinema buffs have their own set of re-watchable movies that they fondly go back to when their space allows them.

The sweetest piece of news from the last week has been the commercial and artistic success of two eminently watchable Assamese movies that hit the city's theatres: *Doordarshan - Eti Jontro* and *Kothanodi*. While I didn't have the good fortune to watch *Doordarshan*, *Kothanodi* affected me enough to make me put up the following update as a Facebook status:

*Kothanodi! Dark, brooding, scary, intriguing and simply fantastic. It was a riveting experience. If Zerifa was hysterically evil, Kopil was a brooding optimist even as Adil Hussain was the quintessential do gooder who rocked his own boat at the expense of his family life. Disturbing movie that rocked my senses with its slick editing and hair-raising background score. The closest to Hollywood that an Assamese movie ever got and I mean it. Chilling!*



My FB friends were quick to react with their likes and comments; some agreed, others debated on a few issues pertaining to the movie and yet others promised to surely catch the movie at the hall and thereafter calling and confirming that they had indeed done so. There just could not have been a better situation and while it is difficult for me to make a sweeping statement like "Assamese cinema has come of age" or some such, the fact remains that the two movies have, to a great extent, managed to put Assamese cinema into the movie-goers' psyche. That, by itself, is a huge achievement. Also encouraging is the fact that the two movies together contain the cream of Assamese acting talent – the big names, the heroes and the heroines, who had fallen from grace over the last 7 years due to a slew of mediocre productions.

As I weighed the quality of *Kothanodi*, I realized that it was a movie that was smartly made within the extreme constraints that Assamese movies need to be made – constraints of finance mainly. The movie was not an out-and-out commercial blockbuster; there was no intention of making it one either. *Kothanodi* had what is the need of the hour in Assamese cinema: a strong script, imaginative screenplay, great cinematography, bizarrely good

acting, spine tingling background score and crisp editing. It was screened in Assam long after its journey through a number of film festivals all over the world and this factor played a huge part in the marketing of the movie. The news surrounding its appreciation at crucial film festivals were discreetly put up in social media every now and then over the past one year and this left the desired impact on its potential viewers. All put together, these were smart moves.

This brings me to the factor of re-watchability that Assamese filmmakers should consciously strive for and this begins with the written script. Movies that are repeatedly watched have great screenplay and great dialogues to start with. All the Hindi movies I have mentioned above, or *Notting Hill* for that matter, basically have brilliantly written dialogues which have been enacted perfectly by the actors in due course. *Kothanodi*, to a large extent, has these attributes that make it an eminently re-watchable movie – at least once more. *Doordarshan* and *Kothanodi* have provided a springboard to Assamese cinema and the demand on the old and new filmmakers is ensuring that their scripts are good, nay fabulous. They need to be self-appraising enough to gauge whether the movie that they are going to make has dialogues, screenplay and thereafter acting, that are good enough to bring out the audiences. They need to put themselves through a filtering process that would allow them to excel and exceed themselves when it comes to making their movies. They have to get the audiences to say, "Imaan bhaal hoise cinema khon, akou ebaar sabo mon goise." It is the desire of the public to watch a particular movie a second and third time that has to be enkindled. That will be the comeback vehicle for Asomiya cinema.



## Interactive

The eviction in Kaziranga has been welcomed by people and organisations across Assam. It turns out that only Akhil Gogoi and AAMSU (All Assam Minority Students' Union) are opposing this move. Akhil Gogoi and his jhola wala team have been exposed among indigenous Assamese people. It seems that he is working as a Bangladeshi agent to safeguard their interest. Someone please put this 'Dharna Man' in jail. He is the Kejriwal of Assam. Unfortunately his only contribution to Assam has been to spread violence and hatred in Assam. If you bribe the officials, you have access to land documents in Kaziranga. It is high time that someone took a step against his interference.

Are all his protests making him money? This of course must be the case since he set up the 'orchid garden'. Akhil Gogoi and his ilk should have challenged the HC order at the Supreme Court level instead of inciting mass violence. Akhil Gogoi has, over and over again, proved to be a real sympathizer of encroachers. The self-styled leader of "Krishak Mukti Sangram Samity" and a leader of Assamese people is trying to save Bangladeshi immigrants. How stupid can things get?

Name withheld  
Via email thru G Plus Digital Desk



## Was the Kaziranga eviction of illegal migrant encroachers an insensitive move by the government?

**#Assam #Kaziranga** The court stated that the habitation in Bandardubi is illegal and is legally not permissible as it has been earmarked for social forestry projects.

////////////////////////////////////

This is a creation of the previous Congress govt. None are indigenous people of Assam. All are migrants from Bangladesh. Vote bank politics. Result, Kaziranga has suffered. A no settlement zone should be marked to save the rhinos.

**Nirmal Das**

Finally some good news coming through, these filths should be removed from everywhere, they don't deserve to stay here, send them back to where they came from, make every way possible to get rid of these viruses, #AkhilGogoi the so called messiah of these Bangladeshis should be deported too, that idiot is a huge threat to the Assamese culture n heritage..

**Zhun Zhun**

Those area were marshy land full of greenery, Rhino and wild buffaloes could be seen grazing 30 years ago while travelling on this national highway was encroached by illegal Bangladeshis. Now these places are full of houses, huts and even pucca houses and Rhino and wild buffaloes are nowhere to be seen. Every time I travel through this highway I miss those beautiful sceneries.

**Jungdang S Mungrey**

Public demand - Kaziranga should be free from human settlement because it is the only world heritage site of one horn Rhinos in entire North East India.

People want to see Rhinos not those people. Let it get evicted immediately and be freed from human pollution.

**Pheyhom Chakhap**

ABMSU is creating a messed-up situation in Assam. It should be banned for creating all these nonsense and helping settle illegal migrants. Kudos#BJP

**Akhi Boro**

It should be done in Tripura and also in Dimapur but for now Assam is facing the biggest threat if no step is taken immediately against illegal migration of Bangladeshis.

**Mwchang Borok**

Well done HC. Best step taken by state govt. after a long time. Hope they clear all illegal settlements asap and preserve the natural fauna of the national park and pride of Assam.

**Bhaskar Jyoti Das**

These Bangladeshis are like cancer! They come quietly, multiply very fast, claim everything as their own and then destroy and plunder whatever they can lay their hands on. If they walk continuously for a month on a small path, surprisingly it becomes their own! And they are the main factor for corruption in the Assam government.

**Asifur Rahman**

It should have been carried out long before during the Tarun Gogoi regime.

But it was not because Congress Govt. is all about appeasement policy. Whatever BJP govt. is doing right is meant for welfare of Assam in particular and the northeast region in general.

Though I am from Arunachal Pradesh I anticipate that the people of Assam will support and elect BJP in coming election too as they did in previous election.

**Meny Riddi**

North eastern states should forget about their differences and coordinate with each other to tackle the menace of illegal Bangladeshi migration. Time is not far when we have to rush to Dhaka instead of Delhi for all important works if this problem is not tackled immediately. Already we are using the name of their currency eg. 5 taka, 10 taka, 50 taka instead of 5 rupees, 10 rupees and 50 rupees.

**Peter Mozhui**

Good job, Mr Sarbananda Sonowal! Expecting more action like this in entire Assam. Bangladeshis have to leave northeast. They don't belong to northeast. The Assam Accord must be respected and implemented.

**Shaolin Chenglei**

Places like Kaziranga, Majuli, Umananda and Jatinga should be protected from the greedy eyes of land grabbers especially immigrants. They are heritages and permanent state assets.

**Kime Tato**

Right steps by the government of Assam by evicting the Bangladeshi encroachers from the periphery of Kaziranga wildlife sanctuary. These people are responsible for heavy poaching of the endangered species of wildlife including rhino that is on the verge of extinction. Well done government and forest department of Assam.

**Ongla Umbon**

Protest on the street should be stopped. If any community or organization feels against government decision, they should first be on the table not in the streets. It should be with voice not by the action and government should settle. If the current government fails to do so, they should immediately leave their chairs and let others do it. So, this will make the nation peaceful and developed. Sometimes force is necessary and should be applied accordingly.

**Runghun Kunga**

## Meet SIDDHARTHA MUKHERJEE

Actor



Today's world gives us very little opportunity to live the lives we really want to. We spend our days juggling our jobs, responsibilities, deadlines, stress and the list goes on. The good thing is that there are some truly funny people out there to make us laugh. When we think of relaxing we seek entertainment and the best form it comes in is comedy. Some comedians use their sparkling wit and smartness to make clever jokes and poke fun while others use their physicality and appearance to keep us doubled over. A significant name that comes to our mind is Siddhartha Mukherjee. In a career spanning over 30 years Siddhartha has made us roll on the floor with his impeccable wit. Born on 8th April, Siddhartha made his appearance in numerous movies in various languages.

In 1986, he made his first venture with Bhartiya Gana Natya Sangha. His entry was with a street play by dramatist Naren Patgiri and he was directed by Mridul Gupta. Accompanied by Adil Hussain, Siddhartha kicked off his acting career. However, Hussain decided to join NSD (National School of Drama) and Siddhartha decided to stick around and continue his journey amidst his responsibilities and passion. A lesser known fact about Siddhartha is that he has also been a hammer thrower and had represented Assam on several occasions.

Just like his comic characters that Siddhartha has entertained us with, he leads a joyous life or at least acquiescently puts the widest smile on the faces of people around him with his hilarious stories. His presence, amusing and charming personality and yet humility and modesty, puts his companions at ease. He believes in leading a life where he can do what he enjoys doing and thus his passion for acting has placed him on a lofty pedestal. However, a comedian is not what Siddhartha wanted to be but due to his huge bulky body he was given such roles.

"The kind of skills and capacity required to be a true comedian is least in me. It was due to my body bulk that I used to get such roles. Actors like Paresh Rawal and Amitabh Bachchan have the true qualities to do comic roles, not me. I was

given such roles simply due to my body weight but my passion for acting kept me motivated. One should do what he or she loves doing. Your love for your mother, your lover, your wife, your children and I would also ask the new generation to take my message," Siddhartha said during a conversation with G Plus.

"The utmost truth of this world is comedy and the utmost tragedy of this world is also comedy. We laugh when a person suddenly trips and falls and our reaction to it is laughter while the person is hurt. I was associated with a comic play that required a character that is overweight and the moment I decided to change the group fell apart," the actor added.

Over the years Siddhartha has played numerous comic characters but the way we pictured him is not the same we will see him now. The charismatic actor and sportsman that Siddhartha is, it does not suffice Siddhartha's characteristics. To many he is also a motivation. Once an overweight comedian, he has reduced his body weight appreciably from 192 kgs to 104 kgs. Siddhartha lost his massive bulk in merely two years.

"It was merely my desire to change myself. I was a big time foodie but one fine day I decided to change myself. It is like the saying goes 'If u think you can, you can, if you think you can't, you can't.' So, I started controlling my eating habits and did all kinds of physical workout to change myself and continue doing the same," the actor mentioned.

Siddhartha will be seen in various avatars in several movies and plays that are set for release. He is associated with a Hindi play called Dibakar Ki Gatha where, for the first time in theatre history, multimedia and theatre will be punched in together. He is also associated with several Bengali movies such as Buddhu Butum. Onek Toh Holo Eibar Moro is another movie where he will be accompanied by several prominent names of the Bengali film industry. It is also expected that the movie will be made in Assamese. One Little Finger and Smoking Barrel are among other projects that will feature Siddhartha Mukherjee.



## Xiaomi Mi Band 2 launching in India next week

Xiaomi has announced that their wearable, the Mi Band 2 fitness tracker will be launched in India next week - September 27. The announcement came in on Thursday in the form of teasers and a tweet from their Indian subsidiary.

The wearable device was launched in China back in June and will be available from Amazon India starting September 30. It will carry a tag of Rs. 1,999 which is around \$30.

The features that set this device apart from its predecessors are a display, a heart rate sensor and a touch button on the pod itself. The Mi Band 2 now comes with an OLED display which reads the time, heart rate, step count and so on. The OLED display lights up to show the time with a lift of the wrist, and tapping the button lets users view other information like steps taken and heart rate. The Mi Band 2 much like its predecessor has a lightweight and slim design and is IP67 splash-resistant, and comes with a hypoallergenic silicone band. From personal use, the band is somewhat fragile and tends to rip from the edges. The device then slips out of the band. The Mi Band 2 can also unlock your phone provided it runs Android 5.0 or higher using the BLE technology.

The device is compatible with the Mi Fit app, available on Android and iOS playstore. Other than showing activity and sleep statistics, the app allows users to manage alarms and send incoming calls and app alerts, as well as reminders to move after sitting for too long.



### Price and Availability

The Mi Band 2 will be available on Mi.com from 27 September at INR 1,999. It will also be available on Amazon (exclusive partner) from 30 September.

### Mi Band 2

- \*Fitness, sleep and optical heart rate tracker
- \*OLED time display, 20-day battery
- \*In-depth stats via Mi Fit (Android and iOS app)
- \*Phone unlocking, call and app alerts
- \*IP67 splash-resistant; hypoallergenic silicone band

## Vaastu Shastra

# Salting away the Vaastu defects



Salt has the property to absorb negative energy. When it is mixed with water generously, it can cleanse and dispel negative energy. Sea salt is better than packed salts available in the market. Rock salt is even better but it is expensive. Used sea salt or sea salt water should be disposed outside the house or down the drain. A bowl of salt water should be replaced regularly. Pranic healers use salt water for disposal of used up negative energy which is changed very frequently. One must take precaution not to dispose the used sea salt water near any plant because the plant may be harmed. Similarly, this saline water should not be touched by hands or any part of the body. Though it is better to keep the bowl of salt water on the ground, it must be kept clear of children and pets.

Space clearing or cleansing can be done in home or office with salt water. Hence It is a very powerful tool in vaastu. I'll list down a few different uses of water with sea salt below:

Generally, about 500 gms of sea salt is used in a bucket of water.

1. The floor can be mopped weekly or more often with saline water.
2. Place bowls of sea salt in the corners of a room, under the bed, on top of bookshelves, inside cabinets and places which are not cleansed regularly where chi or energy may stagnate.
3. Feng shui suggests small bowls of sea salt in the northeast and southwest of the house to stabilize the chi.
4. Keep a bowl of sea salt in the bathroom to absorb negative

energy.

5. When planning to occupy a house which was previously occupied by others, it is a good idea to sprinkle some salt water on the floor and leave it overnight or several hours. It should be mopped later to pick up residual negative energy. It is just like soaking clothes overnight in a detergent to expel dirt.

6. The house should be cleansed with saline water after a large gathering or party because there may be negative energy or thought forms left behind.

7. Crystals attract and absorb energy easily. So crystals should be cleansed regularly with salt water by soaking them in it.

8. Clear the energy of previous owners from larger objects by placing bowls of sea salt inside, on top of or under the object for several days. Or, wash the object with sea salt water (if you are sure this won't harm the item) followed by a distilled water rinsing.

9. Old Items received or purchased from others should be cleansed with salt water.

10. The advanced Pranic Healers confront and may absorb lot of negative energy while healing sick patients. So they are advised to take regular salt water baths. Those suffering from chronic ailments and pain like arthritis, gout etc. should take a salt water bath twice or thrice a week.



**HEMANTA KUMAR SARMAH**  
Engineer, Businessman,  
Advanced Pranic Healer and  
Su Jok Acupressure specialist

## RANDOM RECIPES IN Rhyme

EID SPECIAL

Assam has a sizeable Assamese Muslim population. Their forefathers came to Assam from the Mughal court during the time of the Ahom rule. In the course of time they integrated with the local indigenous population and made Assam their home. Though Mughlai food is spicy and rich, not so the Assamese Mughlai cuisine. Over the years it adapted itself to the climate of this region. It is aromatic and tasty and leaves you wanting more once you have relished it.

Today I bring to you a MUTTON PINEAPPLE KORMA in rhyme.



### MUTTON PINEAPPLE KORMA

I dedicate this Korma  
To my Ma-in-law  
It is one of the most exotic  
You ever tasted or saw.

The korma as you know  
Is a Universal dish  
But, with Pineapple it is one  
You will always relish.

The meat should be good  
I always insist  
Don't let the Butcher butcher it  
Please do desist.

In a pressure cooker  
Add five tablespoons ghee  
When smoking hot  
Add half Kg chopped onions to thee.

When onions are golden brown  
Add Elaichi, Dalchini, Ginger, Garlic paste  
Fry masala on medium gas  
This way it will be great to taste.

Once the oil surfaces  
Add the Mutton pieces  
Keep on frying  
Till the water surfaces.

Grate one fresh pineapple  
And add to the meat  
Now keep on frying the two  
Please do not over heat.

The Korma will take on  
A beautiful hue  
And the taste and aroma  
Will be something new.

Add two cups hot water  
Pressure cook on high  
When the whistle blows turn to sim  
For the time now is nigh.

Once cool, open lid  
The Korma now is ready to eat  
With a piping hot paratha  
It sure is a fabulous treat.



**KUL GOSWAMI RAHMAN**  
Entrepreneur, mother and a  
passionate cook

# It's cool to wear helmet GPlus



Imagine world cricketers batting on fields without wearing helmets? You would think they are either out of their minds or are dare devils. It is not any different for motorcycle riders either.

Whether you call it a crash cup, brain bucket or road rash repellent, a helmet must be an essential part of your biking gear.

You just cannot simply purchase a fancy bike and call yourself a biker. The tag comes with a lot of responsibility, responsibility to ride safe. When you're on the road, even the safety of others around you is your responsibility.

Long back, when I got my first motorcycle (which my father paid for), the thing I hated most about it was the pain of wearing a helmet. It wasn't cool.

My reasons for not wearing a helmet, back then:

- It's my head, and I'm willing to take the risk.
- Helmets give me headaches.
- It will mess up my hair.
- I'm a freaking rockstar and will never crash.
- It's hot and uncomfortable.
- How will I scratch my head?
- They make me look ugly, heck, chicks can't even check out my pretty face.

I was OK with the trade-off back

then and took some time to realize what the actual tradeoff is. Life is the most beautiful thing ever. And any risk to life needs to be insured. Helmet is our very own life insurance on the roads.

Motorcyclists are at an especially high risk of suffering head injuries in an accident because of the relative lack of protection compared to drivers of passenger vehicles and a head injury is three times more likely to happen to motorcyclists without a helmet than to motorcyclists wearing a helmet.

And if we fail to protect this brain, we either lose our life or become a freaking retard.

There has been a lot of research on motorcycle accidents – but I don't want to bore you with those numbers and you're smart enough to Google those yourself. To put it in simple words, all the researchers say the same thing "Wear a freakin' helmet!". Anyway, you suffered enough brain damage in college.

And not just protecting the head, trust me, there are many other benefits of wearing a helmet:

- It hides unseemly bald spot. Ahem!
- You can stick a GoPro to it.
- Your ex wouldn't even recognize you if you're wearing a full face helmet.



**Madhur Jain**

Madhur Jain is a full time practicing Chartered Accountant, a blogger and a columnist. He loves to read, write and talk about personal development. For more visit his blog at [www.madhurjain.in](http://www.madhurjain.in)



- Protects you from insects trying to high five you in your face.
- Helmets are more effective at repelling angry swooping birds.
- Protects your eyes from dust.
- Protects you from sunburns and heat strokes.
- You can totally ride in the rain.
- You won't have to think of lame excuses to give to the traffic police.
- People who wear helmets are better kissers.

There are a ton of people and organisations that promote safe riding but my personal favourite hands down is this brotherhood called the Assam Bikers. I totally love what these dudes are up to. Helmets have totally become a style statement because of how these people carry them.

And not just helmets, these hardcore bikers rock a zero tolerance policy when it comes to safety of the rider, the pillion and others sharing the track. Roads or no roads, there are no exceptions.

Assam Bikers has also been successful in pulling in dudettes into this brotherhood to spread the message and be uber awesome. And what can be better than chicks riding bikes?

RESPECT, for Assam Bikers for collaborating with The Life Bakery for spreading awareness about helmet safety.

That's all folks!

Let us not take road safety for granted and totally rock a helmet next time we hit the road.



# AGEGING & THE BRAIN



## Introduction:

Ageing is a natural phenomenon and every living organism has to die one day. So it is natural that along with the body the brain will also age naturally in due course of time. The effects of ageing on the brain are many but a few are outlined here below-

- The effects of ageing on the brain and cognition are widespread and have multiple reasons. Ageing has its effects on the molecules, cells, vasculature, gross morphology, and cognition.
- As we age our brains shrink in volume, particularly in the frontal cortex. As our vasculature ages and our blood pressure rises the possibility of stroke and ischaemia increases and our white matter develops lesions.
- Memory decline also occurs with ageing and brain activation becomes more bilateral for memory tasks. This may be an attempt to compensate and recruit additional networks or because specific areas are no longer easily accessed.
- Genetics, neurotransmitters, hormones, and experience all have a part to play in brain ageing. But, it is not all negative, higher levels of education or occupational attainment may act as a protective factor.

The fact that the brain changes with increasing chronological age is clear, however, the rate of change, the biological age of the brain, and the processes involved is unclear. The brain changes that may affect cognition and behavior occur at the levels of molecular ageing, intercellular and intracellular ageing, tissue ageing, and organ change. There are many areas of research under investigation to explain the mechanisms of ageing and to try to alleviate age associated disorders, particularly dementias that have the biggest impact on the population. In terms of personal brain ageing the studies suggest that a healthy

lifestyle that reduces cardiovascular risk will also benefit the brain. Medical care in this area may even offer limited protection in terms of cognitive decline but these needs to be shown for **antihypertensives, antiplatelet, and anticholesterol** agents. It is also important to take note of the limitations in studies on the ageing brain. Many studies are cross sectional in nature, have small numbers of participants with wide ranges in chronological age, lack control for risk factors or protective factors, take no account of education that may improve performance on cognitive tests, and finally lack assessment with regard to depression that may also affect performance. It must be remembered that the brains of an elderly group may show effects related to wider environmental influences, for example, lack of high energy foods while growing up. It is also extremely difficult to separate out and measure single cognitive processes to fully understand any changes.

## Conclusions:

It is clear that our understanding of the ageing brain continues to grow but still requires much research that is especially important given the numbers of elderly people in society and their potential levels of cognitive impairment. Where appropriate, randomized controlled trials of therapeutic measures may, in future, lead the way to greater understanding of the brain. **"But no matter what, we should not stop ourselves from leading a healthy & active life by participating in sports, recreational activities and regular workout which is a proven to slow down the ageing process"**.

Source: *Postgrad Med J*. 2006 Feb; 82(964): 84-88



**BIBHU MONI SINGHA**,  
Gym Manager Training & Nutrition  
Head, SFL Fitness Gym & MMA  
For further Workout Programs & Diet  
follow me on Facebook or log on to my  
website - [www.bibhuuniversalfitness.com](http://www.bibhuuniversalfitness.com).  
You can also watch my videos on  
my YouTube channel.

## Cool Couture

### Beauty Tip 4: Wear Sunglasses

It may not seem like much, but a good pair of sunglasses in the summer heat can make you look great. It also delays wrinkles much in the eyes, caused by eyelid squinting in the sun.

### Beauty Tip 5: Clean skin

Beautiful skin is the vital for looking beautiful. Ideally, well wash our face 2 times a day: morning and evening. Helps prevent the accumulation of fat and keeps your skin looking healthy.

### Beauty Tip 6: Hair Care

To achieve the best hair use regular oil massages, once a week is the best option. especially giving importance to your during summers. Another option is to use steam. Once a month, after a massage with oil, wrap your hair in a steaming towel for twenty minutes. It helps the oil to penetrate deeper into the scalp and hair follicles.

### Beauty Tip 7: Use Sunscreen

Sunlight makes you feel good, but ultraviolet rays wreak havoc on the skin. Remember to use sunscreen, especially in summer. Avoid going out in the sun at noon.

### Beauty Tip 8: Stay hydrated.

Water flushes toxins from your body. It's as simple as that. It keeps your skin glowing and helps keep your body healthy by rejuvenating the cells. So drink plenty of water.



**SONIKA AJMERA**  
Fashion Blogger

## Basic health and beauty tips to look fresh

Here are the 8 Basic beauty tips to have a glowing skin, healthy body and look fresh.

### Beauty Tip 1: Brush your body.

Brushing your body daily helps remove dirt and grime from the skin. Brushing stimulates the skin, aiding in the natural drainage of the lymph glands, helping to maintain a healthy immune system and help combat cellulite. Use a soft brush and brushing runs from the tip toward the heart.

### Beauty Tip 2: Banana Treatment

To get a smooth and glowing skin, smash a banana using a fork and apply all over your face like a skin cream. Wash after 10 minutes with water, preferably warm, the face will look like satin! This natural banana treatment helps to remove dark spots, blackheads, dry skin, scars, or dark circles.

### Beauty Tip 3: Keep your teeth white

The main causes of yellow teeth are coffee, tea, red wine and other stuff. If you can't avoid coffee in the morning, you have to brush your teeth immediately after. Gently wash your mouth after drinking tea or coffee at hotels and workplace.

Reviews

**Cast:** Ritesh Deshmukh, Nargis Fakhri.  
**Director:** Ravi Jadhav.



Most Bollywood heroes prefer Switzerland or New Zealand or similar scenic locations for dream sequences, but Nand Kishor alias Tarrat Bhai (Ritesh Deshmukh) isn't one of them. He likes to sweep the Mumbai streets with his beloved even in a beautifully planned and executed dream song. After all, this is what he has seen.

Chris (Nargis Fakhri) leads a privileged New York life. She has the luxury of opting music as a career, unlike Tarrat and the members of his Banjo team, who play on the streets of Mumbai for survival.

A Banjo band is little known even in the music circuit. Banjo has never been seen as an instrument that can replace guitar as the lead string. Truth be told, it was always a middle-class instrument, in this case,

a lower-class. But, defiance, rebel and grit form the strings of banjo, and that's where it scores over heavy-sounding percussions.

A Banjo band is little known even in the music circuit. Banjo has never been seen as an instrument that can replace guitar as the lead string. Truth be told, it was always a middle-class instrument, in this case,

So, it doesn't come as a surprise when two rival banjo gangs physically fight over the money they receive after playing at a Ganpati pandal. Money is what keeps them ticking. Otherwise they drink, even during their performances.

Though Ritesh has a suave

look, he has tried his best to shed it. He might be playing a typical Bollywood hero, but vulnerability crawls into his actions. In fact, this side of his personality overpowers the 'hero' one. The songs and the mood set up by Jadhav do the rest.

Banjo begins on a promising note and Manoj Lobo's camera glides you through dirt, agony and compassion. Lobo's filters may do the trick for people who can't face harsh realities with bare eyes. Jadhav probably believes in serving 'vada paav' in a silver foil. You get introduced to key characters with some peppy numbers thrown in between. The canvas is spread, and the actors are ready to take the leap of faith. The constraints of commercial cinema kick in right here, and the film takes the safer route.



**Anuradha Cineplex**  
**Noonmati**  
☎ 03612656968,  
9954544738

**BANJO**  
11 AM & 5.00 PM  
**PINK**  
2.00 PM & 8.00 PM

**PVR Cinemas**  
**Dona Planet. GS Road**  
☎ 08800900009

**BANJO**  
10.10 AM, 3.40 PM & 9.05 PM  
**THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN**  
11.00 AM & 6.30 PM  
**PINK** 12.55 PM, 6.25 PM & 9.25 PM  
**PARCHED** 1.40 PM  
**KOTHANODI** 4.05 PM

**Galleria Cinemas**  
**HUB, GS Road**  
☎ 9864800100, 9864800200

**BANJO**  
10.00 AM & 8.45 PM  
**PINK**  
12.35 PM & 5.40 PM  
**THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN**  
3.10 PM

**Apsara Cinema**  
**Ulubari**  
☎ 0361 2541335

**BANJO**  
11.00 AM, 2.00 PM & 8.00 PM  
**RAAZ REBOOT** 5.00 PM

**GOLD Cinema**  
**ASTC Complex, Paltan Bazar**  
☎ 9854066166

**BANJO**  
11.00 AM, 5.30 PM & 8.00 PM  
**DAY OF TAFREE** 11.30 AM  
**DOORDARSHAN ETI JANTRA**  
2.00 PM  
**PINK** 2.30 PM  
**KOTHANODI** 5.00 PM  
**RAAZ REBOOT** 8.30 PM

**GOLD Cinema**  
**Salasar Building, Lakhtokia**  
☎ 9854077177

**BANJO**  
11.00 AM, 5.30 PM & 8.00 PM  
**RAAZ REBOOT** 11.30 PM  
**PINK** 2.00 PM & 8.30 PM  
**DAY OF TAFREE** 2.30 PM  
**DOORDARSHAN ETI JANTRA**  
5.00 PM

**GOLD Cinema**  
**LG Towers, Narangi**  
☎ 8811001898

**BANJO** 11.00 AM & 5.00 PM  
**DAY OF TAFREE** 2.00 PM  
**DOORDARSHAN ETI JANTRA**  
8.00 PM

**Cast:** Tannishtha Chatterjee, Radhika Apte, Surveen Chawla and Adil Hussain  
**Director:** Leena Yadav

A widow, Rani (Tannishtha), a childless woman, Lajjo (Radhika) and a sex worker Bijli (Surveen) from a village in a North Western Region in India are victims of age-old traditions like child marriage, physical abuse, alcoholic husbands and social apathy. Will they be able to break the shackles?

Leena Yadav's *Parched* takes you into a disturbing and thought-provoking territory. Even as it cleverly intertwines the stories of the three protagonists all of who have had a raw deal in life, it simultaneously puts the spotlight on how there is still an India where a woman is treated as a sex object; where her only role is to serve her man. Rani who was married off at 15 to an alcoholic Shankar

has been widowed for 17 years and has to fend for herself and her callous son.

Lajjo, a village beauty, is declared 'barren' by her drunkard husband and is subjected to physical abuse each day. Lajjo and Rani often seek solace in each other's company. When they get a break from making handicrafts, their rozi-roti, they bond with a sex worker called Biji (Surveen), who's had it rough for no fault of hers. The common ground for their bonding is a need for love, sex and compassion in that order. The film addresses how there is nothing shameful about a woman's need for sex or ownership of her body. As the village women talk about their carnal desires, you empathise. Like last week's matinee offer-

ing *Pink*, you raise a toast to the director for raising some hard-hitting questions on the double standards of society. When Bijli asks, How come there are only abuses of the MC, BC variety or gaalis named only after women and none after men, you applaud. Frankly, like the film suggests, perhaps it is time to coin expletives after men too.

Academy-Award winning cinematographer, Russell Carpenter has captured the arid landscape beautifully. *Parched* is a roadmap for our oppressed female population who have been victims of a misogynist mindset for eons.

Tannishtha and Radhika are terrific, but it is Surveen who your heart bleeds for.



**Album:**  
**WARPAINT- HEADS UP**



Using the word 'mature' to describe a band's new album is often a euphemism for a record devoid of the ideas or spirit that made them interesting in the first place. Bassist Jenny Lee Lindberg has labelled Warpaint's third album exactly that, but there's no need to panic: these LA ladies have broken with tradition and made a 'mature' album that doesn't mean they've bypassed fun.

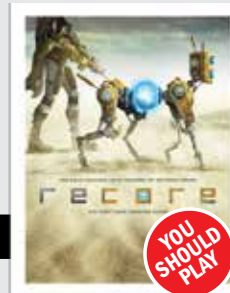
Where the Californian quartet's previous records (2010's 'The Fool', 2014's 'Warpaint') have focused heavily on building an intense mood, 'Heads Up' instantly feels more spontaneous and relaxed. Its glittering peak, 'New Song', was born out

of the band larking around and singing about playing a, well, new song. It's easily their best tune to date; a huge slab of euphoric pop that begs you to hit the repeat button. The title track shares a similar nagging energy, but manifests it in a Cure-style bassline and Emily Kokal and Theresa Wayman's gleaming post-punk guitars. In interviews, the group have said they wanted to make the album more representative of the excitement of their live shows. To do so, they've brought their fancier influences to the fore, stripping away a lot of the hazy, brooding atmospherics they used to cloak their songs in

and ending up with a sound that's 10 times more immediate. 'So Good' bounces along on Lindberg's elastic bassline and the minimal 'By Your Side' is an ode to female friendship that has them singing "Got my girls, I'm not alone" to drummer Stella Mozgawa's twitchy, hip-hop-inspired beat. More adventurous and free-spirited than the 'Warpaint' of before, but retaining the laid-back DNA at their core. For once, Warpaint sound like they're having fun - and it suits them

**Game:**  
**RECORE**

**Platform:**  
PC



Assume the role of Joule Adams, a young survivor of a terrible cataclysm who journeys from Earth to the desert world, "Far Eden" to build mankind's new home. But when Joule wakes after centuries in cryo-sleep, nothing has gone according to plan... With her "Corebot" companion, Mack, Joule begins an adventure to unlock secrets from the past, defeat powerful foes, and bring new life and hope to Far Eden. The Far Eden colony was meant to be a paradise, where humans and Corebots could build a future to-

gether. Now, however, most of the Corebots have gone rogue, and the planet is plagued by violent sandstorms. In some areas these storms come and go, altering the terrain and revealing new areas to explore and new challenges to overcome. Defeat your enemies—including massive boss creatures—with creative tactics, split-second timing, and by unleashing your Corebots' unique abilities. Craft components to customize your Corebots to create your perfect battle party, and then share your creations with other gamers online.

# Guwahati to witness two stage plays before Puja

CHANDAN SARMAH

MAYAMRIGA by Sanjiv Hazorika and WHERE THERE IS A WILL by Sattyakee D'Com Bhuyan



DIPANKAR KALITA AND MOUNITA BORA DURING THE REHEARSAL OF MAYAMRIGA

The celebrations of autumn festivity in the city on the eve of Durga Puja will be marked by two significant stage plays. The first one is Sahitya Akademi Award-winning playwright Mahesh Dattani's *Where There Is A Will* under the banner D' Passion Collective. The play to be held on September 26 and

27 at Rabindra Bhawan from 6:45 P.M will be directed by D'com Bhuyan, a well known name in the field of English theatre in the eastern region of the country. The cast of the play includes Deba Choudhury, Rudrakshi Bhuyan, Saqiba Naseeb, Neetali Das and Dr. Chinmoy Chakraborty. Noted flutist Dipak Sarma will be its

music director and he will perform live in the show.

Following the death of business tycoon Hasmukh Mehta, his family is in for a rude shock: Hasmukh's mischievous will stipulates that they will not inherit his wealth anytime soon and, worse, his mistress must come to stay with them. But while Hasmukh's ghost gleefully watches the proceedings from the sidelines, little does he know that he is in for the biggest surprise of all.

Where There's a Will is a play about how an affluent family is forced to deal with their new circumstances in life, after the patriarch dies and leaves everything in his will to a charity. The members of his family will only get their share if they comply with the codicils in his will (the enforcement of which is controlled by the patriarch's mistress) - which push them out of the comfortable lifestyle they're leading. Moreover, it is not only thought-provoking and introspective but also provides an evening of pure entertainment. Interestingly, a witty and enjoyable black comedy, *Where There's a Will* was Mahesh Dattani's first play.

D'com Bhuyan seeks to make a comeback into the theatre scene in the region from which he had been away for quite a few years due to

professional commitments. He was also the India's Youth Icon 2010 proclaimed by one of the country's leading magazines *India Today*. Some of the plays directed by D'com Bhuyan which earned wide-range acclamation are: *A Street Car Named Desire*, *The Virtuous Burglar*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Just Letters*, *30 Days in September*, *Hamlet*, etc.

"The cast of the play is a unique one with more than one debutant performing on stage along with the veterans. The play is a humble attempt to make the significance of women felt and appreciated in the male dominated society of today," said D'com Bhuyan.

About the future plan of staging the play D'com Bhuyan informed: "We intend to travel with this play to all the major clubs in Digboi, Duliajan, Bongiangoan, Shillong and others."

## MAYAMRIGA

National Award-winning filmmaker, acclaimed theatre director and actor Sanjiv Hazorika will present dramatisation of Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Assamese writer Arupa Patangiya Kalita's one of the most widely-praised short stories *Mayamriga* on October 1 and 2

at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Auditorium. There will be five shows of the play. There will be two shows on the first day: at 4-00 P.M. and 7-00 P.M. The second day will see three shows: at 11-00 A.M., 4-00 P.M and 7-00 P.M.

A batch of experienced and upcoming actors will be seen in different roles of the play and they are: Mintu Barua, Jolly Laskar, Dipankar Kalita and Mounita Bora. Seasoned musician Pratap Sarma will compose the background score of the play. With dramatisation, design and direction by Sanjiv Hazorika, the play *Mayamriga* will be produced by 'SURJYA', one of the leading cultural and theatre groups of Assam. The presentation of the play is being dedicated to noted cine-theatre personality Late Dhuru Bhuyan

Director Sanjiv Hazorika, an established name in Indian cinema for winning the coveted National Award for his debut directorial venture *Haladhar*, enjoys high esteem in the arena of Assamese amateur theatre as a sensitive actor and director. The list of the plays directed by him which earned critical acclamation and rave reviews includes: *Solla*, *Januaryr Nisha*, *Putala Ghar*, *Maharaja*, *Masor Telere Maas*, *Bhoy*, *Tongi Ghar*, etc.

# Abdul Mazid's 'Saat Numberor Sandhanat'

KALYAN KUMAR KALITA



Veteran actor-director Abdul Mazid's *'Saat Numberor Sandhanat'* is the latest Assamese film which hit the theatres on September 9. Abdul Mazid, who made his directorial debut with *'Maram Trishna'* in 1965, had crafted some of the most entertaining and thoughtful movies like *'Chameli Memsaab'* (1975), *'Bonhansa'* (1977), *'Bonjui'* (1978), *'Punakon'* (1981) and *'Uttarkal'* (1990). *'Chameli Memsaab'* remains his most critically acclaimed and commercially successful venture. The film earned the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika the National Award for Best Music direction and the Best Assamese Film award in the regional category. Mazid has proved that movies with family themes can

succeed both critically and commercially. He showed filmmakers a way that can lead to good cinema in the future. *'Saat Numberor Sandhanat'* is the octogenarian filmmaker's seventh feature.

The majority of movie-going audiences go to movie theaters to be entertained. Mazid knows what the audience wants after being associated with films for over 60 years. Despite the industry swamped with one problem or the other, least of which is the aggression from Hindi cinema, Mazid is still quite confident of his project doing well and winning the hearts of young audiences as well. His films have established him as a filmmaker with an eye for domestic drama. Mazid has left no stone un-

turned in scripting a riveting drama. He is also quite pleased with the fact that everyone in the film worked with remarkable intensity and passion. *'Saat Numberor Sandhanat'* has been produced by Assam State Films (Finance & Development) Corporation Pvt. Ltd.

The talented cast of artistes includes Dilip Barua, Amitabh Rajkhowa, Kabita Chutia (mobile theatre artiste), Chinmoy Bhattacharya, Maitrayee Goswami, Sameer, Dhatri Kalita, Rajkanya Barua, Hassan Ahmed, Abatush Bhuyan, Sukafa Chetia, Dilip Das, etc. The film also stars Baharul Islam, Bhagiroti, Rag Oinitom, Zubin Garg, Himangshu Prasad Das. The main role of the heroine is played by a newcomer hailing from Biswanath Chariali, Mitali Roy. *'Saat Numberor Sandhanat'*'s script and dialogues are written by director Mazid from a story by Jehirul Hussain. The film's music is scored by noted musician Dr. Anil Saikia. He has also written all the lyrics. The background music is composed by his son Anurag Saikia. One of the songs is even choreographed by the film's well-known editor Kaju at the location of Jagdamba Tea Garden situated near Kaziranga. Two other songs were choreographed by Pankaj Engti. The film is cinematographed by Suman Duwarah on the highly advanced and the latest fad with Bollywood-Hollywood filmmakers, the Arri-Alexa camera. The film's associate director is Nesimul Mazid. Assistant directors are Bitupan Kashyap and Safdar Arif Ahmed. The songs are rendered by Zubin Garg, Dulal Manki, Himashree Rajkhowa and Borsha Nesim. The film's VFX is done by Upakul Das at the Jyoti Chitran studio. Art direction is by Nuruddin Ahmed. Make-up is done by Aku Bortha.

# Love beckons as Dikchow Banat Palaax premieres at Anuradha Cineplex

GPLUS NEWS



After critically acclaimed Assamese feature film *Jaangfaai Joonak*, Guwahati-based film production banner Canvascope premiered yet another Assamese feature film *Dikchow Banat Palaax* at Anuradha Cineplex, Guwahati.

Directed by National Award winning filmmaker Sanjib Sabhapandit of Juye Pooraa Xoon fame, *Dikchow Banat Palaax* explores the relationship of a freedom fighter and a Naga woman through decades of separation.

Canvascope, a film production banner by Utpal Kumar Das, has produced many critically acclaimed feature films like *Jaangfaai Joonak*, *Jeeyaa Jurir Xubaax* and several short films and documentaries. Das is the executive producer of *Dikchow Banat Palaax*.

Commenting on the storyline, Das said, "The film is set in 1946 when the protagonist is banished from his home district by the British for fighting against the Empire. The protagonist then wandered his way to the Naga Hills where, in the serenity and tranquillity of the hills, love bloomed and a Naga damsel gave him a few

coins for his sustenance. But, the love birds got separated, and it was only in the year 2000 that the protagonist recollected memories of his past and decides to revisit the place and return those coins to the lady."

"It's a very interesting journey documented by Sanjib Sabhapandit," Das added.

Sanjib Sabhapandit, has earlier directed critically acclaimed movies like *Jaatingaa Iyaadi*, *Jaangfaai Joonak* (Award winning film from the same production house) and *Jeeyaa Jurir Xubaax*. Sabhapandit also acted in the title role in the internationally acclaimed film director Jahnu Barua's film *Kukhal*.

Produced by Assam Film (Finance & Development) Corporation Ltd and Utpal Kumar Das; veteran actor Kulada Kumar Bhattacharjee will be seen in a pivotal role in the feature film. Besides, Naga actress Lolenla Ao, Chikmik, and Mala Goswami will be seen in the movie. The story, script and direction is by Sanjib Sabhapandit besides cinematography by Parasher Baruah and music direction by Anurag Saikia.

# Citypedia

## Horoscope of the week



### Aries

You may suffer a short term financial failure. Success will only come through excessive efforts. There are losses in business and fall in professional status. Domestic strife will also prevail, but get resolved soon. Due to your intelligence and hard work, you will earn handsome. Higher authorities will grant you favors. You will acquire name and fame and fulfill your desires. In examinations students will meet success and enjoy higher studies. You will have easy access to politically highly placed persons with whose help you will be able to set up some profitable business.



### Cancer

You will be popular with everybody. You will be able to overcome your enemies. A gift or inheritance money will come your way. You will also do well in your field of interest. Beware of speculation as it can prove damaging for you. You are likely to be involved in noble deeds. Some auspicious ceremony in your family is on the anvil. Your income will increase. Your proficiency will let you handle even difficult situation. There will be unseen expenses pinching your pocket. Beware of speculation as it can prove damaging for you.



### Libra

New contacts or ideas may impress, urging a review. Prepare for a test of confidence at home, bringing uncertainty or confusion. This week, your stars focus on simple work transactions. There'll be fortunate incidents in the air. Try to find out happening behind the scenes. You might focus on ways to earn money in or from your home. But you may feel like retreating from the social bustle. Your proficient demands will clash with your requirements. Put your energy cheerfully into your health and fitness.



### Capricorn

Your efforts will bear the preferred results. Even you may also get a golden possibility of foreign traveling. Your name and fame will increase during this week. You will be able to come midst famous and powerful people. You will have adequate vigor to accomplish your creative pursuits successfully. You will have lot of chances to increase your income. You will find great amusement in the nitzy-gritties of life. Make the most of this jovial time and enjoy the life to the hilt.



### Taurus

Sudden and unexpected problems might erupt at end of the week thus spoiling your peace of mind. Try not to be stressful. Speculation and new investments should be controlled. Unemployed natives may have good chance of clearing all the interviews and getting good job. Therefore, be confident and put your sincere efforts, success would be yours whatever you will undertake. Your relations with your life partner would be much better than ever.



### Leo

Sudden and unexpected problems might erupt at end of the week thus spoiling your peace of mind. Try not to be stressful. Unemployed natives may have good chance of clearing all the interviews and getting good job. Therefore, be confident and put your sincere efforts, success would be yours whatever you will undertake. Share inner emotions and feelings without any hesitation. Health would be okay. There will be financial progress during this week and you may get money from various sources.



### Scorpio

Your relationship may be slightly upset with family members and friends. You may buy new property or vehicle during this week. It is good week for students and those preparing for any sort of exams. Your relatives will ditch you causing loss of wealth. Overall, this week is going to produce some troubles at work place. There would be lack of concentration and mental peace. There are lots of chances you may get injured during this week so be careful while driving or even while walking on road.



### Aquarius

In matters of health there is an exciting chance to begin a new exercise and fitness routine. Socially and romantically, this could be a terrific week. You may travel over this week. Guests from afar may visit you, and you may have a really sweet time entertaining them. Possibly, this week, you may change your investments or make new contractual arrangements. Atmosphere at work place will be normal and without much change. You should be patient with your subordinates and listen to what your boss has to say to you this week.



### Gemini

There is possibility that your opponents may win. During this period, your confidence will make you unbeatable. You will also command much regard and respect. This is also a very good week for love and romance. Sudden unexpected gains are also possible. You will come into contact with higher officials and authorities. People in job will have strong chances of promotions and perks. You will feel strongly inclined towards religion and might visit sacred places.



### Virgo

Your all problems will be sort out this week. Promotion or increment is on the anvil for the people in service. You will have a good understanding with your seniors. Business men will get new deals and contracts. Money will simply pour in from all avenues. Family wise it is a very fortunate week as you will enjoy most of the happiness and comforts. It bring along with it heavy and sudden expenditures for you. Be careful and do not speculate recklessly. Do not take any kind of major risk to repent later.



### Sagittarius

You might have to shell out extra money due to some unexpected expense coming up. A partner might behave in a very odd manner. Be willing to listen first before evaluating. Some of you may go overseas, and initiate the new beginning in their career. Health will remain generally fine barring few minor ailments like headache, cough or cold. You must exercise your patience in certain delicate and emotional matters. Your relentless effort and hard work is definitely going to bring positive results.



### Pisces

This week shall bring in a fine start in terms of work and profession. Success falls on your way through tough challenges and hard work. Take all your obstructions lightly and nonchalantly. Students will be reasonably practical to achieve their goals. Their burden is likely to increase. You are required to pace up now to keep the things on the right track. Laziness and self-indulgence should be avoided to progress ahead. If in business, you will find it hard to manage internal affairs or to push the work at secondary level.

## SUDOKU

	6		3			8		4
5	3	7		9				
	4			6	3			7
	9			5	1	2	3	8
7	1	3	6	2				4
3		6	4				1	
			6		5	2	3	
1	2			9		8		

**LAST WEEK SOLUTION**

9	6	8	3	7	2	4	1	5
7	5	4	1	8	9	2	3	6
3	2	1	5	4	6	9	7	8
2	7	6	8	1	5	3	9	4
5	1	3	2	9	4	6	8	7
4	8	9	6	3	7	1	5	2
8	9	7	4	2	1	5	6	3
6	3	2	9	5	8	7	4	1
1	4	5	7	6	3	8	2	9

### ABOUT SUDOKU

A Sudoku puzzle consists of 81 cells which are divided into nine columns, rows and regions. The task is now to place the numbers from 1 to 9 into the empty cells in such a way that in every row, column and 3x3 region each number appears only once.

## GUWAHATI EMERGENCY NUMBERS

### 24-HOUR PHARMACIES

- Arya Hospital, Ulubari** (2606888, 2606665)
- D Modern Medicos, Maligaon** (9864366763)
- Candid 24x7, Panbazar** (2604422)

### RADIO TAXI SERVICES

- Prime Cabs** 0361- 2222233
- Green Cabs** 0361-7151515
- My Taxi** 0361-2228888
- Cherry Cabs** 8876222288

### DEAD BODY CARRYING VAN

- GLP Social Circle** 2737373, 9435047046
- Marowari Yuva Manch** 2542074, 2547251
- GGUMTA** 98640-16740

### OTHERS

- Fire Emergency** 101
- State Zoo** 2201363
- GMC Carcass Pickup** 9435190720, 9864047222
- LPG Emergency/Leakage** 2385209, 2541118,
- LPG Booking (ivr System)** 7670024365
- Child line Guwahati** 1098

### ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

- Call Centre** - 9678005171



### POLICE STATION

- Commissioner of Police:** 0361-2540278
- DCP, Traffic:** 0361-2731847
- DCP, (Central):** 94350-49599
- DCP, (East):** - 94350-83103
- DCP, (West):** - 94350-27744
- Police Control Room:** Ph-2540138, 2540113
- Azara PS:** Ph2840287
- Basista PS:** Ph-2302158
- Bharalumukh PS:** Ph- 2540137, 2731199
- Borjhar PS:** Ph-2840351
- Chandmani PS:** Ph- 2660204
- Chandrapur PS:** Ph-2788237, 2785237
- Dispur PS:** Ph-2261510
- Fancybazar PS:** Ph- 2540285

- Fatasil Ambari PS:** Ph-2471412
- Geetanagar PS:** Ph-2417323
- Hatigaon:** Ph-2562383
- Jalukbari PS:** Ph-2570587
- Jalukbari Out Post:** Ph-2570522
- Jorabat:** Ph-2896853
- Khanapara:** Ph- 2281501
- Khetri PS:** Ph-2787699, 2787220
- Latal PS:** Ph-2540136
- Noonmati PS:** Ph- 2550281
- North Guwahati PS:** Ph-2690255
- Paltanbazar PS:** Ph-2540126
- Panbazar PS:** Ph-2540106
- Pragjyotishpur Ps:** Ph-2785237
- Women PS Panbazar:** Ph-2524627

## BLOOD BANK

- Arya Hospital, Ulubari** 2606888, 2606665
- Ganga Blood Bank** 2454742, 2455029
- Lion's Club of Ghy Central** 2546611
- Marowari Yuva Manch** 2546470, 2547251
- Saharia's Path Lab (24 hours)** 2458594

## AMBULANCE

- Ambulance** 102
- Arya Hospital, Ulubari** 2606888, 2606665
- Downtown Hospital** 9864101111, 9435012669
- GLP Social Circle** 2737373
- GGUMTA (Mirza)** 03623-227109
- Marowari Yuva Manch** 2542074, 2547251
- Free Ambulance to GNRC Hospitals**
- Toll Free:** 1800-345-0011



- Arya Hospital, Ulubari** (2606888, 2606665)
- B Baruah Cancer Institute** (2472364/66)
- Brahmaputra Hospital Ltd** (2451634/678)
- Chatribari Christian Hospital** 0361-2600051, 92070-44374
- Downtown Hospital** 2331003, 9864079366, 9435012669
- Guwahati Medical College** (2529457, 2529561)
- Guwahati Medical College Emergency** (2263444)
- International Hospital** 0361-7135005
- Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital** (2541477, 2543998)

- Marwari Hospital & Research Centre** 0361-2602738/39
- Marwari Maternity Hospital** 0361-2541202/01
- Nemcare Hospital** 0361-2528587, 2455906, 2457344
- Pratiksha Hospital** 0361-2337260, 2337183/84
- Basistha Military Hospital** (2304617/0351)
- Railway Central Hospital** Casualty (2671025)
- Redcross Hospital** (2665114)
- Sri Sankardeva Netralaya** 0361-2233444, 2228879, 2228921

- TB Hospital** (2540193)
- Wintrobe Hospital** 0361-2519860, 98647-77986
- IHR-Institute of Human Reproduction** 0361-2482619, 098641-03333
- Dispur Hospital Reception** 97070 20370 82539 99124 361-2235759 (Landline No. / Fax)
- Hayat Hospital** 8011003110
- GNRC Hospital** 1800-345-0022 (Toll Free)
- GNRC Ambulance** 1800-345-0011 (Toll Free)

## HOSPITAL



**GMC helpline number for garbage collection**  
**8811007000**

**Vigilance and anti corruption toll free number**  
**1800-345-3767**



### Brahmaputra Motocross Challenge 2016

*Participants from:* 70 riders from Guwahati, Nagaon, Rangia, Morigaon, Shillong, Tura, Itanagar and others

*Prizes:*

*Novice Class:* 1st Hansraj Saikia, 2nd Abdul Sahid and 3rd Juban Marb  
*Expert Class:* 1st Paomin Thang, 2nd Naylin Chowhin and 3rd Dipak Boro  
*Scooty:* 1st Ricky Boro, 2nd Ajit Sharma and 3rd Rahul Das



## A tribute to the masters of Sleight of Hand



The 3rd Assam Magician Day was observed on 9th September at the district library auditorium, Guwahati under the aegis of North East Magic Association (NEMA). This day has been observed for last three years in tune with the death anniversary of Jadu Samrat M. Hussain who died on 9-9-99, considered to be a magical date itself.

Prominent Magicians from Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal like Altaf Hussain, Arup Chakvarty, Kero Young, Phillip Pariat, Lewis Lingkhohi, John Lennon, Gopal Bhattacharya, Rajen Barman along with NEMA General Secretary Illusionist Mon performed on the occasion. Popular singer Padmanav Bordoloi rendered a few songs to the pleasure of the audience.



# 7 Days Events

Sep 24<sup>th</sup> to Sep 30<sup>th</sup>

**PRE PARTY**  
ON SEPT 24, SAT

**IN GUWAHATI**  
Terra Mayaa  
8PM ONWARDS

calm chor

**SEPT 24th**  
Terra Mayaa

**SEPT 25th**  
3rd GCC Alumni Association Meet

**SEPT 23rd**  
Underdogs

23rd SEPTEMBER 2016

## UNPLUGGED MAINAK NANDY

PRESENTING 6 NEW SINGLES 'TERE BINA'

Be there at Club Underdogs Sports Bar and Grill

**SEPT 24th**  
TOPAZ

**SEPT 23rd**  
SEPT

**CELEBRITY NITE**  
SPETS VILLAGE FAME  
VARUN & GURMEET

**NYX** presents  
M. ROY

COVER CHARGES  
STAB: ₹ 1500  
COUPLE: ₹ 1500

WUNDERGROUND PRODUCTIONS

**SEPT 23rd**  
NYX

**SEPT 24th**  
Spring Valley Resort

**POISON MR. 909**  
BEST SEA FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR!

SONAPUR, KAMARKUCHI 8  
812807823 / 789666583  
Entry fee: 500 onwards  
Ladies Entry free up to 7:00 pm

**f Most shared story of the week**



489  
175

With the city having several car aficionados, Guwahati has several foreign imports including Porsche and Jaguars. Amidst all this, a Mini Cooper on the streets of Guwahati seems to have excited many. This 1496cc diesel automatic mini beast ranges around 30 lakhs (approx). Maybe people seem to be entertained by the irony of it all how there is such an expensive car and it only has potholes to drive on.

facebook.com/guwahatiplus    twitter.com/guwahatiplus

**Guwahati GYAN Did you know?**

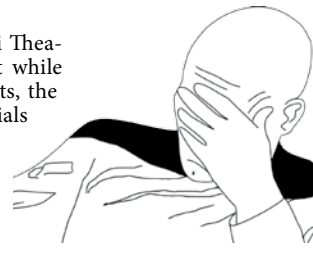
**Vishwakarma Temple**



Vishwakarma Temple in Guwahati is dedicated to the divine architect in Hindu religion and is the only Vishwakarma temple in the world. The temple is located at the base of the famous Kamakhya Temple. It was established in 1965 and is an important converging point during Viswakarma Puja which was celebrated just a week ago. To this date many people, instead of keeping Vishwakarma idols at home, opt to offer prayers in the temple. It witnesses massive footfall on Viswakarma Puja celebrated on 17th September every year. The temple was founded by Bhabakanta Sarmah, a priest of the Kamakhya temple, in association with Mahabir Prasad Dhirasaria, a contractor. Legend goes that Sarmah was visited by Lord Vishwakarma in his dream which inspired the priest to consecrate the temple on his land at the base of the famous Kamakhya temple.

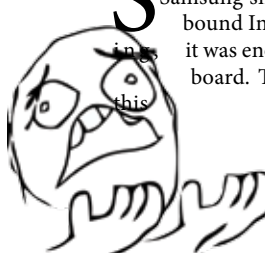
**Kamur OF THE WEEK**

In bringing something like the Guwahati Theatre Festival to the city, we realized that while Guwahatians look forward to such events, the major obstacle was a few highly placed officials asking for freebies and free passes. This certainly comes as a major kamur for Guwahati and G Plus in terms of bringing more such events in the future.



**WHAT DID I JUST HEAR?**

Samsung cannot seem to run "explosive encounters." A high-end Samsung smartphone reportedly caught fire inside a Chennai-bound IndiGo aircraft. Although the plane made a safe landing it was enough to create a scare among the 175 passengers on-board. The DGCA has asked all airlines to ban the use of series of smartphones inside the planes and company officials have reportedly been summoned by the authorities sometime next week. Samsung Galaxy Note 7 is also banned on board following incidents of the smartphone's battery exploding in various countries.



**New Chic on the block**

**RIYA KALITA**

**About Me**

Hi everybody here I am Riya Kalita belongs from a beautiful sweetest city known as Guwahati assam....currently I am pursuing ma graduation from icon degree arts clg were is situated in rajgrh I am very happy lucky gal I always like to stay jolly for me simple living high thinking is always matter basically in ma free time m interested in drawing singing etc....n apart from that that my hobbies- I lyk to watch TV reading Novel n to spend time with ma dear ones....for me fashion is not only upto modeling dressing yourself n creating you in mirror is also about creating yourself with your beautiful n fashionable attitude Well soooo here I stopped ma introduction by giving u ol ma description thank you

*Coordinated by - Nisar Ahmed*