



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VII ■ Issue No. 170 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ SATURDAY ■ AUGUST 06, 2022 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 10.00

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Students felt ill

Assam Rising

Guwahati, August 05:

10 children have fallen critically ill after consuming phenyl in Tinsukia district of Assam on Friday. The incident has occurred at an Anganwadi centre in Tinsukia's Kakopathar. According to reports, the teacher at the Anganwadi distributed phenyl to the children instead of milk. The children have been admitted at the Tinsukia Civil Hospital for treatment.

Threatening messages

Assam Rising

Guwahati, August 05:

Senior advocate Nekibur Zaman on Friday alleged that he received threatening messages after he opposed the recent activities of jihadis in Madrasa. Zaman said he received the threatening messages by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB). Later, he lodged a complaint at Bhangagarh police station. Since the past five months, Assam Police have been focusing on busting Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) having affiliation to Al-Qaida in Indian Sub-continent (AQIS). So far, five modules have been busted by Assam Police.

Youth arrested

Assam Rising

Guwahati, August 05:

A youth was arrested in Assam's Nagaon district on Friday on suspicion of attempting to join the banned militant outfit - United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I). According to sources, the youth, identified as Anarul Haque was nabbed from Juria in Rupohihat area of the district. The arrested youth allegedly attempted to join the insurgent outfit with help of ULFA's Facebook page, sources informed. Last month, an alleged linkman of the ULFA-I was arrested in Golaghat district in Assam.

N. F. Railway to operate special train Between New Jalpaiguri-Sealdah- New Jalpaiguri



Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 05:

The Northeast Frontier Railway has decided to operate one special train between New Jalpaiguri - Sealdah - New Jalpaiguri for one trip in both directions to clear the extra rush of passengers. Special Train No. 03129 (Sealdah - New

Jalpaiguri), will depart from Sealdah at 21:40 hours on 12th August, 2022 Friday to reach New Jalpaiguri at 08:30 hours on Saturday. Special Train No. 03130 (New Jalpaiguri - Sealdah), will depart from New Jalpaiguri at 12:35 hours on 13th August, 2022 Saturday to reach Sealdah at 00:10 hours on Sunday. During

its both ways journey the special train will have stoppages at Bandel, Katwa, Azimganj, Jangipur Road, Malda Town, Barsoi and Kishanganj stations. The special train will consist of 20 coaches. There will be 06 AC Three Tier, 10 Sleeper Class, 02 General Seating and 02 Seating cum Luggage Rakes. The details of stoppages and timings of this train are available at IRCTC website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N.F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

Lok Kalyan Diwas CM Himanta Biswa Sarma awards govt employees for punctuality

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 05:

Non-gazetted state government 99 employees of Assam were presented with Lok Sewa Puraskar (Public Service Award) for dedication, work ethics and punctuality. While 89 employees were awarded district level awards in different districts, 10 other employees selected at the state level were presented with the awards by chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at a function in Guwahati. The awards were presented on the occasion of Lok Kalyan Diwas to mark the death anniversary of Assam's first chief minister and Bharat Ratna, Gopinath Bordoloi. The awardees



with a year's extension of service, ₹25,000 and a citation. "Bordoloi's contribution to the nation and Assam has been immense both prior to Independence when he tried to protect the state from unchecked mi-

gration from East Bengal (present Bangladesh) and after Independence when he worked tirelessly for Assam's all-round development," said Sarma. "We decided to mark his death anniversary as Lok Kalyan

Diwas as respect to Bordoloi who spent his entire life in public service and start a new initiative of awarding

state government employees based on their work ethics, honesty, punctuality and other human values," he added. According to the state government, the awards are presented to "acknowledge, recognize, reward and record" the performance of non-gazetted state government employees. The guideline for selection process of the awardees, which was decided after proposals and suggestions from different districts and departments, listed work ethics, punctuality, integrity as the three main criteria with an additional

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Taiwan slams 'evil neighbour' China after missiles fly over island



Taipei, August 05:

Taiwan condemned its "evil neighbour" on Friday after China fired multiple missiles into its surrounding waters, as many as four of which flew over the island's capital Taipei in an unprecedented escalation during live-fire exercises. China launched its largest ever military drills in the seas and skies around Taiwan on Thursday, a day after U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi enraged Beijing by making a solidarity trip to the self-ruled island that China claims as its own.

Japan's defence ministry, which is tracking the exercises, first reported that as many as four of the missiles flew over Taiwan's capital. Japan also said that five of nine missiles fired towards its territory landed in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), also a first, prompting Tokyo to launch a diplomatic protest. Later, Taiwan's defence ministry said the missiles were high in the atmosphere and constituted no threat. It did not give details of their flight paths, citing intelligence concerns. Some Taipei residents, including Mayor Ko

Wen-je, criticised the government for not putting out a missile alert, but one security expert said that could have been done to avoid stoking panic and playing into China's hands. "It counteracted the effect of the Chinese Communist Party's psychological warfare," said Mei Fu-shin, a U.S.-based analyst. "The shock and fear were not as great as they could have been." There was little reaction to the missile firing in Taiwan on Friday. "It's the same as normal. I don't feel anything different," said Ping Chung, who owns a hostel on Liukiu Island,

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Sanjay Raut thanks Opposition parties for supporting him during political witch-hunt

New Delhi, August 05:

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged money laundering charge in Patra Chawl land case, has expressed gratitude to Opposition leaders for supporting him. A letter signed by Raut was released by Shiv



Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi on Friday (Au-



gust 5) where he thanked leaders of all opposition parties including the Congress, NCP, TMC, DMK, AAP, CPI and CPI (M) for showing solidarity with him, PTI reported. "The toughest times show you who your reliable allies are," Rajya Sabha MP Raut

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BJP hits out at Rahul Gandhi for 'death of democracy' barb

New Delhi, August 05:

The Congress' protest against price rise and unemployment is essentially aimed at "saving" the Gandhi family from corruption charges, the BJP said on Friday and asked Rahul Gandhi to not blame Indian democracy for his party's repeated poll defeats under him. Hitting back at Gandhi after he alleged that India is witnessing the death of democracy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad accused the Congress leader of making shameful and irresponsible comments. Prasad noted that it was Rahul Gandhi's grandmother and then prime minister Indira Gandhi who had suspended people's democratic rights

by imposing an Emergency. "Why do you blame democracy when the people of India reject you with repeated regularity," he said and asked Gandhi if there is democracy within his party which has some "good leaders" but it is all about the Gandhi family. In a press conference ahead of his party's protests over the issues such as price rise and unemployment, Gandhi alleged that no in-

Assam delegation to visit Mizoram to iron out border dispute

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 05:

A five-member delegation of the Assam government will visit Mizoram on August 9-10 to discuss the border dispute with the neighbouring state. "Delegation of the Assam government will be headed by Assam Border Protection and Development Minister Atul Bora and he will be accompanied by state Housing and Urban Minister Ashok Singhal and three other officials," GD Tripathi, Commissioner & Secretary of Assam Border Protection & Development Department told. The delegation will discuss with representatives of the Mizoram government the solution to the



decades-old boundary dispute between the two north-eastern states. GD Tripathi further said that both the states will discuss border issues so as to maintain peace in the region. On the other hand, Mizoram Home Minister Lalchamliana will lead the Mizoram government team. In August last year,

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Rahul Gandhi detained as Congress holds huge protests

New Delhi, August 05:

Congress workers and leaders are protesting against price rise, hike in GST on essential items and unemployment. The party is also protesting against the alleged misuse of central probe agencies by the BJP-led government to target its leaders. Congress workers and leaders are on Friday converged at the party headquarters in the capital to participate in the planned nationwide protest against price rise, hike in GST on essential items and unemployment. The party is also protesting against the alleged misuse of central probe agencies by the government to tar-

get its leaders. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has been detained by police during a protest against the Central government on price rise and unemployment in Delhi. Earlier, Rahul Gandhi and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, along with other top leaders, had reached the party headquarters in the morning. The party leaders, including MPs, are wearing black bands on their arms as a mark of protest. Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra jumped over a police barricade placed near AICC during the protests. She was later detained by police during the Congress

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Include chapter on Lachit Borphukan in curriculum, CM says

Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 05:

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has written a letter to his counterparts in other states, requesting them to include a chapter on Lachit Borphukan in the syllabus of the schools, colleges in their respective domain. The letter is among the Assam government's ini-

tiatives related to the year-long celebration of the 400th birth anniversary of the 17th-century legendary Ahom army general Lachit Borphukan's valorous leadership led to the decisive defeat of the Mughals at the Battle of Saraighat in 1671, registering for him a unique space in the annals of Assam history. However, his achievements remain comparatively unknown in most

other parts of the country. "Borphukan is one of the most heroic figures of our nation's history. At a time when large parts of our country were under the yoke of the Mughals, the bravery of Borphukan ensured that Assam was able to thwart the imperialist designs of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb," wrote

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The first grain-laden ship Razoni passes by the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul, Türkiye

Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones ordered to pay \$4.1m over false Sandy Hook claims

London, August 05 : The jury in Alex Jones's defamation trial on Thursday ordered the far-right conspiracy theorist to pay \$4.1m in damages over his repeated claims that the deadly Sandy Hook school shooting was a hoax. Jurors



in Austin, Texas, gave their verdict after deliberating about one hour Wednesday and seven hours Thursday at the end of a nine-days-long trial. The verdict levied against Jones was far below the \$150m or more the plaintiffs had requested that jurors award them. In a statement on behalf of the parents of a six-year old Sandy Hook

victim whose lawsuit set the trial in motion, the attorney Mark Bankston said: "Mr Jones ... will not sleep easy tonight." Bankston said his clients Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis were "thrilled with the result and look forward to putting Mr

Jones's money to good use". In a separate phase on Friday, jurors are to determine whether Jones owes any punitive damages in addition to the compensation he was ordered to

pay on Thursday. "With punitive damages still to be decided and multiple [other pending legal matters], it is clear that Mr Jones's time on the American stage is finally coming to an end," Bankston added. Heslin and Lewis, whose son Jesse Lewis was killed during the mass shooting, took the stand during the trial and detailed the mental suffering, death threats and harassment they weathered from fringe conservatives after Jones went on the rightwing conspiratorial outlet Infowars as well as his other media platforms to trumpet lies that the 20

children and six adults murdered in the 2012 Connecticut school massacre never actually died. Instead, Jones claimed for years that the victims and their loved ones were "crisis actors" carrying out an elaborate ruse to force gun control. Ten of 12 jurors signed Thursday's verdict, which was the minimum number needed for a decision because the case was civil rather than criminal. Heslin and Lewis sued Jones for both defamation and intentional infliction of emotional stress, and Jones lost by default because he failed to provide any documents in response to the plaintiffs' lawsuit. That set up a trial beginning on 25 July whose sole purpose was to determine how much money Jones owed Jesse Lewis' parents in compensation and possible punitive damages. Jesse Lewis' parents said they would need much more than an apology to be made whole and pleaded for jurors to hold Jones to account after they argued that he made it impossible for the couple to heal from their

child's killing. Jones' falsehoods about the Sandy Hook murders form part of a larger body of misinformation and theories for which he has had to apologize - including his touting of the so-called "Pizzagate"

conspiracy that falsely claimed a Washington DC pizzeria was home to a child sex-abuse ring. That myth, consumed by Jones' millions of followers, prompted a man to go there with a high-powered rifle and fire shots inside in 2016.

Democrats secure breakthrough with Kyrsten Sinema on climate bill



Arizona, August 05 : Senate Democratic leaders say they have reached an agreement on the party's major climate and economic bill with Kyrsten Sinema - the centrist Democrat whose opposition remained a major hurdle to passing the most ambitious US climate legislation yet. The support of Sinema, a former member of the Green Party who has evolved into one of Congress' most conservative Democrats, was crucial to the passage of the bill, which tackles energy, environment, health and tax measures. Its success is seen as the Democratic party's most substantive chance to deliver domestic policy progress before the midterm elections. Backing from all 50 Democratic senators will be needed to

pass any legislation in the evenly-divided Senate given the party's narrow majority and Republican resistance to acting on the climate crisis. Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, said lawmakers had achieved a compromise "that I believe will receive the support" of all Democrats in the chamber. His party needs unanimity to move the measure through the 50-50 Senate, along with vice-president Kamala Harris' tie-breaking vote. Sinema, the Arizona senator seen as the pivotal vote, said in a statement that she had agreed to eleventh-hour changes in the measure's tax and energy provisions and was ready to "move forward" on the bill. She said Democrats had agreed to remove a provision raising taxes on "carried interest," or profits that go to executives of private equity firms. That's been a proposal she has long opposed, though it is a favorite of other Democrats, including

movement that forced Rajapaksa to flee the country and resign in early July. After the fall of Rajapaksa, the protest movement, known as the Aragalaya, has turned its focus to Wickremesinghe, calling for him to step down. He is accused of lacking legitimacy and public support and of protecting the powerful Rajapaksa family, who are accused of bankrupting the country. Wickremesinghe pledged his backing for the protest movement, but since taking office as president, has described the protesters as "fascists" and begun to use the full force of state machinery against activists he alleged had broken the law. One of his first acts of office was to declare a state of emergency, granting the police sweeping powers to detain people. In the early



hours of 22 July, he authorised the military to clear part of a protest camp and take back the presidential secretariat building which had been occupied; more than 50 people, including lawyers and journalists, were injured. Since then, activists and human rights organisations described a systematic targeting of figures who are prominent in the protest movement. More than 100 people, including a Buddhist monk, have been arrested, the courts have issued travel bans, police have raided protesters' family homes and security agencies have taken activists off the streets and questioned them for hours. "The government's strategy seem to be to instil fear to make the protesters withdraw," said Ruki Fernando, a prominent rights activist. Among those targeted has been Jeewantha

Peiris, a Catholic priest who is a well-known figure in the protest movement and has been outspoken against the government. Police were given orders to arrest him on site and two churches, one in his home town and one in Colombo, were raided by officers looking for him. Peiris has filed a petition in the courts seeking protection from arrest, but he told the Guardian he had gone underground in the meantime, as police continued to visit his parents' house asking for his whereabouts. "I have personally felt the intimidation and repression of protesters," said Peiris. "We always remained peaceful and non-violent. They are now targeting all the protest coordinators and accusing us of committing terrorist acts which is false. This president is undemocratic."

Rare hummingbird last seen in 2010 rediscovered in Colombia

Colombia, August 05 : A rare hummingbird has been rediscovered by a birdwatcher in Colombia after going missing for more than a decade. The Santa Marta sabrewing, a large hummingbird only found in Colombia's Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains, was last seen in 2010 and scientists feared the species might be extinct as the tropical forests it inhabited have largely been cleared for agriculture. But ornithologists are celebrating the rediscovery of Campylopterus phainopeplus after an experienced local birdwatcher captured one on camera. It is only the third time the species has been documented: the first was in 1946 and the second in 2010, when researchers captured the first photos of the species in the wild. Yurgen Vega, who spotted the hummingbird while working with the conservation organisations Selva, ProCAT Colombia and World Parrot Trust to survey endemic birds in Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, said he felt "overcome with emotion" when he saw the bird. "The sighting was a complete surprise," he said. "When I first saw the hummingbird I immediately thought of the Santa Marta sabrewing. I couldn't believe it was waiting there for me to take out my camera and start shooting. I was almost convinced it was the species, but because I felt so overcome by emotion, I preferred to be cautious; it could've been the Lazuline sabrewing, which is often confused with Santa Marta sabrewing. But once we saw the pictures, we knew it was true." The Santa Marta sabrewing is listed as critically endangered on the IUCN red list of threatened species and features in the Top 10 "most wanted" list in the conservation organisation Re:wild's Search for Lost Birds, a worldwide effort to find species that have not been seen for more than 10 years. The bird is so rare and elusive that John C Mittermeier, the director of threatened species outreach at American Bird Conservancy, likened the sighting to "seeing a phantom". The hummingbird Vega saw was a male, identified by its emerald green feathers, bright blue throat and curved black bill. It was perched on a branch, vocalising and singing, behaviour scientists think is associated with courtship and defending territory. The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in northern Colombia is home to a wealth of wildlife, including 24 bird species not found anywhere else. But scientists estimate that only 15% of the mountains' forest is intact. It is hoped the surprise sighting of the Santa Marta sabrewing will help to protect their remaining habitat, benefiting many different species found there.



Contestants participate in the water lily costume competition of the 15th Water Lily Festival in Las Pinas City, the Philippines

Guest House

A/C Non A/C Rooms with Car Parking At POGI Brahma Putra, Chandmari, Guwahati-21 Ph. WA : 9678009493/9707183470

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

No. 199

The Divisional Forest Officer, Sonitpur East Division invites bid (sealed tendered) in prescribed form affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & paise twenty five) only from eligible Registered Contractor/Firm from 05/08/2022 to 25/08/2022 up to 3.00 PM for execution of the following works.

S.N	Name of work	Estimated Cost	EMD (Rs)	Location
1	Construction of Road from Bihmari center to Naharjan 2.30 KM in Behali RF (under Behali Development Block for Border Development activities in the interstate Border)	20,00,000.00	2% of estimated value for GEN, 1% of estimated value for OBC/ST/SC	Bihmari Centre to Naharjan in Behali RF under Borgang Range

The Tender will be received in the office of the undersigned on all working days upto 3.00 PM (IST) upto 25/08/2022 and will be opened on the same day at the same place at 3.30 PM in presence of the willing tendered or their authorized agent who wish to attend the same. In the event of unusual occurrence due to strike, Bandh, Holiday etc. the same will be received on the next working day upto the same time and will be opened at 3.30 PM

Detailed particulars of the work may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hour and Tender paper may be obtained on any working days upto 2.00 PM (IST) on 25/08/2022

The work is to be completed within 180 days for the date of issue of the final work order.

The acceptance of the tenderer and issue of work order is subject to release of fund by the Govt. of Assam/Component Authority without hereby incurring any liabilities to the affected tenderers or any obligation to inform the affected tenderer of the ground.

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereof and does not bind himself to accept the lowest tenderer.

Divisional Forest Officer
Sonitpur East Division
Biswanath Chanali.

Janasanyog/C/7720/22

No. MCH/HMS/2022/264/18

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Sealed e-Tenders in two bid systems are invited from the intending Supplier/Manufacturer/Accredited Dealers for Comprehensive Annual Operational & Maintenance Contract for Services of Fire Fighting and Fire Detection System under HMS, GMCH, Guwahati-32.

Important dates of the e-Tender

Schedule A	Sl. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1.	e- Tender Publishing	05/08/2022			-	-
2.	e- Tender Download	05/08/2022		4:00 PM	29/08/2022	11:00 AM
3.	Pre-Bid meeting	17/08/2022		3:00 PM	Office of the Superintendent, Gauhati Medical College Hospital, Guwahati-32	
4.	Bid Submission	24/08/2022		1:00 PM	29/08/2022	12:00 Noon
5.	Bid Opening	30/08/2022		2:00 PM		

Schedule B	Sl No.	Bid Security (E.M.D.) through online payment mode	Duration of Service	Tender fees in Rs. through online payment mode
1.		Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty Thousand only)	24 hours X 7 days	Rs.2,000/- (Two Thousand only)

All other relevant information and the detailed Bid Documents are available in website www.assamtenders.gov.in and can be viewed from 05/08/2022. The Superintendent cum Member Secretary reserve the right to reject all or any tender without assigning any reason and is not bound to accept the lowest rate.

Janasanyog/C/7712/22

//
Superintendent cum Member Secretary
HMS, Gauhati Medical College Hospital
Guwahati-32

Assam Governor visits Shishu Sarothi



Assam Rising
Guwahati, August 5: As a part of his outreach programme, Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi today visited Shishu Sarothi, a community home for the children. He spent some time with the children there and announced an assistance of Rs. 5 lakh to the organization. It may be noted that Shishu Sarothi established in 1987 is a non-profit organization working in the area of

child rights including early intervention and rehabilitation, education, livelihoods advocacy and awareness as well as protection of rights and legal aid of children and persons with disabilities in the North East. Visiting the place, Governor Prof. Mukhi expressed, "I am delighted to visit this organization and meet the beautiful children. I am even elated to see the inherent

talents in the children. I am also happy to meet the staff, board members and specialized teachers of the organization who have dedicated their lives for the service of

the children and other divyangs". During his interaction with the children, he advised them to dream big and accordingly work to chase their dream. The Governor hailed Shishu Sarothi for its endeavour of creating a conducive environment for the growth of the children. It also lauded its efforts for giving a home-like situation for its other inmates. He also asked the management to take steps for the skill development of the inmates and take help of the government schemes in this regard. The Governor also said that India is a country where upholding human dignity is given great importance. He said that he was happy to see that Shishu Sarothi is doing its

noble deeds wholeheartedly by promoting the rights of divyangian for shaping a non-discriminating and barrier-free society. He at the same time asked the organization to instill the feeling of patriotism and 'Nation First' feelings amongst the children. Executive Directors of Shishu Sarothi Ketaki Badalai and Armaan Ali, Commissioner and Secretary to the Governor S. S. M e e n a k s h i Sundaram, parents of the children, staff, specialized teachers, board members along with a host of other dignitaries were also present during the Governor's visit.

AAM to organise Mathematics Olympiad

Assam Rising, Golaghat, August 5: Assam Academy of Mathematics is going to organize a state level mathematical competition named 'Assam Mathematics Olympiad' on August 21. The Academy has been organizing this competition since the year 1987 to promote

mathematical literacy among the students. This year the competition will be held in three categories from fifth to eleventh standard. Secretary of Assam Academy of Mathematics Dr Ashish Paul has stated that Assam Mathematics Olympiad will be held at 47 examination centres throughout the state. Interested students can choose

their centres and register their names by paying the registration fees before August 8. For details of the examination process, syllabus and nearby examination centre students can visit the website www.aamonline.org.in or call on the numbers 7002958863, 7896624087.

Reconstructed SRB Boys' Hostel inaugurated at Cotton University

Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 5: The newly reconstructed Shwahi Ranjit Barpujari Boys' Hostel was inaugurated today by Vice Chancellor of Cotton University Prof. Bhabesh Chandra Goswami in the presence of Registrar (i/c) Prof. Maheswar Kalita, Deans, faculty members, staff and students. The hostel has a capacity of 126 seats and houses 60 rooms on a double and triple-sharing basis. The



newly constructed building comprises 6 floors and is equipped with modern facilities for boarders. The hostel

will accommodate international students and research scholars on the top two floors and post-graduate students on the remaining floors. The hostel, which was earlier known as the 2nd Mess in the erstwhile Cotton College, was constructed during the British rule in 1913 by the then college authority. The Cotton fraternity has welcomed the initiative taken by the university authority. It is noteworthy to state that de-

RARS organised "Rice Doctor Usability Testing" at Bhaoraguri

Assam Rising
Gossaigaon, August 5:

Under the banner of Assam Agri-business and Rural Transformation Project (APART) a Rice Doctor Usability Testing" organised here at Bhaoraguri Higher Secondary School under Gossaigaon sub-division in Kokrajhar district on Thursday last. The programme was organised by Regional Agricultural Research Station & Assam Agricultural University, Gossaigaon in a bid to focus the farmers on the use of Mobile App which is solely developed for the convenience of farmers. It is elaborately discussed in the programme that the app which is launched under Apart in collaboration with IIRI & ARIAS Society namely "Rice Doctor" will be helpful for the farmers to harvest rice in any season. The app is available in both Assamese & English language. The experts disclosed that the app has 63 features which will help farmers to identify the



pests and diseases of rice in the field. The IIRI experts have shown the step by step process to install the app in smartphones and how to use it. The programme was largely attended by Dr. Vinod Upadhaya (Jr. Scientist, RARS) Mridupaban Mudai (Jr. Researcher, IIRI) Akhoy Jyoti Bhadraraj (Jr. Re-

searcher, IIRI) Anjela Deka (Project Associate, APART) Manjit Das, Research Technician, APART along with 37 nos. of students and teachers. The Students expressed their satisfaction over the programme and provided their valuable feedback at the cessation of the programme.

No Clue of Missing JNV Student

Assam Rising, Golaghat, August 5: A student of eighth standard from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Cinnatoli in Golaghat who has been missing since July 24. The student named Ujjwal Das who hailed from Bilgaon under Barpathar PS in Golaghat had returned to his school Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Cinnatoli after spending his summer vacation on July 23. But after one day Ujjwal Das went missing from the campus of the residential school and still there is no clue of his whereabouts. The mother of the student told the media that the school authorities had phoned her on July 24 enquiring about her son Ujjwal Das. When she asked about the matter the school authorities replied that Ujjwal was missing from the campus and they were searching for him. She also said that the CCTV cameras installed in the school also could not provide any clue. She raised allegations against some senior students for harassing her son. The whole matter was reported to the police but after ten days passed Ujjwal Das is still untraceable. Meanwhile Scheduled Caste Yuva Chatra Parishad Golaghat District committee leaders have expressed their concern in this matter and they submitted memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner as well as the Superintendent of Police, Golaghat and demanded that the missing student should be rescued within next 24 Hrs and also demanded a proper investigation on how a student suddenly went missing from the residential school under mysterious circumstances.

14 stolen bikes recovered in Kacharibari: arrested 5

Assam Rising, Bhuragaon, August 5: Morigaon and Laharighat police arrested five people along with 14 stolen bikes from different places under Laharighat police station on August 3 and 4. The five arrested were identified as Saddam Hussain, 24, garage mechanic of Chatiantali, Harjat Ali, 26, of Devaguri, Hayat Ullah, 20, of Bowalguri, Baharul Islam, 28, of Devaguri and Sharif Islam, 18, of Veluguri respectively. Of the 14 bikes seized, most of them were without number plates, police said. The estimated value of the 14 bikes seized is estimated at Rs 5 lakh. The five bike thieves were arrested under Sections 304/22, U/S 379/41/34 IPC and sent to jail.

When will the Majuli-Jorhat bridge be completed?

Assam Rising, Majuli, August 5: The people of Majuli are worried about the construction of the Majuli-Jorhat bridge. The bridge is being constructed in Majuli-

The UP Bridge State Construction Company, the bridge construction company, has only a few officers. More than 100 of cement bags returned by Punjabi trucks. There is also talk of construction of the Majuli-Jorhat bridge through another bridge construction company instead of UP State Bridge Construction. If this proves true, a new tender will be called. This new process means that the construction of the



Jorhat. There are deep concerns about the construction of the Majuli-Jorhat bridge. There is no sound of machinery, no workers or company officials on the southern bank of the bridge. Earlier, workers were giggling and now the opposite picture is seen. Wax is starting to catch the rods of the pole pilings. Locals complained that most of the workers involved in the construction of the Majuli-Jorhat bridge have left. There are also some workers who have left Majuli within a very short period of time.

much anticipated bridge for the people of Majuli will be delayed for many years. There is also talk that the Kalita-Bhomora bridge construction company is likely to be entrusted with the construction of the Majuli-Jorhat bridge. However, a reliable source said a team of Authority engineers has already been appointed to oversee the construction of the bridge. Construction of the bridge will resume soon. Needless to say, the irregularities and errors in the construction of the Majuli-Jorhat bridge came to light on April 30. Bodirai was awarded the sub-contract from UP State Bridge. Construction Company, a controversial company. The company has been involved in the construction of the Majuli-Jorhat bridge since the beginning of the construction. The joints of pilings of poles 8 and 11 could be removed empty handed due to varying the amount of sand and cement mixed. There are many differences between the shuttering of the rods and the rest of the poles. There were large cracks in the poles, after welding the bridge poles. The UP State Bridge Construction and Badirai (BRC) company officials were exposed for their negligence and irresponsibility. The construction of the Majuli-Jorhat bridge has been stopped due to protests by various parties and people of Majuli. At that time, the bridge was investigated and observed by the

Executive Engineer, Superintendent Engineer, Commissioner Secretary and higher technical experts of the NH Department. Recently, UC Katra, Chief Executive Engineer, Zone No. 5, Ministry of Road Transport, Government of India, visited the area. The next day a bridge construction report was published by the department but the people of Majuli have not been aware of this issue yet. The bridge should be built soon after all the controversy ends. After three months from April 30 to August, no decision has been taken on the construction of the bridge. Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially inaugurated the construction. The funds for the Majuli-Jorhat bridge are Rs 925 crore. It is about 8 km long Construction of 11 poles has started so far despite the rapid advancement of modern medical science, the river banks of Majuli sometimes tremble with the cries of pregnant mothers due to lack of proper treatment. Emergency 108 services cannot reach any rural villages. There are many reasons why the people of Majuli have not seen any development in terms of health and better treatment for many years. Then former Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal could not change the poor health sector in Majuli in the last five years. Many doctors do not want to come to Majuli to serve with various excuses. There are many patients in Majuli who die due to lack of doctors and other facilities. Therefore, the much-anticipated Majuli-Jorhat bridge is needed to end the tragic incident. However, the UP State Bridge Construction Company (UPSC) has been negligent and irresponsible in the construction of the bridge. It's shocking everyone.

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Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority

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E-mail: ceogmdaghy@gmail.com / ceo.gmda-as@nic.in Fax: 0361-2529991

No. GMDA/DEV/145/2022/2 Dated: 04-08-2022

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders in prescribed format affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of ₹8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only from reputed, experienced & financially sound individual/ firm are invited by the undersigned at the office of the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority for the work of "Venue preparation, preparation & installation of signage & standee in iron frame, inaugural plaque and flower decoration etc in connection with inauguration programme of Hengrabari Park" and will be received up to 2:00 P.M. on 09-08-2022 and will be opened at 3:00 P.M. on the same day. In case of unscheduled holiday on the date of opening of the tender, the tender will be opened on the next working day at the same time and place. The Detailed Tender Document may be obtained on all working days from 05-08-2022 to 08-08-2022 on payment of non-refundable tender fee of ₹1,000.00 (Rupees One Thousand) only against the work at GMDA's cash counter up to 2:30 P.M.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer
Guwahati Metropolitan Dev. Authority
Bhangagarh, Guwahati - 5

ASSAM CARBON PRODUCTS LTD

Corporate Identification Number (CIN): L23101AS1983PLC001206
Registered Office: Birkuchi, Guwahati, Assam - 781026. Tel: (0361) 2640262/630, Fax: (0361) 2640368
Email: acplghy@ascarbon.com, Website: www.assamcarbon.in

NOTICE OF 59TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BOOK CLOSURE AND ELECTRONIC VOTING INFORMATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the 59th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Assam Carbon Products Limited, will be held on Monday, the 29th day of August, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. (IST), through Video Conferencing ("VC") or other Audio-Visual means ("OAVM"), to transact the businesses, as set out in the Notice dated 23rd May, 2022 convening the AGM (the "Notice").

In view of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (the "MCA") vide its General Circulars Nos. 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2021, 02/2021 and 2/2022 dated April 8, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 5, 2020, January 13, 2021 and May 5, 2022 respectively (hereinafter, collectively referred as the "MCA Circulars") read with SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 and SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022, have allowed companies to conduct their AGMs through VC or OAVM, in compliance with the said circulars and the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (as amended) (the "Act") and Rules made thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended) (the "Listing Regulations").

In accordance with the aforesaid Circulars, the requirement of sending physical copies of Annual Report has been dispensed with and hence the Notice convening the AGM along with the Annual Report including the Audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended March 31, 2022 has been sent on Saturday, August 6, 2022, only through e-mails to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company or the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (the "RTA") i.e., C B Management Services (P) Ltd or the Depository Participant(s) and holding Equity Shares of the Company as on 22nd July, 2022. The Notice of the 59th AGM and the Annual Report is also hosted on the Company's website at www.assamcarbon.in and at the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com and also on the website of the Calcutta Stock Exchange Limited at www.cse-india.com where the Equity Shares of the Company are listed.

Members who have not registered or updated their e-mail addresses are requested to refer to the Newspaper advertisement dated 2nd August, 2022 in "The Assam Rising" (English newspaper in Assam/ Guwahati), "Dainandin Barta" (Assamese newspaper in Assam / Guwahati) and "Business Standard" (English newspaper in Kolkata/ West Bengal). The said advertisement is hosted on the Company's website at www.assamcarbon.in.

Members are also hereby informed that:

- Pursuant to Section 108 of the Act and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (as amended), Regulation 44 of the Listing Regulations and the Secretarial Standard on General Meetings [SS-2] issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, as amended from time to time, the Company is pleased to provide e-voting facilities through NSDL to its Members, in respect of the businesses to be transacted at the AGM. The manner and instructions to cast votes through remote e-voting system during the Meeting have been provided along with the Notice.
- The businesses set out in the Notice shall be transacted through e-voting only. The Members, whose names appear in the Register of Members or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. Monday, the 22nd day of August, 2022, shall be entitled to avail the e-voting facility. Once vote(s) on Resolution(s) are cast by any Member, the same cannot be changed subsequently. The remote e-voting will commence on 28th August, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. IST and ends on 28th August, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. IST. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. A person who is not a Member as on the cut-off date i.e., Monday, the 22nd day of August, 2022, should treat the Notice for information purpose only.
- Members attending the AGM, who have not cast their votes by remote e-voting, shall be eligible to exercise their voting rights during the AGM through e-voting system via www.evoting.nsdl.com. Members who have exercised their voting rights by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM through VC or OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again during the AGM.
- Any person, who acquires equity shares of the Company and becomes a member after dispatch of notice of AGM and holds shares as on the cut-off date i.e. Monday, the 22nd day of August, 2022 may obtain the login id and password for e-voting, by sending a request to NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in or to the Company at acpl.compliance@gmail.com.
- All documents referred to in the Notice and Explanatory Statement thereto shall be made available for inspection by the Members of the Company, without payment of fees, upto and including the date of AGM. Members desirous of inspecting the same may send their requests at acpl.compliance@gmail.com from their registered email addresses mentioning their names and folio numbers / demat account numbers.
- In case of any queries / grievances relating to e-voting, Members may refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on e-voting (For Shareholders).pdf and e-voting Manual - Shareholder.pdf" available at the Download section of NSDL's e-voting website, i.e., www.evoting.nsdl.com or contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Manager, NSDL, Trade World, "A" Wing, 4th Floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013 at Telephone No.s (022)-24994360 / (022)-24994545 or toll free no. 1800-222-990 or at E-mail ID : pallavi@nsdl.co.in and evoting@nsdl.co.in.

Mr. Anant Kashiwal, Practising Chartered Accountant (Membership No.-302972) of M/s. Anant Kashiwal & Co. (Firm Reg. No. 328654E) has been appointed as the scrutineer to scrutinize the e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner, whose email ID is kashiwalanant@yahoo.in.

The Results on resolutions shall be declared within 2 working days of the conclusion of AGM of the Company. The results declared along with the Scrutinizer's Report shall be placed on the website of the Company at www.assamcarbon.in and also available at the Registered Office of the Company and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com and would also be communicated to the Calcutta Stock Exchange Limited at www.cse-india.com

BOOK CLOSURE / RECORD DATE

Notice is also hereby given that pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rules framed thereunder and Regulation 42 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the **Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from Tuesday, 23rd August, 2022 to Monday, 29th August, 2022 (both days inclusive)** for the purpose of the AGM. The Company has fixed Monday, 22nd August, 2022, as the cut-off date / record date.

For **ASSAM CARBON PRODUCTS LTD.**
Sd/-
Place : Kolkata
Date : 06.08.2022

Kal Krishna Bhattacharya
Managing Director

Long way from winning the war

The Russo-Ukrainian war is coming down to a race between the weakening political will of western democracies and the deteriorating military means of Vladimir Putin's dictatorship. But this race will be a marathon, not a sprint. Sustaining that political will requires the kind of farsighted leadership which most democracies are missing. It calls for a recognition that our own countries are also, in some important sense, at war - and a corresponding politics of the long haul. Is this what you hear when you turn on your television in the United States (where I am now), Germany, Italy, Britain or France? Is this a leading topic in the Conservative party contest to decide Britain's next prime minister, or the run-up to the Italian election on 25 September, or the campaign for the US midterm elections on 8 November? No, no and no. "We are at war," I heard someone say recently on the radio; but he was an energy analyst, not a politician. The fact that Ukrainian forces are preparing for a big counter-offensive to recapture the strategically vital city of Kherson shows what a combination of western arms and Ukrainian courage could achieve. US-supplied High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (Himars) - long-range multiple-launch rocket systems - have enabled the Ukrainians to hit artillery depots, bridges and command posts far behind Russian lines. Russian forces have been redeployed from Donbas to defend against the expected offensive, thus further slowing the Russian advance in the east. Richard Moore, the head of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), observed recently that Russia might be "about to run out of steam" in Ukraine because of shortages of material and adequately trained troops. So Ukraine has a good chance of winning an important battle this autumn; but it's still a long way from winning the war. In his campaign to defeat not only Ukraine but also the west, Putin is counting on Russia's two traditional wartime allies: Field Marshal Time and General Winter. The Russian leader is weaponising energy, reducing gas flows through the Nordstream 1 pipeline so Germany can't fully replenish its gas storage before the weather turns cold. Then he will have the option of turning off the gas entirely, plunging Germany and other dependent European countries into a desperate winter. High energy prices as a result of the war continue to turbocharge inflation in the west while keeping Putin's own war chest filled with the billions of euros Germany and others are still paying for Russian gas and oil. Although a few grain ships are now leaving Odesa, his blockade of Ukrainian ports has caused a food price crisis across parts of the Middle East and Africa, resulting in much human misery and potentially in refugee flows and political chaos. Those, too, are Putin's friends. Better still: the global south seems to blame this at least as much on the west as on Russia.

Be a Citizen Journalist

Are you against of violence or corruption? Do you really want revolution in the social, educational, political or economical system? Do you have any questions for the Government, political or non political parties? Don't worry, be a part of The Assam Rising family, Be a citizen journalist and write to us about your problem and we will take the responsibility to publish your voice. We will give you a platform to raise your voice, because your simple voice can change society.

Editor,
The Assam Rising
G.N.B. Road, Chandmari Colony,
Guwahati, PIN 781003
E-mail Id : assamrising@gmail.com

Letter to The Editor

You can send us your self-composed article, story, poem, letter to the editor or any other creative work done by you. We are responsible for publishing it in The Assam Rising. We will also find out one best contributor/writer every week and an attractive prize will be given to encourage him/her. So, without any further delay mail us your own work with full name and address to assamrising@gmail.com.

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Some babies sleep well, some don't-be-ware those selling easy fixes

I'm not going to tell you whether or not my baby is sleeping. If I say he is and your baby is not, then you will hate me. And if I say that he isn't, I will immediately be bombarded with unsolicited advice, usually for a fee. The shysters are already circling. Besides, nothing lasts for ever. When the baby was very small and I wondered if he might become "a good sleeper", other parents delighted in telling me about the four-month sleep regression. Then I found a scientific article claiming it was a myth and decided that if I refused to believe in it, then it would not come for me. I'll let you know how that goes, I could say, but I won't. I'm very tired, but most of all I'm tired of talking and thinking about baby sleep. I keep reading that in the western world we are obsessed with getting our babies to sleep through the night, when in fact this is neither natural nor,

from a safety perspective, desirable (as poet Louise Glück has it: "Human beings must be taught to love/ silence and darkness"). Thankfully for them, no one has attempted to say this to my face, or to the faces of any of the other new mothers I know, several of whom have not had more than two consecutive hours of sleep for months now. For it is not desirable nor safe to have parents losing their minds from sleep deprivation either. The cliché that lack of sleep is used as a means of torture is regularly trotted out, but the reality of what it can do to your brain is often skirted over, perhaps because it is simply too eerie, too gothic, too downright creepy to fully contemplate. "I became prey to day-dreams and hallucinations, remembering conversations that had not occurred, glimpsing strange creatures through win-

dows and in corners, a continual buzz of activity in my head both infernal and remote, as if a television had been left on in a next-door room," says the writer Rachel Cusk. I think of Sylvia Plath's words "cow-heavy and floral/ In my Victorian nightgown", and remember how I

Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett

prowled the house in the early weeks in my own Victorian nightgown, looking like Bertha Mason from Jane Eyre, and probably as much of a fire hazard. Forget operating heavy machinery, I could barely put one foot in front of the other and wept from exhaustion. The desire for sleep became something visceral and monstrous. Yet, in the small hours I would sit in the glow of the screen, trying to find the answer to "baby won't sleep", reading and reading un-

til trying to sleep became pointless, because soon he would be awake again. The insomnia is almost more maddening, the irritating singsong of "sleep when the baby sleeps" echoing in your ears. At some point, you become aware that there are different camps when it comes to sleep: the co-sleepers, the sleep trainers. I judge none of them because I have seen first-hand the effects of long-term sleep deprivation on a person: my autistic brother never slept. How my mother stayed sane, I cannot comprehend. Even now, many years later, she has developed a kind of stamina for baby care and an ability to cat nap that leaves me in awe. Recently I woke after sleeping a sleep of the dead to peer through the living room door at her snoozing on the sofa, my son sleeping peacefully next to her in his bassinet, and felt powerfully and tearfully grateful. And although the thought of a baby being left alone

growing digital economy among the 17 leading economies of the world. A NASSCOM report titled 'Future of Technology Services- Winning in this Decade' highlights that over 50 digital initiatives in diverse sectors such as finance and banking, healthcare, IT/ITES are fueling India's digital dream and are contributing 8% to the economy. Moreover, the Covid-19 pandemic too has accelerated digitization and tier-II and tier III cities are the strongest force behind this thrust in the digital economy of the country. Earlier, most of the business activities, especially IT/ITES, used to remain centered around metropolitan cities such as Gurugram, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, etc. With several conducive factors including superior infrastructure and skilled workforce, Tier-II and III cities have emerged as new loci of growth recently. The ground-work laid by the Electronics Commission envisaged the creation of regional computing centers to spur software and intellectual capital development in India. And, the establishment of the National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development and New Telecommunication Policy provided the roadmap further to catalyze the growth of the IT/ITES sector. Meanwhile, a spate of infrastructure development has also made these cities the most sought-after destinations for IT/ITES investments and other businesses. Likewise, the Digital India and Startup India campaigns, the JAM trinity, and Smart Cities Mission have also accelerated the transformation of these cities. It is estimated that there are more than 61,000 recognized startups in India, across 55 industries, with 45% of them located in Tier II and Tier III cities. The state governments have undertaken vari-



Arvind Kumar

ous initiatives to attract IT firms and provide a conducive ecosystem by establishing industrial clusters, SEZ, and various skill development initiatives to stay ahead in the digitization process. Industry bodies such as NASSCOM, ASSOCHAM, TIE have created access to financial assistance, mentorship, incubation, and network opportunities to support path-breaking ideas from the hinterlands. According to an estimate by Zinnov (a leading management consultancy), about 976 MNCs have set up 1,257 Global In-house Centres (GICs) in India, out of which 68 GICs are in Tier-II locations. The relaxation in the Department of Telecommunications' compliance guidelines allowing IT firms to work from anywhere amid Covid-19 is also set to provide a fillip to this trend. Moreover, with an aim to foster an IT ecosystem in tier-II and III cities, STPI has launched the India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS). This scheme seeks to incentivize the establishment of 48,300 seats in respect of BPO/ITES operations across India. The government provides financial support of up to Rs 1 lakh per seat under two plans-India BPO Promotion Scheme and North East BPO Promotion Scheme. The scheme is distributed among each state in the proportion of state and population with an outlay of Rs. 493 crores. There are special incentives in the scheme to promote employment for

women and specially-abled persons, the participation of local entrepreneurs, setting up operations in non-capital cities, etc. Such a combination of the rising middle class, a shift in consumption patterns and technological innovation augurs well for tier-II and tier III cities to emerge as growth engines of the Indian economy. The upcoming large-scale developments such as Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Metro Neo and Metro Lite, Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor will bolster connectivity and put tier-II and tier III cities such as Sonapat, Jaipur, Dehradun, etc. on the infrastructure map. On the technological front, the proposed roll out of 5G technology also augurs well for the IT/ITES industry in these cities. A Datacenter Policy is also in the pipeline that will escalate the digital transformation process in India. Also, the 'work from home' model amid the Covid-19 pandemic has set off a trend of reverse migration. As a result, firms are moving to tap talent in Indian hinterlands instead of workforce migrating to Tier I cities for employment. It has led to the emergence of the 'hub and spoke' and 'edge' model wherein tier I cities serve as hubs while tier II and tier III towns form the spoke network, and the edge implies the work that can be done remotely. This model allows leading IT firms to diversify their operations at comparatively lower costs in Tier II and Tier III cities while retaining their clientele in tier I cities. Another emerging trend is the gig economy, wherein

firms are looking to diversify their workforce through contract employees who impart flexibility and agility to their operational models. Moreover, leading multinational firms are embracing the idea of expansion in these cities due to multiple advantages including cost-effectiveness, lower land and labor costs, availability of a large talent pool, and low attrition rate of the workforce. Besides serving as a consumer market, the cities such as Jaipur, Indore, Lucknow have emerged as an education hub, thereby generating skilled human capital employed in various firms. Bolstered by these factors, tier II and tier III cities will emerge at the forefront of the digital revolution. This trend will have a multiplier socio-economic impact in the region in terms of employment generation, curbing migration to metropolitan cities, boosting the local economy, improving living standards, and bridging regional disparities in economic development. This will also lessen the burden of mega cities which are facing problems due to limited resources and influx of people from around the corner of the country in the pursuit of quality life. However, it will be critical for these cities to sustain the digitization wave. Focusing on strengthening infrastructure, encouraging skill development among the youth, fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem, and catalyzing innovation through ground-breaking ideas, and augmenting industry-academia collaborations, efforts will help these cities to reap tangible benefits of digitization.

Arvind Kumar, Director General, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)

Modi govt takes IAS promotions to next level-Additional, Joint Secretary now come closer

This is a story that never made it to even the inside or insight pages of any newspaper, leave alone an editorial comment. Even the magazines that claim to have an exclusive focus on governance, but essentially carry news about anticipated transfers and postings, did not cover the silent, salient decision taken a few weeks ago by the Narendra Modi government to reduce the effective levels of decision-making in the ministries and departments from five to three. Until recently, a typical file in a department would move from the undersecretary to the deputy secretary or the director. Here, it should be pointed out that functionally, there was no difference between a deputy secretary and a director. After a certain number of years, the deputy secretary was promoted 'in situ' as the di-

rector. Under the new dispensation, the distinction between the undersecretary and deputy secretary has also been removed. Thus, even though the undersecretary will be promoted to a deputy secretary and then to a director, the function will remain the same and the frills and pay scales will improve at each level. The technical name given for such in situ promotions is 'Non-Functional scale'. In the case of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), an officer reaches the director's position in the usual course - in the 12th year of service. In terms of their pay scale, they move from the Junior Administrative Grade to the Selection Grade, and this changes their entitlements with regard to housing and travel perquisites - directors are entitled to travel Executive class / AC I in trains and the daily allowance on tour is higher. A batch usually gets empanelled as a Joint Secretary (JS) in the 16th year. Officers

move into what is called the 'Super Time' scale. Here, they are entitled to business class for both domestic and international travel. State governments usually follow the Government of India norms with regard to travel entitlements, though, technically, the state governments can issue their own orders with regard to these



Sanjeev Chopra

perquisites. Typically, a JS has a tenure of five years, and they constitute the 'cutting edge' of the government. Although in smaller departments, files moved straight from the JS to the Secretary, in large departments like education, health, agriculture, commerce, and finance, the JS would normally submit the files to the Additional Secretary (AS). For decision

levels in which the JS was the final authority, an endorsement at the level of AS was the norm, but in most cases, the file would go up to the Secretary. As per the revised norms, on completion of three decades of service, a JS will be designated as an AS in situ, provided, of course, they are empanelled as AS or AS equivalent. However, both the JS and the AS will submit the files directly to the Secretary, and so, the Additional Secretary is now akin to a non-functional scale! One may well ask, what then are the charms of being an AS? Well, the AS is the first to get invited to the Rashtrapati Bhawan for the 'at home' on Independence Day and Republic Day. They also get to witness the Independence Day parade from the ramparts of the Red Fort. To the outsider, the nuances of these fine distinctions may appear frivolous, but these do make a lot of difference to the officers (and their spouses!). The tenure of the AS is not very long, and the current government is trying to empanel officers to the rank of Secretary soon thereafter to ensure that they get a longer tenure in that position. This is also necessitated by the fact that after 1995, the average entry-level age increased from 25 to 28 years. Finally, when an officer becomes a Secretary to the Union government, they move to the apex scale in terms of pay and receive the status and treatment of a 'state guest' on an official visit to a state government, with all the attendant protocols besides an entitlement to use the reserved lounge at the airport. The moot question for consideration is: Does the reduction of two layers of decision-making in the government make a difference? It certainly does, for under the revised norms, each of the three levels will have a specific mandate. In

the first instance, the undersecretary or deputy secretary or director will initiate the note with basic information about the scheme/programme/issue in question. It will list the budgetary provisions, past precedents, references to related decisions as well as parliamentary assurances, if any, on the subject and recommend a course of action. At the level of the JS and AS inputs from other divisions within the ministry, autonomous bodies, SPVs (Special Purpose Vehicles), PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings) and/or industry chambers will be factored. In case the issue concerns more than one state, inputs from the state government are also taken on board. The file will now be put up to the Secretary who will take a 360-degree view and also look at the implications for the related ministries. Thus, any view on the procurement of cereal by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) or pulses by NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India) would certainly involve the ministries of agriculture, food, consumer affairs, and commerce. While this is a positive step in reducing hierarchy and making the government more functional, there is a new irritant called 'equivalent', which has been institutionalised over the last few years. At the level of AS and Secretaries, an officer is now being empanelled as AS or AS equivalent, or Secretary and Secretary equivalent. More often than not, after a gap of six months to a year, those in the equivalent category are upgraded to the full status of AS or Secretary. A Secretary equivalent is not supposed to become the Secretary in charge, but in terms of 'frills', they are equal to the Secretary and get to be a state guest on their travel. However, there are multiple instances when officers who have been empanelled as Secretary-equivalents have been made Secretaries and those who are empanelled as Secretaries given positions that are 'Secretary equivalent'.



QUIZ

- Q.1- How many primary colors are there?
Ans-
Q.2- What do you call a house made of ice?
Ans-
Q.3- Which festival is called the festival of light?
Ans-
Q.4- Who is the power minister of Assam?
Ans-
Q.5- How many medical colleges are there in Assam?
Ans-

Those who will give all the 5 correct answers, his/her name and photo will be published next week. You can send your answers to : assamrising@gmail.com

Last week quiz Answers IPL stands for Indian Premier League, hockey, 6 Players, Thailand, Zoo (also called zoological garden or zoological park)



Kridoy Koushik Gogoi, Class V, St Mary's H. school Lakhimpur

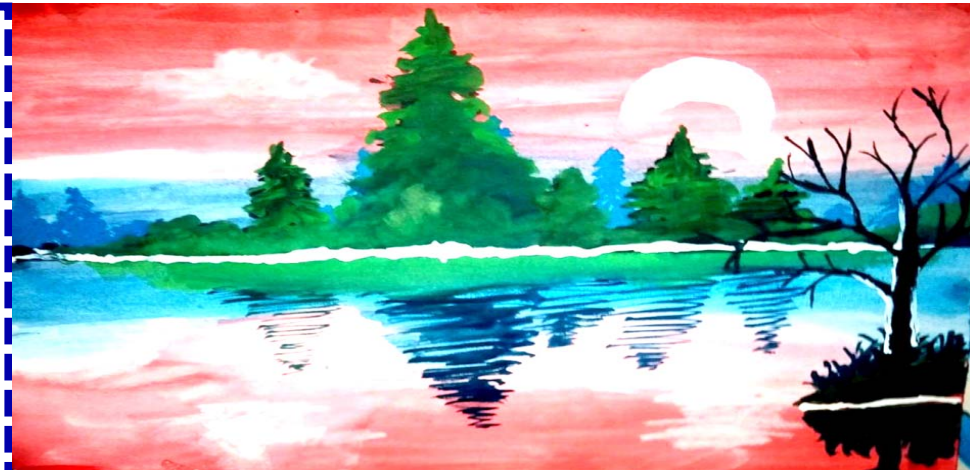
Short Story

The Pot of Wit

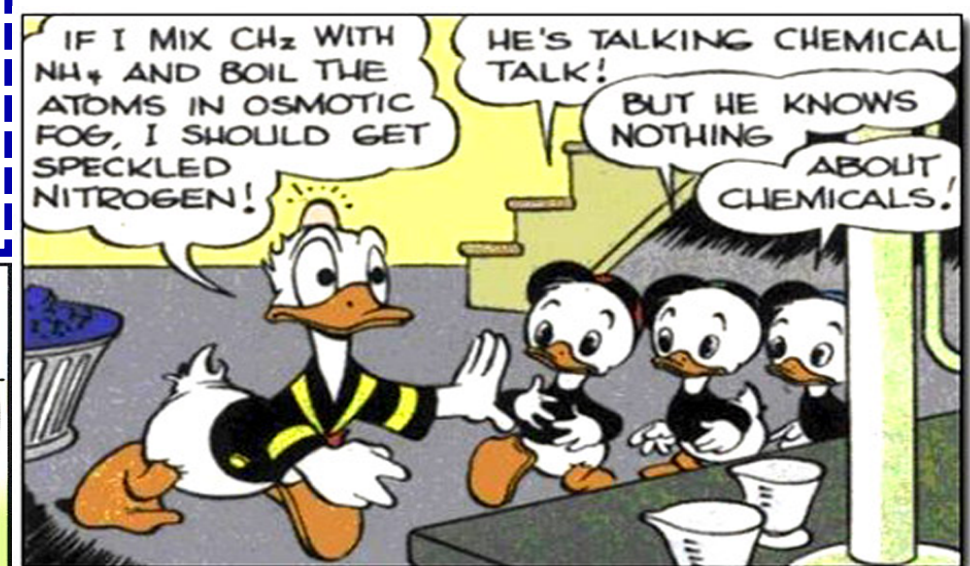
Once upon a time, king Akbar got so mad at Birbal that he told Birbal to leave the kingdom and go away. Heartbroken, Birbal left the kingdom and took refuge at a farmer's house in a nearby village. Birbal spent his days working at the farm. As time passed, King Akbar started missing his favourite courtier. One day, Akbar decided to send across his royal guards to find Birbal. The guards looked for Birbal in all directions, but all their efforts went to waste. Akbar thought of a trick to find Birbal – he made an announcement that whoever got him a pot full of wit would be given a pot filled with diamonds. The news reached all the nearby villages, and to Birbal as well. The villagers held a meeting to decide how to solve the king's mystery. Birbal offered to help, stating that he needs a month's time. Birbal took a pot and put a small watermelon in it without cutting it from its vines. After a month, the watermelon grew up to the size of the pot. This pot was sent to the King, and he was told that the wit should only be removed without breaking the pot. Akbar knew that this could be no one else but Birbal, and he went to bring Birbal back to his court.

Moral : Haste makes waste, think hard because there is a solution to every problem.

Home work : Fill the picture with colour



Bahnideep Dutta, Class V, St. Marys High School, Lakhimpur



"He's a fussy eater, all right. If he isn't eating, he's fussing."

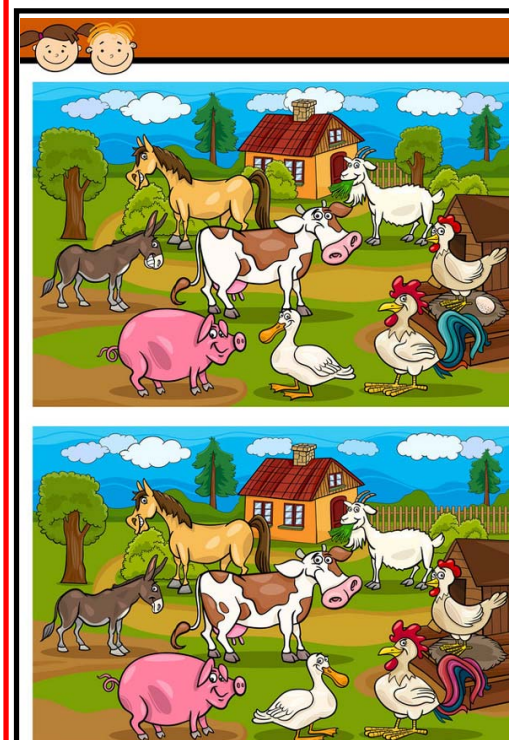
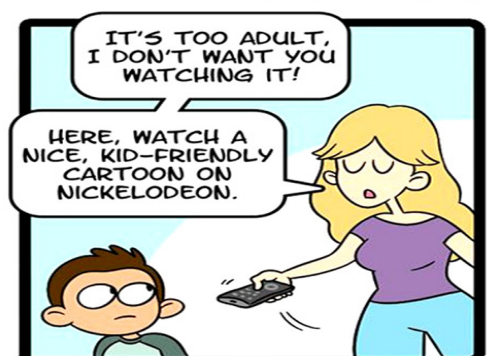
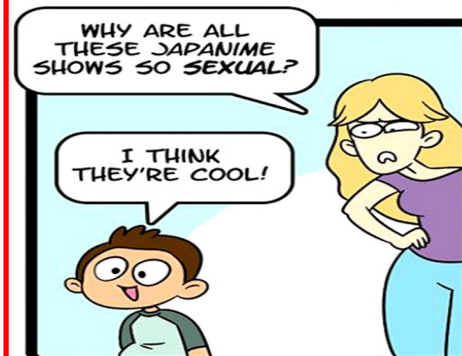
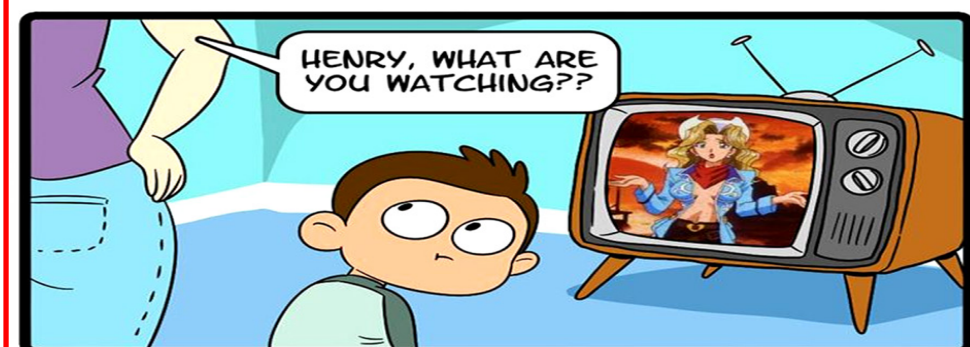
The Fred Quimby Years

Fred Quimby, producer for not only Tom and Jerry but the entire MGM cartoon divisions. Since 1937 he had ridden herd on a zany cast of cartoonists of whom he understood little, having, unfortunately for a cartoon producer, no sense of humor to call upon. Common belief on the main lot was that Quimby had won his producer's title due to long years of service as a top salesman in New York, from whence he came. Indeed, he knew nothing of animation and, as Irv Spence recalls, cartoons "were a strange thing to him." Cast in the role of high school principal



opposite the animators' boyish enthusiasms, he acted as liaisons between them and the front office, usually it seemed, turning down requests for bigger budgets, raises and special dispensations of funds. But under his stewardship, Tom and Jerry sailed along like a flagship on a balmy sea. Not burdened with the need to deal directly with the cantankerous corporate minds in the administration arena, Hanna and Barbera were free to exercise the creativity that made Tom and Jerry the "Gold Dust Twins" of MGM. After 18 years at the helm of the Cartoon Department, Quimby retired, and here was where the storm clouds began to glimmer. Quimby's retirement in no way hampered the creative flow of the Tom and Jerry cartoons, but his leaving signaled the beginning of the end of an era, the Golden Age of Hollywood, in the worlds of both action and animation. And the world was already beginning to change. Television, that great engulfing box with knobs and the convex screen, was already gulping up huge chunks of the theatrical audience, allowing them to be entertained on dark evenings without ever leaving home.

Box office receipts fell, and then plummeted. Movie studios began to worry, and then to panic. New techniques were put into operation, among them CinemaScope, which widened the theater screen to provide a presumably more encompassing view of the world. Cartoons, too, were forced to submit to the CinemaScope rage. Tom and Jerry's first such outing was Pet Peeve, in 1954.



FIND 10 DIFFERENCES



Dear Bhaity, Bhonti,

I came across a powerful quote by Herbert Hoover- the 31st President of the United States. He wrote — "Children are our most valuable resource." You all have equal power, talent, Knowledge and ability, but it depends upon how, where and why you utilize your skill and talent. Knowledge without action is meaningless. Be positive, think positive and do your duty honestly. Always mind it- failure is not the opposite of success. It is part of success. With love, as always, You can contact me on : assamrising@gmail.com

Your Abhi mama.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations! **Antariksha Priyam** for answering all five correct answers of last week's quiz. **Antariksha** is a student of Class IV of LFS, Guwahati. We wish you success in future.



Will My Dreams Come True?

Will my dreams come true this New Year?
Will that rosy dawn arrive?
Will I find the foot of the rainbow,
And the things for which I strive?
Will I follow a road that's greener?
Will the misty hills grow clear
Beyond the far horizon?
Will my dreams come true this year?

I wish I could read a crystal
In which my fate I would see!
I wish I could find an omen
That would show my future to me!
I wish I could learn what fortune
So darkly plans to do.
I wish some genie would tell me –
Will all my dreams come true?

RAIN

The rain is raining all around,
It falls on field and tree;
It rains on the umbrellas here
And on the ships at sea.



Contd. From Page 1

Lok Kalyan Diwas CM Himanta

one of "any other criteria which may be decided by the screening and or selection committee". The government constituted two committees, one for screening and another state level, for evaluation and selection of the proposals received from different districts and departments. The screening committee was headed by the secretary (general administration department) and the state level committee was headed by the chief secretary. Members of the two committees were secretaries and joint secretaries from the personnel, administrative reforms and training, pension and public grievances and finance departments. "The screening committee evaluated the proposals received from different districts in two sittings and placed them before the state level committee," said a state government note. The state level committee scrutinised 259 proposals received from 35 districts and selected 89 employees for the district level awards. Ninety-nine proposals were received from different departments and directorates for the state level awards of which 10 were finally selected. "A government becomes unsuccessful when people who come to offices for their work leave with bad experiences from their interactions with employees. I want such a government and state secretariat from where visitors leave with praise about employees," said Sarma. Keeping a check on corrupt practices, the CM also mentioned how the vigilance and anti-corruption departments have nabbed two employees on a daily basis for accepting bribes. "Earlier there was no scope for recognition for non-gazetted employees, but now we have this opportunity. We are happy that the government decided to honour awardees on the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Gopinath Bordoloi," said Basab Kalita, adviser, Sadou Asom Karmachari Parishad 9SAKP), the umbrella organisation of state government employees. "There will be good and bad employees in all sectors, but awards like this encourages those working sincerely. Now there will be competition among employees and it will improve productivity. There's no complaint about the selection process, which has been very fair," he added.

Assam delegation to visit Mizoram

the representatives of both states held talks in Mizoram's capital Aizawl and they agreed to maintain peace and resolve the inter-state boundary dispute through dialogue. Assam shares a 164.6 km long boundary with Mizoram and many conflicts have taken place in the last few years. Last year on July 26, six Assam policemen and one civilian were killed in a fierce gun battle between the two states and then onwards, tensions heightened between Mizoram and Assam over the boundary dispute. At least 50 people were injured in the incident and a total of six companies of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) had been deployed at the site. However, the two states in a joint statement agreed to take forward the Centre's initiative of letting neutral forces patrol the disputed areas of the inter-state border for maintaining peace.

'Your protest is aimed at...'BJP hits

imposed. Indira Gandhi had then spoken about having a "committed judiciary," the former law minister said. He highlighted the Enforcement Directorate's probe against Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case and said the former Congress president must answer as to how Young Indian, a firm in which the two Gandhis have a 76 per cent stake, allegedly acquired the National Herald's assets worth over Rs 5,000 crore with the investment of only Rs 5 lakh. The judiciary refused to quash charges against them and he was now blaming institutions, the BJP leader said. Rahul Gandhi will have to face consequences for what he has done, Prasad said. "You will have to face trial and answer the ED's questions," he added. "Price rise and unemployment are merely an excuse he said of the Congress' protest and added the basic reason is to intimidate the ED and save the family. He hit out at Gandhi for alleging that the opposition was not allowed to raise its issues in Parliament and said Congress members had also spoken during a debate on price rise. Union minister Anurag Thakur echoed the views and said the protests by the Congress from Parliament to the streets cannot turn the truth of corruption charges against its leaders into a lie. "They are trying to apply pressure on the government and probe agencies after doing corruption. The BJP came to power in 2014 and promised to give corruption-free governance. This is what Modi has delivered in eight years. Probe agencies are now working against corruption done earlier," he said. "Should investigation agencies stop their work? Should some political parties be allowed to do corruption?" he asked. Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra should not obstruct the ED's work, he said, claiming the agency works under no political pressure and functions independently. Both Rahul Gandhi and his sister, a Congress general secretary, were detained by police during their party's protest. Both Prasad and Thakur also noted the allegations of corruption against opposition leaders, including those from the Aam Aadmi Party and the Trinamool Congress. Large amount of cash and other assets allegedly acquired by them have been seized by the ED, they said. Prasad said Rahul Gandhi had levelled all kinds of allegations against Modi during the 2019 polls as well but people elected him with a bigger mandate. The government under Modi has been taking strong measures against corruption, and the Congress and the system around it are rattled because democracy had become synonymous with financial irregularities when the opposition party was in power, he alleged.

Taiwan slams 'evil neighbour'

near one of the areas where China is conducting the exercises. Asked to comment on the missiles, Taiwan Premier Su Tseng-chang did not directly respond, but referred to China as the "evil neighbour showing off her power at our door." Bonnie Glaser, a Washington-based Asia security specialist at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, described as "unprecedented" reports that ballistic missiles were fired over Taiwan. "In my view, the larger threat is that China is doing a rehearsal for a blockade, demonstrating it can block Taiwan's ports and airports, and prevent shipping," she said. China has said its relations with Taiwan are an internal matter. "The U.S.-Taiwan collusion and provocation will only push Taiwan towards the abyss of disaster, bringing catastrophe to Taiwan compatriots," said a Chinese defence ministry spokesperson. Responding to the Chinese drills, President Tsai Ing-wen said Taiwan would not provoke conflicts but would firmly defend its sovereignty and national security. Taiwan has been self-ruled since 1949, when Mao Zedong's communists took power in Beijing after defeating Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang (KMT) nationalists in a civil war, prompting the KMT-led government to retreat to the island. Beijing says it reserves the right to bring Taiwan under China's control, by force if necessary. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told an Asian meeting of top diplomats on Friday that China's reaction to Pelosi's visit to Taiwan was "flagrantly provocative" and that China had sought to intimidate not only Taiwan but neighbours too, a western official said. Pelosi, who is currently in Japan, told reporters that China could not isolate Taiwan by preventing Western officials from travelling there. "This visit isn't about me, it's about Taiwan," she said. During a news conference in Tokyo, Pelosi addressed the diplomatic storm caused by the congressional visit to Asia, and most specifically Taiwan. "We have said from the start that our representation here is not about changing the status quo in Taiwan or the region," she told a news conference after meeting Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. The congressional delegation led by Pelosi visited Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and South Korea earlier this week before arriving in Japan for the last leg of the tour. Pelosi met Kishida at his official residence, where the Japanese prime minister said the two allies would work together to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, a key shipping route. China's foreign ministry said it had summoned the Japanese ambassador in Beijing on Thursday over its participation in an "erroneous" Group of Seven (G7) nations statement on Taiwan, and also made complaints to EU envoys. Japan, whose southernmost islands are closer to Taiwan than Tokyo, has warned that Chinese intimidation of Taiwan is an escalating national security threat. "I have informed speaker Pelosi that the fact China's ballistic missiles had landed near Japanese water including EEZ threaten our national safety and security and that Japan had strongly condemned such actions," Kishida said.

Rahul Gandhi detained as Congress

protest. The Congress MPs planned to march from Parliament to Rashtrapati Bhavan while party workers also sought to gherao the residence of the prime minister as part of the protest. Earlier, the Delhi Police had denied permission to the Congress for holding the protest in the national capital, citing that prohibitory orders are in place in the New Delhi district. "Today people are being trampled upon by inflation, there is trouble in the country. But the government doesn't bother," said Congress MP Manish Tewari. Congress MP and senior leader P Chidambaram said, "This protest is about price rise and Agnipath. Price rise affects everybody. As a political party and as elected representatives we are bound to voice the grievances the burdens and the fears of the people. This is what we are doing." Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that India is witnessing the "death of democracy" and anybody who raises people's issues and stands against the onset of dictatorship is "viciously attacked" and put in jail. "There is no democracy in India and there is a dictatorship of four people," Rahul Gandhi alleged. "What we are witnessing is the death of democracy. That is what India is witnessing. What India has built brick by brick, starting almost a century ago, is basically being destroyed in front of your eyes," Gandhi added. Commenting on BJP's allegation that the party's protest is an attempt to save the "family", Congress leader Salman Khurshid said, "... Why will I come to save the family? I'll come to save my leader, my leader saves me. I have no issue if they make this a definition of family." "All Congress MPs were marching towards Rashtrapati Bhawan to raise the issue of inflation and price rise but they are not allowing us to go ahead from here. Our job is to raise the issues of the people... Some MPs were detained, and also beaten," said Congress MP Rahul Gandhi at Vijay Chowk. Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi joined the protest as did Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. "Inflation has risen beyond the limit; the government will have to do something about it. This is why we're fighting," Priyanka said. She sat on a protest with other leaders and workers of the party outside the AICC headquarters. From Bihar to Andhra Pradesh, Congress leaders across the country are protesting against price hike and inflation. In AP's Vijayawada, Congress workers wore garlands made of vegetables to protest against the Central government over the issues of price rise and unemployment. "We are protesting peacefully against inflation, price rise, unemployment, GST rate hike among other issues," said Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge during Congress protest at Vijay Chowk, Delhi.

Include chapter on Lachit Borphukan

Sarma in his letter. It is worth mentioning that in the battle of Saraighat of 1671, Borphukan led his army from the front to a resounding victory, despite being terribly ill. His unflagging valour and determination ensured the culture, identity and uniqueness of the north-east region remained intact. Requesting his counterparts for inclusion of Borphukan's history and valour in the curriculum, the CM added that this will contribute to the spread of patriotic ideals among the youth and inspire them to dedicate themselves to the service of the nation.

Sanjay Raut thanks Opposition parties

said in the letter. "I am thankful for the overwhelming support given to me during the political witch-hunt and motivated attack directed against me by the central government through central agencies. My fight will continue for what is right. Neither will I bow down to pressure nor will it break my resolve to see this fight through," he added. The ED had arrested Sanjay Raut on August 1 after conducting hour-long searches at his residence in connection with the alleged irregularities in the re-development of the Mumbai 'chawl' and related transactions concerning his wife and 'associates'. Meanwhile, Varsha Raut, Sanjay Raut's wife, has to appear before the central probe agency on Saturday (August 6) for investigations in connection with the Patra Chawl case. As per PTI, Varsha Raut will likely be questioned with her husband and some other accused in the case when she deposes before the ED in its office in Ballard Estate. On Thursday, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had backed Sanjay Raut, saying he and his family are being "targeted" because he is not afraid of the BJP's "deceitful politics". Priyanka Gandhi wrote in a tweet in Hindi, "The only goal of the BJP is to grab power by threats and deceit, and trample upon democracy. Sanjay Raut and his family are being targeted because he is not afraid of the deceitful politics of the BJP and fights them resolutely." "Fear and intimidation are weapons of the cowards, they will not stand up to the might of the truth," the Congress leader added.

CRPF 30 D organised awareness rally on Har Ghar Tiranga

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, August 5: 30 D Company of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), whose head office is located at Hahchora, North Lakhimpur organised an awareness rally in collaboration with Angerkhwa Chariali H.S. School, North Lakhimpur on Har Ghar Tiranga mission to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav today. The rally was taken out in the greater Angerkhwa area where the students and teachers of Angerkhwa Chariali H.S. School participated actively. The students shouted slogans on Har Ghar Tiranga to make awareness among the locals. Earlier, at the morning assembly of the school, the commander of the company Vijay Bag spoke to the students about the Har Ghar Tiranga program and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav elaborately.

Blood donation camp at Tezpur

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, August 5: As a part of the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 5 Assam Battalion NCC, Tezpur had organized a blood donation camp at Kanaklata district hospital here today. The commanding officer of 5 Assam Battalion NCC colonel OP Pandey inaugurated the camp. During his inaugural address colonel Pandey highlighted the importance of blood donation. He further added that the NCC cadets are always volunteered to undertake noble deeds like blood donation. A total of 33 NCC cadets from various educational institutions including Tezpur University, Darrang College, Tezpur College and LOKD College donated blood. The blood donation camp was attended by the officials from the NCC Battalion including Sukhraj Singh, Rajkishor, Satya Singh, Prakash Lal and Kularam Mili.

Lok Sewa Divas observed at Nagaon district library

Assam Rising, Nagaon, August 5: Along with rest of the state, district administration of Nagaon also observed the death anniversary of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi as 'Lok sewa Divas' today at Nagaon district library auditorium. State Health minister Keshab Mahanta graced the occasion as the chief guest while the local MLA Rupak Sarma was present in the programme as an invitee. The programme was chaired by Narendra Kumar Shah, deputy commissioner of Nagaon. During the programme, six government employees who are rendering their services in the office of Deputy Commissioner as well as in the office of Kaliabor Subdivision (Civil) were felicitated with a felicitation letter, gamusha and a cheque of Rs 25,000 each for their sincerity, dedication as well as tremendous performance in their respective services. The employees who were felicitated by the district administration today are respectively - Anu Saikia, Mamataz Ansari, Jayanta Sarma, Pabitra Lagur and Simanta Hazarika. In his speech, the minister said an additional one year of service for those employees who were felicitated today will be extended by the state government.

Lok Kalyan Divas observed at Biswanath

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, August 5: To mark and recall the contributions of Bharat Ratna, Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi, the first chief minister of Assam, the state government used to observe the death anniversary of the legend as Lok Kalyan Divas. To commemorate the death anniversary of the first chief minister of Assam Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi, Biswanath district administration had organised Lok Kalyan Divas at Biswanath today at the conference hall of Biswanath Municipal board. The day-long programme began with lighting of a ceremonial lamp in front of the portrait of the Gandhian leader by Munindra Nath Nagatey, deputy commissioner of Biswanath followed by Assam Sangeet. Biswanath DC Munindra Nath Nagatey, SP Nabin Singh, Dhanada Kalita, Jamir Ahmed, Amar Jyoti Borthakur, Dr. Ranjan Gogoi briefed on the life and ideology of the Gandhian leader, freedom fighter Gopinath Bordoloi. In between the programme Nayani Bharali and Aimoni Hazarika, the two recipients of Lok Kalyan Award were felicitated by Biswanath district administration with cash and citations. The programme was attended by Liza Talukdar, ADC, Biswajit Saikia, ADC and DIPRO (i/c), Debasish Goswami, election officer, Ananya Lahkar, assistant commissioner, Paresh Borkakaty, deputy director of Assam Animal Husbandry, Diganta Ghatowar beside others.

Illegal consignment of urea seized from truck, one arrested

Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, August 5: A team of police personnel from Simultapu outpost on Thursday seized 500 sacks of smuggled urea fertilizers from a container from Assam-Bengal border Srirampur NH-31(C) and arrested the driver of the 12 wheeler container. The container bearing registration number RJ-14GK-6148 was heading towards Guwahati from Dalkhola in West Bengal for delivery. Police sources informed that after intercepting the container along with the urea fertilizers the driver failed to produce any related documents. The driver of the truck so far arrested by the police has been identified as Gardhon Ram hailing from Rajasthan. Efforts are on to find out more information about the smuggled consignment, said the police.

Death of a pregnant teenage girl in Dimakuchi

Assam Rising, Udalguri, August 5: The death of a pregnant teenage girl of Dharamjuli Tea Estate under Dimakuchi police station of Udalguri district has created intense sensation. It is mentioned that, 6 months ago, two women of Bamunjali took the girl to Haryana by enticement of work and sold her to a person of Jharkhand. After that the teenage girl was sexually assaulted by the owner. As a result the teenage girl became pregnant. However due to the torture of her owner, she ran away and went to a police station of Haryana. Then with the help of police the victimized girl came to her mother's home Barangajuli a few days ago. After mother's home, the girl took shelter in her grandmother's home in Dharamjuli. After staying at grandmother's home for a few days, the girl was suffering from stomach pain and was admitted to Barangajuli Tea Garden Hospital, although the girl died mysteriously. The family members buried the body without informing police, and that has caused a sensation in the greater area. After getting the information, Dimakuchi police along with the magistrate arrived on the spot and dug out the body and sent it for postmortem. It is also mentioned that, when the girl arrived at her mother's home, the Udalguri Childline took the girl to the District Child Protection Committee, although family members misbehaved with the team of Udalguri Childline. On the other hand, different organisations including Childline, Child Protection Committee, District Legal Services Authority and AASAA raised demands for strict punishment to Sunu and Desi who sold the girl. Journalists have also complained that Dimakuchi police misbehaved while going for the coverage of the news.

Obituary Bhagya Bora

Assam Rising, Nagaon August 5: Cultural activist, musician and founder of 'Sur - Sadhna', a leading Institution of music and songs of the small town - Bhagya Bora (Khanindra) breathed his last at Guwahati Medical College Hospital this morning after a brief illness. He was only 52. He leaves behind his wife artiste and singer Suwagmoni Mahanta and a host of relatives. With the musical institution, Bhagya Bora and singer Suwagmoni Mahanta moulded thousands to learn traditional as well as modern Assamese music and songs for over a couple of decades in the town. His demise has casted a pall of gloom across the small town. His demise was mourned by various local cultural organizations, artists, instrumentalists, singers and other cultural activists of the town and also paid tribute to the departed soul. The earthly remains of the cultural activist were brought to his New Amulapatty residence and the last rites were carried out later in the afternoon.

Public Welfare day celebrated at Morigaon

Assam Rising, Bhuragaon, August 5: The 72nd death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Lokpriya Gopinath Bardoli was celebrated today. Therefore, it is important to understand the importance of these issues in the development of the country. Therefore, it is important to understand the importance of these issues in the development of the country. Every speaker paid tribute to his philosophy of work, love and sense of responsibility towards the nation. The event was attended by Morigaon MLA Ramakant Deuri, Tiwa Autonomous Council Chief Executive Officer Jeevan Chandra Patar, District Commissioner Prakash Ranjan Gharphalia, Morigaon College Principal Dr. Dr. Lilakant Barthakur, Assistant Professor of Political Science; Budhen Chandra Shaikia, Mileshevar Patar, Dalim Fukan, former MLA Harendra Bora, members of Morigaon District Sahitya Sabha, journalists, Kankan Kalita of Fire and Emergency Services, Moirabari, Anil Hazarika, Laboratory Technician of Udari State Hospital. Senior officers of the administration, heads of various departments, officers, employees and students



FA website crashes before Lionesses v USA at Wembley sells out in 24 hours

Washington, August 05 : An unprecedented demand for tickets to watch England play USA at Wembley in October led to the Football Association's website crashing on Tuesday and fans being held in queues online of more than 45,000 people. By Wednesday lunchtime, all available general admission tickets were sold out, with just hospitality options still on sale. The FA announced at 2pm that England, the newly crowned European champions, were in line to host the USA, the World Cup holders, on 7 October. It prompted a surge to buy tickets and supporters able to access the website were given an estimated wait time of more than an hour. The crashes appeared to occur only early in the rush but the long waits continued for hours. It is the latest signal that England's win against Germany in front of more than 87,000 fans at Wembley in the Euro 2022

final on Sunday - watched by a peak TV audience of 17.4 million on the BBC - has generated greater interest than ever in the team. England and USA last met in the SheBelieves Cup in 2020 in Orlando with goals from Christen Press and Carli Lloyd earning the home team a 2-0 victory. Before that they met in the semi-final of the 2019 World Cup in France, with USA winning 2-1 and going on to lift the trophy. The Wembley friendly is subject to England qualifying next month for the 2023 World Cup which is being held in Australia and New Zealand. They are five points clear of Austria in Group D and need a point away to Austria on 3 September or a win against Luxembourg at Stoke three days later. The FA has sold more than 20,000 tickets for that first game on home soil since the win against Germany on Sunday, with more tickets to be released. Sarina

Wiegman, the England manager, said: "It is really exciting to have the chance to play the US at Wembley if we can make sure of qualification for the World Cup. It would be the perfect game for our squad to meet another strong team after so many tough games in the Euros." "It is good we enjoy the moment we are in after this wonderful summer but we know we still have work to do to take the next step forward... it will be great to welcome as many fans as possible so that we can say thanks again for their incredible support." The USA head coach, Vlatko Andonovski, said: "This is exactly the kind of match we need at exactly the right time in our World Cup preparations so we can test ourselves against a very talented England team. I saw England play live at the Euros and I'm looking forward to an amazing atmosphere at Wembley and another big event for women's soccer."

Moscow, August 05 : A Moscow court has convicted the US basketball player Brittney Griner on drug charges, sentencing her to nine years in prison and a 1m rouble fine in a politically charged verdict that could lead to a prisoner swap with the US. Griner, a basketball talent who played in Russia during off-seasons from the Phoenix Mercury team, was arrested for cannabis possession at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport in February. Her arrest took place days before Russia invaded Ukraine, prompting frantic backdoor negotiations between the US and Russian intelligence services as her trial played out in a small courthouse just outside the Moscow city limits. Her formal conviction, which was a foregone conclusion, is a necessary

step if a prisoner exchange is to take place. US officials say Russia wants to swap Griner and Paul Whelan, a former US marine arrested on spying charges in 2020, for the convicted arms dealer Viktor Bout. "She's very upset," said Maria Blagovolina, one of her lawyers. "Very upset, very stressed. She can hardly talk. It's a difficult time for her." Griner had referred to the upcoming sentencing as "doomsday", Blagovolina said. "It turns out she was right." "Russia is wrongfully detaining Brittney," said the US president, Joe Biden. "It's unacceptable, and I call on Russia to release her immediately so she can be with her wife, loved ones, friends and teammates." The US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, said he was "committed to ensuring we do everything we can to bring home Brittney Griner and Paul Whelan as soon as possible". Griner's defence team said they were "disappointed" by the verdict and would appeal. It is unlikely any swap would be made before the appeals process is exhausted. Although she pleaded guilty to the drug charges, the US has classified Griner as "wrongfully detained", launching a process similar to hostage ne-



gotiations with Iran and other countries. A senior US embassy official attended Thursday's hearing and verdict, where police spetsnaz (special forces) and bomb-sniffing dogs patrolled the hallways. Prosecutors asked for a nine-and-a-half-year prison sentence for Griner and a hefty fine, nearly the maximum in her case. Lawyers said they considered Griner's sentence extremely harsh, noting that many Russians arrested in similar cases are served suspended sentences on parole. In an emotional closing statement on Thursday, Griner apologised to her teammates and told the courtroom that she had made an "honest mistake", adding: "That is why I pled guilty to my charges, but I had no intent of breaking the law." She also rejected the political implications of her case, making an emo-

tional appeal directly to the judge, Anna Sotnikova. "I know everybody keeps talking about 'political pawn' and 'politics', but I hope that is far from this courtroom," she said, asking for leniency. In the end, it was not shown. Her legal team also said they would not engage in the political aspects of the case, saying that was up to the US embassy and government. Prosecutors in the Russian court said Griner's arrest on drug charges was "fully proven". Her defence lawyers pointed toward irregularities in the investigation and described the pressures on the basketball star, whom they compared to the sprinter Usain Bolt. A conviction is usually required in cases that could lead to a prisoner exchange, because it would allow the Kremlin to issue a pardon or reduce a sentence without blatantly interfering in an ongoing trial. A lawyer for Whelan told the Guardian on Thursday that he was "sure that a trade will eventually be made", but added that a final agreement did not seem to have been reached. He claimed that the US said Russia offered a trade for Bout in 2020 shortly after Whelan's conviction on spying charges.

James Vince guides Southern Brave to perfect start in Hundred defence

London, August 05 : The fireworks very much happened before play started as the second season of the Hundred got under way with a deeply one-sided win for the inaugural champions, Southern Brave, who cantered over the line with 30 balls to spare to win by nine wickets. Welsh Fire mustered barely a spark throughout as they lost first the toss, then a succession of wickets and finally, inevitably, the match. The Brave captain James Vince turned



his side's run chase, never the most daunting, into a gentle procession with an unbeaten innings of 71, the only thing stopping his evening from flirting with perfection coming when he

was denied the chance of scoring the winning runs by Jake Ball, with the scores level, bowling a no ball. "The bowlers did a fantastic job and from there the gameplan was fairly simple," he said. "The only way we would let them back into the game was to lose early wickets so there wasn't a huge amount of scoreboard pressure. Our new-ball bowlers bowled really well, we took early wickets and stayed in control." Those extras brought an imperfect end to what, for all the excellence of the home side's performance, was in many respects an imperfect opening game. For a start it was a little light on household names, thanks to Jonny Bairstow's announcement on the eve of the tournament that he would prefer to rest than to play for Fire, and South Africa's T20 against Ireland in Bristol taking out a key player from each team. There will be better matches, greater drama, infinitely more tension on other occasions but the youthful stream of fans heading into the Ageas Bowl on a gorgeous summer's evening, with the sun straining to break through a rippled, hazy layer of cloud before finally succeeding, with a timing few players would match, just before the start of play, was in itself a convincing counter-argument to this tournament's many sceptics. Some of the novelties designed to attract the school-holiday crowd turned out not to be overwhelming successes.

Commons to Commonwealth: Ghana cyclist Symonds builds his own legacy

London, August 05 : As the Commonwealth Games' greatest cyclists flew around Wolverhampton on their £10,000 superbikes, the scent of glory in their nostrils, a 48-year-old doorkeeper at the Houses of Parliament was doing his best to keep up - and, in his own small way, to create a legacy of his own. While gold in the men's time trial was won by Australia's Rohan Dennis in 46min 21.24sec - with England's Fred Wright and Wales's Geraint Thomas taking silver and bronze respectively - Ghana's Chris Symonds could take considerable pride in his performance, despite finishing 16 minutes back. Not only because Symonds, who turns 50 next year, had men more than half his age behind him as he came 47th out of 54. But also because he has kept in shape by riding from his home in Edmonton to the Palace of Westminster, where he works as a doorkeeper, responsible for both security and ceremony. "The journey into work is about 12 miles on a hybrid commuter bike," he explained afterwards, flanked by his Slovakian wife Lucia, and his kids Jakub and Lukas. "You try to work up a head of steam, but it's not easy with all the traffic lights." His bike is not parked in the House of Commons, however. "It's safer in the House of Lords, to be honest!" he said. Asked about his job, Symonds had a glint in his eye as he explained: "I've been a doorkeeper for 20 years, since Gordon Brown and David Cameron were prime ministers. We keep the doors to the chamber, to make sure people like you don't get in. I've barred entry to a few famous people, but I'd better not say who." Symonds is able to compete at the Commonwealth Games because cycling is an open event with no qualifying time. Not everyone is happy with having cycling Eric the Eels in Birmingham. But Symonds, who was born in London to an English father and a Ghanaian mother, believes he and others are inspiring the next generation of riders from Africa and elsewhere who don't necessarily think cycling is for them.



London Spirit hold off Oval Invincibles fightback to win Hundred thriller

London, August 05 : Nathan Ellis and Jordan Thompson's powerplay heroics helped London Spirit claim a three-run win over city rivals Oval Invincibles in a thrilling Hundred derby clash. Australian fast bowler Ellis (three for 28) and Thompson (two for 31) wrecked the Invincibles top order as they reduced the home side to 12 for four chasing 172 to win at The Oval. That looked to have ended the Invincibles' hopes of winning but Hilton Cartwright (42), Jordan Cox (39) and Danny Briggs (29 not out off 11 balls) almost pulled off the unlikely of wins, only for Thompson to keep his cool amid a breathless finish. Earlier Eoin Morgan proved the mainstay of Spirit's 171 for six, the former England skipper making 47 off 29 balls with five fours and three



sixes Zak Crawley (21), inevitably under the spotlight after his poor summer thus far with England, gave Spirit impetus early in the powerplay with four boundaries, including successive sweeps off Briggs. Fellow opener Adam Rossington briefly caught the mood, hoisting Mohammad Harnain for two huge sixes before holing out in the deep off the same bowler attempting a third. Glenn Maxwell failed to sparkle, chewing up 16 balls for his 18 and with Morgan slow into stride

Spirit were 74 for three at halfway after being sent in. A full-blooded pull shot for six and an audacious dink over keeper Sam Billings off the middle of the bat released Morgan's shackles and he and Dan Lawrence then tucked into a set of five from Harnain to the tune of 23 runs. The pair added 72 in 39 balls before the frugal Sunil Narine (two for 25) bowled Lawrence to again check the visitors' progress. Morgan's fine effort ended three short of a half-century as he holed out off

England paceman Reece Topley (one for 26) but a late six from the otherwise becalmed Kieron Pollard lifted Spirit to 171. Invincibles made a nightmare start in reply. Jason Roy's white-ball struggles continued when Ellis had him caught for a golden duck from the first ball of the innings before Thompson struck twice in the third set of five, Sam Curran mishitting tamely into the hands of Maxwell and the dangerous Will Jacks perishing to a catch in the deep. And when Ellis returned to bowl the former and when Curran continued the quest for an unlikely win, but Ellis returned to bowl the former and when Curran (27) holed out in the deep the cause looked lost. Briggs though refused to give up the chase reducing the target to 17 off the last set. The spinner thrashed successive fours off Thompson, but Narine was unable to hit the six needed from the final ball as Spirit scrambled home.

he spilt a regulation catch to deny Thompson a third wicket, and when Cartwright struck a short one from Chris Wood 103 metres home hopes flickered into life once more. The all-rounder muscled one from leg-spinner Mason Crane over the ropes in the next set, but perished to the next delivery, skying one to wicketkeeper Rossington to end the stand at 74. Cox and Tom Curran continued the quest for an unlikely win, but Ellis returned to bowl the former and when Curran (27) holed out in the deep the cause looked lost. Briggs though refused to give up the chase reducing the target to 17 off the last set. The spinner thrashed successive fours off Thompson, but Narine was unable to hit the six needed from the final ball as Spirit scrambled home.

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Chess: India's teen talent shines as Chennai Olympiad breaks records

New Delhi, August 05 : Armenia have a narrow lead over the top seeded US at halfway in the 180-nation, \$10m Chennai Olympiad, an event which is already unique and in the record books. Its stunning ambience, eager fans, and opulent playing conditions reflect India's ambition to make August 2022 a landmark moment towards its goal of surpassing the three established chess superpowers, USA, Russia and China. The state of Tamil Nadu and its chief minister, MK Stalin, approved a \$10m budget which dwarfs any other chess event in history. Familiar name? The politician was born in 1953 and when Joseph Stalin died four days later the baby's father decided what to call his son. Besides more than 1700 players, the Olympiad has thousands of support staff, ranging from arbiters and live board technicians to anti-cheating friskers and medical personnel. Hundreds of children from all over India are being provided every day with free food, travel and accommodation to visit the Olympiad and to talk to the former world champion Vishy Anand. Chess is already a major Indian sport and with the stimulus from Chennai it could take off further, as it did in Russia in the 1930s. Every game from both the open and women's Olympiads is relayed to major chess websites. Play begins at 10.30am daily (five hours earlier for next Tuesday's final round) and is free to watch on chess24.com with grandmaster commentaries and an evaluation bar which shows at a glance who is winning. After six of the 11 rounds, leading scores were - Open: Armenia 12 match points (17.5 game points), United States 11(16), India 2 10



(19), Uzbekistan 10 (19), with England 14th on 9 (16.5). Women: India 12 (18.5), Azerbaijan 11 (18.5), Romania 11 (16.5), with England 34th on 8 (14). Armenia v United States tops the bill in Friday's seventh round, a moment for Levon Aronian, formerly Armenia's star player who transferred to the US after decreased funding for chess. Aronian will probably be benched for this match, while the former world No 2 Fabiano Caruana was defeated by Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov, 17. The stand-out first half Olympiad team has been India 2, with its average age of 19 and its already iconic top board Gukesh D (as he is now invariably called rather than Dommaraju Gukesh). The 16-year-old son of a surgeon and a microbiologist has come a long way from when, at 11, he incurred Nigel Short's displeasure. Gukesh has been in stellar form in 2022, winning five first prizes in a row in Spain. His rating has shot past the elite 2700 mark, a feat achieved

younger only by Wei Yi, Magnus Carlsen and Alireza Firouzja. He has won all his six games so far in Chennai, including his impressive win over Alexey Shirov where he encouraged the former world title challenger to launch one of his Fire on Board attacks so as to refute it by superior strategic and endgame play. Gukesh is making a vast impression in Chennai, one that can be compared with five of the great Olympiad debuts by future world class players: Paul Keres at Warsaw 1935, Bent Larsen at Moscow 1956, Mikhail Tal at Munich 1958, Judit Polgar at Thessaloniki 1988, and Vlad Kramnik at Manila 1992. Firouzja, aged 19 and already having been 2800+, is widely regarded as Carlsen's heir apparent as world No 1, whether or not that also involves the world championship title. Gukesh, three years younger and already within 60 rating

points of Firouzja, has the potential to surpass his rival, whose troubling moments of immaturity were exemplified last month at the Madrid Candidates. So, Carlsen v Gukesh 2027, whether or not it is for the official world title? Place your bets. Carlsen's Norway are seeded No 3 in Chennai, but are currently placed a disastrous 56th with North Macedonia coming up in round seven. As the Oslo journalist Tarjei Svensen has pointed out, prior to Chennai Carlsen had dropped a total of nearly 50 rating points in his last five team events for Norway, and had not made a plus score since 2007. The No 1 began his campaign with two long grinds where part of his strategy seemed to be to keep the endgame going until they were playing

with just the 30-second increment, effectively making it rapid instead of classical. This brought a win, a draw, and a fractional rating loss. Meanwhile, Norway's lower boards dropped whole points. Some said they should have fielded Simen Agdestein. The 55-year-old, who last month won the Norwegian championship for the eighth time, was also a striker for the national football team in his youth. After his first two games, Carlsen switched his style, taking on hand-to-hand combat against opponents rated 300 points or more lower. He checkmated Zambia, and won a brutal Sicilian against Australia. For the individual top board gold medal, Gukesh so far has 6/6 and Carlsen 4.5/5. A one-to-one would be a supreme Olympiad moment, like Bobby Fischer v Tal 1960 and Fischer v Mikhail Botvinnik in 1962, but this is unlikely now with Norway so far behind. It should still be a fascinating race for gold.

England breeze into Commonwealth Games semis with rout of New Zealand

Edgbaston, August 05 : England are rolling on through the Commonwealth Games, with enough momentum behind them, now, to have absolutely flattened New Zealand on the way to the semi-finals. They won by seven wickets at Edgbaston on Thursday evening, in 11.4 overs. The sun was out, and a crowd was in. There were 10,892 there, the biggest audience the



team have had since the World Cup final at Lord's back in 2017. Around half of them were in the Hollies Stand, and the sight of them all, standing, singing, dancing, in celebration of England's victory felt like another step forward for women's sport in a summer full of them. Both England and New Zealand had already qualified for the knock-out round, but there was still a prize on the line. It wasn't so much that the winner gets to play India on Saturday, more that the loser has to face Australia, who haven't lost a T20 game since March 2021. So New Zealand have two days to try and reassemble the bits and pieces of their batting lineup after it was wrecked by England's attack. They say it's batters who win matches, but

not this one. England bowled so well that New Zealand barely cobbled together their total of 71 even though they had won the toss. It was Katherine Brunt who did the damage. New Zealand had made it this far through the tournament without losing a single wicket in a powerplay, as their two openers, Sophie Devine and Suzie Bates, put together back-to-back stands of 99 and 51 against South Africa and Sri Lanka. Then they ran smack bang into Brunt, who broke them in the first over. She nearly dismissed Bates with her third ball, and then did dismiss Devine with her fourth, a nip-backer that

slipped through the gap in Devine's defence like it had been greased and ripped out her leg stump. At 37, Brunt does this for fun. Seeing her go to work on a top order is like watching a hobbyist mechanic dismantle an engine. A twist here, a turn there, and suddenly the thing's in bits in front of you. She got New Zealand's No 3, Amelia Kerr, four balls later, trying to hit an off-cutter which knocked over her middle stump. Brunt finished with figures of two for four in three overs, with one maiden. By then New Zealand had lost Bates too, who clipped a catch straight to mid-wicket off Issy Wong.

That left New Zealand 21 for three at the end of the powerplay. It was always going to be a long climb back from a start like that, and it didn't help that Brooke Halliday decided the best way to do it was by digging down deeper. Halliday was at the non-striker's end when she called for a single off a delivery that squirmed past the wicketkeeper Amy Jones. Her partner Maddy Green kept shouting "no, no!" but it was like a dog-walker trying to call back a Labrador going after a picnic. Green gave Halliday the sort of filthy look the walker might have used too, when they ended up standing at the same end while Jones removed the bails. Then Sophie Ecclestone removed Green, who never quite seemed to get over her disappointment, with a jaffa that spun between her bat and pad. At the other end, the leg-spinner Sarah Glenn tied up the tail. The only flaw in the performance was that England allowed the 10th-wicket pair of Hannah Rowe and Fran Jonas to bat through the last five overs, so New Zealand's 57 for nine ended up 71 for the same. England missed two more run-out opportunities while they were doing it, as if they had switched off already.

Third diving gold for Laugher as Spendolini-Sirieix wins in front of First Dates dad



Birmingham, August 05 : Eight years ago, Jack Laugher appeared at his first Commonwealth Games as a precocious 19-year-old, exploding on to the world stage with two gold medals at Glasgow 2014. He is 27 now, an accomplished veteran who has faced numerous obstacles. Yet he continues to triumph. After a timid start, Laugher's form exploded in the second half of the men's 1m springboard to help him clinch his third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal, his seventh medal overall. As the veteran Li Shixin of Australia finished with silver, England's Jordan Houlden took an excellent bronze in his first Commonwealth Games. It was far from easy. Laugher had struggled in the preliminary round in the afternoon, feeling his nerves as he qualified in fourth place. He arrived in the final under serious pressure from 34-year-old Li, a two-time world champion. Yet when the pressure was at its highest, Laugher soared. Houlden led early on, opting for the tactic of throwing down his most difficult dives first and nail-

ing them to establish an early lead. But in the second half, Laugher distanced himself from the pack. For his fourth dive, he spectacularly executed his inverted two and a half piked somersault, the hardest dive in his arsenal, which moved him to first place. Having reached the top, Laugher refused to relinquish his gold medal. He finished spectacularly, slamming down his final two dives and earning an enormous score of 447 points - just 10 points higher than the ever-consistent Li. "Today I was pushed," said Laugher. "It was a big-scoring competition, probably the best-scoring competition we've ever had at the Commonwealth Games. Some great performances by everybody and I'm really happy to share the podium with Jordan." Laugher's success is even more meaningful given the struggles he has documented in recent years, with anxiety and other mental health issues leaving him on the verge of quitting

the sport after 2019. "It has been very difficult," he said. "It is my job and it's hard to do your job when you're continually anxious about it." But I've moved forward quite a way, I'm seeking the correct help that I need. I think that these wins, medals, here and there,

Jessica Korda handles missing luggage with strong start at Women's Open

Muirfield, August 05 : It is difficult enough to negotiate the vagaries of Muirfield without the associated hassle of doing it in borrowed attire. Jessica Korda's opening 66 at the Women's Open was worthy of extra credit given her luggage remains trapped in Zurich airport. So what precisely is Korda missing? "Other than my clothes? Sponsor's hats," she explained. "I am wearing a Muirfield hat right now. I have some great partners and it's tough because you play well and you're obviously in the hunt but you can't wear their branding. Plus a lot of my warm stuff, my hand warmers. My hands get really cold so I wear gloves all the time. I've got a lot of heat patches for my lower back and my vitamins, don't have that either." On Monday I wore Megan Khang's pants. Tuesday, I wore my sister's [Nelly Korda] pants and Wednesday I wore Alison Lee's pants.

Emma Raducanu edges out Camila Osorio to reach Citi Open quarter-final

Washington, August 05 : In the suffocating, repulsive heat and humidity of a brutal Washington DC summer, Emma Raducanu navigated the conditions and her incessant opponent alike to pull off one of the more resilient wins of her career, overcoming Camila Osorio of Colombia 7-6(5), 7-6(4) in two hours, 50 minutes to reach the quarter-finals of the Citi Open. "I think I died about three times in that match and then came back," she said. "Honestly, I don't know how. Camila is such a battler. Every single point I was working so, so hard. Sometimes it wasn't necessarily the strongest shots but you've just got to generate, generate over and over again." As Raducanu's daunting US Open title defence comes further into view, she moves into only her second tour quarter-final of the year and fourth in her short career. Having comfortably dispatched the qualifier Louisa

Chirico in the opening round, awaiting Raducanu in the second round was one of the grittier players of their generation. What 20-year-old Osorio lacks in raw firepower, she makes up for with her elite footspeed, defence and boundless tenacity. Raducanu broke serve early but Osorio methodically dragged Raducanu into exhausting rallies in 35 degree heat and 51% humidity. From 4-1, Raducanu conceded four games in a row, double faulting on break point at 4-4. But Raducanu recovered, saving two set points on Osorio's serve before reaching a tiebreak, where she trailed 3-5. When she most needed it, Raducanu found sufficient quality to distance herself from the No. 67, taking the set after 82 ex-



hausting minutes. With the first set secured, Raducanu imposed her greater weight of shot and positioned herself for a simpler set, but her serve crumbled as she stood a game away. At 5-4, 30-15, she served two double faults and then dumped a forehand into the bottom of the net. But she recovered once again, dragging Osorio to a tie-break where she eked out the 88-minute second set. Throughout

this tough first full year on the tour, Raducanu's body has too often been her biggest obstacle. Injuries have been constant and seasoned opponents have exposed her inferior physicality. Overcoming such a difficult physical challenge should provide her with more confidence in her durability. This was far from her best level, a supremely ugly win, but she showed her resilience as she survived, giving herself a new opportunity.