



Squash team Gold medal winners Saurav Ghosal, Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu, Kush Kumar and Mahesh Manonkar during the medal ceremony of Men squash team event



Men's Archery team (From left to right) Gold medal winning Indian team members Sandeep Kumar, Rajat Chauhan and Abhishek Verma celebrate after winning Compound Men's team gold



Boxing Mary Kom (right) is declared winner in the final of women's boxing flyweight 48-51 kg category

Indian Gold Medal winners in Asian Games 2014



Wrestling gold Yogeshwar Dutt poses with his gold medal after winning the men's freestyle 65kg final



Tennis mixed doubles Saketh Myneni takes a selfie with Sania Mirza as they celebrate after winning gold in mixed doubles

HERITAGE EXPLORER

LET KNOWLEDGE COME FROM ALL THE SIDES

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Diwali, the festival of Lights was celebrated with traditional fervour across the country on October 23, 2014

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PM is at the Highest Altitude with Mightiest Attitude

“Everyone is aware of the extreme conditions at Siachen. Overcoming every challenge our soldiers stand firm, protecting our motherland... Be it the altitude or bitter cold, nothing deters our soldiers. They stand there, serving our nation. They make us truly proud,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a Twitter.



Siachen glacier is a point from our side on the border with China. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi was at this point this Dipawali to celebrate the festival light with our Jawans. At a temperature minus 40 degree Celsius, our Jawans are there alert, eye and ears, all the time. Prime Minister chose to be among them this Dipawali. This is a great message to one and many; to the brave Jawans – their beloved P.M. was with them to experience their all time hazardous mission and to enjoy at the same time their company in a most auspicious secular occasion of Dipawali; to the people of the country - to feel proud of the Jawans, their brethren on the guard of the border of the country in a most crucial front; to the leg-pullers this time onward India i.e. Bharat is on a hard nut to crack; to the world in general- India is having a dynamic Prime Minister for a dynamic India.

Every step of Prime Minister is an emotion which gives a motion to the country on thought, behaviour and action.

After all Modi-era of contemporary Indian History is going to be a Heritage is coming period of time.

Nobel Peace Prize to India

We are quite proud at the receiving Nobel Peace Prize by a social worker Sri Kailash Satyarthi. His this honour is bracketed with a young girl Malala of Pakistan. It is in news that Malala was nominated last year but because of her teenage, the committee has to wait for a year. But it is good and significant that the recipients belong to two neighbouring countries, which were till 65 years before one and the same country. Had Malala been India, she would not get this honour, because the cause for which she fought bravely even at the cost of her life is not known in Indian soil.



Indian-turned Mother Teresa had won Nobel Peace Prize for her work among the poor and destitute of India, mainly based in and around Kolkata. But she got so much publicity and monetary help and assistance from abroad that led her to the honour of Nobel laureate from India. We too feel proud of her. Indian soil is so soft and fertile, and culture of tolerance and acceptance so deep that any one from abroad come and do as (s)he likes. Prize or no prize, so many people of foreign origin have had done commendable works in philosophy, literature, archaeology etc. that India will remain proud of them. But there were some, for whom our culture and civilization is hurt unrepairable.

In the present context till the declaration of the Nobel Peace Prize for K.Satyarthi, little people of the country were aware of him. This is called SOCIAL WORK. He has chosen a part of the social works that will brighten the country's glory in near future.

We salute Satyarthi for his world-wide recognition through this all time prestigious honour. Because now onward he will be in Peace Heritage of the world.

Many critics opine India and Pakistan will get lessons from the joint Peace Prize. It reminds us an Aesop's fable. Two earthen jars were floating down a stream. One jar asks the other, 'Please come close we are made of same clay'. The other replied: Thank you, but keep distance less we get broken'.

Tailpiece : The Prime Minister of the country visits the governor of J&K and a party was hosted in his (PM) honour. But the chief Minister of the state showed his back the governor and his invitaties.

Editor

Devi Durga and Shakti Worship

The worship and practice of Shaktism has been prevalent in Assam from time immemorial. Ancient Assam was one of the most important seats of Shaktism. Eminent historian and scholar Dr HK Barpujari, in his five-volume *The Comprehensive History of Assam* had said: 'Shaktism is the cult of worshipping a female goddess as the supreme deity. Ancient Assam was a very important seat of Shaktism. Traditionally, Kamarupa has been recognised as the principal centre of the Shakta cult with its chief temple at Kamakhya.'

The advent of Devi Durga every autumn reminds us of the age-old tradition of Shakti cult in Assam. People invoke Shakti which is like the life-force in them by worshipping Devi Durga during this season. Devi's annual visit to earth symbolizes the fact that Shakti is the ultimate root of our existence. To draw from Barpujari, 'The concept of Shakti or primordial energy symbolized in a woman is an amalgam of many elements drawn from various sources.

The processes in fertility and motherhood and the active and energizing forces involved therein apparently led to the emergence of the concept of a supreme goddess, who is considered to be the repository

of all energy governing the universe. In this aspect, she is said to preside over creation (sristi), preservation (sthisti) and destruction (samhriti).'

In the Brahminical system, Saivism had been the most dominant faith in Assam from time immemorial as is known from tradition, both literary and epigraphic. The Kalika Purana



states that Siva was regarded as the guardian deity of this territory even before the time of Naraka and the land was reserved by Siva as his own royal domain. Siva was primarily a non-Aryan deity and the Kalika Purana has a list of as many as 15 sacred places in Assam associated with the worship of Siva.

The Hindu influence on the

primitive religion and also a tribal influence on Hindu religious ceremonies can be noticed from the very beginning in Assam. As scholars have said, this process of mutual influence was obviously preceded by the introduction of the Hindu religion in Kamrupa. As religious leaders responsible for the import of the Hindu rites and rituals were the

Brahmins, the kind of religious practice propagated by them in those days has been called Brahminical religion. The worship of innumerable gods and goddesses came to occupy an important position in the lives of people. Subsequently, some of these gods and goddesses gave rise to special cults and sectarian rites and beliefs. Numerous religious myths and sectarian cults surrounding these rites and practices also gradually came into existence. The epics and Puranas were composed for the propagation of the sectarian cults. Shaktism was one of them.

Kamakhya has thus remained the most important epicentre of Shakta cult in Assam, with its effects spreading across the subcontinent and beyond. The Kalika Purana that was composed in the 10th century Kamarupa was primarily intended at glorifying goddess

Kamakhya. And, like Shaktism, Kamarupa too began acquiring importance as a major seat of the Shakta cult. As Dr Barpujari had said, this greatly influenced the religious life and practice of people across Eastern India.

Dr Prafulladatta Goswami on the other hand says that Shaktism brought in by the Aryanized people had almost pushed out Saivism that had originally existed here. 'The ancient religion of this land, according to the authoritative Yogini Tantra, was of Kirata origin. The Kirata religion was Saivism and the Aryanized conquerors under Narakasura later made an attempt to put it under a ban and impose the Shakti cult in the shape of Kamakhya worship,' he said.

Durga or simply Devi, a name that comprehends many of her aspects, incarnations and manifestations, is the most common name by which she is known. Among the other names, Shakhambori embodies the fertility aspect, while Amba or Ambalika denotes the mother aspect of the Goddess; she is also called Haimavati or Parvati, since she is said to be the daughter of the Himalayas. When we speak of the incarnation in which she triumphs over the Mahisha, a symbol of evil, we pray to her as Mahishamardini or even Mahishasuramardini.

Devi is also known as *Uma, Kaushiki, Tara, Katyayani, Kamakhya, Chandika, Dashavuja, Satarupa, Abhayaa, Mahadevi, Yogeshwari, Narayani, Jagadhatri, Indrani, Ishani, Shivaduti, Triloktarini, Trishuladharini, Barahi, Trigunakarini, Bisheswari, Birajakarini, Amritarupini, Durgatinashini, Mahakali, Jagatapalini, Khyamadhatri, Durgakali, Sampadadayini,*

Burhi Gosani worshipped by Jaintias, Goddess Kamaika of the Khasis, Khamakha of the Bodos, Kechaikhati worshipped by the Chutiyas and the Deoris, Goddess Tamai of the Rabhas, Goddess Haramdi of the Dimasas, Goddess Kalika of the Tiwas and the Mother Goddess Phajaw of the Garos.

Sivachandi, Jagadhatri, Ashuranashini, Ramarata, Vishwarupa, Dakhyaja, Dakhina, Ganga, Guhapriya, Ganeshajanani, Mahavidya, Dibyarupa, Drupadi, Rukmini, Jahnavi, Krishna, Krishnabaraprada, Sushila, Sundari, Radhika, Kamini, Vishwanathapriya, Nirmala, Sugandha, Vijaya, Kamala, Kutaja, Eeshwari, Sarada, Keshini, Keshavapriya, Vaishnavi, Varahi, Sivashamunda, Siva-sureswari, Subhaprada, Tara, Chandi, Chamunda, and so on. According to the Puranas, the total number of names Devi is known is 108.

The Goddess is worshipped in various iconic representations or in the form of a Yoni symbolizing the creative principle. Dr Nirmalprabha Bordoloi, in her famous work *Devi*, gives a wonderful description of how the mother goddess existed in different forms and nomenclatures among different indigenous ethnic communities of the region. According to her, 'From prehistoric times, Yoni worship

had been prevalent in Assam. And the worshipper believed that it would increase the fertility. Burhi Gosani worshipped by Jaintias, Goddess Kamaika of the Khasis, Khamakha of the Bodos, Kechaikhati worshipped by the

Chutiyas and the Deoris, Goddess Tamai of the Rabhas, Goddess Haramdi of the Dimasas, Goddess Kalika of the Tiwas and the Mother Goddess Phajaw of the Garos 'all these names bear testimony to the fertility cult as the Shakti cult of Assam.'

Eulogizing the Shakti cult and Goddess Kamakhya, Dr Bordoloi in her poem 'Mor ukti' said: 'I am Kamakhya/the protector/I am not a distant prospect/for spotless bright time.../I am beyond any explanation/accumulating all power,/I can give life to those / who are bereft of spirit !'

(The Assam Tribune, 30.09.2014)

Yoga and Meditation Help People Use Gadgets Better

NEW YORK, 26th September 2014: People who practice yoga and meditation for longer periods can train their brain to use gadgets effectively in daily life.

In recent years, there has been a lot of attention on improving the computer side of the brain-computer interface but very little attention to the brain side.

"This study shows that looking closer at the brain side may provide a valuable tool for reducing obstacles for brain-computer interface success in early stages," explained Bin He, a biomedical engineering professor from University of Minnesota's college of science and engineering.

The research could have major implications for treatments of people who are paralysed or have neuro-degenerative diseases.

In the study, researchers looked at 36 participants.

One group of 12 had at least one year of experience in yoga or meditation at least two times per week for one hour.

The second group included 24 healthy participants who had little or no yoga or meditation experience.



Both groups participated in three, two-hour experiments over four weeks in which they wore a high tech, non-invasive cap over the scalp that picked up brain activity.

The participants were asked to move a computer cursor across the screen by imaging left or right hand movements.

"The participants with yoga or meditation experience were twice as likely to complete the brain-computer interface task by the end of 30 trials and learned three times faster than their counterparts for the left-right cursor movement experiments," professor He informed.

The research appeared in the journal Technology.

(<http://www.newindianexpress.com/lifestyle/health/Yoga-and-Meditation-Help-People-Use-Gadgets-Better/2014/09/26/article2450468.ece>)

Obama wishes all Happy Diwali and Saal Mubarak

Washington, Oct 23: President Barack Obama has in video message wished a Happy Diwali and "Saal Mubarak" to all those who celebrate the festival of lights saying it was a reminder that light will ultimately prevail. Obama, who in 2009 became the first US president to celebrate Diwali at the White House, recalled the "wonderful time" he and his wife Michelle had celebrating the festival in Mumbai during his 2010 visit to India. "I was proud to host the first Diwali celebration at the White House back in 2009. Since then, we've continued to mark this holiday to honour the rich traditions that define the American family," he said. "And I know Michelle and I will never forget the wonderful time we had celebrating Diwali in Mumbai with food, dancing, and the company of friends," Obama said. "So, to all the families gathering together this Diwali to reflect on all the blessings of the past year, I wish you a joyous celebration and Saal Mubarak," he said. Transcript of Obama's video message: "I want to wish a Happy Diwali to all those who are celebrating the festival of lights here in the United States and around the world. "For Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists, lighting the lamp-the diya -is a chance to remember, even in the midst of darkness, that light will ultimately prevail. "Knowledge will defeat ignorance, and compassion will triumph over despair. Diwali is also a reminder that we must each do our part to achieve that victory, by dedicating ourselves to service to others. "If we affirm our commitments to one another and strive to lift each other up, then together, we will continue moving closer to that brighter future we all seek." Meanwhile, Secretary of State John Kerry will host the Obama Administration's annual Diwali celebration Thursday at the State Department. In his remarks, Kerry will "celebrate the important contributions Indian and South-Asian Americans have made to the United States," a state department announcement said. he will also "highlight the State Department's commitment to human dignity, compassion, and service - a commitment that is at the heart of all great faiths," it said. (<http://news.oneindia.in/international/obama-wishes-all-happy-diwali-and-saal-mubarak-1545191.html>)

Nalanda Recreated

Disgracefully, not a single Indian university, including the much-vaunted IIMs and IITs, figures in the list of the top 100 universities of the world. Neighbouring China has some of its universities in that list. Trapped in the quagmire of anachronistic teaching methodologies, outmoded syllabi and crippling campus politics, our universities are mostly concrete structures with little to offer in terms of innovation and the modern need of university–industry interface. President Pranab Mukherjee recently said that our universities must evolve into hubs of innovation. Easier said than done. For



our universities to metamorphose into hubs of innovation — this is the hallmark of world-class universities like Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, Princeton, Yale et al — what is required first and foremost is quality human resource both in the faculty and students engrossed in study and research driven by meaningful teaching and research methodologies. But how does one define meaningful? It is that paradigm in which teachers go beyond the stereotype of syllabi if the syllabi are found lacking in creative/innovative triggers and encourage students to ask questions of all hues, thus fuelling their creative/innovative urges and laying the ground for quality research. We must remember

that the greatest infrastructure for a university is its human resource.

That said, it augurs well that Nalanda University, the ancient seat of learning founded in the 5th century AD and that was one of the first great global universities that survived till 1193, has made a new beginning after 800 years.

On Monday, it embarked on its new journey in a humble manner with six teachers — four at the School of Historical Studies and two at the School of Ecology and Environmental Studies — and 11 students. Nalanda was primarily devoted to Buddhist studies, but it also offered teaching in medicine, mathematics, astronomy, politics and fine arts. Among its early students was Hiuen Tsang, the famous 7th century Chinese traveller. At the acme of its glory, Nalanda is believed to have housed 10,000 students and 1,500 teachers. The idea for a new Nalanda was first floated by former President APJ Abdul Kalam in 2006 and taken forward by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. On Monday,

classes began at the Rajgir International Conventional Centre, about 15 km from the ruins of the ancient institution. Now the question is whether the new Nalanda avatar can take the same giant intellectual leap as it did in the past. According to Nalanda vice-chancellor Gopa Sabharwal, the new university, like the ancient one, will focus on research. “As the scholars of the ancient university, we too believe that knowledge has to be shared. The new varsity will have shades of the ancient Nalanda University and will focus on zero-energy level, zero-pollution emission and a green milieu,” she said. One

hopes that the new Nalanda’s focus on research would help it mutate into a world-class institution of higher education and research as it was in ancient times and that it would be a model to look up to in terms of innovative teaching and research methodologies as well as university–industry interface in the domains of science and management studies and research. There is a heavy responsibility, therefore, on the faculty of Nalanda to ensure that its human resource is harnessed in the right fashion so that it becomes a pivot of attraction for the best brains both within the country and from abroad. This is possible.

(The Sentinel 05.09.2014)

1,000-year-old monastery to have Buddhist studies centre

- Vishal Gulati

Shimla, Sep 3 : Tabo, an ancient seat of Buddhist religion and culture in picturesque Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh in northern India, will now have an international learning centre.

Bauddh Darshan, which will help preserve the ancient seat of Buddhist studies, will be set up at Tabo with a funding of Rs.45 crore by the central government. Founded in 996 AD, Tabo, known for a more than 1,000-year-old cave Buddhist monastery, is located at an altitude of 3,050 metres and 375 km from Shimla. It is also called the 'Ajanta of the Himalayas'.

Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh, who took up the issue with former prime minister Manmohan Singh, said the proposed centre would help preserve and expand Buddhist studies. He said around 30 acres of land at Mohal Dhaang Chummi has been approved for the centre. Necessary clearances from the state forest department is expected to follow.

"The land will soon be transferred to the union ministry of culture for building the institute. The entire project cost of Rs.45 crore will be borne by the Indian government," Virbhadra Singh told IANS. "The institute will attract not only scholars from India but from across the globe," the chief minister said.

Protected by the Archaeological Survey of India,

Tabo is one of the largest monastic complexes in India, with several caves and contemporary structures. It attracts thousands of scholars and researchers from all over the world. It is the second most visited tourist place in the Buddhist circuit in India after Bodh Gaya, the birthplace of Buddhism where Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment over 2,500 years ago.

Spiti Valley, where the Tabo



monastery is located, is a cold desert dotted by tiny helmets spread over the Himalayan peaks. It adjoins Tibet. A century ago, Rudyard Kipling in his novel "Kim" described Spiti as "a world within a world" and a "place where god lives". Things have hardly changed there.

Not accessible by road throughout the year, the Spiti Valley remains cut off from the world for more than four months a year due to heavy snowfall. It reopens once the snow starts thawing after mid-April.

Perched at 3,370 metres,

Dhankar, 24 km from Kaza, the headquarters of Spiti, and some 320 km from Shimla, is another repository of the ancient Buddhist culture. It was once the castle of Spiti's ruler – the Nono.

Another centuries-old Buddhist shrine, the Key monastery, is located 12 km from Kaza and at an altitude of 4,116 m. The monastery has rare collections of thangkhas, or Tibetan paintings, and ancient musical instruments like trumpets, cymbals and drums. Its library holds the manuscripts of the Tangyur texts.

Geu, a village on the Indo-Tibetan border in the Spiti Valley, is known for a 550-year-old mummified body of a monk. The mummy was found by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) after an earthquake that hit the region in 1975. It was discovered from one of the eight stupas. Even the teeth, nails and hair on the skull are intact.

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama often says in his addresses that more than 1,000 years ago Buddhism was introduced to Tibet from India. Buddhism became rooted in Tibet from the seventh to the 11th century, thus deeply influencing Tibetan worldview.

(<http://tibet.net/2014/09/05/1000-year-old-monastery-to-have-buddhist-studies-centre/>)

Mary Kom - Subject enough to boost North-east spirit

- Wasbir Hussain

Like most boxing movies, 'Mary Kom' too is a generic underdog film that has a high dose of melodrama. Typical Bollywood film reviewers have called the 2-hour-long film by Director Omung Kumar sterile and have questioned its thematic soundness. Many reviewers have questioned the justification in casting Priyanka Chopra as Mary Kom because she doesn't look any way like the boxing champ with Mongoloid features.

I am not here to review the film and pose questions as to why it was not shot in Manipur or why there was no mention of things on the ground in that State like the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and so on. The fact that the producers, Viacom18 Motion Pictures & Bhansali Productions, have decided to pick a subject from the North-east chosen by Director Omung, and, that too, of a living legend, the five-time World Boxing Champion, Mary Kom, is enough to boost the spirit or the sporting spirit of Manipur or the North-east as a whole. That is enough to have my backing and the backing of millions of people from the region for the movie!

In recent years, Bollywood has made two films on living sporting legends, Milkha Singh and Mary Kom. And, Omung's decision to cast none other than one of the reigning superstars of Hindi filmdom, Priyanka Chopra, to play Mary Kom means he didn't want

to compromise on the acting quality and the actor's crowd-pulling capacity. Well, a writer who wrote and broadcast a critical review of the film had also appreciated Priyanka's acting saying she 'played the part persuasively'. I am, therefore, not quite concerned whether Omung should have considered casting an actor with Mongoloid features who could have better resembled Mary the champ. What matters is that the film has not only



immortalised Mary Kom the boxer on celluloid, but has also managed to project the North-east as a sporting power house, and not just a hotbed of insurgency.

The film gives special thanks to Manipur chief minister Ibobi Singh, something I quite fail to understand. They could not shoot the film in locales in Manipur because of the law and order situation, and a diktat by Meitei rebel groups against screening Hindi films in the State kept 'Mary Kom' away from local theatres. That means, Mary's innumerable fans in Manipur could not watch

the film on theatres, and chief minister Ibobi Singh just could not help on the matter! On the contrary, some unscrupulous traders started selling pirated versions of the film copied on cheap DVDs and made money, much to the consternation of the legend herself. Again, Ibobi Singh couldn't do much on this front either! One simply can't understand the logic of the rebels who prevented even the 'Mary Kom' screening in Manipur, a film about a struggling boxer from the State who made it big on the international stage.

If Bollywood film producers have not made any effort whatsoever to reason it out with the rebels or their over-ground supporters or groups to lift the ban on Hindi film screenings, the civil society in Manipur, too, does not seem to have done anything to try and lift the rebel ban for 'Mary Kom' the film. The ban has adversely impacted on Manipuri actors who have been bagging fairly good roles in Hindi films but are unable to take up the offers because of fear of a rebel backlash. The rebels look at the Hindi film industry as a symbol of the Indian mainstream who they feel are backing such draconian laws like the AFSPA. It is up to the producers and the Government to sort things out. The rebels too must see reason if they think they represent the people's aspirations.

(The Sentinel 29.09.2014)

Getting Back Slush Money

- MV Kamath

How much Indian money is stashed in foreign banks, notably in Switzerland? Assessment varies. One figure mentioned in The Hindu of 20 June, is to the amount of Rs.14, 000 crore. The funds held by Indians in banks abroad reportedly rose by 40 per cent during 2013. Data released by Switzerland's central banking authority, the Swiss National Bank showed the slashed money amounted to Rs.13, 650 crore or 6.5 billion Swiss Francs. The Hans India (24 June) put the figure at Rs. 692,328 crore. As the paper put it, "It is just the tip of iceberg." It said: "The amount is so huge, if it is brought back, the Centre would be able to run successfully without anyone paying taxes for the next twenty years. According to an earlier figure mentioned by The Indian Express (15 Sep. 2010) a whopping Rs 125 billion dollars of public money has been siphoned off from India by corrupt politicians and officials between 2000 and 2008.

According to the paper, "much of the funds flowing out are generated at home within India and then sent illegally abroad". Just one Indian businessman, Pune-based Hasan Ali Khan had declared in October 2011 a mind-boggling figure of Rs 1.10 lakh crore stashed abroad over eight years, a little less, according to the Deccan Herald "than the country's defence budget for 2009-2010 which was Rs 1,41,700 crore. The Hindustan times (29 May 2011) quoted the Global Financial Integrity as saying that Indians had stashed away about Rs 28 lakh crore in overseas tax havens between 1948 and 2008.

Presently the size of the black money economy is estimated to be one third of the current GDP.

Actually a BJP report in 2001 had estimated India's black money to be worth between Rs 30 lakh crore and Rs 84 lakh crore. The Hindustan Times noted: These sums, compared to India's total annual welfare spending of about Rs. 2 lakh crore are staggering. If hidden incomes of Rs 25 lakh crore were to be disclosed and taxed at 30 per cent, it would generate Rs 8.5 lakh crore, enough to build a 2,000-super specialty hospital in each of India's 624 districts". And to that the paper added. "Alternately, it could offer a 'zero-tax' year for all individuals and companies and still enable a sufficient budget that funds all expenses, including salaries and welfare schemes". A crack-down on India's grey economy has long been overdue and the time has come to hold it to account with a firm grip". And this has been recently made possible by the Modi government which announced the setting up a high level Special Investigation Team (SIT) under instruction from the Supreme Court. The SIT will be headed by a former Supreme Court judge, Justice M.B. Shah and another retired Supreme Court Judge; Justice Arijit Pasayat would be its vice-chairman. The SIT will have high profile government officials like the Revenue Secretary, deputy Governor of Reserve bank of India, Director of Intelligence Bureau, Director of Enforcement Directorate, Director, Central Board of Investigation (CBI), chief of Research and Analyses Wing

(RAW), chairman of the central Board of Direct Taxes and Director of Financial Intelligence as members.

Already the Government of India has written a strong letter to the concerned Swiss authorities demanding names of Indian depositors in Swiss banks. The general belief is that the Swiss will not oblige, come what may. The SIT has been told to keep the Supreme Court informed about all major developments by filing periodic status reports and to follow special orders that the Court itself may issue from time to time. The SIT, however, has its limitations. This was recently pointed out by a senior advisor to Tax justice Network, a well-known global organization who has been quoted as saying that the "effectiveness of special investigation teams would depend on both their access to data concerning tax evaders, some of whom might be the political and financial elite. Writing in Bharatiya Pragnia (June 2014), Ram Jethmalani has quoted a German magazine (11 November 1991) as saying that Rajiv Gandhi was among 14 Third World politicians who had stashed their booty in Swiss banks. According to Jethmalani, "by now Sonia family's inheritance must have swollen to nearly 10 billion dollars". Writes Jethmalani; "What is more disconcerting and disgraceful is that creditable evidence has emerged that many Indians politicians and leaders of the Corporate World and humble benaamidars (cover for real thieves) have stashed away a mind-boggling sum of 1,500

billion dollars in secret foreign accounts equivalent to about 750 lakh crore. In that same magazine S.Gurumurthy has quoted archives of the Russian spy outfit KGB that the Gandhi family has accepted political pay offs from the KGB which, to Gurumurthy amounts to “a clear case of treason, beside the bribe”.

Based on 4 July 1992 leaks, The Hindu, as quoted by Gurumurthy reported that “the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service admits the possibility that the KGB could have been involved in arranging profitable Soviet contract for the company controlled by Rajiv Gandhi family”. Gurumurthy additionally notes. “As early as February 2008, the German authorities had collected information about illegal money

kept by citizens of different countries in Lichtenstein Bank. The German Finance Minister offered to provide the names of account holders to any government interested in the names of its citizens. There were media reports that some 250 Indian names were found in the Lichtenstein Bank list. Meanwhile will Swiss bank oblige? A new OECD Declaration paves the way for access to information on bank accounts in tax havens like Switzerland but, according to Frontline (June 2014) it is “still skewed in favour of tax havens”. The SIT has a tough job ahead but at least it can get information as to how many of our politicians et al have in recent times made trips to Geneva and for how long a period.

What is our Embassy in Geneva doing when Indians are noticed entering Swiss bank premises right in front of their noses? Or is it that the embassy staff couldn't care less? Surely, Indians wouldn't be going for howsoever long a stay in the Swiss capital, to enjoy masala dosa and dahi vada?

(Note: MV Kamath passed away at Manipal, Karnataka on Thursday. This is his last article for The Sentinel.)

(The Sentinel 11.10.2014)

M.V. Kamath, a stalwart in Nationalist Journalism is no more. We pray God for eternal peace of the Soul.

- All Admirers from *Heritage Explorer*.

India has the third largest ecological footprint: Report

Tuesday, 30 September 2014: After China and USA, India has the third largest ecological footprint in the world, according to a report released on Tuesday.

China's share of ecological footprint, which is a measure humanity's demand on the planet, is a massive 19 %, followed by USA's 13.7 % and India at 7.1 %, The Living Planet Report 2014 said. The top five countries, which includes Brazil and Russia, make up about half the global total.

“Humanity currently needs the regenerative capacity of 1.5 earths to provide the ecological goods and services we use each year,” the report brought out by WWF and Global Footprint Network said.

China is ranked 76th in its per capita footprint but has the world's biggest national population and hence has the planet's largest national footprint. India shifts from having the 136th largest footprint per capita to the third largest in total after multiplying population with per capita demand.

“The report underlines the importance of the choices we are making every day and their impact on the planet. It is imperative to take steps to ensure that all future development is sustainable,” Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India commented on the report.

As per the report the population of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and

reptiles have declined by 52 % in the 40-year period. It also highlights the dire situation of local populations due to increasing water scarcity and the alarming situation of depleting ground water resources and aquifers in countries like India, Australia and the United States.

These three countries with the highest water footprint also contain eight of the top ten most populous river basins experiencing almost year-round scarcity, a problem that is likely only to get compounded by climate change, population growth and developmental imperatives, the report added.

(<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-india-has-the-third-largest-ecological-footprint-report-2022612>)

Is the Nobel peace prize a message for terrorists, hardliners?

- Arun Kumar

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct, 2014 : As the world feted India's Kailash Satyarthi and Pakistan's Malala Yousufzai on winning the Nobel peace prize, some analysts called it a message to terrorists while others feared it could backfire.

Calling the two "South Asia's Peace Heroes," Alyssa Ayres, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, thought the Nobel committee clearly "views the hard work of education and children's rights as vital components in making South Asia a more peaceful place."

But noting "a long history of India-Pakistan civil society collaboration to try to overcome tensions in the region, she wrote: "the Nobel Committee's message isn't for those already seized with the importance of normalizing India-Pakistan relations."

"It's for those who would prevent better ties from ever developing between India and Pakistan, and who work to disrupt peace efforts when they are underway," Ayers wrote.

"It's for known terrorists like Al Qaeda and the Taliban, Lashkar-

e-Taiba, the Haqqani Network, and myriad others."

"These groups, despite UN sanctions and sanctions under applicable US laws, remain at large in Pakistan, and particularly in the case of Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed, who regularly holds public rallies against India and the United States," she noted.

"It's these groups whose continued existence creates the ever-present threat of another attack on India, casting a shadow over every effort to try to make peace," Ayers wrote.

Noting that "In some quarters of Pakistan, Yousafzai has become a symbol of Western interference in the country," Groll wrote that "huge international profile does not necessarily translate into change on the ground in Pakistan."

"If anything, those in Pakistan who are hostile toward Yousafzai may only harden in their opposition now that she has received the Peace Prize. That may set her work back more than it advances her cause," he wrote.

The influential New York Times

noted "Reaching across gulfs of age, gender, faith, nationality and even international celebrity," the Nobel Committee had "joined a teenage Pakistani known around the world with an Indian veteran of campaigns to end child labour."

The Washington Post also suggested the Nobel Committee "had renewed attention on one of the world's most durable and dangerous standoffs by splitting its annual peace prize between a teenage Pakistani activist and a greying Indian Gandhian."

"The richly symbolic selection brings together individuals who took very different paths to the award, but who hold much in common in their outspoken advocacy for the rights of children," it wrote.

"The pick also reaches across ethnic, religious and political lines to kindle new hopes for peace on the South Asian subcontinent," the Post wrote noting "a tense showdown" between India and Pakistan "has featured four major wars over 67 years."

(<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/is-the-nobel-peace-prize-a-message-for-terrorists-hardliners/articleshow/44780977.cms>)

Jobless Population in Assam: A Time Bomb

According to statistics of the employment exchange offices in the state, Assam has as many as 16,77,192 registered jobless people – 11,76,898 males and 5,00,294 females. One has to keep in mind that there are also jobless people who have not registered their names in the employment exchange offices. The statistics is even more horrible when categorized. As many as 2,04,333 of the 16,77,192 jobless people in the state are unskilled, who even do not have any educational qualification. While 505 jobless people of the state have medical qualifications, 5,058 have engineering qualifications, 385 have qualifications in veterinary science, 2,67,951 graduates, 16,179 postgraduates, 1,077 have qualifications in Agriculture Science, 5,14,309 HS passed, 596476 HSLC passed, 9763 diploma holders, 23155 with ITI certificates, and others. Of the 16,77,192 jobless in the state, 102342 belong to the SC category, 270561 belong to ST and 358142 belong to OBC, and the rest are general.

(The Sentinel 10.09.2014)

Demographic Changes

As in the two earlier census operations, this time too the Census of India has taken three long years to provide the nation with the breakup of changes in the population along religious lines. This avoidable but deliberate delay in publishing the religious breakup of the population has come in for a great deal of criticism in the past. What made matters worse was that after the Census of 1991 the government of India sought to prevent the demographic changes from being made public even though the breakup of the population along religious lines had come up in Parliament only three years after the census operations. Thereafter, the government made desperate and unethical attempts to revise the figures relating to the abnormal increase in the Muslim population in Assam as well as in Jammu and Kashmir. As a further step to prevent people knowing the actual state of affairs in these two States, these figures were no longer available to the public. In fact, there were even veiled strictures against the Census of India for having published the religion-wise breakup even three years after the census operations. We have had occasion in the past to draw the government's attention to the fact that the religion-wise breakup of the population is the most elementary bit of demographic information relating to any country in the world that is published every year in the World Almanac. There is no government in the world that is as touchy about this information being made public as the government of India is.

The reason for this is not far to seek. The census operations of 1991, 2001 and 2011 have clearly revealed an unusual rise in the Muslim population of the country (especially in States like Assam and West Bengal and in particular in the districts bordering Bangladesh.) Had this higher increase in the Muslim population of the country been due to a higher fertility rate among the indigenous Muslims of the country, there would have been no real cause for alarm except for the discriminatory privilege of polygamy extended to the Muslims of India even though ours is claimed to be a secular republic. However, it is an established fact that there are very few Indian Muslims who are polygamous. By contrast, virtually every immigrant Muslim male from Bangladesh has been found to be polygamous and there is widespread belief that this is a deliberate and calculated move to increase the Muslim population of the country at a far faster pace. In any case, what has proved to be unbearably embarrassing for the government is that the higher rate of growth in the Muslim population of India is a clear indicator of large-scale illegal immigration still taking place from Bangladesh despite the Assam Accord of 1985 that had stipulated a new cut-off date for migrants from Pakistan or erstwhile Pakistan (Bangladesh) of March 25, 1971 in violation of the cut-off date step stipulated for migrants from Pakistan under Article 6 of the Indian Constitution. According to the census of 2011, the population of Assam was

31,169,272—16.93 per cent higher than the population of 2001, which was 26,638,407. **According to the latest breakup, the Muslim population of Assam has recorded a seven per cent increase. However, the 16.93 per cent increase in the population and the seven per cent increase in the Muslim population speak only of the average. In eight of the 27 districts of Assam, there was a significant rise in the decadal population growth, and the districts of Dhubri, Goalpara, Barpeta, Morigaon, Nagaon and Hailakandi recorded growth rates ranging from 20 per cent to 24 per cent during the last decade. There is now no need for any further proof that despite the provisions of the Assam Accord and the new cut-off date for migrants from Pakistan to Assam, large-scale illegal migration from Bangladesh has been taking place even today.** This is amply proved by the fact that the fertility rate for Assam is fractionally lower than the fertility rate for India. The high rate of population growth in several districts of Assam has been possible only through large-scale illegal immigration and the discriminatory privilege of polygamy that the illegal migrants from Bangladesh have taken full advantage of.

(The Sentinel 03.09.2014)

The al-Qaeda Announcement

- DN Bezboruah

Last Thursday, al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri announced the creation of the South Asian Branch of his outfit to “raise the flag of jihad” in the Indian subcontinent. Zawahiri, who succeeded Osama bin Laden after he was killed in Pakistan, made this declaration in a 55 minute video posted online. According to a BBC report, he also pledged renewed loyalty to Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Omar. In the 55 minute video, al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri addresses listeners in parts of the region with large Muslim populations, ensuring Muslims “in Burma, Bangladesh, Assam, Gujarat, Ahmedabad and Kashmir that your brothers” in the militant organisation “did not forget you and that they are doing what they can to rescue you.” He said that the new branch had been two years in the making.

Lest we get carried away by Zawahiri’s statement, it is important to reflect on the fact that what the video is saying is not new. The al-Qaeda propaganda from 2001 onwards has been making the same exhortation to encourage the more emphatic constituency to support al-Qaeda. It will be recalled that Osama bin Laden too had also made a similar reference to Al Hind. Besides, so far there has been no evidence that the al-Qaeda has a presence in Assam or anywhere else in the rest of India. The other noteworthy aspect of the al-Qaeda threat is that it is a much weaker organization now than it was under the leadership of Osama bin Laden and that its influence is

confined to Afghanistan and the border areas between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It neither has the numbers, the required mobility for swift terrorist attacks nor local units to pose any serious threat to the security of the subcontinent.

However, all this can be built up in course of time with the assistance of the ISI of Pakistan that is only too happy to provide support for any terrorist activities against India. What is far more significant perhaps is the timing of the statement. In the first place, the video was released around the time when the Narendra Modi Government was completing 100 days in office. The release of the video has also come close on the heels of the brutalities unleashed by the Sunni jihadi group called Islamic State. The video also has come just days ahead of the anniversary of the 9/11 carnage. And the fact remains that the al-Qaeda regards Narendra Modi as the greatest enemy of the Muslims, and the decision to extend its roots to India stems from this perception.

There is no denying that the latest al-Qaeda statement comes as a major threat for Assam. This threat has little to do with the powers of the al-Qaeda and much more to do with the inherent weakness of our State administration. In other words, if the al-Qaeda does succeed in its objectives in Assam, it will not be due to its inherent strength but rather due to Assam projecting the image of a failed State. Here is a government that has completely

failed the people. Here is a government that has, for decades, permitted and encouraged the large-scale illegal immigration of people from Bangladesh. The al-Qaeda should find it very easy to pick its operators from this huge alien Islamic population. Here is a government that has totally failed to protect its territory from the neighbouring States. As a result, Assam has lost over 66,000 hectares of land to Nagaland alone. Over the decades, the role of the Assam Police in safeguarding the territory of Assam has been pathetic, and the State Government had evinced perverse callousness to the oppression and misery that our people have suffered at the hands of Naga militants in being evicted from their own homes or in having to be mute witnesses to their homesteads being set on fire and their kith and kin being killed. Here is a government that has turned a blind eye on the abnormal increase in crimes like murder, rape, robbery and extortion. And yet, officers of the same government have claimed that Assam is ready to thwart attacks by fundamentalist groups. If the people of Assam have not failed to learn their lessons from past experiences, they should know that such statements emanating from the officials of the Assam Government need to be taken with a large helping of salt. The Assam Government appears to know the difference between threats issued by fundamentalist groups and ‘extremist’ groups. Its officers have said that even without the

help of heavy arms and ammunition, fundamentalist groups can do more damage compared to the damage done by militant terrorists groups. There is no denying the veracity of a statement like this. Unarmed fundamentalists have a free run of the State anyway, and because they are unarmed the authorities take no notice of them. In any case, not to speak of the Bangladeshis, our State Government has never taken any notice of the Afghan moneylenders moving freely in the State without passports or any documents to prove their nationality. Some of them have even got married to local women. Over the last four or five decades, there has been no instance of any Afghan moneylender being arrested for his illegal presence in the State. Likewise, there are countless Kashmiris selling carpets door-to-door. No one in the State seems to be aware of how many separatist Kashmiris could be among these carpet-sellers.

Since countering funda-

mentalist groups is a far more difficult task than apprehending terrorists, the State administration will have to rely very much on intelligence reports. There also has to be far more efficient and speedy intelligence sharing than we have had in the past. Unfortunately, in India the most prominent reasons for our failure to prevent terrorist activities are failure to secure information in time, unwillingness of one intelligence agency to share information with another and our flat-footed response to information. All three reasons have been responsible for our failure to prevent terrorist activities or Pakistani attacks across the border. For instance, the report about the existence of a 50-metre-long underground corridor across the India-Pakistan border came to light only a few weeks ago. For all we know, this corridor could have existed for several years to facilitate repeated Pakistani attacks across the border. The fallout of such failure to take intelligence reports seriously and to act on such

information with speed and purposefulness was evident in Pakistan's attack on Mumbai on November 26, 2008.

It is for such reasons and such intelligence failures that one shudders to think of what might happen in the event of al-Qaeda's attacks in Assam and its eventual annexation of the State ' despite a unified command of administration being in place. Our experience tells us what we can reasonably expect from our security forces and intelligence agencies when the al-Qaeda moves in and begins to work on the mindsets of our immigrant youths with the stated goals of jihad and zannat. When this happens, all talk of development (we only talk of it; for over three decades we have had no industrial development in the State) will get replaced by a well-charted plan of hatred and intolerance that goes by the name of jihad. It is time for swift and purposeful action if we are to save Assam and India.

(The Assam Tribune 09.09.2014)

“Adopt a Village”

New Delhi, October 11: Adopt a village, but make sure it is not yours or your in-law's — this was the pithy message that Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed to parliamentarians here on Saturday — but with tinge of humour. At an event to launch the MP's model village scheme here, Modi exhorted MPs to adopt any kind of village and turn it into a model of development. He said the village should have a population of around 3,000–5,000 and that other guidelines have been provided in separate booklets. “There is just one condition. Please ensure that you don't adopt your own villages or your in-law's villages,” the prime minister said drawing peals of laughter from the audience. The scheme envisages each member of parliament adopts three villages and turns them into models of development by 2019. There are more than 600,000 villages in India and a little less than 800 MPs. If each MP adopts three villages then almost 2,400 villages can be developed into model villages by 2019. Under the Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), each MP has the choice to suggest to the district collector work to the tune of Rs 5 crore per annum to be taken up in his or her constituency. Asking every MP to adopt a village and work for its development, Modi said: “Whichever party the MP belongs to, he or she has to keep working among people and spend a lot of his time to get work done for the government.” Many MPs, including those from the Congress, attended the launch programme.

(The Sentinel 12.10.2014)

Sankardeva is the Greatest Assamese : Dr Bora

Shambhu Boro

Pokamorapothar, Jamugurihat, Feb 25 – “If I am asked to name the greatest personality of Assam who has contributed most to Assamese life and culture, I would definitely take the name of Srimanta Sankardeva. I am sure my compatriots of the State would not differ on my choice, for there is none in the history of Assam who has exercised so much influence on the Assamese way of life, culture, literature and religion as Sankardeva has done,” said noted littérateur Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora at Jamugurihat on Feb 25 while releasing the souvenir of Barechaharia Bhaona Mahutsav titled Bhaona Mahutsab.

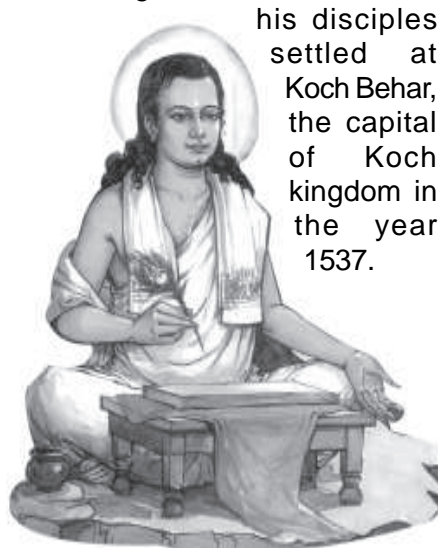
Dr Bora said in fact, without Sankardeva’s noble contributions, Assamese culture and literature would not have been what it is today.

The footprints of this Mahapurush (great soul) are still visible in the present-day Assam. Sankardeva, after noticing the sorrows and unrest among the mankind, set out on a pilgrimage to north India seeking wisdom and knowledge, and met the famous saint Kabir of north India as well as many sages and wise men.

Dr Bora, urging all concerned to build up a peaceful society said, “The Mahapurusha stood against the meaningless rites and rituals of the day and preached a simple faith to the people that is still popular among the people as the Ek Sharan Naama Dharma, (chanting of the name of one God devotedly).

“For him the worship of the idols of numerous gods and goddesses was unnecessary as the same Supreme Soul exists in all human

beings. He taught that devotion, not salvation is the aim of all human life. He also opposed vehemently all class distinctions and man-made social barriers. Ultimate emphasis was placed on singing and reciting of Bhajans. For this purpose, he wrote a book named Kirtan Ghosha which till today has remained a priceless gem of Vaishnava thoughts. In the task of establishing the new faith, he was helped by his disciples Madhabdev, Damodar Dev, Haridev, etc.,” Dr Bora said and added that after having set up the new cult on a strong footing in the Ahom kingdom, Sankardeva with



his disciples settled at Koch Behar, the capital of Koch kingdom in the year 1537.

After a long earthly sojourn of 118 years, Sankardeva breathed his last in the year 1568 leaving behind a trail of immortal fame. Today Srimanta Sankardeva is remembered not only as a great religious reformer and preacher, but also as a great scholar and a renowned writer. Sankardeva greatly enriched Assamese language and literature and raised it to a high, his main works including Harish Chandra Upakhyaana, Rukminiharana

Kavya, Gunamala, Bali-Chalana, Amritha-Manthana, Gajendra Upakhayana, Kuruskshetra, Ramavijayanta and Kirtan Ghosha. Kirtan Ghosha, the book of songs based on Bhagavad-Purana is the bible of Assamese Vaishnavism. It is not simply a book, rather it is a document of keeping the people spiritually and communally united, which is reflected here on the platform of Barechaharia Bhaona.

“I must say here that his Bhakti Ratnakar is a masterpiece in Sanskrit exposing his wide learning and profound scholarship. His concept of Satra and Nam ghar has revolutionised social life in Assam. Sankardeva is also credited to have developed a new type of dance form called Satriya. His dramatic works such as Rukminiharan, Parijat Haran, Kaliyadamana, etc., have raised Assamese literature to great heights. His fight against social demarcation of the time will go down as another lasting legacy of this great soul for which today Assam and the Assamese people can never forget the noble contributions of this great son of the soil.

“Assam is yet to produce a man of his intellectual depth, legacy and greatness. He has made the Assamese people pulsate with a new culture, a new faith and a new social order. The Renaissance in Assamese culture and literature initiated by Srimanta Sankardeva continues to echo throughout the length and breadth of Assam even today,” Dr Bora maintained.

(<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=feb2613/state05>)

CNCI convention asserts preserving the identity and culture of Chakmas

SILCHAR, September 2: In pursuance of resolution adopted in All India Chakma Convention at Silchar on the July 26 and the July 27, 2014, the State Level Organizing Committee of Chakma National Council of India (CNCI) convened a two-day All Mizoram Chakma Convention in the Art and Culture Hall of Kamalanagar, the headquarters of Chakma Autonomous Council on the August 30 and August 31, 2014 for constitution of Mizoram State Unit Executive Committee of CNCI and deliberate upon some of the pressing issues pertaining to Chakmas of Mizoram.

The convention observed and declared that the Chakmas in Mizoram are indigenous residents of the western part of the State of Mizoram. As per Chakma 'Bijok', chronicle, which has been passed from generation to generation both in written form and orally and the record maintained in Chakma Rajnama, the western belt of the present State of Mizoram, where the Chakmas have been residing since time immemorial, has been a part and parcel of Chakma Kingdom 'Chadigang' (Chittagong Hill Tracts).

The very fact corroborates with a range of British and Indian government records in the form of official correspondences, imperial, provincial gazetteers, books written by the British officials and scholars. Certain extracts from the documents would prove the veracity of the fact that the western part of

present Mizoram was a part of pre-British Chakma kingdom, "Chadigang" or the present Chittagong.

The existence of the Chakmas on the bank of Karnafulee, Tuichawng and Thega appeared in the written records of the British in 1763 AD when the East India Company demarcated Chakma territory. The Bengal Government demarcated the boundaries of Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) in 1873 based upon the surveys made in 1872-1873 by Captain Badely and Cooke. This could be verified from the Hand Book of Lushai Country by Capt OA Chamber in 1899. However, the boundaries of CHT along with Lushai Hills was revised in 1891 and the areas having Chakma concentration in the present Mizoram State were transferred and annexed to the erstwhile South Lushai Hills. This could be testified from the Governor-General-in-Councils' proclamation on April 1, 1898.

These government records conclusively establish that if there was no revision of boundaries, transfer and annexation of land along with the people living there for the administrative conveniences of the then British India Government, the map of India including the present State of Mizoram would have been different.

The convention also observed that before the advent of British rule, the tribes in North East India and CHT having distinct ethnic identity, culture and tradition

enjoying sovereignty through evolving a sort of administrative system to rule their respective kingdom according to their own genius. The British India Government also recognized the introduction of a separate system of administration from that of mainland India by adopting terms like backwards tract, excluded area, partially excluded area. In Independent India those very areas and people living there are allowed to enjoy 'autonomy' though in various degrees except the Chakmas in the districts of Lunglei and Mamit. It is the expressed opinion of the meeting that the non-inclusion of the Chakma villages in Lunglei and Mamit district while creating Chakma Autonomous District Council in 1972 is against the principles of natural justice.

The convention strongly condemned the unjust Sir Cyrill Redcliff award of Bengal Boundary Commission which awarded the CHT to Pakistan with more than 97 per cent non-Muslims against the principles on which the Boundary Commission was set up. The Cyrill Redcliff award which was announced after two days of India's Independence cut short the happiness of the people of CHT who have actually hoisted the Indian National Flag at Rangamati with the rest of India. The unjust Sir Cyrill Redcliff award made the Chakmas one of the worst victims of partition. The convention pledged to make all out efforts to bring the historic injustice afresh before the world community so

that it can be rectified and also ratified as well.

The meeting also elaborately sensitized the delegates on the burning issue of infiltration of foreign nationals. Chakma villages in Mizoram being situated in extreme international border of Bangladesh, the Chakmas should be vigilant and extend necessary assistance to the authorities concerned of the State government to check illegal infiltration.

In an e-mail to The Sentinel from Kamlanagar by Dangu Abhinash Chakma, publicity secretary, State unit of CNCI, it was further conveyed that the convention also discussed at length on the other socio-economic related problems such as—Chakma customary laws, imparting education in mother-tongue (Changmha) in all schools

of Chakma villages' up to elementary stage. It was resolved to formulate necessary plan and programme for solution of such problems.

At the end of the convention, a pledge was made that "Chakma nationalism" shall be the guiding force for all round upliftment of the Chakma community, and also achieving the aims and objects of the CNCI. Further, all legal, democratic and constructional tools within the frame-work of the Indian Constitution shall be used for achieving its aims and objects.

A total of 493 delegates from more than 212 villages and towns representing political parties, NGOs, village councils and intellectuals from different parts of Mizoram participated in the convention many of whom took part in deliberations and decision making process. The Mizoram

State Unit of CNCI was constituted included Rasik Mohan Chakma, ex-MLA, CEM, as president, Nirupam Chakma, ex-Congress minister and MLA, and Surath Kumar Chakma, retd MCS officer, as vice-presidents, Amar Smriti Chakma secretary, Purna Chandra Chakma, assistant secretary and Doyal Dewan treasurer, Abinash Chakma publicity secretary, Indralal Chakma chief organiser, Kali Kumar Tongchangya, Chandra Ketu Chakma, Ranga sur Chakma, Bijoy Kusum Chakma and Dulal Chandra Chakma as organisers, Dok Muni Chakma, Prasana Kumar Chakma, Arun Moy Chakma, Probin Bikash Chakma, Nilo Ranjan Chakma, Ranjan Kumar Chakma member finance and Shanti Jeeban Chakma, district president BJP as one of the advisors.

(The Sentinel 03.09.2014)

Bihar CM Manjhi for Raising Marriage Age to 25

Patna, October 13, 2014: Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi on Monday favoured raising the marriage age to 25 in tune with "Ashrama system" prescribed in Hindu philosophy for good health and getting rid of the problem of malnutrition.

The present permissible age of marriage for boys is 21 years while for girl its 18 year.

"I belief marriage age for both boy and girl be raised to 25 in accordance with the age old tradition of Ashrama system," Manjhi told reporters on the sidelines of "Janata ke Darbar me Mukhya Mantri" programme.

The Ashrama system divides life into four stages on the basis

of age.

The first stage is "Brahmacharya" (celibacy) till the age of 24. Second one is "Grihastha" from 24-48, then "Vanaprastha" (48-72) and finally "Sannyasa" (72 till demise).

There was sound reasoning for categorisation of stages in the Shastras, he said and attributed the ills of health problem, population explosion and malnutrition due to violation of the age-old practise.

"Why height of an average person has come down to 5 feet from earlier 7 feet?" he asked and attributed it to early marriage.

The 70-year-old CM cited his own example and said he got



married after 25 and that's the reason even at this age he does not take any medicine.

"Lifting marriage age to 25 will solve the problems of bad health and malnutrition among women and infants prevalent in society today," he said.

(<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/jitan-ram-manjhi-bihar-cm-marriage-age-ashrama-system/1/395565.html>)

Nagaland under silent siege by illegal immigrants

- Imlisanen Phom, Dimapur, Nagaland

Nagaland has become the new Mecca for the illegal immigrants mostly Muslims from Bangladesh. The illegal immigrants view Nagaland especially Dimapur as a land of opportunity just as the world views United States as the land of opportunity. Once the illegal immigrants arrive in Dimapur, here they find food, security, shelter and above all plenty of jobs plus free education for their kids in Government school. Even an illegal immigrant in USA does not enjoy the kind of privileges the illegal Bangladeshis enjoy once they enter Nagaland. They are coming to Nagaland in thousands. It reminds me of the California Gold Rush (1848-1855) where legal and illegal immigrants rushed to California in search of gold to live the American dream, which gave the opportunity for many illegal immigrants like the Mexicans who worked as laborers to become permanent settlers after the gold rush was over. Just like that thousands of illegal Bangladeshis are pouring in as workers for construction and all kinds of work, and just like many workers who go to United states don't want to come back after being in US for few months or years, so does these illegal immigrants mostly Muslims don't want to go back and end up staying here in Nagaland, thus becoming a permanent resident of Nagaland. The illegal

Immigrants in Nagaland are living the American dream. If we do not deport them Dimapur risks becoming "Bangladespur", just like California risk becoming "Maxifornia" because of the huge inflow of illegal Mexicans into California in search of the American Dream even today.

The illegal Bangladeshis mostly Muslims rape our sisters and kill our brother at night and during the day go about threatening our brothers and doing their business like nothing has happened. Even after killing

locality would have to flee if they love their lives. Can any Naga after killing another Naga walk about in the same locality at night like the illegal immigrants do after they kill and rape our brothers and sisters here in Nagaland? If any Naga kills another Naga there is great chance of tribal civil war, we already had few in the past, but how come when an illegal immigrant mostly Muslims kill or rape our sister and threaten our brother there is not even a fake drama? Does the life of a Naga girl raped by an illegal immigrant have no value for justice, or the

death of a Naga brother by an illegal immigrant is not a death. Righteous anger should be demonstrated by Nagas when such crimes are committed by these illegal

immigrants, they must be by sent back to where they came from.

These illegal Muslims do not have the slightest respect for Allah. I am sure the Koran never teaches to rape or to kill and threaten others. The illegal Muslims are a shame for the legal Muslims in Nagaland who are honest and Allah fearing Muslims. True meaning of Muslim means the one who surrenders to the law of Allah. I believe every true Muslim would agree that judging by inhuman behavior of these illegal Muslim they are not even fit to be called Muslims. The illegal Immigrants are like crows who don't build their nest but comes

Can any Naga after killing or raping a Muslim girl in a Muslim populated area in India still sleep peacefully or go about doing business in the same area or locality?

threatening and killing our brother in cold blood and raping our sisters they still can sleep like baby and have the guts to walk around during day and even at night without any fear in full Muslim "white" dress and cap in the same villages or locality where our brother was killed or where our sister was raped and our brother was threatened. Why and how can they do that? Can any Naga after killing or raping a Muslim girl in a Muslim populated area in India still sleep peacefully or go about doing business in the same area or locality? Not a chance, not only the Naga who killed or raped the Muslim girl must flee but all Nagas' in that

and occupies other nest and claims as their own. The worst thing is that we cannot differentiate between a legal and an illegal Muslim in Nagaland. They all look the same dress the same and they all have all the required documents to prove that they are legal Indians. The truth is that these illegal Immigrants have more documents than an ordinary Indian have to prove that they are Indian; according to number of documents they

have, they are more Indian than any legal Indians. Let us compares Dimapur to the New York city in the united States. Just like in New York illegal g a n g s t e r s controls the city business, there is a great probability that most of the big shots controlling the market in Dimapur are

illegal immigrants. Take for example the new market area, the Hazi Park and Hong Kong market where illegal Muslims thrive and survive calls the shots. It is possible that the legal Muslims in the New market are leaving Dimapur seeing the influx of illegal Muslims coming into Dimapur. Call it a divine revelation; I noticed a very interesting thing in the new market area. There are all kinds of vegetables and meats sold in the New market area including beef just few meters away from a Hindu temple, yet have you ever seen pork being sold there? Why no pork? Is it because its Muslim

populated area? Is it because there is a Mosque? Well then, what about the beef sold just few meters away from the Hindu temple in the new market area? If beef is sold few meters away form a Hindu temple why can possibly go wrong in selling pork just few meters away form a Mosque? Besides for Muslims pig is an unclean animal but for Hindu cow is not just holy but worshiped as God and yet cows are butchered

If beef is sold few meters away form a Hindu temple why can possibly go wrong in selling pork just few meters away form a Mosque? Besides for Muslims pig is an unclean animal but for Hindu cow is not just holy but worshiped as God and yet cows are butchered just few meters away form the Hindu temple by none other than the Muslims.

just few meters away form the Hindu temple by none other than the Muslims. I think there should be a pork shop right where they sell mutton in the new market area, it would be convenient for all customers that way we can get all meat items from one spot. Anyways such kind of silent yet powerful control is exercised by the illegal Muslims in Dimapur (New market) and around Nagaland which is almost invisible to our eyes yet effective, I hope from now our eyes will be open and see things which we never see even if we see it.

I wonder what the illegal

Bangladeshis mostly Muslims are trying to tell us by killing, raping and threatening our brothers in our own promise land. Are they trying to strike fear in our hearts like the terrorist strike fear in the hearts of their victims, so that we will leave them alone and not bother them? Well In that case the sooner the illegal immigrants mostly Muslims understand that we are grandchildren of fearless headhunters, and that although

we were almost naked and had no m o d e r n weapons we defended our God given Land for the mighty British empire. The courage and skill of headhunter still lives in us today. The only thing that is keeping their heads on their shoulder is because we are Christians; and that Christ's love

compels us not to lash out in anger. However the illegal Bangladeshis should not take advantage of our new found faith in Christ and continue to rape, kill and threaten our sisters and brothers. For it would be a most unfortunate if we Nagas rise up to go for "an eye for an eye and a head for a head a rape for a rape". We should stand up and deport all illegal Immigrants regardless of their religious background even if an illegal immigrant is a Christian, because tomorrow they might claim our promise land as theirs like the present problem in Israel where the Palestinians are

claiming part of the Israel as theirs. We should not hesitate to:

1. Replace all illegal immigrants' farmers around Dimapur with tractors; one tractor in one village can do the work of 100 illegal immigrants.

2. Put up voluntary Night and day watch in every village and colony for any suspicious illegal immigrants illegal activity and any suspicious behavior for the safety of our girls and boys.

3. Remove all illegal immigrant school students from Government schools, 3 out of 5 kids is an illegal immigrants kid, illegal immigrants dump their kids in Government schools for free education. This will solve the midday meal problem, the text book shortage problems and the teacher's shortage problem; once they are removed, there will be plenty of food, textbooks and teachers left for legal kids. An Honest Indian taxpayer would be mad if he knows that his tax money is used to feed and educate thousands of illegal immigrant's children In Nagaland, while millions of legal Indians are without food, shelter and education.

Honestly educating an illegal immigrant with a cruel intention in their hearts is like sending a kid to school who was caught stealing in railway station when done with education he came back and stole the whole Train station because he used his education for evil cause.

4. ILP must be introduced in Dimapur in the next two hours, ILP free zone in Dimapur is like giving out free visas/ green cards by the American Government for any

one who wants it, who in his right mind would not want to go to America for free n live and earn freely? Duuuh. Without the ILP in Dimapur, Nagaland has very less chance in finding a solution for the illegal immigrants problem, with ILP we might just win. I wonder if this thought has ever crossed the minds of our home grown politicians specially our chief minister Mr. T.R.Zelliang.

5. House Construction companies in Nagaland should bring in more construction machineries and not illegal immigrants that way illegal migrant work force can be subtracted.

6. When the ILP gets started in Dimapur, which I believe will be done very soon, the same software used for Adhar card should be used to record the faces and the 10 finger prints and the eye print etc of the illegal immigrants before being deported from Nagaland; so that if they come in again they can be identified very easily and deported back again.(Their agents in Nagaland can make documents but they cannot change their finger prints and eye print, can they?)

The above-mentioned points may sound desperate and funny however desperate time calls for desperate measure. By the time you are done reading this article close to one thousand or even more illegal Bangladeshis immigrants have crossed into Assam yesterday, and more that thousand of illegal Bangladeshi mostly Muslims would have already come into Dimapur as work force loaded in Train today. Thousands of illegal immigrants are getting ready to start their

work or getting ready to retire for the day in and around Dimapur. More than 1000 Illegal immigrants will become legal Indians and permanent settlers in Dimapur today, after they get their documents through their agents which will prove that they are 110% legal Indians and that they or their parents have been in Nagaland since 1942 and it will not cost them even Rs 500.

The question is when do we start identifying and deporting them back? why cant that "when" be now? The inhuman way these illegal immigrants are treating us Nagas should be made abundantly visible. We are under attack in our own promise land. Let us sent a message to the illegal immigrates that we are not afraid of them, and that the death, rape and threatening of our sons and daughters has in fact given us a common cause to fight illegal immigrants, and have brought us together even more close. Thus the death, rape and threatening of our kinfolks was not in vain. A wise person learns more from his enemies than his friends. Let us not make the death and rape of our sons, brothers and daughter just another yesterdays emotions and forget the price they had to pay to teach us that we it is time to sent the illegal immigrants back to where they came from. Come let us reason and work together to make Nagaland safer for our sisters, brothers and Sons and daughters and our grandchildren. Lord Jesus Christ save us from the invaders (illegal immigrants). God bless our land our Nagaland.

(http://www.morungexpress.com/public_discourse_public_space/123359.html)

ILP system not very successful: Nagaland CM

KOHIMA, Oct 7 – The Inner Line Permit (ILP) required by outsiders to enter Nagaland and some other northeastern States has not been successful in tackling the influx of migrants or illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, says Chief Minister TR Zeliang. Assam also bears responsibility for the problem, he added.

“We cannot say it (ILP) is successful in implementation because the validity of the ILP is purely meant for tourists and those who come and visit Nagaland for a short period,” Zeliang told IANS in an interview.

“What about those migrant

labourers engaged in building or road construction in remote areas? They (labourers) cannot come back for renewal after a gap of 15 days. So they remain there for months and years together. Therefore, as far as the implementation part of ILP... we cannot say that it is successful,” he contended.

Zeliang’s stand assumes significance in the wake of the growing demands of civil society groups in neighbouring Manipur and even in Meghalaya by Hynniewtrep Youth Council, a splinter group of influential student body Khasi Student’s Union demanding implementation of the

British-era law to tackle the burgeoning influx and illegal migrants in these frontier states.

The permit system, which is still in force in Nagaland as well as Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, derives from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873, and entails issuance of official travel documents issued by the Central Government to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected/restricted area for a limited period.

The ILP, a British era regulation designed to preserve ethnicity and culture of the northeastern tribals,

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600-year-old Assamese manuscript from British Library to enrich Assamese vocabulary

JORHAT, October 10: Three old Assamese manuscripts found from the shelves of British Library by Assamese National Dictionary and Jatiya Bhavan activist Dr Raktim Ranjan Saikia would soon enrich Assamese vocabulary. This was disclosed in a press meet at Jatiya Bhavan here today.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Raktim Ranjan Saikia said, “The three manuscripts found in a single lot comprises of 169 fine handwritten barks on Xanchipat. The first of those is termed as the Pooran by the British Museum which purchased it from one T Rodd on January 8, 1842.

This manuscript authored by one Sridhar Kandali was patronized by Durlov Narayan, king of Kamatapur. Edward Gait has opined that the said king has ruled during the last part of the

13th century whereas other scholars place him between 13 and 14th centuries. As such the manuscripts take us back to the sixth century which makes its language and orthography a hot topic of research.

Dr Devabrata Sharma, chief editor of Assamese National Dictionary was enthused at this historic find. He said, “The orthography of all the three manuscripts are in consonance with that of the Jaduramispelling system based on literary works of Hem Saraswati and Sankardeva and followed by American missionaries like Brown and Bronson. Needless to say that simplistic orthography is now vigorously advocated by the Assamese National Dictionary”.

Further Dr Sharma said, “The first of the manuscript authored by

Sridhar Kandali comprises of 49 pages. The story of creation of three Hindu eras is narrated here. The second treatise comprises of dialogues between Siva and Parvati and it runs for 103 pages. The last of the treatise was authored by one Ram Chakraborti in 1744 AD, during the reign of Ahom King Pramatta Singha. Confined to 19 pages, it seems to be an abstract of another full book”.

Later, Dr Sharma demonstrated hundreds of words of the manuscripts which are written in simple orthography and informed that the legacy of simplistic orthography of Assamese vocabulary stands vindicated with this historic find.

Earlier, Dr Zakir Ahmed, a social activist, was felicitated for his contribution to the Jatiya Bhavan.

(The Sentinel 11.10.2014)

Operation Hail Storm a success

SHILLONG, September 4: The security forces' recent success against the multiple militant outfits operating in the five districts of Meghalaya is due to the new combat strategies where the State police special weapons and tactical (SWAT) and the specialised COBRA units of the CRPF could lay base inside the treacherous Durama forest range.

Durama Forest spreads West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills and South Garo Hills. It's a difficult and inaccessible terrain and forest known to be safe joint training ground of the proscribed Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) and the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), besides being a safe haven of splinter groups like ASAK and ANCA.

However, the forest, an area of retreat for the militants has 12 combined units of the SWAT and COBRA force occupying and staying in various locations as part of the counter insurgency operations code name "hailstorm"

launched in July this year. All of them are well equipped to go after the militants who are now on the run from their earlier safe haven.

"There are 10 SWAT guys and 50 COBRA men in each unit staying in each overran location and ready for any fresh operations", stated the Director General of Police (DGP) PJP Hannaman during an exclusive interaction with The Sentinel, even as he admitted that it is perpetually impossible to sanitise the entire inhospitable forest spanning in three districts.

The DGP said the militant's level of comfort has diminished after our men stay put in those purported safe sanctuary of the security force adversaries. Official data revealed the success story of the security forces, yet it coincided with a number of extortion and kidnapping in the smaller towns in the five districts of Garo Hills.

However, Hannaman said, "the senior leaders of these outfits have lost all contacts amongst

themselves after they were forced to scamper for new hideouts and they resorted to such mindless activities to sustain themselves and their own new recruits".

This hindsight came at a time when Garo hills has been consistently looking for divine blessings for peace through unaccounted prayer meetings and peace rallies. Sources said Williamnagar, Baghmara, Ampati, Resubelpara are death headquarters after 6 pm. Those who interacted with this correspondent said, "The people are good but it's advisable not to venture after dark".

Proliferation of new outfits in Garo Hills is nothing new in the past 18 months. The DGP refused to comment on this. Interestingly, another police source involved at the ground level operations against the GNLA, ASAK, UALA, LEAF, ANLA and ANCA said, "the more they are is better for us in terms of operations".

(The Sentinel 05.09.2014)

Now, joint church team extends support towards Assam-Nagaland border peace

Guwahati: At a time when all the efforts of the government seem to have failed to maintain peace along the Assam-Nagaland border, a joint peace mission team (JPMT) consisting of all the churches in the Northeast, has extended its support to bring peace in the region.

Thomes Menamparampil, Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati said that a number of representatives of the team are

trying to communicate with both the Adivasis and the tribes of Nagaland in the Disputed Area Belt (DAB) along the Assam-Nagaland border.

"Representing this team, we have met the communities on either side both Adivasis and the Nagas. What we have been trying to do is to invite them to localize the problem and revive the earlier inter-community relationship for their common benefit,"

Menamparampil told EC on Saturday, adding, "We have invited them to community prayers besides distributing several relief materials among the people from both the sides of the border and the DAB areas," "In most of the incidents, we have failed miserably; however, we have managed to get their cooperation. We are giving peace advice to them to them and lectures on

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Asom Gaurav Hem Boruah Remembered

NORTH GUWAHATI, Sept 4 – The multifaceted genius, Hem Boruah, also known as Asom Gaurav, whose birth centenary is being celebrated throughout the year and which will end on April 22, 2015, was remembered at his native land, North Guwahati, with much enthusiasm. Under the auspices of the North Guwahati Sahitya Sabha and the North Guwahati branch of the Hem Boruah Memorial Committee, a meeting was held on the occasion at the auditorium of North Guwahati College.

The function attended by several office-bearers of the central committee – Kumud Deka, Satyendra Prasad Deka, S Maheswari, Dr D Deka and Prof Dhiren Kalita – started with the illumination of earthen lamps and floral tributes at the portrait of the late mass leader. Madhusudan Medhi, secretary of the organising literary association, anchored the proceedings of the meeting.

After offering floral tributes to

the Asom Gaurav, educationist Manindra Kumar Boruah narrated in detail, the early history and cultural heritage of the North Guwahati people where five former presidents of the Asom Sahitya Sabha – Karmavir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi, Nalinibala Devi, Upendra Lekharu, Hem Boruah and Lakhyadhar Choudhury – were born.

The meeting was presided over by senior journalist and president of the North Guwahati Sahitya Sabha, Bhairab Sarmah. The secretary of the central committee, Kumud Deka, a writer of repute who first compiled a biography of the Asom Gaurav, stated how late Boruah contributed to various spheres in welfare-oriented politics and literature and also underwent two years' imprisonment during the 1942 Quit India movement.

Dr Satyendra Prasad Deka, S Maheswari and Dr A Deka urged the people to learn how the Asom Gaurav moulded himself to

become a leader of the masses.

The meet was made attractive by a singing performance by Chandra Das, retired headmaster, and the recitation of two poems by Bhairab Sarmah and Kamal Bora.

In his presidential speech, Sarmah narrated how Hem Boruah's father, Binandi Ram Sarma Boruah, a descendant of Madhyam Khanda, became an unavoidable part of the social life in the locality. Sarmah reminded the people how late Boruah could prove that Assam was not the "home of jungle people." His oratory skills and speeches even moved late Jawaharlal Nehru to a great extent, he added.

Gauri Kakati offered the vote of thanks at the end of the meeting.

(The Assam Tribune 05.09.2014)

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ILP system not very successful...

required all Indian citizens not usually residents of the area to secure a special permit for entering the border states and regions of the northeast.

Zeliang blamed Assam for the flow of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants into other northeastern States. "We have to blame Assam for the illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. They come through Assam only," said the Nagaland Chief Minister.

"In all the disputed areas with

its (Assam's) neighbouring States (Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram), adivasis (tribals) and Bangladeshi people are pumped in; there is no Assamese, no real Ahom people living in those disputed areas. Only Adivasis and Bangladeshis are there and that means it is through these places these illegal immigrants come to Nagaland as well," he contended.

"If Assam is strict (in tackling the illegal Bangladeshi immigrants issue), then the gateway is

closed. Therefore, the Assam Government should be more serious in this," Zeliang asserted.

Moreover, he said that the Naga People's Front-led Democratic Alliance of Nagaland Government, is also toying with an idea to formulate stringent laws to tackle the burgeoning illegal Bangladeshi immigrants issue which will safeguard the interest of the indigenous people of Nagaland.

(The Assam Tribune, 8.10.2014)

Look to the past

- Gitartha Gaurav Dutta

India is one of the most rapidly developing countries in the world. It is the seven largest country in terms of its geographical area, and is the second-most populous country. It is one of the few countries to have sent satellites into outer space and to orbit the moon. Recently India succeeded in launching its Mars Mission, and it did so in the first attempt itself!

Ancient India also quite scientifically developed. Archeologists, after excavating the ancient sites of Harappa and Mahenjo-daro of the Indus valley Civilisation, found that the buildings in these two cities were two storeyed. They even had a well-planned underground drainage system. Remnants of some agricultural tools have also been excavated, and these were quite advanced for those times. The Vedas also mention many plants and herbs with medicinal values.

Ancient India is also credited with laying the foundations for modern science and mathematics with the discovery of the concept of zero. Scientists like Aryabhata and Brahmagupta have shaped the foundation of modern science and technology.

Ancient Indian physicians had vast knowledge of medicine. Back in those days, Susruta, one of the prominent physicians of ancient India, experimented with dead bodies and developed the concept of human anatomy.

It is indeed very unfortunate that despite such a glorious past,

Nowadays, children hesitate to communicate in their mother tongue; they prefer to speak in English. Knowing English is good, but that doesn't mean that we ignore our vernacular languages.

most Indians now have almost forgotten this very progressive side to our culture and tradition. Why have we replaced our traditional mud house with modern concrete structures? The Assam type houses are a part of our culture, they are earthquake resistant, and they suit our climate. Why then are they going extinct? The reason they are being ignored is that they are considered 'old'.

The ancient Vedas have the

cure for numerous deadly disease and the methods are practised through Ayrveda. But we Indians don't prefer these methods anymore. Why, you may ask. "Nobody else adopted it, then why should we?" This is the mentality of an average Indian. But this has a disastrous effect on the overall growth of our country.

People are ashamed and afraid of adopting their own traditions. Nowadays, children hesitate to communicate in their mother tongue; they prefer to speak in English. Knowing English is good, but that doesn't mean that we ignore our vernacular languages. The irony is that - students are unable to speak any of the languages fluently; they are stuck somewhere in between.

Most people are attracted to western culture. There is no harm in taking up the positives from other cultures and traditions. But then, we should not ignore our own tradition. Also we should not follow or encourage the harmful practices present in our own culture. Remember, traditions are created by humans. We must lead our country forward, from being a developing country to a developed nation!

(The Assam Tribune 23.10.2014)

(Contd. from Page 24)

Now, joint church team extends ...

friendship," Menarampil told on Saturday.

Incidentally, both the Adivasis and the Naga tribes in the DAB area belong to the Christian community. However, while the Adivasis are mostly Catholics, the Nagas tribes there are predominantly Baptists.

Menampampil said, "JPMT consists of all Christian denominations Catholics, Baptists and even the Protestants. So, I don't think they will feel insecure due to our presence." *(Eastern Chronicle 19.10.2014)*



Upper Subansiri District unit of Arunachal Vikas Parishad conducted district level Yuva Karyakarta Sammelan on 26th Oct-2014, at Daporijo. Altogether 65 participants, selected from Circle level participated in the sammelan in which Archery, Local Prayer and Patriotic Song competitions was held. Sri Tayum Motu, ZPM Sigin-1 and Sri Puluk Lida, president IFCSAP district unit attended the function as the chief guest and guest of honour respectively. Both the guests exhorted the youths to preserve, protect and promote the indigenous faith and culture. According to them youths are the future leaders and they should prepare them selves to face any type of eventualities adding that archery competition is our age old culture, prayer song leads us nearer to god and patriotic song leads us to promote oneness, belongingness and national feeling. The programme was a youth's talent hunt in the field of arts and culture. From this competition, the hidden talent of the youths of the district was identified and in future will enable them for participation in such State, National and International competitions.



4x400 relay Indian women with their gold medals after winning the 4x400 metres relay race. From left MR Poovamma, Tintu Luka, Mandeep Kaur and Priyanka Panwar



Hockey Indian men celebrate after taking the gold in hockey. They beat Pakistan 4-2 in penalty shootout in the final. It was 1-1 after regulation time. They ended a 16-year wait for gold



Jitu Rai Jitu Rai brought India's first gold medal in Incheon. In won the men's 50 metres pistol shooting.

Indian Gold Medal winners in Asian Games 2014



Discus throw Seema Punia with her gold medal after topping in the women's discus throw



Kabaddi - men Indian men's kabaddi team with their gold medals



Kabaddi - women Indian women's kabaddi team with their gold medals