



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ULFA linkman

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 11:

Linkman of the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) was arrested in Assam's Charaideo district on Thursday. Sapekhathi Police arrested the suspect who was identified as Jitu Bora from Sonari. According to the sources, the ULFA linkman is allegedly a member of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Earlier, last month, Assam police had arrested an alleged linkman of the banned militant outfit in Golaghat district. The arrestee, identified as one Prakash Gogoi, was nabbed from Bogijan area of the district. Sources said the accused was in contact with the banned militant outfit through social media, adding that his role however remains unclear.

### Father-daughter

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 11:

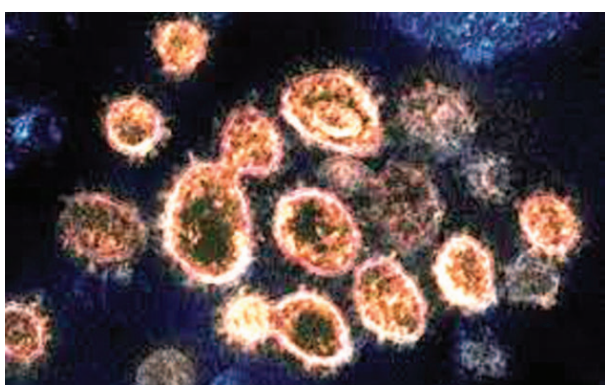
The bodies of father-daughter duo, who drowned in the Namdang river in Assam's Sivasagar district, was recovered. The bodies were recovered by the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) following an intense search operation. Both the father and his minor daughter went missing from Khamun village in Namti on Tuesday night. The deceased have been identified as Prashanta Sharma and Geetashree Sharma. According to reports, the daughter went out in search of her father on the banks of the Namdang River, however, she did not return home.

### Elephant died

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 11:

A wild elephant died due to suspected electrocution in Assam's Golaghat district. Sources said the tusker had strayed into a village in search of food, but unfortunately, it stepped on a live wire and got electrocuted. The incident was reported from No.2 Boraguhain village in Morangi near Numaligarh town. Later, forest officials reached the spot and recovered the body for post mortem. Last month, a pregnant elephant was found dead in Assam's Hojai district amid flash floods across the state.

## New Langya virus has infected 35 people in China



Beijing, August 11:

New Nipah like Langya virus infects 35 people in China, know about its symptoms, spread and other details. When the entire world is still reeling under the Covid-19 outbreak, a new virus, Langya henipavirus, is suspected to

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## Jagdeep Dhankhar takes oath as 14th Vice President of India



New Delhi, August 11:

Jagdeep Dhankhar was sworn in as the 14th Vice President of India. President Droupadi Murmu administered the Oath of Office to Jagdeep Dhankhar at Rashtrapati Bhavan today. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Dhankhar's predecessor M Venkaiah Naidu were among the dignitaries present at the ceremony. Dhankhar was

elected as the Vice President on August 6. He defeated the Opposition's Margaret Alva to emerge as a winner. The BJP-led NDA candidate won the election comfortably with 528 votes against Alva's 182. The Vice President is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Dhankhar secured 74.36 per cent. He has the highest winning margin in the last six vice presidential elections held since 1997. The Vice President of

India, which is the second-highest constitutional post in the country, is elected through an electoral college consisting of members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. The Vice President is also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Dhankhar will preside over the proceed-

ings of the Upper House of Parliament at a time when there are apparent divisions between the treasury benches and the opposition. With Dhankhar's election as Vice-President, the presiding officers of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will be from Rajasthan. Dhankhar, 71, has practised in both the Rajasthan High Court and the Supreme Court of India. He entered public life after getting elected as a Member of Parliament from Jhunjhunu in the 1989 Lok Sabha elections on a Janata Dal ticket. He also served as a Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in 1990. His politics was initially influenced by former deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal. Dhankhar, who belongs to the Jat community, later shifted focus to state politics and was elected to the Rajasthan Assembly in 1993 from the Kishangarh constituency in Ajmer

district. Dhankhar was appointed as the Governor of West Bengal in 2019. He resigned from the post of West Bengal Governor on July 17 after his name was announced as the vice Presidential candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The Vice President of India, which is the second-highest constitutional post in the country, is elected through an electoral college consisting of members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. The Vice President is also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Dhankhar will preside over the proceedings of the Upper House of Parliament at a time when there are apparent divisions between the treasury benches and the opposition. With Dhankhar's election as Vice-President, the presiding officers of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will be from Rajasthan.

## Supreme Court's remark: 'Economy losing money due to freebies, need to Check the 'rewari' culture'



New Delhi, August 11:

The Supreme Court on Thursday made a strong observation on the culture of political parties announcing "freebies" during the election season to lure voters and said that it is causing a "big loss to the country's economy." The top court said that the announcement and distribution of freebies by political parties is "a serious issue" and this culture

needs to stop. While calling for a balance between people's welfare schemes and freebies, the top court stressed that the entire amount should be spent on developing the infrastructure. The Supreme Court made these observations while hearing a PIL filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay, seeking a ban on political parties promising 'freebies' to

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## CM Dr. Sarma to Felicitate CWG Gold Medalist Nayanmoni Saikia

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 11:

Nayanmoni Saikia, the Commonwealth gold medalist in the Women's Lawn Bowls category, called on Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma at his Janata Bhawan office on Thursday. Felicitating the gold medalist with an Assamese jaapi, a sorai and a phulam gamusa, the Chief Minister lauded her indomitable spirit that led to her bringing glory and pride to the nation and the state. The Chief Minister further assured her of all assistance and co-operation from the



government on her endeavour to reach greater heights

in sports. Accompanied by her husband Bhaskar Jyoti

Gohain and daughter Tanaya, the Commonwealth

gold medalist's conversation with the Chief Minister ranged from her initial interest in lawn bowls to her experience at Birmingham, among others. She was also accompanied by Mridul Borgohain, who was a member of the Indian men's lawn bowls team for the Commonwealth Games. Assam Lawn Bowls Association President Durga Das Boro, senior journalist and Assam Olympic Association Vice-President Pranoy Bordoloi, Assam Olympic Association General Secretary Lakshya Konwar, among others, were also present.

## Nitish Kumar margdarshak for all those...: Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 11:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said that Nitish Kumar is a "Margdarshak" (guide) for those who want to "change parties in every six months". Himanta Sarma, who was a member of the Congress party and switched to the BJP in 2015, said that even though he has changed his political party, but "not like him" (Nitish Kumar), adding "How can you guarantee that Nitish Kumar will not

again go out of that coalition after 6-8 months? He's unpredictable." Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Assam Chief Minister said "We've also changed political party, but not like him. He is 'Margdarshak' for everybody who wants to change the party in every six months." Soon after the swearing-in ceremony, Nitish Kumar said that the party made the decision together to leave the BJP, adding "The party made the decision together (to leave

BJP). I did not want to be the Chief Minister after the previous election. But a lot of pressure was put on me to handle the post. When there were talks with them (points towards Tejashwi Yadav), the decision was made, whether I will stay or not (till 2024)...they can say what they want, but I will not live in the year 2014." Speculations have been rife regarding his future with his 'national ambitions' doing

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## Tezpur University Graded A+ By NAAC

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 11:

Tezpur University has been awarded the A+ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). This places the University among the top 7% of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in India to be granted such a coveted rating. The University scored a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.41 on a 4-point scale in its 4th cycle of Accreditation. It has been praised for its

numerous strengths by the 6-member NAAC Peer Team who visited the University between August 1 and 3, 2022. The Peer Team especially appreciated the University for its well-maintained Infrastructure and quality research and development. Reacting to the NAAC grading, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Tezpur University, Prof. D. K. Bhattacharyya quoted that, "this grade became possible due to consistent, integrated yet organized efforts

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shows a crane transporting cross-border goods at Vientiane South Station of China-Laos Railway in Laos

## CBI reaches TMC leader Anubrata Mondal's Birbhum residence in cattle smuggling case



**Kolkata, August 11 :** A team of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and CAPF on Thursday raided the house of TMC strongman and Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal in connection with the cattle smuggling case. Mondal skipped the CBI summons yesterday. The TMC leader has been summoned 10 times so far but he appeared before the

central agency only once. Mondal had on Wednesday written to the Central Bureau of Investigation about his inability to appear before its sleuths in connection with the cattle smuggling case citing "illness" as a reason. The TMC Birbhum district president, who is in his 60s, attached copies of two prescriptions along with his letter and sought two weeks time from the officers of the probe agency to appear before them at its city office. Mondal's counsel on Wednesday morning dropped the letter at the central agency's office in the city. "We have received a communication from Mondal in which he informed us about

his inability to appear before our officers at our office here today. In the letter, Mondal has written that he is on total bed rest as per the advice of the doctors and cannot move outside his residence. He has attached two copies of doctors' prescriptions and requested us to give him two weeks' time to come to our office," the CBI officer was quoted. The prescriptions submitted by Mondal are of doctors from the city's SSKM Hospital and Bolpur Hospital. The CBI had on Tuesday summoned Mondal to come to its city office for questioning in connection with their investigation, a day after

the TMC leader skipped appearing before its officers. Mondal had visited the city on Monday but instead of going to the CBI office went to the SSKM Hospital for a check-up. He has been questioned twice thus far by the central agency, which in the recent past also conducted raids at various locations in the district in connection with the case. Mondal's bodyguard Saigal Hossain has also been arrested by the probe agency. The TMC leader, who often made headlines for his off-the-cuff remarks on various issues, has been asked by the CBI to appear before it on several occasions in connection with its probe into the cattle scam. In the past, too, Mondal skipped summonses citing ill health.

## Vegetarian women more likely to fracture hips in later life, study shows

**London, August 11 :** Women who are vegetarian are more likely to experience hip fractures in later life than those who frequently eat meat, a UK study has found. Researchers analysed health and diet records from more than 26,000 women and found that over a roughly 22-year period, vegetarians were a third more likely to break a hip than those who regularly ate meat. The reasons for the greater risk are unclear but researchers suspect some vegetarians may not get sufficient nutrients for good bone and muscle health, leaving them prone to falls and fractures. "The message for vegetarians is don't give up your diet, because it is healthy for other things and environmentally friendly, but do take care to plan well and don't miss out on nutrients that you exclude when you don't eat meat or fish," said

Dr James Webster, a researcher at the University of Leeds. Vegetarian diets are often considered healthier than meat-containing diets and they can reduce the risk of diabetes, obesity, heart disease and certain cancers. But the study published in BMC Medicine highlights the importance of a balanced diet whatever people eat. "It's likely that vegetarians, for one reason or another, and potentially because of lower intakes of important nutrients, have weaker bones and lower muscle mass and both of those things predispose people to hip fractures," Webster said. About 90% of hip fractures are linked to falls, which are more common in older people, who tend to be more frail and have weaker bones. But fractures can often drive further frailty, which increases the risk of more falls and worse frailty. The researchers suspect



vegetarians are more likely to be underweight than meat eaters, and that beyond having weaker bones and muscles may also have less fat, which can act as a cushion when people fall. Given the findings, Webster said vegetarians may want to consider eating fortified cereals with added iron and B12 for bone health, and to ensure they are getting enough protein, through foods such as nuts, legumes and beans.

## Australia recoils over Chinese ambassador's 'concerning' language about Taiwan

**Taipei, August 11 :** "Nobody should be surprised" if there is a military conflict between China and Taiwan, Liberal leader and former defence minister Peter Dutton says. In the wake of a shocking speech from the Chinese ambassador to Australia, in which Xiao Qian said China would stop at nothing to take back Taiwan, Dutton said the Chinese Communist party had been "very clear" about their intentions. China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province that must be reunited with the mainland, using force if necessary. In an address to the National Press Club, Xiao said there would be "no compromise" on its one China policy. China, which is continuing its threatening military behaviour in the region after US house speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan, wanted a "peaceful reunification", he said. "But we cannot, we can never rule out the option to use other means, so when necessary, when compelled, we are ready to use all necessary means," he said. "As to what does it mean, 'all necessary means'? You can use your imagination, but ... we will never allow Taiwan to be separated from China." Australia's federal government has been consistently urging de-escalation, restraint and calm. That position was echoed by the treasurer, Jim Chalmers, on Thursday morning on ABC radio. Chalmers called the ambassador's language "concerning". "That's because our national interests in Australia are best served by peace, stability and prosperity in the region. And that means no unilateral change to the status quo," he said. "It means restraint and de-escalation. It means calm and consistent language." Dutton told Radio National he supported that position. "But at the same time we have to be very frank about the threat that is there," he said. "There's no imagination required here. The CCP has been very clear about their intent in relation to Taiwan."

No. DSY/Estt/Apptt/11/2022/8

### ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from intending candidates who are citizens of India having valid registration number in employment exchange of the State of Assam, for filling up the following vacant Grade IV posts, under Directorate of Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam, as indicated below:

1. Name of the Post:	No of Post
i. Farrier	- 01
ii. Saddler	- 01

### 2. Reservation of Posts:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Open Category	Reserved for OBC/MO BC	Reserved for SC	Reserved for ST (P)	Reserved for ST (H)	Post reserv ed for Ex-service man	Grand Total
		Tot al	RF W	Tot al	RF W	Tot al	RF W	
1.	Farrier	Nil	Nil	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	01
2.	Saddler	Nil	Nil	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	01

3. **Scale of Pay:** Scale + Grade Pay + Other allowances as admissible to the Assam State Govt. employees from time to time p.m.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Band	Pay Scale	Grade Pay
I.	Farrier	1	Rs. 12,000/-to 52,000/-	Rs. 3900/-
II.	Saddler	1	Rs. 12,000/- to 52,000/-	Rs. 3900/-

### 4. Educational Qualification:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Minimum Educational Qualification	Maximum Educational Qualification
1)	Farrier	Minimum Educational qualification for the posts of Farrier/Saddler is read up to Class VIII from any recognized Educational Institution and the candidates must produce the Certificate of read up to Class VIII from the recognized School/ Board/Council they have attended with due Seal and Signature of the authority.	Maximum Educational Qualification for the posts of Farrier/Saddler is HSSLC (Class 12) or equivalent examination
2)	Saddler		

(NB: The maximum educational qualification for both the categories of Grade IV post, shall be HSSLC (Class 12), or equivalent examination passed. Those who have higher educational qualification other than presented educational qualification on the date of application, shall not be eligible to apply for any of the above categories of posts, as mentioned above.)

### 5. Age :

- The candidates must not be less than 18 years of age and not more than 40 years as on 01-01-2022. The age of the candidates will be calculated on the basis of the School/HSLC Admit Card/ Certificates, issued by the recognized Board/Council/Schools.
- The upper age limit is relaxable as per Govt. Notification No. ABP/6/2016/51 dated Dispur the 02nd September, 2020, by 3 years. The age limit of the candidates will be calculated on the basis of the School Certificate/Matriculation/HSLC Admit Card/Certificate issued by a recognized School/ Board/Council or other Government documents as applicable and notified. No other document shall be accepted in lieu thereof for the purpose.

### 6. Mode of Selection:

- There shall be two parts of selection process- Written Test and Interview.
- Candidates whose applications are accepted will be required to appear in a Written Examination (Objective Type) of 100 marks in the following subjects (up to Class VIII Standard).
  - English
  - Social Studies
  - Mathematics
  - General knowledge
  - Mental Ability and Logical Reasoning.

7. The selected candidates will have to bring all the original testimonials i.e. Certificate of proof of age, Caste Certificate, Educational Qualification Certificates, and Declaration in Form A, under Rule 5 (I) of the Assam Public Services (Application of Small Family Norms in Direct recruitment) Rules, 2019, for verification, at the time of Interview, which will be notified later on, amongst others.

### 8. How to Apply:

I. Candidates are required to apply in **Standard Form of Application** (Assam Gazette Part-IX) along with self-attested copies of all academic Certificates, Mark sheets and other testimonials. The application must accompany a **self-addressed envelope** (22 cm X 10 cm), affixing **Postal Stamp of Rs. 5.00** (Rupees five) only.

### > Candidates are required to enclose the following documents:

- 2 (two) recent Passport size Photographs. (Self- attested)
- ID Proof like- Pan Card/Voter ID Card/Aadhaar Card/Driving License/Passport.
- Valid Employment Exchange Registration Certificate.
- Caste Certificate.

VI. Application in prescribed format (Standard Form of Application, Assam Gazette Part -IX ), complete in all respect, should reach the **office of the Director of Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam, Rudra Singha Sports Complex, Super Market, P.O.-Sachivalay, Dispur, Guwahati-781006, by way of Post or by dropping** in the Drop Box during office hours (9.30 am to 5.00 pm), on or before the last date of submission of application forms.

### 9. Last Date of Submission of application forms: 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2022 (Up to 5.00 PM)

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER EXPIRY OF THE LAST DATE AND TIME OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM.**

### POINTS TO NOTE:

- A candidate applying for more than one post need to apply separately for each category of post.
- The candidate shall have to mandatorily produce original copy of Calling Letter/Admit Card and ID proof during the time of the Written Examination.**
- In case of detection of any false declaration /statement made by any applicant, his/her application will be rejected and will also be panelized as per prevailing rules/law. If in any case, submission of false facts/ materials is detected even after the recommendation is made, the authority shall take appropriate action as per rule/law.
- The selected candidates will have to submit an Undertaking to appointing authority that they will abide by the New Pension Scheme (NPS) issued vide Finance Department letter No. BW.3/03/Part-II/I Dtd. 25-01-2005.
- The selected candidates will have to submit a Notarized Affidavit in the prescribed format regarding verification of character and antecedents of persons selected for appointment in Government service as per Govt. OMABP.78/2021/01 Dtd. 18-11 -2021.
- The appointment against the sanctioned vacant posts will be made in accordance with the provision of the AFRBM Act, 2005 under 7 (I) G.
- Those candidates who are in Government Service should produce NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the respective office at the time of interview.
- Canvassing directly or indirectly shall disqualify a candidate.
- No TA/DA is admissible for appearing in the Written Test/ Physical Ability Test.
- The Authority has the right to cancel /amend the entire /part of the process of recruitment at any time, without assigning any reason thereof. However, the communication to the effect shall be made through print media.

Sd/-  
Director,  
Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam  
Dispur, Guwahati - 6

Janasanyog/D/10409/22

No. UDD(T)270/2022/4

### Notification

Whereas the National Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy has stressed on integration of the land use and transport planning for sustainable urban growth along transport corridors and nodes with high density mix use development.

And whereas, Government of India, has identified formulation and implementation of a TOD policy in achieving planned urban development and oilers special assistance to states for capital investment (2022-23) on implementation of this policy.

And whereas, the Master Plan of Towns requires to be modified and to include this policy as a tool for urban development within the State of Assam.

Now therefore, in exercise of the power conferred under Section 11(e) read with Section 14 of The Assam Town and Country Planning Act, 1959 and for making necessary inclusion and modification in the Master Plans of Towns of Assam, the draft Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) policy for the State of Assam is prepared.

Therefore, it is notified that the draft detailed Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) policy prepared under Section 11(e) read with Section 14 is hereby published under Section 10 of The Assam Town and Country Planning Act, 1959

The policy shall extend to the whole of Assam except for areas under Guwahati Metropolitan Areas and areas under Autonomous Districts; provided that if any District Council desires that all or any of the provisions of this policy should apply to the Autonomous District concerned, a notification may be issued to that effect and this policy shall then extend to that Autonomous District subject to such exceptions or modifications as may be specified in the notification.

The detailed policy may be inspected free of cost during office hours at the office of the Director Town and Country Planning, Dispur, and will also be available in website of Office of the Director, Town and Country Planning, website: <https://tcp.assam.gov.in>. Objections/suggestions from any person are invited with respect to the policy within 10 days from the date of issue of this notification.

Sd/-  
Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt, of Assam,  
Department of Housing and Urban Affairs  
Dispur, Assam

Janasanyog/D/10377/22



# State health department to launch massive immunization drives



**Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 11:** Health and Family Welfare Department will organise a massive state wide immunization campaign to administer COVID and other routine immunization to those left out during the normal

drive of inoculation process. A review meeting held in Janata Bhawan here today which was chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma decided to hold immunization drives across the state from October to March to bring all

sections of people including the children under the immunization programme. Under this special drive, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that those children who could not be given routine immunization due to COVID

19 pandemic should be given vaccines as per medical advice. The Chief Minister during the meeting also asked the Health Department to put in place a digital system for issuing birth and death certificates. He said that the system should be such that the parents would receive the birth certificate upon discharge from the hospital and next of kin would get the death certificate immediately. He also said that a robust organ transplant network system will be developed in the state to facilitate organ transplantation in the state. He also said that a good and responsive system of organ transplant would be helpful in saving many precious lives. With regard to blood donations, steps will be taken to motivate people for voluntary blood donations. He said that in view of the reported cases of maternal mortality cases in the tea garden areas, special awareness drives should be conducted for voluntary blood donations in the tea garden dominated areas. Moreover, National Health Mission (NHM) will organise a three day Swasthya Utsav with active involvement of 1000 volunteers

of which 500 will be from health and 500 from other areas. Photographs of the Swasthya Utsav should be uploaded on the live App. The Swasthya Utsav would highlight issues like drinking water, access to health infrastructure which are important for delivery of health care facilities. The meeting also deliberated that NHM will have at least five regional offices in the state which would be headed by ACS officers who will be assisted by other domain experts. The team will do the needful for the betterment of health indicators in their respective jurisdictions. Besides, the Chief Minister said that NHM will make assessment of the inaccessible areas in the state and coordinate with the PWD for constructing good quality roads for making health care services more accessible. Dr. Sarma during the meeting also said that Health and Family Welfare Department to work more

closely with the Women and Child Development sector of Social Welfare department to make the nutritional centres more vibrant for women and child health. For the benefits of the patients, Assam Medical Services Corporation Limited (AMSC) will be revamped to expand its footprints across the state and running pharmacies in hospitals where medicines will be made available to the patients at subsidized rates. The Chief Minister said that the Food Safety Commissioner would be made more revamped to activate its revenue generating activities. Health and Family Welfare Minister Keshab Mahanta and Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha, Principal Secretary to Health and Family Welfare Avinash Joshi and other senior officers of the department were present at the meeting.



Awareness rally of the Har Ghar Tiranga at Bhuragaon on August 10.

## Achievement of Nasiha Ahmed

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, August 11:** Nasiha Ahmed, a student of class V, Shining Star English High School, Khelmati, North Lakhimpur got the honour of 1st Runner-up in the show titled "MAYABINI The Beauty Extravaganza" 2022, Season-1 under the category of Mayabini Super Kids(Female) held at the Madhavdev International Auditorium, Kalaksheta, Guwahati on August 5 last. She is the youngest daughter of Royal Ahmed and Fara Ahmed of Town Bantow, ward no.14, North Lakhimpur town. Notably, the show, which was an exclusive Traditional Beauty Pageant representing the various ethnic attire culture of North East, was organized by Mayabini Events and Entertainment to promote the culture of North East. The show was honoured by the presence of artists Jubin Garg and Mayuri Dutta as Chief Guests, and actor Ravi Sarma and artist Zubismita P Saikia as judges.



**Admission into Govt ITIs, Private ITIs(NCVT/SCVT&PPP Mode) of Assam for the session 2022**

Registration for online admission into ITIs of Assam has commenced from 29/07/2022. Registered candidates are requested to visit the nearby Govt. ITIs for verification of their documents / testimonials within 16/08/2022. Registered candidates who do not get their certificates /testimonials verified shall not be allowed to participate in the online e-Counseling admission process.

Sd/-

**Director  
Employment and Craftsman Training,  
Assam, Rehabari, Guwahati-8.**

Janasanyog/D/10311/22

## Excise raid conducted in Margherita



**Assam Rising, Margherita, August 11:** An extensive excise search, patrolling

and raid were conducted on August 10 in Nampahai, Jagun, Lakla, Ahom Pathar, Namchik Gate area by the team of Margherita Excise Circle under the supervision of Shri. Prasanta Dutta, DSE, Margherita. 3 (three) cases were de-

tected and around Beer-87.60 BL, IMFL-4.68 BL (for sale in Arunachal Pradesh only) Illicit Distilled Liquor-22 litres and Fermented Wash around 70 litres were seized and 1 set of Distillation Apparatus was also destroyed during the operation.

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Scaled tender with a validity period of 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of receipt in prescribed form subsequently to be drawn up in printed "F-2" tender affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and paise twenty five) only are invited by the undersigned from A.P.W.D.(R) Registered Class-I(A, B, C), Class-II & III category contractor under Nalbari Roads Circle, Nalbari for the following work & will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00 P.M. on 19-08-2022 and will be opened at the same date & place at 2.15 Pm

Desired contractors or their authorized agents may remain present at the time of opening the tenders.

Sl No.	Name of work	Apprx. Tender Value (Rs. in L)	Cost of Tender paper (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time of completion
1	Preparation of Car parking and approach road for the visit of Chief Minister, Assam at Nalbari (Barazara) on 21-02-2022 under SOPD(G) (Urgent Nature) for the year 2022-23	13.676	450.00	27,352.00	15 days

Detailed particulars may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours and tender papers can be received on production of Demand Draft for amount as per table drawn in favour of Assam State Road Board Account No. 10566991479 on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022 N.B :-

- In case, the last date of receipt and issue of tender paper falls on a holiday or Non-working day, the tender paper will be issued & received on the subsequent working days.
- Rate is to be quoted as "As per/percentage above/below the schedule of rates for roads, bridges & culverts works for the SOR of 2020-21 or rates in the Annexure of N.I.T.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject the lowest or any tender without assigning any reason thereof.
- The rates should be quoted legibly both in figures and words.
- Payment will be made as and when sufficient fund is made available to this Department.
- All machineries and stock materials will have to be arranged by the contractor himself.
- Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/-

**Executive Engineer, PWRD  
Nalbari Dist. Territorial Road Division, Nalbari**

## Speech Competition and cycle rally held

**Assam Rising Gossaigaon, August 11:** The 31st BN SSB in collaboration with Birangona NGO under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with a theme "Har Ghar Tiranga" organised a Speech Competition among the school students at Gossaigaon Higher Secondary School on Wednesday. Altogether 24 girls and 26 boys of 14 different schools participated in the competition. Students were divided into two different groups 'A' & 'B'. Students who delivered the best speech were appraised and awarded. Apart from

this a plantation drive was also carried out in which 500 saplings were planted in Gossaigaon. Beside the above program a Cycle Rally was also conducted by Transit Camp Raimona to aware people living in border areas to ensure wide publicity to hoist National Flag on the residential premises with full honor and sense of pride. In the Rally students from Nabinagar LP School along with Local people participated. During the rally 200 flags were distributed to the local villagers and students. On this oc-

casional, Chiranjib Bhattacharjee, Commandant personally made aware students about the campaign on "Har Ghar Tiranga" that carried out under the aegis of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" and encouraged students to bring the Tiranga at home and hoist it to mark the 75th years of India's independence. During the programme five hundred national flags were distributed by 31 Battalion SSB Gossaigaon among the students and local residents of Gossaigaon.

## Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at T.H.B.College

**Assam Rising Biswanath Chariati, August 11:** On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which is being celebrated across the country, an awareness programme was held today at THB College, Jamugurihat. In commemoration of the sacrifice of the freedom fighters and our achievements, a lecture session was organized. Dr. Jayanta Baruah,

HoD, Political Science delivered a lecture on the topic '75 Years of India's Independence: Expectations and achievements.' The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Ajit Hazarika, the principal of the College. Dr. Khanjan Kumar Das, HoD, Assamese also spoke on the sacrifices and contributions of Tyagbir Hem Baruah, an eminent and revered freedom fighter of

the country. An Induction Programme was also held on the same day for the 1st Semester students. Acting as the resource person for the programme, Dr. Nava Jyoti Hazarika discussed various issues pertaining to the CBCS (Choice Based Credit System) courses and clarified doubts of the newly enrolled students. Both the programmes were anchored by Sumanta Rajbanshi, Co-ordinator, IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell) THB College.

## Speech Competition and cycle rally held

**Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, August 11:** The 31st BN SSB in collaboration with Birangona NGO under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with a theme "Har Ghar Tiranga" organised a Speech Competition among the school students at Gossaigaon Higher Secondary School on Wednesday. Altogether 24 girls and 26 boys of 14 different schools participated in

the competition. Students were divided into two different groups 'A' & 'B'. Students who delivered the best speech were appraised and awarded. Apart from this a plantation drive was also carried out in which 500 saplings were planted in Gossaigaon. Beside the above program a Cycle Rally was also conducted by Transit Camp Raimona to aware people living in border areas to ensure wide publicity to hoist National Flag on the residential premises with full honor and sense of pride. In the Rally students from Nabinagar LP School along with Local people participated. During the rally 200 flags were distributed to the local villagers and students. On this occasion, Chiranjib Bhattacharjee, Commandant personally made aware students about the campaign on "Har Ghar Tiranga" that carried out under the aegis of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" and encouraged students to bring the Tiranga at home and hoist it to mark the 75th years of India's independence. During the programme five hundred national flags were distributed by 31 Battalion SSB Gossaigaon among the students and local residents of Gossaigaon.

and raid were conducted on August 10 in Nampahai, Jagun, Lakla, Ahom Pathar, Namchik Gate area by the team of Margherita Excise Circle under the supervision of Shri. Prasanta Dutta, DSE, Margherita. 3 (three) cases were de-

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Dated Kokrajhar, the 10/08/2022

### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Scaled tender subsequently to be drawn in F-2 form affixing Non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs.8.25p (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only are invited from the Registered PWD Contractor's under Class-I (A, B, C) of Assam PWD (Rural Roads) and Class-II Roads category will be received for the following works up to 2-00 P.M. of 26-08-2022 in the office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.R.D, Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division, Kokrajhar which will be opened on the same date, place at 2.15 P.M in presence of the tenderers or their authorized agent.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender Amount (in Rs.) (Including G.S.T., L.W.C.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.) (ST, SC, OBC-1% & GEN-2%)	Cost of Tender Paper (in Rs.)	Time for completion In days
1	Restoration of washed out bamboo foot bridge on Hekaipara to Maspara (Dimuligaon Road) under SDRF for the year 2021-22 of Kokrajhar district Assam.	Rs. 13,59,900.00	1% - Rs.13,599/- 2% - Rs.27,198/-	1000.00	45 (Forty five)

Details NIT may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned. Tender paper will be issued to the contractors or their authorized agent up to 12.00 Noon on all working days from 12-08-2022 to 17-08-2022 in the office of the undersigned on payment of in the form of Banker cheque/Demand draft of any nationalized Bank (Preferable SBI) duly pledged to the Executive Engineer, PWRD Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division. The contractor should submit valid Registration certificate, GSTIN, PAN Card and Labour License along with the tender. In case the office remain closed in tender receiving/ opening day the same will be received/opened on the next working day.

### Note:-

- The Executive Engineer, PWD Rural Roads Division, Kokrajhar does not bind himself to accept the lowest tender and also reserves the right to reject all tenders without assigning any reason.
- Payment will be made subject to availability of fund.
- Taxes will be deducted as per relevant provision of Act.
- Contractors will have to submit their tender with upto date registration certificate and item of annexure should be enclosed with the tender otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.
- No T&P and stock materials issued to the contractors by the deptt. Contractor has to arrange the same by himself
- The tenderer should submit their tender with upto date GSTIN certificate and PAN card failing which the tender may be treated as cancelled.
- The tenderer must demonstrate the key equipment for road work specially the road Roller etc. failing which the tender may be treated as cancelled.

Sd/-

**Executive Engineer, PWD  
Kokrajhar Rural Roads Division**

IPR(BTC)-245/2022



## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 176 FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022

## Child has the right to be protected from neglect

In India, a child has the right to be protected from neglect, exploitation, and abuse at home and elsewhere. Children have the right to be protected from the incidence of abuse, exploitation, violence, neglect, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour, and harmful traditional practices to name a few. Yet according to a study conducted by the government in 2007, more than 69% of children aged 5 to 18 years old are victims of abuse. There are many who must face humiliation and violence every day. More than half of the abuses inflicted upon children are committed by a close group of people who have a relationship of confidence and authority with the child. In Indian families, parents have absolute authority over their children. Furthermore, this strict discipline is also found in academic areas, a study found that 65% of school-going children have faced corporal punishment at the hands of academic staff. A contributing factor to the neglect of children is a result of cultural values which does not have high esteem and standing for the words and opinions of children. As such, no Indian legislation specifically mentions this right, and education focuses on the respect children must show to adults. To fully realize children's right to protection, it is important to adopt a different attitude towards children and their needs. It is also necessary to invest in educating and training caregivers on children's fundamental right to protection, and prosecuting those who neglect it. Despite the fact that the second article of the UN convention of the right of the child ensures the right not to be discriminated against including sexual orientation. Historically, in India, the LGBTQ+ community has been a target of discrimination. Mainly, as a result of a 157-year old colonial-era law (Section 377) which criminalizes certain sexual acts that are punishable by a 10-year jail term. This law not only deprived LGBTQ+ children of their fundamental rights, but subjects LGBTQ+ children and youth to bullying, harassment, isolation, and violence.

## 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.

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## 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](mailto:assamrising@gmail.com).

**Editor,**  
**The Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, Assam

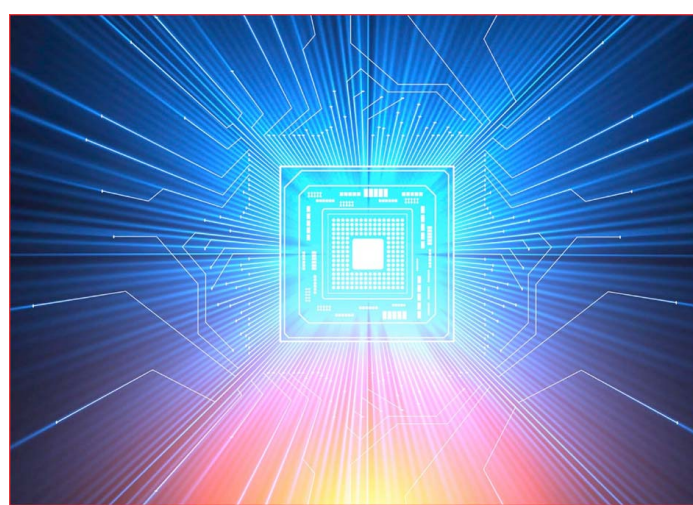
# Bihar drama isn't win for secularism. 3 things you are missing in your jubilation



In all the excitement over the fall of the Nitish Kumar-BJP government in Bihar and the swearing-in of a Nitish Kumar-plus-everybody-else government, there are three things that still need to be emphasised. One: this is no great victory for secularism. Nitish's associates have let it be known that he was deeply disturbed by the BJP's divisive politics. Really? Was the man sleeping all these years? Did he wake up and notice that divisive politics were on the rise only when the BJP tried to split his party, JD(U)? We have been here before. When Narendra Modi was on the rise within the BJP, Nitish let it be known that as an essentially secular person (who had nevertheless allied with the BJP), he would avoid Modi. When he joined hands with the RJD and others to win the 2015 Bihar election, he made out that this was because he was horrified by the communal politics favoured

by the Modi-led avatar of the BJP. But once he had problems with his alliance partners, Nitish quickly forgot all this and went scurrying back to Modi in 2017 to keep his chief ministership. As politics took a more communal turn, he nevertheless went on to fight the 2020 Bihar election in alliance with the same Narendra Modi he had, apparently, once been so disapproving of. The idea of a pluralistic, diverse India where all citizens are equal is in danger, not just because Hindutva is the dominant ideology in North India but because politicians like Nitish, who claim to be motivated by secularism, often turn out to be humbugs. Each time an opportunistic politician talks about their bogus secular beliefs, they devalue the original idea of India in the eyes of the voters. So no, this is no victory for secularism. It is merely the latest manoeuvre by a shrewd politician who has changed

Quantum Technology is one of the most promising emerging technologies. It is estimated by the experts and scholars that advent of the Quantum Technology would completely change the scenario in the technology world. A quantum computer of reasonable qubits has the capacity of computing power more than the all together capacity of the entire super computers on the globe. Quantum communication would make the travelling of information at more than the speed of light. Cryptography algorithm based on quantum phenomena would be capable to break the most sophisticated cyber security in few seconds. This unimaginable strength of the quantum power makes the whole world to invest heavily in the research and development of the Quantum Technology. At present, most of the development in the Quantum Technology is at the research level. Much more efforts are required to bring the technology to the market and use for the strategic and commercial purpose. Many research laboratories under the multinational companies or federal governments are working in the various aspect of development of the technology in the different do-



**Manoj Jain, Rahul Neiwal**

mains of the technology.

Quantum technology is a multidisciplinary area of research involving physics, electronics and engineering. Quantum Technology is about creating practical application based on Quantum Mechanics. Many fields such as Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensors, Quantum Cryptography, Quantum Metrology and Quantum Imaging are some of the applications based on quantum technologies.

Quantum Technology is based on three concepts of Quantum Mechanics i.e Quantum Superposition, Quantum Entanglement and Quantum Tunneling which distinguish it from the all the contemporary technology. These concepts

or the properties of the quantum mechanics cannot be imagining in the real world, but it is reality in the subatomic world. Many practical experiments and theories proved the validity of these concepts. These concepts are weird but true and laid the foundation of superiority of Quantum Technology.

Further increment in the computing power can be possible with the advent of Quantum Computing which has the capacity to increase computing power exponentially by using Quantum Gates and Quantum Transistors based on atoms and subatomic particle instead of

classical transistors. The solution of quantum algorithms like Shor Algorithm and Grover Algorithm cannot be visualise by using a even a most efficient classical super computer, but these can be efficiently solved only through a quantum computer having reasonable qubits capacity. The classical communication techniques even though having much advancement in its five generations still prone to many limitations such as the speed of travelling of information, hacking of information through eavesdrop or intercept, limitation of distance and etc. The Quantum Communication removed these limitations through its inherent quantum properties.

Realising the potential and strategic importance of Quantum Technology, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has initiated projects in this emerging area of technology. These projects address the focus areas of MeitY i.e. Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Cryptography and Quantum Sensing. These projects have been initiated for promoting research activities, building state-of-the-art infrastructure and to build human resources in this niche area of technology.

Project titled "Centre of Excellence in Quantum Technologies (CoE-QT)" has been initiated in which IISc-Bangalore, RRI-Bangalore and C-DAC-Bangalore are participating. The centre is being equipped with the sophisticated infrastructure required for the development in the area of Quantum Technology. The major objective of CoE-QT includes development of 4-qubit quantum processor, demonstration of quantum communication over 100 Kilometer long fibre link, development of quantum algorithms and development of associated components.

In another major initiative, an indigenous quantum simulator (QSim) has been designed and developed by IISc-Bangalore, C-DAC (Hyderabad & Bangalore) and IIT (Roorkee). QSim is an indigenous toolkit that is serving as an important educational/research tool being used by students/researchers to the field of Quantum Computing. QSim allows researchers and students to write and debug Quantum Code that is essential for developing Quantum Algorithms. QSim is accessible via web portal <https://qtoolkit.in> and is currently set up with the PARAM SHAKTI supercomputing machine as the backend.

(Manoj Jain (Scientist 'F')  
Rahul Neiwal (Scientist 'D'))

## 'Indians never invaded' is a myth. Guptas, Cholas, Lalitaditya Muktapida were conquerors

One of the most pervasive myths about medieval India is that our ancestors were "peaceful" towards the rest of the world and were disinterested in any military activities outside "India's borders". This is compared, implicitly, to the expansion of the Arabs and the Turks, who supposedly wanted nothing more than to conquer and despoil other peaceful, prosperous lands. While some will admit that the wars of Indian rulers were as brutal as those of any other, it seems that as long as the wars were with "our own", they were somehow qualitatively different from and "better" than those of other cultures. Like with most interpretations foisted on us by British colonial historians, there's a lot to unpack here. The first underlying assumption is that medieval India-despite its staggering size and diversity-was some sort of cultural unity with a clear

sense of "us and them", which somehow happens to coincide, quite conveniently, with the borders of modern nation-states. Second, there is an assumption that war in the medieval world was fought for precisely the same reasons as in every other context throughout time. This is a spectacularly boring idea, one that comes from the colonial mindset of expansion and conquest for its own sake. As we explore the evidence, we'll see that ideas of geography, expansion and war in medieval India completely defy modern stereotypes. It's a simple matter to find evidence of "Indian" military activities outside the boundaries of our modern nation-state.

The Culavamsa, a medieval chronicle from Sri Lanka, describes how the island was conquered by the Chola dynasty. In South Indian Inscriptions Volume II, the Chola emperor Rajendra I provides details of how his troops sacked the Srivijaya confederacy in present-day Malaysia and Indonesia. But I want to do something more am-

bitious here-to establish that the Cholas were not an exception and that whenever it was possible, Indian polities could and did seek to conquer "abroad". To begin, let's look at a Gangetic empire-that of the Guptas of the 4th century CE-which set into motion many of the cultural and political patterns we see in the medieval period. Gupta period texts show no indication that people from outside the subcontinent were less deserving of conquest. In the Raghuvamsam of Kalidasa,

**Anirudh Kanisetti**

the legendary king Raghu is described as defeating all the peoples who dwelt to his east, south, west, and north. In Canto 4, verse 60 he is credited with "proceeding on the conquest of the Parasikas" or Persians, during which "he cut with crescent arrows their



bearded heads" (verse 63). Soon after, we are told that he crossed the Indus, and that "the flush upon the cheeks of the Huna [Hun] women did display Raghu's actions on their lord" (verse 68); that "the Kambojas [Afghans] were unable to resist his great virility"; and that he then embarked on expeditions against various Himalayan tribes, arriving in the Brahmaputra river valley and finally returning to his capital, Ayodhya, thus completing his conquest of the four directions. We can see that the motivation for war is not annexation. In none of his expeditions does Raghu set up a governorship or viceroyalty. Rather, he is motivated by tribute and by symbolism: by displaying his overwhelming military might (and virility) in all four cardinal directions, thus performing a digvijaya or "Conquest of the Directions" - he establishes himself as a universal sovereign, a chakravartin. Even if we can dismiss much of the Raghuvamsam's claim as literary exaggeration, it still reveals to us something important: that motivations for war in medieval India were complex, driven by symbolism as well as wealth; and that there was no clear geographical or cultural sense of where the subcontinent "ends". If we wish to establish that Indians were not interested in expanding beyond the subcontinent, we need to find examples of polities that-even when given the option-deliberately decided not to wage war beyond these imaginary modern borders.

Such an example could come from medieval Kashmir. In the 8th century CE, with the Gangetic Plains in a state of anarchy, the Kashmiri king Lalitaditya Muktapida found himself in a position where he could raid freely into this fertile region. And yet in the Rajatarangini of Kalhana, a 12th-century text, we are told once again that he embarked on a digvijaya, supposedly raiding Kannauj, Bengal (east), the Deccan (south), and Dwaraka (west). Details of all of these are hazy, but those of his conquests in the north-in present-day Xinjiang, Tibet, and Afghanistan-

are spectacular. In Book IV, verses 165-168, we are told that "the stables of the Kambojas were emptied of horses..." The Tuhkharas [Tocharians]... fled to the mountain ranges... the anxiety felt by the Bhauttas [Tibetans] could not be seen on their faces, which are white..." Chinese sources also attest to the last line: Lalitaditya is known to have sent an embassy to the court of the Tang dynasty, offering an alliance against the Tibetans. Kalhana also provides two rather interesting cultural observations (verse 178-180): "This mighty king made the conquered rulers, in order to indicate their defeat, adopt various characteristic marks, which they and their people wear humbly even to the present day. Clearly, it is by his command, to display the mark of their bondage, that the Turushkas [Turks] carry their arms at their back and shave half their head. On the waistcloths of the Dakshinatyas [Deccanis] the king put the tail which sweeps the ground, to mark that they were like beasts." Here Kalhana is only describing existing practices of his time and trying to link them to his hero, Lalitaditya. It is nevertheless striking that to him, Deccanis are as alien as the Turks, and all of them are mentioned to establish that Lalitaditya made conquests in all four directions, thus becoming a chakravartin, a universal emperor. No matter the distances involved, and irrespective of cultural difference or similarity, what the evidence shows us is that medieval Indian polities were always interested in military expansion to the edges of their world, following the cardinal directions to establish a symbolic "universal" rule. It just so happens that their universes were different from ours: because why would their imaginations be constrained by a nation-state that would not exist for another thousand years? Deccan polities such as the Rashtrakutas raided towards the Himalayas, Odisha, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu; Tamil polities such as the Cholas raided towards Bengal, Karnataka, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia; Kashmiri polities raided towards Punjab, Afghanistan, and Xinjiang.

sides so often that he must wake up in the morning and struggle to remember who his allies are today. Two: while secularism has very little to do with it, the Bihar realignment reminds us why the BJP is having problems with allies. In just over two decades, the party's fortunes have changed dramatically. In 1996, when it was the single largest party in the Lok Sabha, it was unable to form a stable government because other parties considered it beyond the pale. When it did form a government in 1999, it was always at the mercy of allies who acted as though they were doing the BJP a favour by aligning

**VIR SANGHVI**

with it. And indeed, one of those allies, Jayalalithaa's AIADMK, did bring the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government down. When Vajpayee took office again, he was careful to keep his allies happy. That version of the BJP was friendly and accommodating towards its allies. Vajpayee had never expected to take office in his lifetime (when he was handed the letter by the President asking him to form his first government, he was so overwhelmed that the tears flowed). So he was grateful to the allies who made it possible. Modi's BJP, on the other hand, sees itself as the natural party of government. It believes it needs nobody else to govern with and sees no reason to respect

its allies. After all, the party has won two national mandates in a row and Modi is - by a long way - the country's most popular politician. All this may be true - at least for now - but Modi and Amit Shah (the former BJP president and current Union home minister) take it even further. In the BJP's first term in office, Shah spoke of wanting to create a "Congress-mukt Bharat". When the Congress obligingly lay down and collapsed, failing at two national elections and losing state after state, Modi and Shah acted as though this should be a lesson to other parties: do as we say or face demolition. Take the case of Maharashtra. The BJP-Shiv Sena alliance broke over the question of the chief ministership. Uddhav Thackeray wanted a revolving arrangement where the BJP and Shiv Sena shared the office. It was a demand that could easily have been conceded. But Amit Shah said no, leading to the end of the alliance. Later, the BJP punished Uddhav for his disobedience by winning over his MLAs with threats and blandishments till his coalition government fell. As part of this operation, they gave the chief ministership to rebel Shiv Sena leader, Eknath Shinde, not to their own Devendra Fadnis. So was it worth it? Shouldn't they just have agreed to Uddhav's terms to begin with? No. Allies must do what the BJP wants. And

even the choice of Shinde as chief Minister is not a sign of weakness. The BJP reckons that now that he is in office, Shinde can turn his rebel faction into the real Shiv Sena and finish off the Thackerays. The punishment of Uddhav continues. As political styles go, this is dramatically different not just from the Vajpayee-Advani style of functioning but from the manner in which every national party has behaved in the history of India. This incarnation of the BJP wants an India where every other party collapses unless it supplicates before the BJP. And even when it does supplicate, as Nitish Kumar's JD(U) did in Bihar, the BJP may try to destroy it, anyway. And finally: the jubilation over Bihar may be short-lived. The BJP will not take this humiliation lying down. It will make life as difficult as it can for the new Bihar alliance. It will need to strengthen its claim that the RJD is corrupt so expect more ED/CBI raids, and more cases as the investigating agencies are unleashed. My guess is they won't have to look too hard: Bihar is hardly a haven of clean governance. Narendra Modi and Amit Shah cannot afford to allow the message to go out that an ally can defy them and still flourish. It took them nearly three years to punish Uddhav Thackeray but they never gave up. And in the end they succeeded.



# COLORS launches a supernatural fantasy drama 'Pishachini'

**Mumbai, August 11 :** It is said that appearance can be deceptive, for what looks like a braid of an angel, could be a rope of a devil. COLORS' latest supernatural drama 'Pishachini' unravels the tale of a family and their encounter with an evil demoness, Rani. An enchantress, she pretends to be a damsel in distress, but eventually entraps people and devours their souls with her enchanting beauty and dark energies. As her frightening shadow falls on the Rajputs, it is Pavithra who senses her demonic presence and chooses to help the family break free from Pishachini's evil powers. Produced by MAJ Productions and Shakuntalam Telefilms, the show will see Nyrraa M Banerji as Rani, Harsh Rajput as Rakshit and Jiya Shankar as Pavithra, 'Pishachini' will premiere on 8th August and air every Monday to Friday at 10 pm on COLORS. Manisha Sharma, Chief Content Officer, Hindi Mass Entertainment, Viacom18 says, "At COLORS, we take great pride in bringing to the forefront some of the most exhilarating supernatural concepts. With an aim to satiate the growing need for this widely appreciated genre, we are delighted to present yet another supernatural drama 'Pishachini'. The story depicts the tale of an innocent family's encounter with an evil demoness, Rani, who uses her beauty to charm people and preys on them for her benefit. The show boasts of a gripping story, riveting characters, great visual effects, and an ensemble cast that will keep the viewers hooked to their seats." Rani, the Pishachini, is a terrifying witch whose threat looms over the quaint town of Bareilly. In her evil quest, she sets her eyes on



the Rajput family who she shares a long-lost connection with. She casts her evil eye on every member of the family intending to capture their souls. But there is one person, Pavithra, who is well-aware of Rani's supernatural presence as her ancestral past is connected to hers. She has a chance encounter with the youngest member of the Rajput family, Rakshit Rajput aka Rocky that leads her into their house. Pavithra senses the impending danger surrounding the Rajput house and decides to expose Rani's truth in front of everyone. Will Pavithra save the Rajputs from the wrath of 'Pishachini'? Shyamashis Bhattacharya, Producer, Shakuntalam Telefilms said, "We have had many successful collaborations with COLORS in the past and we are delighted to join forces once again for 'Pishachini'. The show is a fascinating supernatural thriller shot amidst the scenic mountains and rivers of Chail, Himachal Pradesh, that narrates the story of an evil entity in the garb of scintillating beauty." Adding further, Mrinal Jha, Producer and Writer, MAJ Productions said,

"Pishachini is a perfect blend of suspense, fantasy, nail-biting drama, and much more. The entire team has worked passionately on the storyline, costumes, make-up, and VFX to make it an action-packed experience for our viewers." Playing the titular role of 'Pishachini' a.k.a. 'Rani', Nyrraa M Banerji said, "We always equate beauty with something peaceful and positive, but Pishachini will burst this myth for everyone. She is an evil being with a beautiful face and long tresses that add to her charm. Rani's character is extremely intriguing, and it gives me a great opportunity to experiment as an actor. I hope that my fans and supporters like me in this new avatar and shower me with their blessings." Essaying Pavithra's role, Jiya Shankar said, "As an actor, I am always eager to try unique and challenging roles that give me a chance to experiment with my capabilities. Pishachini is one such show! I have been a huge fan of supernatural shows and have admired the actors who have acted such difficult characters so gracefully.

Pavithra's character is an observant young girl who is well-connected with our ancient beliefs and practices despite being raised abroad. This is my first supernatural thriller as well as my first collaboration with COLORS, and I am really looking forward to it." Ahead of playing Rakshit a.k.a. 'Rocky', Harsh Rajput said, "Rakshit is a carefree boy who does not believe in supernatural powers but in only having a good life. I am sure that Rocky's character will allow me to explore different shades as an actor. Moreover, I am delighted to be a part of this gripping story as both Nyrraa and Jiya are fabulous actors to work with. I am going to have a great time working on this show

and hope that the viewers like it." The channel has designed a unique marketing and digital campaign for the launch to provide an immersive experience to the viewers. It has created a first-of-its-kind anamorphic content in India using the forced-perspective illusion technique, incorporating real characters instead of animated. On the digital front, in keeping with the show's supernatural fantasy concept, the channel has roped in social media influencers namely Just Neel Things and Bihari Ladka to create vines that revolve to bring out Pishachini's eerie character elements. In the launch week, fans can use specially curated spooky Instagram filters to capture their Pishachini avatars. On the day of launch, 'PishachiniKaSanket' will be dropped teasing the viewers with different omens that depict the arrival of Pishachini on COLORS' social media platforms. To make it larger than life, Pishachini's sinister elements like long hair, long nails, quirky laugh, etc. will be used as disruptions on the social media handles. 'Pishachini' will also feature other popular actors including Amit Behl, Priyanka Tataria, Raymon Singh, and Sachin Pareek among others in supporting roles as the show prepares for its big launch.

## 5 dialogues of 'Darlings' that reveal ugly truth of the Society

**Mumbai, August 11 :** Darlings, a whimsical social thriller and a well-made public service film about domestic violence, deconstructs the crutches that allow patriarchy to amble into living rooms. The movie, which uses the word "scorpion" for the violent spouse in the story, was made with an activist's eye and encourages women to fight against violence. Alia Bhatt starrer Darlings was released on Netflix on August 5. Directed by debutante Jasmeet K. Reen, the movie has stellar performances by Shefali Shah, Vijay Varma, and Roshan Mathew. Here, we will explore some significant and influential dialogues of the film. Some men are scorpions dear, they never change - In this scene, Shamsu (Badru's mother) tells her daughter a frog and scorpion story shortly after the events at the police station. She warns Badru that some men are like scorpions and that harming other people is an ingrained part of their character. The world's changed for the people on Twitter, not for the likes of us - In this scene, Shamsu and the policeman give the audience a taste of reality. Fed up with the torture that has



been continuously happening to Badru, Zulfi, an old friend filed an FIR in the police station. In this police station scenario, the officers advise Badru's mother that they can stop spousal violence right away as the world has changed. Shamsu, however, explains to the police how this is far from the truth. Why do men turn into monsters when drunk? - In this scene, Badru's mother asks the policeman why men turn into monsters when they get drunk. The policeman responds that it's because women allow them to, presenting a grim truth of society. There are no grey zones, according to Darlings, when it comes to domestic abuse. It doesn't allow an abusive husband to fall into the safety net of social conditioning and drinking habits. Why would I abuse you if I don't love you? Why would you take it if you don't love me? - And with that,

Badru succumbs to this cunning ploy once more and declines to report her violent spouse. She thinks her husband has changed, but only the audience is aware that things are about to get far worse. In this scene, the husband apologizes, and the wife believes that the alcohol in his body is to blame rather than the vacuum in his brain. Divorce tag is the worst, who will marry her then? - The fear of life after divorce is a typical problem for many Indian women. When the policeman advised Badru's mother to allow her daughter to divorce her husband, she immediately quoted divorce as the worst tag. The voices of tens of thousands of women who have experienced domestic abuse are represented in the 'Darlings' dialogues. Shefali is just as erratic as ever, Alia is just as quick-witted, and Vijay Verma shines in a demanding role.

## Sita Ramam movie review: Just short of a classic



**Mumbai, August 11 :** Starring Dulquer Salmaan, Mrunal Thakur and Rashmika Mandanna in lead roles, Sita Ramam is a visually beautiful tale of love and loss. It has all the makings of being labelled a classic love story, but falls short in certain aspects. The film flits between two time periods - the 1960s and the 1980s. It starts with a patriotic young Pakistani woman, Afreen, burning a car of a respected Indian figure in London in 1980s. She has a massive hatred for anything or anyone Indian. She is symbolised by the animosity and hatred that brewed between India and Pakistan after the partition. Her hatred of Indians does not stem from personal experience though. She is the granddaughter of Brigadier Taariq, who is clearly against her blind hatred of the neighbouring country. In contrast to this is Lieutenant Ram. He looks beyond religion and borders, while keeping his patriotism intact. This young man, who went beyond what his role required of him in the army is celebrated for stopping a massacre on a Hindu village in Kashmir. He clears up the misunderstanding that crops up among Kashmiri Muslims after young men are killed by the

army. They have credible information about Mujahideen teens who have crossed borders to do as their leader directed. Ram stands between a group of Muslims and Hindus, risks his life to ensure that terror doesn't rain upon Kashmir. The contrasts are visible throughout the film, hatred and love. There is also the red and blue of unity, and there is Sitamahalakshmi and Ram. Before his death, Afreen's grandfather gives her one last task. If she were to complete it, she will inherit his wealth. In need of some urgent money, Afreen accepts the mission and in this journey she unlearns the hatred that had been buried deep within her for her neighboring country. She learns about Ram's life, his love for his country and

the gorgeous Sitamahalakshmi. Her mission is to hand over his last letter to his lover. As the film unfolds, we learn important bits and pieces of information about Ram and Sita. It comes in fragments, as it is a story that is narrated to Afreen by different people who had known Ram and Sita in the past. She learns about a person who proves every belief of hers about Indian wrong. She learns about a woman who gave it all for her love. The idea is interesting. To introduce hate first, and then reveal things that which would destroy hate from within - love, hope, dreams and more. So in that vein, Ram's life symbolises the hopes and dreams of many who want a world absent of hatred. Now, the problem arises for me personally when

this very symbol of hope that the film took hours to build is destroyed within minutes. From the first letters that arrived from Sita (voiced to perfection by Chinmayi), to the last letter that Ram had penned for her, just this back and forth induces old world nostalgia. It also underlines how desperate humans were for contact in absence of all the communication devices that the world has today. The closure that Ram seeks with his last letter, the one that Sita seeks every year when she visits Kashmir in his absence, is a treasure trove that could have been explored further. Maybe then, a sad ending would be befitting of this film that aims to be a classic love story. Otherwise, I beg to

differ. Do all classic love stories need to have a sad ending? I understand that they illicit emotions that are more intense, but where do we gather hope from? If the film had not thrown in certain elements, like the reds and blues, or the interfaith element, maybe I could've bought their fate. However, it is almost as if the film baits the audience into a false sense of security before it bursts their bubble. Beyond the film's visuals, what really strikes a chord is the music by Vishal Chandrasekar. It is sweet and charming, just like the film which stops short of being a classic. But at a time when the world thrives on mega-action films with gore, blood and violence (not that I don't love it), it is nice to see a romance drama. A well-made one at that, which also fleshes out its female lead as more than a skeletal being. Sita has layers, and she is a mystery. One that Ram doesn't intend to solve, but only to enjoy. He has no intentions of changing her, her life or her choice. Sita's one worry is that her secret remains unshared with Ram. However, with his last letter, Ram gives Sita the closure that two decades of living without him couldn't. So, if sweet moments, and heart-warming hugs resulting in a heart break is not your cup of tea, give Sita Ramam a miss. Not everyone enjoys being a blubbery mess at the end of a film, after all. Also, Mrunal Thakur, who makes her debut in Telugu with Sita Ramam, has given a great performance. That in combination with Chinmayi's voice do add wonders. Dulquer and Rashmika play their part convincingly. The best scene in the film is the moment where Ram clicks a picture of Sita in his friend's home. He is reflected in the camera, while she is the object of his attention. In the end, I wondered if this snapshot was foreshadowing the end. Ram as only a reflection in Sita's life.

## Laal Singh Chaddha Review



**Mumbai, August 11 :** 2022 was supposed to bring a ray of hope for all of us, after all the world has gone through more than two years of pandemic and things to get back to normalcy. But the proceedings unfolding around us doesn't seem to have any positive effect. At a time when humanity seems to be under the spell of fraudsters masquerading as bots and propagandists, especially with the threat of cancel culture and boycotting Bollywood without any reason, Aamir Khan's Laal Singh Chaddha becomes a delightful and touching experience, a movie that deftly grapples with the pessimism of the world, but handled in a mature way. Directed beautifully by Advait Chandra, Laal Singh Chaddha is clearly not a remake of 1994 Hollywood classic Forrest Gump, featuring Tom Hanks. While the makers have officially taken the rights from the original studios, this film is a mere adaptation of Eric Roth's original storyboard, which easily blends into the India's history, culture and tradition. Writers in Indian cinema are often accused of being lazy of adapting a film internationally or even nationally by merely changing

the settings and the cast. But actor-writer Atul Kulkarni is meticulous about finding not only the Indian version of each Forrest Gump beat but infusing it with the same charm. From a person's name, to even an individual's religious identity and the various situations that people are in, everything is simply yet perfectly explained. Just like Forrest Gump, Laal Singh Chaddha is not a heart-warming story about a mentally retarded man. Terming him as 'alag' from other children is too limiting for Laal. He never thought of himself as disadvantaged, and thanks to his supportive mother played superbly by Mona Singh, he leads anything but a restricted life. Watch him carefully and you will understand why some people are criticized for being "too clever by half." In fact, Laal, on most occasions, is more clever than any normal person. With his ability to stay focused on one goal, Laal becomes an incredibly fast runner, first escaping bullies in grade school in a very beautiful scene where he loses his leg braces as the love of his life Rupa (played by Kareena Kapoor Khan) tells him, 'Bhaag, Laal, bhaag!' The scene makes you realise that Lal for the first time feels lib-

erated from the crutches of the society. From becoming the champion athlete in the college, to Laal's loyalty to his best friend Balaraju Bodhi aka Bala (Chaitanya Akkineni) from his army days, the character has a childlike innocence. Never one to break a promise, he follows up on Bala's dream to start a 'chaddi-banyan' business. While recuperating from his wounds from the war, he becomes friends with the terrorist he saves which also leads him to receive a medal of honor. Later, Laal gathers quite a following when he runs across the country just because he feels like it. Laal cares most about his childhood love, the sweet but troubled Rupa. Laal's unwavering love for Rupa who first reaches out to him when everyone else (in school) rejects him. Rupa, having a troubled childhood, turns herself into a self-destructive woman as he takes off on her own path. Laal, however, remains true to her over the years until she blesses him with the best gift of all. Few actors have the innate likeability that Khan has so effortlessly projected. He plays Laal with just the right blend of sincerity and earnestness. He is predictably fantastic - he never stops being funny and strange, fleetingly giving us a peep into the core incidents that the country has gone through since 1971. The actor makes his character into a person so dignified, so straight-ahead.

## 90 Per Cent of my Clothes Are Borrowed : Sonam Kapoor



**Mumbai, August 11 :** Sonam Kapoor is a fashionista and there is no secret about it. She often

leaves everyone stunned with her gorgeous looks and outfits. However, in the latest episode of Koffee With Karan season seven, the actress revealed that 90 percent of her clothes are borrowed. It all started after the host of the show Karan Johar asked Sonam about her opinion

on the red carpet looks these days. To this, the actress said, "The reason Rhea (Kapoor) and I decided to take photos was because we realised when we went to the red carpet, there was so much business behind us. And we were borrowing, most of my clothes are borrowed. 90 percent of my clothes are borrowed." While this left Karan Johar surprised, Sonam added,

"They lend you clothes, we're not buying. Pagal ho di hain kaisa kaise spend karen (We are not crazy that we will spend so much money)." "We were like we need to give credit where due. The pure reason is because if somebody is lending me something, I want to make sure the person gets nice photos, the designer gets nice photos and we credit them."



## Contd. From Page 1

**Supreme Court's remark: 'Economy**

lure voters in the run-up to elections. The plea asked for steps to be taken to regulate poll manifesto and make political parties accountable for promises made therein. "Nobody says it is not an issue. It is a serious issue. Those who are getting they want it and ours is a welfare state. Some may say that they are paying taxes and it has to be used for the developmental process. So it's a serious issue. So both side has to be heard by the committee," Chief Justice of India NV Ramana. The CJI further noted that India is a country "where there is poverty and the central government also has plans to feed the hungry" and then posted the matter for the next hearing on August 17. Arguing on behalf of the Central Government, the Solicitor General said that if such freebies continue to be announced, then this will lead the country towards economic destruction. The Solicitor General said that till the time the government brings a law regarding this, the court can intervene and make guidelines for freebies. The Election Commission had on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that it welcomed the suggestion of setting up an expert panel to brainstorm the issue of freebies announced during elections, but it being a constitutional authority, be not made part of it which may have some government bodies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has earlier said that "selfish announcements of freebies" will prevent the country from becoming self-reliant, increase the burden on honest taxpayers and prevent investment in new technologies. The PM made these remarks while inaugurating the second generation (2G) ethanol plant in Panipat via video conferencing on World Biofuel Day on Wednesday. He said that the facility will be able to dispose of the stubble without burning it. "Selfish announcements of freebies will prevent the country from becoming self-reliant, increase the burden on honest taxpayers and prevent investment in new technologies," he added. The Prime Minister also said that in the next few years, more than 75 per cent of the households in the country will get piped gas. The Prime Minister said that if there is selfishness in politics, then anyone can come and announce to give free petrol and diesel. Such steps will take away the rights of children, and prevent the country from becoming self-reliant. Due to such selfish policies, the burden on honest taxpayers of the country will also increase, the PM remarked. To deal with the challenges that the country is facing, it needs clear intentions, extreme hard work, policy and huge investments.

**Nitish Kumar margdarshak for all**

rounds in the political sphere since his move against the NDA, with whom he had reunited in 2017. However, the Chief Minister rejected any such speculations after being sworn in yesterday. The Bihar CM, however, told reporters that "Those who came to power in 2014, will they be victorious in 2024? I would like all (opposition) to be united for 2024. I am not a contender for any such post (on PM post)." Notably, Nitish Kumar was sworn in as Chief Minister for the eighth time while RJD's Tejashwi Yadav took oath as his Deputy. The Assam Police have accessed vital information and decoded the activities and plans of Al-Qaeda Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT). A senior Assam Police personnel said that AQIS/ABT has planned a big for Assam and other parts of the North Eastern region and the Assam police have decoded their plans. He further told ANI that during the investigation and interrogation of the arrested members of AQIS/ABT, the police found that, the AQIS/ABT members were using special modern mobile apps for communication, adding "Each module of AQIS/ABT had used special end-to-end encrypted chat apps for communication." On August 7, the Assam police arrested a woman identified as Jahura Khatun in connection with Al-Qaeda Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) from the Bilaspada area in Dhubri district and recovered two mobile phones in her possession. Recently in a press conference, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said that six Bangladeshi nationals who are members of AQIS/ABT, entered Assam in 2016-17 and Assam police had arrested one among them and five are still absconding. Assam police have so far arrested at least 31 persons including a Bangladeshi national and busted five modules of AQIS/ABT in the state since March this year. Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said he has also changed his political party, but Nitish Kumar is a margdarshak for all those who want to change party every six months. Talking about the recent political development in Bihar, Himanta said, "But how can you guarantee that Nitish Kumar will not again go out of that coalition after six months or eight months? Because he is the most unpredictable person. We have also changed political party, but we have not changed like him. So, he is a margdarshak for everybody who wants to change party in every six month." A day after he broke the alliance with the NDA in the state and forged a new alliance with the RJD, the Congress, the Left parties, HAM. The dramatic developments in Bihar took place within a few days after RCP Singh's exit from JD(U). Nitish Kumar convened a meeting of the party MLAs and MPs on Tuesday where he alleged that the BJP with which the JD(U) was in an alliance since 2017 was trying to break his party. Within hours, the Mahagathbandhan staked a claim to form the government in Bihar. On Wednesday, Nitish Kumar took the oath as the chief minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav was sworn in as the deputy chief minister. The BJP has dismissed the claims of Nitish Kumar that it was trying to break the party and reiterated how the BJP respected Nitish Kumar by allowing him to lead the alliance in Bihar. On Wednesday, BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi hinted that the fallout between Nitish Kumar and the BJP was because Nitish Kumar was not made the country's vice-president. The change of guard in Bihar has also been compared with that of the recent power shift in Maharashtra and Himanta Biswa's name has come into the discourse as Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said there was no cash, Assam CM, resort visit involved in Bihar operation and the entire thing was done in a civilised manner.

**China places on hold India-U.S.**

known as Abdul Rauf Azhar Alvi, the Chinese mission at the U.N. said it required 'more time' to study the proposal, and now has six months to make a decision. "We placed a hold because we need more time to study the case. Placing holds is provided for by the Committee guidelines, and there have been quite a number of similar holds by Committee members on listing requests," a spokesperson for China's mission to the United Nations told Reuters news agency. This is the second time China has blocked an India-U.S. listing proposal at the UNSC in two months, and comes after China placed a similar hold on the listing of Abdur Rahman Makki, deputy chief of the Lashkar-e-Toiba/Jamaat ud Dawa (LeT/JuD). China's decision is likely to further strain ties between New Delhi and Beijing, which have been in a military standoff at the Line of Actual Control since April 2020, and comes despite some signs of a diplomatic thaw, after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of a G-20 meeting in Bali, and Chinese Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs Yue Xiaoyong travelled to Delhi for talks with his Indian counterpart J. P. Singh last week. Government officials had been hopeful for a shift in Chinese position after 2019, when China withdrew objections to the listing of JeM chief Masood Azhar, who was freed in return for hostages in the IC-814 hijack. The holds on the UNSC terror listings of Makki, followed by Asghar indicates otherwise. The 1267 U.N. listing mandates members to ensure that terrorists and organisations designated must not be allowed to travel and have recourse to funds or weapons. However, a UNSC permanent member can place a hold on any listing for a period of upto 6 months, followed by an extension of 6 months, after which it must either accept or deny the listing. The MEA has not yet confirmed or commented on the Chinese decision to hold Rauf Asghar's listing at the UNSC. Expressing India's frustration with similar decisions by China in the past, U.N. permanent representative Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj had said on Tuesday that "the practice of placing holds and blocks on listing requests without giving any justification must end. It is most regrettable that genuine and evidence-based listing proposals pertaining to some of the most notorious terrorists in the world are being placed on hold." Ms. Kamboj had said that the "double standards and continuing politicisation" of the process had rendered the credibility of the Sanctions Regime at an "all-time low." China's blocking of blacklisting of Asghar exposes its double speak and double standards in fighting terrorism, government sources said on Thursday. "China's actions expose its double speak and double standards when it comes to the international community's shared battle against terrorism. Such politically motivated actions by China, in nearly every listing case of a Pakistan-based terrorist, undermine the entire sanctity of the working methods of the UNSC Sanctions Committees," said Govt sources.

**Tezpur University Graded A+ By NAAC**

of all the members of the University under the abled leadership of our Vice-Chancellor. We must maintain this standard in the future days." Tezpur University stands out as one of the best and sought after HEIs in the North-eastern part of India. It offers UG, PG, PhDs and diplomas in 76 programmes across 27 departments. It not only attracts the finest students from India but houses over 20 international students from across the globe. With its state-of-the-art laboratories, high-class scientific tutorage and 270+ faculties, Tezpur University competes among the best educational institutions in the country.

**Assam Police Decodes Vital Plans**

had planned big for Assam and other parts of the North Eastern region and the Assam Police have decoded their plans. The AQIS/ABT members were using special modern mobile apps for communication, according to the police. The communication mode is highly sophisticated. Some apps have been installed. Some people have come from Bangladesh, they installed the app and they talked and then they discontinued the app. Assam police have so far arrested at least 31 persons including a Bangladeshi national and busted five modules of AQIS/ABT in the state since March this year. On August 7, the police arrested a woman identified as Jahura Khatun in Dhubri district for her alleged links with Bangladeshi terror outfit ABT. According to police, her husband, namely Abu Tallah, is also wanted for his alleged connection with the terror outfit. Khatun had been allegedly trying to protect people who are associated with Ansarul Islam, police said. Moreover, two mobile phones were seized from her possession, one of which was burnt.

**New Langya virus has**

have caused infections in 35 people in China's Shandong and Henan provinces. It's related to Hendra and Nipah viruses, which cause disease in humans. However, there's much we don't know about the new virus known as LayV for short including whether it spreads from human to human. Here's what we know so far. Researchers in China first detected this new virus as part of routine surveillance in people with a fever and recent contact with animals. Once the virus was identified, the researchers looked for the virus in other people. Symptoms reported appeared to be mostly mild fever, fatigue, cough, loss of appetite, muscle aches, nausea and headache. Although the recovery time is still a mystery. A smaller proportion had potentially more serious complications, including pneumonia, and abnormalities in liver and kidney function. However, the severity of these abnormalities, the need for hospitalisation, and whether any cases were fatal were not reported. The authors also investigated whether domestic or wild animals may have been the source of the virus. Although they found a small number of goats and dogs that may have been infected with the virus in the past, there was more direct evidence a significant proportion of wild shrews were harbouring the virus. This suggests humans may have caught the virus from wild shrews. The researchers used a modern technique known as metagenomic analysis to find this new virus. Researchers sequence all genetic material then discard the known sequences (for example, human DNA) to look for unknown sequences that might represent a new virus. This raises the question about how scientists can tell whether a particular virus causes the disease. The authors acknowledge this new virus doesn't yet meet these criteria, and the relevance of these criteria in the modern era has been questioned. However, the authors say they didn't find any other cause of the illness in 26 people, there was evidence 14 people's immune systems had responded to the virus, and people who were more unwell had more virus. This new virus appears to be a close cousin of two other viruses that are significant in humans: Nipah virus and Hendra virus. This family of viruses was the inspiration for the fictional MEV-1 virus in the film Contagion. Hendra virus was first reported in Queensland in 1994, when it caused the deaths of 14 horses and the trainer Vic Rail. Many outbreaks in horses have been reported in Queensland and northern New South Wales since, and are generally thought to be due to 'spillover' infections from flying foxes. In total, seven human cases of Hendra virus have been reported in Australia (mostly veterinarians working with sick horses), including four deaths. Nipah virus is more significant globally, with outbreaks frequently reported in Bangladesh. The severity of infection can range from very mild to fatal encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). The first outbreak in Malaysia and Singapore was reported in people who had close contact with pigs. However, it is thought more recent outbreaks have been due to food contaminated with the urine or saliva of infected bats. Little is known about this new virus, and the currently reported cases are likely to be the tip of the iceberg. At this stage, there is no indication the virus can spread from human to human. Further work is required to determine how severe the infection can be, how it spreads, and how widespread it might be in China and the region.

**Helmet wearing awareness drive at Majuli**

**Assam Rising, Majuli, August 11:** Upper Majuli Circle Officer Nabajyoti Das and District Transport Officer jointly organized an awareness rally on wearing helmets and rules and regulations to be followed while traveling in two-wheelers at Jengraimukh on Thursday. The city's departments have launched various programs for the successful implementation of the Har Ghar Tiranga in all parts of the district. Under the supervision of the District Health Department, various awareness programs were organized and banners were put up among all the employees at the project sites under the auspices of the Public Works (Home) Department. The district forest department, fisheries department and social welfare department also conducted similar awareness programs on a large scale. Later, the newly constructed Executive Engineer's Office of "Majuli District Regional Housing Division" of the Public Works and Housing Department was inaugurated at Garmur, Majuli. The inauguration ceremony was attended by District Commissioner Pulak Mahanta, Superintendent of Police Gautam Bora and Executive Engineer of Public Works and Housing Department Santanu Barua.

**Raksha Bandhan Celebrated at Kakopather**

**Assam Rising, Kakopather, August 11:** Troops of Red Shield Division celebrated the festival of Raksha Bandhan with School Children, NCC cadets and Veer Naris at Kakopather in Tinsukia. Apart from tying Rakhis, applying tilak and sharing sweets the festival was also celebrated with nationalist fervour with display of Tiranga flags. A joint commitment for security, peace and togetherness was on display. The event was attended by the students and NCC cadets of nearby Colleges and schools apart from local ladies. Four Veer Naris of the nearby areas also attended the event namely Niru Gogoi wife of Late Naik Dirna Gogoi, Shewali Gohain wife of Late Sep Rajeshwar Gohain, Ruhama Neog wife of Late Naik Probin Neog and Pholma Chetia wife of Late Naik Harupuna Chetia. The event was lauded by the locals and they have also left the messages for the frontline soldiers. Local student bodies, ladies and Gaon Buras thanked the Indian Army for their service and were very ecstatic to have participated in the event.

**Har Ghar Tiranga campaign at Biswanath**

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, August 11:** After the instructions from the education department, the nationwide campaign for Har Ghar Tiranga gets underway in the state at present. Sootea-Jamugurihat are not an exception to this. An awareness campaign for Har Ghar Tiranga was taken out by Bogoriati LP school, Sootea today. The school students, members of the school management committee, teachers and general public joined the foot march taken out for public awareness. Similarly, a cycle rally inaugurated by Hitesh Barua, ZPC member of Nagsankar was taken out by the students of Chengmari High school along with teachers and members of the school management committee today. The Blue Pine English High School, Itakhola also held an awareness rally to commemorate the national campaign Har Ghar Tiranga today. The students marching through the adjoining areas shouted slogans holding the tri-colours in their hands.

**Poet Gopal Singh Nepali remembered at Udalguri**

**Assam Rising, Udalguri, August 11:** The BTR Gorkha Samaj has organized a meeting to commemorate the literary contribution of Gopal Singh Nepali at Udalguri on Thursday. The meeting began with the lighting of a lamp by senior litterateur Tarapati Upadhyaya while followed by tribute paid by Hari Prasad Sarma the former president of Udalguri Vishwashanti Vidyamandir Parichalana Samiti. In a meeting presided over by Hari Chhetry the president of Udalguri district committee of BTR Gorkha Samaj Khagen Sarmah the secretary has introduced the distinguished guests attended on that occasion. Tarapati Upadhyaya the noted litterateur has revealed that on the year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav the people who had laid their lives to the nation should be remembered. Baidyanath Upadhyaya the national award winning writer has focused on the life and works of poet Gopal Singh Nepali. Buddhiman Limbu, the President of Udalguri district Limbu Mahasabha, Kumar Magar of Magar Mahasabha, Mohan Darjee and others have also spoken on that occasion. Dipak Nirola the general secretary of BTR Gorkha Samaj has announced the dedication of their organization towards the development of the Gorkha community in the region.

**BTR chief Pramod Boro interacts with KVK scientist in Gossaigaon**

**Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, August 11:** Bodoland Territorial Region Chief Executive Member Pramod Boro in a sudden visit to Gossaigaon chaired an interactive session with the Scientists and Researchers of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gossaigaon on the need and importance of upgrading scientific technologies in today's era of farming at the Conference Hall of KVK on Wednesday last. Gautam Bhagwati, Scientist KVK, Gossaigaon while addressing the interactive session with BTR CEM Promod Boro and other dignitaries present elaborated in details through projector step by step about how the farmers can move forward and avail benefits by using scientific methods to increase production in the field of farming. After prolonged discussion with the scientists and Researchers of KVK, Gossaigaon, BTR CEM Promod Boro shared his own experiences of farming at home and benefits that he availed from it. He urged the scientists to take the research to the middle of the field rather than being limited to KVK alone for the greater interest of the society. In an interview with reporters, Pramod Boro avowed that the BTAD area is a region that depends entirely on agriculture. Even now most of the people of BTAD depend on agriculture to make their livelihood but due to the inability of the farmers to do agricultural work in a scientific manner, they are not able to earn well by increasing production and not being able to meet the demands of the market. In order to move forward economically farmers have to be trained and produced scientifically as per the demands of the market. Stating that KVK has excelled in agricultural production through research in Bodoland, the BTR chief said that since KVK is researched on agricultural production, in such a case, if the Department of Agriculture works jointly in the field with KVK, the production will be greatly increased and there will be economic development in the society.





## Nick Kyrgios continues blistering form with win over world No 1 Daniil Medvedev

**Melbourn, August 11 :** Nick Kyrgios has continued his blazing run with a rollicking three-set victory over world No 1 Daniil Medvedev in Montreal. Australian Wimbledon runner-up wore down Medvedev 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, 6-2 in a sapping second-round encounter played in searing heat and humidity. After losing the opening set in a tiebreaker, Kyrgios had to dig deep and turned the match around with one incredible backhand pass to break Medvedev in the sixth game of the deciding set. He broke the dispirited Russian for a second straight service game before closing out the match to love after exactly two hours. The stirring victory was Kyrgios's third from four meetings with Medvedev, 14th win from past 15 matches and second



ever over a world No 1 - eight years after conquering Rafael Nadal on his Wimbledon debut as a teenager. "I've had some success against him in the past and he's beaten me before so I feel like we know each others' games well," Kyrgios said. "I'm not the type of player who goes into these matches looking at rankings or anything like that." It's just who I'm playing and what kind of ball they're giving me and today I had a very clean objective

of how I was going to play - a lot of serve and volley, a lot of aggressive play from the back - and I executed better than he did on the day. That's all it came down to. He won the first set and I feel like I had opportunities there as well so hopefully I can keep this rolling." Kyrgios, who faces Australian No 1 Alex de Minaur next for a quarter-final spot, is not getting carried away despite firming as one of the US Open favourites

following his rousing victory over last year's Flushing Meadows champion. "Look, a grand slam is much, much different to any other tournament," he said. "If I was in this position of a grand slam, you've still got to win another set and that's not easy at all. He's a machine. He's the best player in the world for a reason and at a grand slam he's a totally different beast." Nevertheless, Kyrgios continues to make a mockery of the rankings and the 27-year-old's latest triumph all but secured the Canberran an all-important

seeding for the New York major starting on 29 August. "Look, I feel confident in my body and my mentality going in to the US Open but at the same time there's so much time between then and now," Kyrgios said. "I've got to focus on this event and then Cincinnati. There's so many things I've got to look forward to. I'm not even going to think about the US Open right now. I need to take care of my body." De Minaur set up a first-time meeting with Kyrgios with a 7-6 (7-4) 7-5 second-round win over Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov, the 15th seed.

## Will Smeed hits the Hundred's first century as Phoenix thrash Brave

**Birmingham, August 11 :** Will Smeed hit the first century in the Hundred as Birmingham Phoenix thrashed the reigning champions Southern Brave by 53 runs at Edgbaston. On NHS Heroes Night in Birmingham, with workers and support staff invited along as a thank you, a 14,000 crowd was royally entertained by Smeed blazing an unbeaten 101 off 50 balls to lift his side to 176 for four. The Brave replied with a paltry 123 all out as Henry Brookes enjoyed a dream debut on the ground he has always called home. He took five for 25 and two excellent catches as Phoenix banked their first victory of the campaign and handed James Vince's side their first defeat in nine matches. After Phoenix were put in, they leaned heavily on Smeed following the dismissal of Chris Benjamin and Moeen Ali, each for 17. Benjamin sent up a skier off Marcus Stoinis before Moeen, having lifted George Garton deep into the crowd at midwicket, chopped James Fuller's first ball on to his stumps. Smeed galloped to a 25-ball half-century in a



stand of 80 in 44 balls with Liam Livingstone. Livingstone never really hit his stride, scoring just two from his first seven balls and 21 from 20 before lifting Jake Lintott to extra cover. Into the last 10 balls, the big question was could Smeed complete his ton? He needed five from the last three and a four and a two took him to the magical mark from 49 balls. Phoenix set about defending their total with an increasingly depleted seam attack, Adam Milne having joined Matt Fisher, Chris Woakes and Olly Stone on the absentee list. But Kane Richardson soon stepped up, bowling Vince with his first delivery after the Brave captain had smacked Moeen for 16 in three balls in the first set. Richardson conceded just a single from his first five

## Andy Murray out of Montreal Open but Cameron Norrie eases through

**London, August 11 :** The three-time champion Andy Murray has lost in straight sets in the first round of the National Bank Open as the British men's No 1, Cameron Norrie, progressed. Murray, who won the tournament in 2015 following earlier victories in 2009 and 2010, finally got under way against the American Taylor Fritz in Tuesday evening's feature match after they were delayed a day earlier by rain in Montreal. The Scot was overwhelmed by the 10th seed's power in the first set



before fighting back hard in the second, with his frustration getting the better of him as he smashed his racket on the court several times. Fritz ultimately proved too strong, his 6-1, 6-3 maiden victory in Canada setting up a second-round encounter against his compatriot Frances Tiafoe. Earlier Norrie bounced back from losing the final of the Abierto de Tennis Mifel on Sunday with a 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Brandon Nakashima. The world No 11

took only one hour and 13 minutes to complete the win and will face Botić van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands in the second round. Jack Draper set up an encounter against Stefanos Tsitsipas with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over fellow qualifier Hugo Gaston, while the British No 2, Dan Evans, dropped a set en route to a win over Filip Krajinović. Evans will now play Russia's Andrey Rublev, who had a bye in the first round.

## Real Madrid lift Super Cup after Alaba and Benzema sink Eintracht Frankfurt

**Paris, August 11 :**



Karim Benzema became Real Madrid's second-highest goalscorer as his strike helped secure a 2-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt in the Uefa Super Cup final. Real equalled a record in Helsinki, winning the trophy for the fifth time to join Milan and Barcelona with the highest total. David Alaba gave Real the lead in the first half, tapping home after Casemiro had nodded the ball down to him just a few yards out. Real stayed in control after the break, forcing another good save from Kevin Trapp in the 55th minute, knocking away a deflected Vinicius Junior shot before Casemiro rattled the crossbar with a shot from the edge of the box two minutes later. The pressure eventually paid off when Vinicius combined with Benzema - the pair scored a combined 111 club goals last season - and the French forward slotted in to kill off any lingering Eintracht hopes of a first Super Cup title. The goal put Benzema above Raúl on the all-time goals list for the club with 324. Cristiano Ronaldo remains Madrid's top goalscorer of all-time with 450. Real's manager, Carlo Ancelotti, had suggested this week it was possible for them to compete for all six competitions they are in this season and was able to give debuts to new signings Antonio Rüdiger and Aurelián Tchouaméni.

## McIlroy praises judge for blocking LIV rebels' bid to play in PGA FedEx Cup



**London, August 11 :** McIlroy admitted there is "resentment" among the Tour's membership towards those who have taken to the courts to try to remain in that domain while also featuring in the Saudi Arabia-backed LIV Series. On Tuesday in California, Judge Beth Labson Freeman said Talor Gooch, Hudson Swafford and Matt Jones were "well aware of the consequences" of accepting LIV's millions against the wishes of the PGA Tour and had not suitably "made their case" to have suspensions lifted. The three players had otherwise qualified to take part in the FedEx Cup

playoffs, which begin this week in Memphis. Phil Mickelson, Ian Poulter and Bryson DeChambeau have not but are part of a wider antitrust action against the Tour which is unlikely to be heard until next August. McIlroy said: "From my vantage point, common sense prevailed and I thought it was the right decision. Now that that has happened, I think it just lets us focus on the important stuff, which is the golf. We can all move forward and not have that sideshow going on for the next few weeks, which is nice." Numerous LIV converts including Dustin Johnson, Sergio García and Brooks Koepka are notable absentees from any legal action. "I don't begrudge anyone for going over to play LIV or taking guaranteed money," McIlroy said. "If that's your prerogative and what you want to do, totally fine. I think where the resentment comes from, from the membership of this tour, is the fact that they want to try to

get back in here with no consequences. Anyone that's read the PGA Tour handbook or abided by the rules and regulations, that would feel very unfair to them. It was a good day for the Tour and for the majority of the membership yesterday." Pressed on whether he felt there was a point at which golf's civil war cranked up a notch, McIlroy replied: "Yeah, and it was when that lawsuit was filed. And the thing that I would say, I certainly have a little more respect for the guys that haven't put their names to the suit. So yeah, I mean, it's become a little more personal because of that." In her closing remarks Freeman said: "It appears to the court that the LIV contracts, negotiated by the players and consummated between the parties, were based upon the players' calculation of what they would be leaving behind and the amount the players would need to monetise to compensate for those losses."

## Buttler's service in ODIs spoiled by injuries and overstuffed schedule

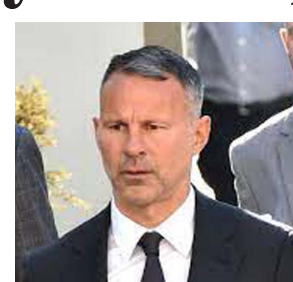
**London, August 11 :** Welcome to The Spin, the Guardian's weekly (and free) cricket newsletter. Here's an extract from this week's edition. To receive the full version every Wednesday, just pop your email in below: One day a book will be written about the crazy world of cricket administration in the early 21st century. A fair chunk of it will be devoted to the

domestic scene in England, where the men in suits seriously expect fans to follow four different formats at the same time - and the poor old players are like the staff of a 24-hour supermarket. No chapter could come in on a single month in the life of England's players: July 2022. A month when they were required to play a deciding Test against one of cricket's superpowers,

India, followed by four white-ball series in 25 days. A series a week! Lunacy, thy name is ECB. An overstuffed schedule is like long Covid, a malaise with tentacles. This particular idiocy - not all the board's fault, as it was partly a knock-on from India flouncing out of that fifth Test last year - led Ben Stokes to retire from 50-over internationals.

**London, August 11 :** The ex-girlfriend of former Manchester United footballer Ryan Giggs has told a court she became "a slave to his every need" and that he was "regularly aggressive". Giving evidence on the third day of Giggs's assault trial, Kate Greville said he exerted control over her social life and the end of their six-year relationship was "pretty much relentlessly awful". She told jurors that the former Wales manager "made

me feel like I had to do what he said, otherwise there were consequences". Giggs, 48, denies using controlling and coercive behaviour against Greville, 36, between August 2017 and November 2020, assaulting her, causing actual bodily harm, and the common assault of her younger sister, Emma. Giving evidence from behind a screen, Greville said Giggs "isolated me from certain people" and "interfered with my ability to interact with my



family and elements of my social life". Greville told the jury she initially thought of Giggs as a "knight in shining armour" who had come to save her from

her troubled marriage. She said Giggs was "nice" for the majority of their relationship but that he "turned" when they moved in together before the Covid-19 pandemic. "He was aggressive regularly," she told the jury. "It wasn't constant violence. There wasn't regular violence but there were times in our relationship when he was violent." Giggs denies one count of assaulting Greville by head-butting her during an argument at their home in

Worsley, Greater Manchester, in November 2020. He also disputes her account of an incident in which he is alleged to have dragged Greville out of their Dubai hotel room while she was naked following an argument about who he was messaging. The jury at Manchester crown court heard that Greville told police on 7 August, the day before the trial began, that she became "a slave to his every need and every demand".

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# Serena Williams' farewell an eloquent acknowledgement of biological inequality

**London, August 11** : Maybe Babe Didrikson, with Olympic gold medals in two separate athletics events and 10 major wins on the LPGA tour; perhaps Larisa Latynina, who won 18 medals over three Olympic Games; or Jackie Joyner-Kersey, with her back-to-back titles in the Olympic heptathlon; or Allyson Felix, who has just retired after winning more medals than any other runner in history. From Williams's sport there's Martina Navratilova, with 167 singles titles and another 177 in doubles, or Steffi Graf, who spent 377 weeks at the top of the world rankings. But all comparisons are odorous, and this one smells worse than most. Because if you've watched Williams play, listened and read what she has to say, then you have to wonder why anyone would want to try to put her, or any of them, in that one box. Why shouldn't Williams be considered a greater player than Roger Federer? Or Rafa Nadal? Or Novak Djokovic? Or the rest of the men who played in her era? She's won more singles titles than any of them, more Olympic medals too, and did it all, as they used to say about Ginger Rogers, "backwards and in high heels". As Williams wrote in the Vogue article announcing her retirement (sorry, her "evolution") from professional tennis: "I went from a C-section to a second pulmonary embolism to a grand slam final. I played while breastfeeding. I played through postpartum depression." And did it all while putting up with vast quantities of insufferable bullshit. Williams doesn't want to quit. Not yet. She



would rather play on next year and beyond. But she can't because she has to choose between having more children and having a playing career. "If I were a guy, I wouldn't be writing this because I'd be out there playing and winning while my wife was doing the physical labor of expanding our family." So here, at the end of a 27-year career spent fighting to be treated equally with the male players, is the inescapable fact that her biology still leaves her at a disadvantage. Williams compared herself to Tom Brady, but she could just as well have chosen any of those three male players from her own game. Federer, 41, won five of his grand slam titles after he became a father for the

first time in 2009, three after his wife gave birth to a second set of twins in 2014. The biggest impact having four children had on his body is that he needed surgery in 2016 because he twisted his knee while he was running a bath for them. Djokovic, 35, won five of his grand slam titles after his son was born in 2014, and three of them after his daughter in 2017. He hinted a couple of years ago that they

would like to have more children. When Djokovic has talked about how fatherhood has impacted his tennis, it's often in terms of how it's taught him to be a better person, and so made him a better player. Nadal, 36, announced in June that his wife is having a baby. So he won the French Open earlier that month while his wife was in the early stages of pregnancy, which must have been

distracting for him. Williams, on the other hand, won the Australian Open in 2017 while she was two months pregnant, which, as she writes, seems "almost impossible". There was speculation that Nadal, too, might retire after becoming a father. His coach Carlos Moya doesn't think so. "I don't think paternity will induce Rafael Nadal to stop playing," Moya said when asked about it, "on the contrary, it will be an extra motivation to keep winning." For the men in her line of work, parenthood is usually framed as an opportunity for some kind of spiritual change. For Williams, it was that and also three rounds of emergency surgery, one where she had her stomach and womb cut open, another where they found the hematoma that had flooded her abdomen, and a third where they inserted a filter in a major vein to stop more blood clots travelling into her lungs, and then spending six weeks unable even to get out of bed. Williams has spent her life dealing with double standards in the way male and female players are spoken and written about, what they're paid, the way their behaviour is policed, and the respect

they get. For the past decade, Forbes has published an annual list of the world's 100 richest athletes. Federer has been ever present in the top 10, even topped it in 2020. Williams has never made it that high, or even close to it. No woman has. Sometimes, such as in 2019, she has been the only one in the top 100. Well yes, men said. "The stats are showing that we have much more spectators on the men's tennis matches," Djokovic said in 2016. "I think that's one of the reasons why maybe we should get awarded more." He apologised for it later, after Williams took the time to explain what he had got wrong. "Novak is entitled to his opinion but if he has a daughter - I think he has a son right now - he should talk to her and tell her how his son deserves more money because he is a boy." Williams has always had a way of explaining these things. Her farewell statement is an eloquent acknowledgment of one inequality she couldn't overcome. Not that it stopped her trying.

## Women's Hundred returns with new stars but prime-time pressure

**London, August 11** : And so it returns, with all its high-summer razzmatazz. The men have been at it for a week already, but after a short delay due to the Commonwealth Games, the second edition of the women's Hundred will get under way on Thursday at the Kia Oval, with the defending champions, Oval Invincibles, going head-to-head against Northern Superchargers. There will be live music. There will be fireworks. There will be coverage on the BBC (seven women's matches this year), building up to a final at Lord's on Saturday 3 September. So far, so familiar. Yet this year's sequel is not without its adjustments. There are personnel changes - a host of leading Australia



internationals will have their first taste of 100-ball cricket, including Ellyse Perry (Birmingham Phoenix), Megan Schutt and Beth Mooney (London Spirit), and Alyssa Healy (Northern Superchargers). One high-profile absentee will be Meg Lanning, who pulled out of the competition after announcing on Wednesday yesterday that she is taking an indefinite leave from cricket for personal reasons. In a baby step towards narrowing the infuriating gender pay gap, the 16 highest-paid women will this year earn marginally more than the lowest-paid men (£31,250 compared with £30,000). Perhaps most significantly, several of the women's matches - including Thursday's curtain-raiser at the Oval - are being played in the "prime time" slot, after the men's game has concluded. "Hopefully we can do justice to that," the Invincibles captain, Dane van Niekerk, said on Wednesday. If last year is anything to go by, she need have no fears. For players such as Alice Capsey, who was the sensation of last year's competition at the age of 16, the Hundred smoothed the path to the international stage, where she thrived. It also smashed the England and Wales Cricket Board's attendance objectives out of the park, with an average audience of 7,500 for the women's matches, and a record crowd at Lord's of 17,116 for the final. The Lionesses may have brought football home last month, but it is cricket which is winning the battle for attendances at

domestic women's sport (by comparison, the Football Association's aspiration is for average crowds of 6,000 at the Women's Super League by 2024). It says a lot that the opening week of the men's Hundred has felt very much like the heart is missing: without the double-header model which was at the core of its success in year one, is the Hundred really the Hundred? On the other hand, in a competition where the public message has been "one team, two squads", it remains to be seen how much interaction there will be between the women's and men's teams. Last year social distancing and Covid "team bubbles" were trotted out as excuses for the fact that some of the men barely seemed to know the names of their female colleagues. There will be no such mitigation this time. Is there also, perhaps, some pressure that comes with knowing that the women's competition must now live up to the high expectations it fostered in 2021? "Watching the men's team, I got really excited for our games, remembering how electric and amazing it was to play in front of a packed crowd," Van Niekerk said. "I expect nothing less [this year]." The ECB will be desperate to ensure it lives up to her hopes - partly because the success of the women's Hundred has proven a surefire way to silence critics of the entire 100-ball concept. For Van Niekerk, whose skilful captaincy was instrumental in the Oval Invincibles' victory last summer, the tournament holds more personal significance. It will be her first time playing

## Vanessa Bryant's lawsuit over photos of Kobe's corpse begins in Los Angeles

**Washington, August 11** : Kobe Bryant was one of the most photogenic sports figures in Los Angeles and images of him seen by millions around the world - smiling in victory, grimacing in agony - keep his memory alive. But some photos of him should never be seen, his widow says, and she's seeking unspecified millions in compensation for snapshots taken of the NBA star's corpse that were circulated after he was killed in a helicopter crash with their daughter and seven others in 2020. Vanessa Bryant's invasion of privacy trial against the Los Angeles county sheriff's and fire departments begins on Wednesday in a US district court just over a mile from where the basketball star played most of his career with the Lakers. A jury was promptly seated in the case, and opening statements were scheduled to start in the afternoon. Vanessa Bryant claims deputies did not take the photos for investigative purposes and shared them with firefighters who responded to the crash scene. The lawsuit said a deputy had showed the photos to bar patrons and a firefighter had showed them to off-duty colleagues. "Mrs Bryant feels ill at the thought that sheriff's deputies, firefighters and members of the public have gawked at gratuitous images of her deceased husband and child," according to the lawsuit. "She lives in fear that she or her children will one day confront horrific images of their loved ones online." Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and other parents and players were flying to a girls' basketball tournament when their chartered helicopter crashed in the Calabasas hills west of Los Angeles in fog. Federal safety officials blamed pilot error for the wreck. Vanessa Bryant has also sued the helicopter charter company and the deceased pilot's estate. The county has argued that Bryant has suffered emotional distress from the deaths, not the photos, which were ordered deleted by Sheriff Alex Villanueva. Officials have said the photos have never been in the media, on the internet or otherwise publicly disseminated and that the lawsuit is speculative about harm she may suffer. A law prompted by the crash makes it a crime for first responders to take unauthorized photos of deceased people at the scene of an accident or crime. The county already agreed to pay \$2.5m to settle a similar case brought by two families whose relatives died in the 26 January 2020 crash.



## 'An individual battle of survival': Scot wins Norseman Xtreme Triathlon

**Paris, August 11** : A Scottish woman has won one of the world's hardest ultra triathlons, crossing the line in just under 12 hours. Eilidh Pringle finished first in the Norseman Xtreme Triathlon in Norway, consisting of a 3.8km swim, a 180km bike ride and a marathon. Pringle, 26, told BBC Scotland: "For me it wasn't a race, it was an individual battle of survival. I never had any expectations of winning. At the mountain top plateau, the temperature was 2C (36.5F) with 30mph winds. "You are swimming in a fjord for almost four kilometres (2.5 miles), that was 13C (55.4F). It's just you against the elements. The wind, the rain, everything. It was an incredible race and an incredible day." The race begins by competitors leaping off the back of a car ferry into Hardangerfjord, before a mountainous bike stage, culminating in a full marathon that concludes atop Mount Gaustatoppen. Despite her success Pringle, who has a full-time job, does not know if she will compete again. "I feel like I've done it once, won it once, I don't know if I could ever top that," she said. "I don't have a coach, I don't have any sponsors. I just really enjoy riding my bike and running. I got a last minute entry. I jumped at the chance - quite literally. You jump off a ferry to start with."

## "Became Over Excited": Pakistan Batter On Team's Consistent Defeats To India At World Cups

**New Delhi, August 11** : The Indian cricket team and Pakistan cricket team face each other on October 23 at the 2022 World Cup. The last time the two teams played against each other in a World Cup match, Pakistan defeated India. That happened in the 2021 T20 World Cup, where the Babar Azam-led Pakistan completely dominated India. The win was all the more special as it was the first time that a Pakistan team won a World Cup match against India. Before that win, Pakistan lost in 12 out of 13 games against India in 50-overs and T20 World Cups combined. Pakistan middle-order batter Sohaib Maqsood has now spoken on why Pakistan have lost consis-

tently to India at the mega event. "The reason for the green shirts' consistent defeat against India in World Cup matches is because the Pakistani team became overexcited," the 35-year-old Sohaib Maqsood was quoted as saying by Cricket Pakistan. com. "However, in the recent past, our team has started treating Indo-Pak matches normally and it has improved our performance too." Maqsood was not part of Pakistan's

2021 T20 World Cup squad due to injury but he is confident that he can make a comeback. "A couple of international matches over a professional career of two decades does not justify my abilities. I was dropped from the national team multiple times due to injuries. I made several comebacks and am still eager to represent Pakistan," he said. Sohaib Maqsood has played in 29 ODIs and 26 T20Is for Pakistan, scoring 781 and 273 runs respectively.

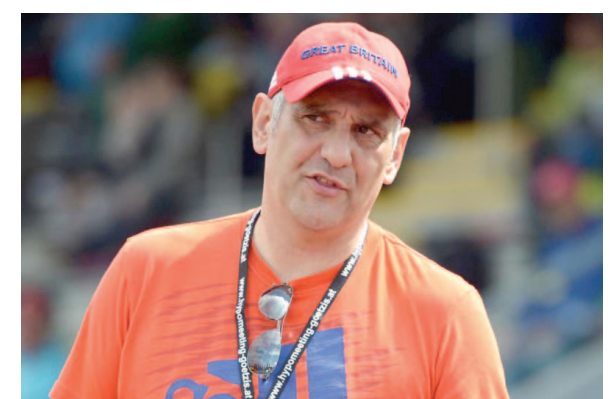


## Toni Minichiello banned for life by UK Athletics over sexually inappropriate conduct

**London, August 11** : Toni Minichiello, the coach who guided Jessica Ennis-Hill to gold at the London 2012 Olympic Games, has been banned for life from training athletes after an investigation found he had engaged in sexually inappropriate behaviour, emotional abuse and bullying. In a statement, UK Athletics said the findings of a disciplinary panel were "of the utmost seriousness", and included gross breaches of trust by Minichiello, which had led to severe consequences for the mental health and wellbeing of some of his athletes. Minichiello, who was suspended last year pending an investigation into complaints from multiple female athletes and coaches, was found to have breached his coaching licence over a 15-year period in numerous ways by the Independent Case Management Group, including: Making inappropriate sexual references and gestures to athletes, including mimicking "female genitalia and oral sex", telling an athlete to "suck my \*\*\*\*" and frequently referring to his penis as his "spicy Italian sausage". Failing to respect the athletes' right to a private life by making intrusive inquiries and comments about their personal lives, including asking an athlete if she had "ever had sex while doing weights". Engaging in sexually physical behaviour, namely inappropriate and

unwanted touching of athletes to whom he owed a duty of care, including touching two athletes' breasts and "dry humping" to mimic sexual activity. Engaging in inappropriate and sometimes aggressive behaviour, bullying and emotional abuse including

Minichiello's coaching licence expired and therefore cannot be suspended/subject to a sanction. Therefore, UKA has decided that it will not entertain any future application made by Mr Minichiello for a UKA coach licence in perpetuity. "The issuance of



one athlete being made to sit with a cone on her head to mimic a dunce's cap. UK Athletics said: "They amount to a large number of breaches of the UKA coach licence terms over a 15-year period. They constitute gross breaches of trust by Mr Minichiello, which have had severe consequences for the mental health and mental wellbeing of the athletes under his charge." UK Athletics said that as Minichiello's coaching licence had expired the body was unable to suspend or sanction him. But due to the seriousness of the allegations, it would not allow him to coach again. "It is noted that during the process of these disciplinary matters, Mr

a UKA licence to a coach is essentially a representation on behalf of UKA that the coach in question can be trusted with the athletes under his charge. UKA is firmly of the view that there will never be a time in the future at which it would be appropriate to grant that assurance and issue such a licence." UK Athletics said that other allegations made against the 56-year-old Minichiello had been unproven. Minichiello, who also guided Ennis-Hill to world titles in 2009, 2011 and 2015 and silver at Rio 2016, has always denied any wrongdoing. In a statement he said: "I cannot fully express my disappointment with this decision and with UK Athletics' unfair handling of this process."