

**NOTES**

**Two held in Odisha bank robbery case**

**ROURKELA, JULY 11 /-** A joint team of Odisha and Bihar police have arrested two members of a gang involved in the robbery of a state-owned bank last month. The duo was arrested from Gaya district of Bihar on Tuesday by the team, IIC of Plant Site Police Station in Rourkela, Upendra Pradhan, said. "Our team was also there at Gaya investigating into the case based on the leads of CCTV footages and other intelligence. Soon, we will bring the two on remand," Pradhan said. On June 19, the armed gang of eight looted cash and jewellery worth Rs 1 crore from Indian Overseas Bank in Madhusudan Marg here. Police have recovered five cartridges and pistols, besides gold and cash from their possession, Pradhan said. Search is for the other members of the gang. (PTI)

**Six medical students on fast**

**KOLKATA, JULY 11 /-** Six senior students of the Calcutta Medical College and Hospital have been on an indefinite fast for the second day today demanding accommodation in the new hostel which is allotted for only first year students. The fasting students, belonging to second, third and fourth year, all are about one hundred of their classmates were in a precarious situation for inadequate hostel facility and the authorities had turned a blind eye to their woes. Sayan Roy, a third year student, said "We have inadequate hostel facility for three years and in the new hostel building only the freshers have been allotted rooms. This is discriminatory." Thursday the senior students had gathered the Principal Uchhal Bhadra for several hours on the issue. Bhadra said, as per MCI guidelines, freshers and seniors cannot be accommodated in the same hostel to prevent infection. (PTI)

**CRPF jawan killed in encounter**

**RANCHI, JULY 11 /-** A CRPF jawan was today killed in an encounter with Naxalites in the jungles of East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand, a senior official said. The encounter took place in Dalapani-Galdai axis of the district, he said. The jawan belonged to the 193rd battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the official said. According to the official, a joint team of the state police and CRPF was out for operations and an exchange of fire took place at about 9 am. The constable rank jawan of the paramilitary force sustained bullet injuries and was killed on the spot, he said. More details of the encounter are awaited, he added. (PTI)

**Heroin seized, two held**

**IMPHAL, JULY 11 /-** The police have seized huge quantity of heroin from Nagaram area here and arrested two persons in this connection, a senior police officer said on Tuesday. The Narcotics and Border Affairs section of Manipur Police seized around 1 kg of heroin from the possession of two persons in Nagaram area here on Monday, the officer said. The seized heroin is worth around Rs 2 crore in the international market, the officer added. (PTI)

**Man lynched for objecting bursting of crackers at wedding venue**

**NALBARI/GUWAHATI, JULY 11 /-** A man was beaten to death at a wedding venue in Assam's Nalbari district when he demanded that bursting of firecrackers be stopped after he was hit by a splinter, the second lynching incident in the state in a little over a month. Six persons were arrested in connection with the last night's killing of the 35-year-old labourer, identified as Jatin Das, at Ghorath village in the district, police said. The fire-

crackers were burst by the bride's family to mark the groom's arrival to their house and a splinter from it had hit Das, police said. Das' demand that the firecrackers should not be burst angered the wedding revellers. They allegedly attacked him and beat him up which led to his death on the spot, the police said. Police immediately rushed to the site. The bride and her parents were taken to the police station after the lynching and the wedding

ceremony was not allowed to be conducted. Tension prevailed in the area as angry locals demanded that Das' last rites be carried out in the courtyard of the bride's house, and CRPF personnel have been deployed in the village. Assam director general of police Kuladhar Saikia described the incident as "unfortunate" and said the situation at Ghorath village though under control is being monitored. Investigation into the incident is

on, he said in Guwahati. On June 8, two men were lynched in Karbi Anglong district by villagers on suspicion that they were child lifters. The victims, a 29-year-old sound engineer based in Mumbai and his friend, a 30-year-old businessman, had gone to a picnic spot at Kangthlangso in Karbi Anglong district to capture the sounds of nature, the police had said. The incident was blamed on rumour spread through social media. (PTI)

**Assam police fine people for smoking in public places**

**GUWAHATI, JULY 11 /-** Assam police have started fining people for smoking in public places, selling tobacco products to minors and advertising nicotine-based items, in violation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003. As part of the drive, which was taken up by the police stations since on Tuesday, shop owners were also fined for selling cigarette packets with inadequate display of warnings and setting up stalls for selling tobacco products within 100 yards of schools. Dr Ramandeep Kaur, DCP East Guwahati, said that enforcing the Act would go a long way in reducing prevalence of tobacco use among people. "We hope this campaign will increase public awareness and help in making our public places and educational institutes tobacco-free," the DCP said. The police action was taken under the direction of the Guwahati Commissioner of Police Hiren Chandrarath Nath. Kaur said. It was being done with the objective of keeping the youth away from tobacco addiction and preventing non-smokers from the bad effects of inhaling passive smoke. Kaur said.

The police officials who are involved in the enforcement of COTPA had participated in a training conducted by Sambandh Health Foundation (SHF) during which they had taken a pledge to support the cause of tobacco control in the state. Assam has more than one crore tobacco users of whom 13.3 lakh are cigarette users, 18.8 lakh bidi users and 91 lakh smokeless tobacco users, SHF sources said. Pointing out that over Rs 540 crore is spent annually for treatment of tobacco-related diseases in Assam for persons aged between 35 years and 69 years, the SHF sources said. "The prevalence of tobacco use has gone up from 39.3 per cent in 2010 to 48.2 per cent in 2017. Dr Ashok Das, a cancer surgeon at Barooah Cancer Institute (BCCI) here and patron of Voice of Tobacco Victims (VoTV) said, "The enforcement of COTPA by the police in Guwahati is commendable." As per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2017 in Assam, 32.9 per cent of people above 15 years, currently smoke or use smokeless tobacco. (PTI)

**Naveen to inaugurate bridge in Maoist-hit dist on July 18**

**MALKANGIRI, JULY 11 /-** Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik is set to inaugurate a bridge here on July 18, connecting the 'cut-off areas' of the Maoist-hit district with the mainland, a government official said. The Gurupriya bridge on river Janbai would ensure easy access to nearby towns for nine panchayats in the inaccessible areas of Malkangiri, considered a 'safe haven of left wing extremists', he said. Earlier this year, the state government had installed CCTV cameras on the bridge to help the BSF and CRPF personnel track the movements of Maoists in the area. Damburu Sisa, BJD MLA from Chitragonda seat in Malkangiri district, said the construction work has been completed and the bridge will be inaugurated on July 18. "Cut-off by Balimela reservoir, people living in the remote part of the district had been demanding a bridge on Janbai River for around 40 years. The new bridge would end decades of isolation for them," he added. Former chief minister, B Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the bridge in 1982. However, the inaccessibility of the site, coupled with other roadblocks including Maoist threats, resulted in delay of the project. In 2014, Naveen Patnaik laid another foundation stone for the Gurupriya Bridge and directed the officials to carry out the construction work at the earliest. (PTI)

**Ninety people appointed in Assam rhino protection force**

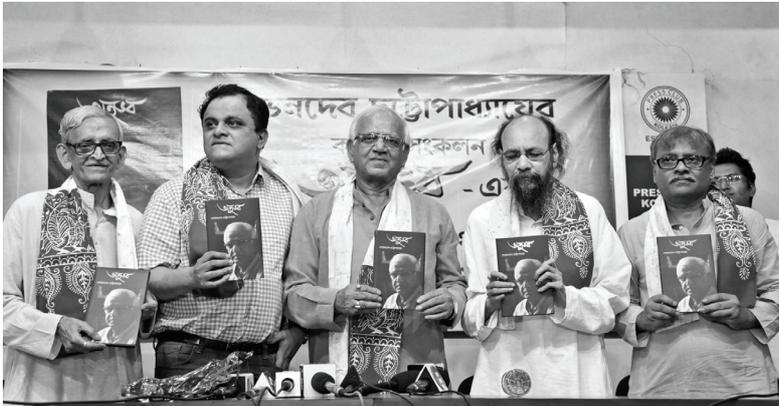
**GUWAHATI, JULY 11 /-** Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal today gave away appointment letters to 90 constables who will form the crux of Special Rhino Protection Force raised by the state government. The newly recruited constables would maintain liaison with the higher ups of the security mechanism of the Kaziranga National Park to form a team to protect the wild lives from poachers. "Protecting rhinos along with other wild lives are our commitment and raising the special force is a step towards protecting our rhinos from poaching," Sonowal said addressing the new appointees. Recruitment of the 90 constables through rigorous recruitment process will help in adding teeth to the rhino protection efforts, he said. The government of Assam has raised the Special Rhino Protection Force from people living in the fringe areas of the Kaziranga National Park to bring the poacher forest protection mechanism by regular appointments and imparting technical training to employees are essential for sustainable management of forest and environmental conservation," the chief minister said. The government has formed fast track courts for bringing the perpetrators of wild life crime to justice. The Special Rhino Protection Force would be exclusively used for Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park and Manas National Park. (PTI)

**Nine killed in Manipur avalanches**

**IMPHAL, JULY 11 /-** Heavy rain triggered landslides in three places in Manipur's Tamenglong town early this morning, killing nine persons and injuring seven, officials said. The bodies of two children are yet to be recovered, said Chief Minister N Biren Singh. The seven injured have been admitted to the district hospital in Tamenglong, which borders Assam and is about 150 km from here. "I am deeply saddened to know that nine precious lives lost due to landslide at 3 places in Tamenglong Head Quarter, till now 7 bodies have been recovered, 2 bodies of children yet to be recovered. Rescue operations are on," the chief minister said on Twitter. District Deputy Commissioner Rabinder Singh told PTI that the bodies of seven of the nine persons missing following the landslides have been recovered. Security personnel and locals are carrying out rescue operations on a war footing, he said. Jitendra Singh, union minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), tweeted, "Saddened to learn, 9 precious lives lost due to landslide at 3 places in Tamenglong, #Manipur. Appreciate CM Sh. N Biren Singh taking personal interest in rescue operations". (PTI)

**Cong activist files complaint against producer, actor**

**KOLKATA, JULY 11 /-** Police is looking into a complaint filed by a Congress activist against the producers of the web series 'Sacred Games' and actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui for allegedly using derogatory language while referring to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, officials said today. Siddiqui, online platform Netflix and 'Sacred Games' producers are 'jointly responsible' for abusing Rajiv Gandhi on a show, Congress activist Rajeev Sinha alleged in his complaint, filed in the Girish Park Police Station in north Kolkata on Tuesday. "We are looking into the matter. An investigation has been initiated into his allegations," a senior official at the Girish Park station said. (PTI)



"Anubhav" a collection of poems by minister for power and non-conventional energy, Sonawad Chattopadhyay was released on Tuesday at Nalbari in presence of poet Joy Goswami and minister for tourism Bratya Basu — EOI Photo

**Tripura CM calls for steps to make N-E region drugs-free**

**AGARTALA, JULY 11 /-** Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Tuesday urged chief ministers of north-eastern states to work towards making the region free of drugs. During the second day of the 67th North East Council Plenary Meet-

ing at Shillong, Deb discussed the need of expanding the vision of 'Drugs Free Tripura' into 'Drugs Free North East', an official release said. He called upon the chief ministers of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur to take "cor-

rective measures" and check cross-border movement of drugs, it said. Deb also made a request to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh for strengthening central forces in the north-eastern region. "BSF has been playing a proactive role in

checking illicit drug trade in Tripura. It can pro-actively ensure the prevention of illegal drug trade in the NE region," he said. Deb, on the first day of the meeting on Monday, spoke on the need of creating "iconic students", while speaking

**Bihar Guv urges youth to develop critical thinking**

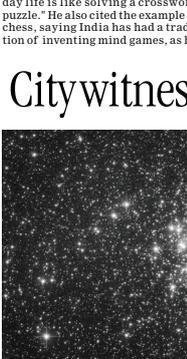
**NEW DELHI, JULY 11 /-** Navigating through everyday life is like solving a crossword puzzle, Bihar Governor Satyapal Malik said as he exhorted students to develop critical thinking. He was addressing a gathering at an auditorium of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Delhi Cantonment after inaugurating a national inter-school crossword contest. The Delhi-NCR rounds were also held on Tuesday in which Mother's International School (Delhi), Amity International School (Ghaziabad), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sector 24 (Noida), and DAV Public School Sector 14 (Gurgaon), became the first four schools to qualify for the grand finale of the sixth edition of COCC Cryptic Crossword Contest, organisers said. As many as 90 teams participated in these four city rounds held on the same day.

The Bihar governor in his speech, used the crossword puzzle as a metaphor for life, and said, "Everyday life is like solving a crossword puzzle." He also cited the example of chess, saying India has had a tradition of inventing mind games, as he

exhorted the students to develop critical thinking. Minister of State for Power (Independent Charge) R K Singh, who was the chief guest on the occasion, also urged the students to develop critical thinking, saying those who have the ability to think, succeed in life. "You can train your minds and develop an ability to think critically by solving crossword puzzles regularly," he said. Besides the four rounds held for Delhi-NCR, 37 more cities are lined up for this verbal contest. "Today, the contest is being organised in Jaipur. It will be held in other cities too like Ranchi, Patna and Bengaluru," a member of the organising team said. Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Santosh Mall, Commissioner of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti B K Singh were also present on the occasion. Senior IAS officer and chief mentor of the contest, Vivek Kumar Singh traced the journey of the competition, whose first edition was held in 2013. There will be 37 more city rounds by the

winning teams from as many cities gather in New Delhi for the national championship trophy. The contest is conducted by a Patna-based organisation Extra-C. NPS Koramangla, Bengaluru, is the reigning champion. (PTI)

**City witnesses celestial phenomenon**



**KOLKATA, JULY 11 /-** The city and its surroundings in the North and South 24 Parganas district witnessed a celestial phenomenon of a perfect ring with the sun at the centre this morning. Hundreds of curious sky gazers saw a dazzling halo of the sun starting at around 10:45 AM and continuing for nearly over an hour and 15 minutes till around noon. This is known as '22 degree halo of the sun', because the angular distance of the light ring is

exactly 22 degrees from the Sun at the centre, director, Research and Academic, M P Birla Institute of Fundamental Research, M P Birla Planetarium Dr Debiprosad Duari told PTI today. It occurred because of interaction of sunlight with the ice crystals suspended in the air in a particular type of cloud, he said. "The ice crystals are responsible for halos which are typically suspended in cirrus or cirrostratus clouds in the upper troposphere, which are

present typically at a height of 5-8 km from the earth's surface," he said. According to Duari, the shape and the orientation of the crystals are also responsible for the type of halo. "It is hypothesised that the water ice crystals present in the cirrus clouds are typically hexagonal in shape. When sunlight falls on these crystals, passing through hexagonal crystals it gets refracted and bent by 22 degrees or more, resulting in the formation of

a bright ring of light around the sun at an angle of 22 degrees," he said. The passage of the sunlight through millions of these crystals causes the white light to get dispersed in all the colours of the rainbow. "This colour of a rainbow was witnessed in today's halo. It was with a reddish tinge on the inside and a bluish tinge at the outer part of the lighted ring. Since all the sunlight gets refracted by at least 22 degrees the inner part of the halo looks a little darker than other parts of the sky," Duari said. The phenomenon was not "very rare" and occurs whenever there is moisture laden Cirrus clouds in the sky near or around the sun and is a local phenomenon. "This happens quite regularly at different places depending upon the favourable atmospheric conditions," he said. The duration of the '22 degree halo of the sun' depends on the cloud formations and the air currents in the atmosphere, he added. (PTI)