



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cyber Criminal

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 11 :

With recent rise in cyber crimes, Assam Police arrested a cyber criminal in Jorhat district on Sunday. The fraudster has been identified as Navam Shrotriya alias Piku. According to sources, Navam siphoned an amount of Rs. 16 Lakhs from Punjab National Bank account of a retired college principal Lalit Shyam. Speaking to media Lalit said, "I have no idea how they hacked into my bank account and siphoned Rs. 16 Lakhs. After I got to know that the frauds siphoned my entire savings, I went to lodge an FIR in Titabor Police Station. Gradually, the police arrested the fraudster." "This is the first time that I came across such incident. I am retired college principal and the money they siphoned was my savings. As I was victimized to this fraud, I urge all the citizens of Assam to be aware of such incidents," he added.

### Burmese areca nuts

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 11 :

Burmese areca nuts were seized in Assam's Hojai District. According to sources, Assam Railway Police seized the areca nuts weighing around 447 kg of Burmese Areca Nuts worth Rs. 2 lakh from AC coach of Avadh Assam Express in Lumding. It is suspected that the areca nuts were smuggled from Nagaland's Dimapur to Hojai. The police informed they have launched a probe as to how they were able to smuggle such huge consignment in AC coach and if anyone from railway department is involved in this case.

### Exam dates

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 11 :

Gauhati University has announced the date for Bachelors of Business Administration (BBA) and Bachelors in Computer Application (BCA) degree examination on Saturday. According to sources, the examination for second, fourth and sixth semester of the aforementioned degrees will be held from September 19. GU students will be able to download the entire exam schedule from the university website. Meanwhile, the results for BBA and BCA first, third and fifth semester exams held in April will be announced on or before September 30.

## Assam to get Rs 300 cr from Centre for improving state's judicial infrastructure

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 11 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said that Central Government has approved Rs 9,000 crore for the betterment of judicial infrastructure in the country and Assam would receive around Rs 300 crore as its share. While addressing at Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Bar Council of north-east states in Guwahati, Sarma said, "The Centre has approved Rs 9,000 crore for the improvement of judicial infrastructure and Assam



would receive around Rs 300 crore as its share. In addition to that, the state government will provide another Rs 300 crore in this regard." He

further said that the Assam government would create around 100 new positions in the lower judiciary. "Around 100 new positions would be created in the lower judiciary by the Assam government as a step towards faster dispensation of justice in the state," he added. Sarma was the Guest of Honour in the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim at ITA Cultural Complex, Machkhawa in Guwahati. The Chief Minister also stated that the state government is contemplating various welfare schemes for those who retire from active

practicing. He also pointed out the need to expedite the justice delivery mechanism. He said many people, despite being victims of circumstances, hesitate to seek legal help, as chasing justice often becomes an expensive affair, owing to the long process involved with it. "I call upon the office bearers of the Bar Council to find out as to how it can play its role to help the weak and underprivileged," he appealed. The

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Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah prayed at the Somnath Mahadev Temple in Gujarat.

## Med field experts rue lack of cadaveric transplant facility in Assam

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 11 :

Noting that Assam has no cadaveric transplant facility, except in case of cornea, experts in the medical field said that more people signing up for donating their organs will not translate into more lives being saved in the absence of proper infrastructure. Campaigns for generating awareness on organ donation have, however, picked momentum

in the state, where currently facilities are available only for living-donor kidney transplants. "It is true that there is no cadaveric transplant facility yet, but work to set up one here is at an advanced stage," Dr Achyut Chandra Baishya, the principal of Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), told. "The state government has sent a communiqué in this regard, and we can expect an official notification soon,"



he added. An official source said all activities of Regional Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organisation (ROTTO), Guwahati, had to

be put on hold a couple of years ago as its contractual staff were removed following

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## Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena fumes as Eknath Shinde shares stage with CJI UU Lalit

New Delhi, September 11 :

Shiv Sena on Sunday (September 11, 2022) attacked Maharashtra Chief

Minister Eknath Shinde for sharing a stage with Chief Justice of India UU Lalit amid the Supreme Court hearing petitions of the

Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena and the CM camp. Shiv Sena spokesperson Arvind Sawant claimed "nothing was happening these days" as per norms, rules and law. "This is the reason we say democracy is in danger," he said. CJI Lalit was on Saturday felicitated

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## 'People hinted at elevation as Vice President if I...' Meghalaya Guv Satya Pal Malik makes big statement

Jaipur, September 11 :



Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik on Saturday claimed that people had indicated that he would be made vice president if he stopped speaking against the Centre. "I already had indications that you will be made (vice president) if you don't speak, but I don't do this, I speak what I feel," he said when asked about the elevation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, whom he described as a "deserving". He also praised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for taking out the "Bharat Jodo Yatra". Gandhi is working for his party and it is

good, Malik said. When asked about what message the yatra has given, Malik said, "I do not know this. It is for the people to tell but I feel he is doing the right work." Many in BJP worth raiding On the Enforcement Directorate's raids on the leaders of opposition parties, Malik said raids on BJP leaders should also be conducted. "There are many in the BJP worth raiding," he commented. Rajpath was a good name, Kartavya Path sounds like a mantra. When asked about his reaction to changing the name of Rajpath in the national capital, he said it was not needed. He said Rajpath was a good name while the name "Kartavya Path" sounds like a mantra. Alik said he will continue to raise his voice in the interest of farmers, who will soon launch an agitation for their demands because in the present circumstances the demand for the MSP does not seem to be getting fulfilled. Questioning the growth of industrialist Gautam Adani, he said his wealth steadily increased in a short time while that of farmers is going down.

## WHO makes BIG claim, says Covid-19 'kills one person every 44 seconds globally'

New Delhi, September 11 :

As the world was moving towards normalcy post the Covid-19 pandemic amid declining cases, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned that one person with Covid-19 is still dying every 44 seconds globally. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General, said that this virus will not just fade away. "The global decline in reported cases and



deaths is continuing. This is very encouraging. But there is no guarantee these

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## 'Never seen climate carnage on such scale' UN chief after visit to flood-hit Pakistan

Islamabad, September 11 :

After accessing the situation of flood-hit Pakistan, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday said that he has "never seen climate carnage" on such a scale, blaming wealthier countries for the devastation. "I have seen many humanitarian disasters in the world, but I

have never seen climate carnage on the scale of the floods here in Pakistan," he said at a press conference in the port city of Karachi after witnessing the worst of the damage in southern Pakistan, ARY News reported. "I have simply no words to describe what I have seen today," the UN chief said. "As our planet continues to warm, all countries will increasingly

suffer losses and damage from climate beyond their capacity to adapt. This is a global crisis. It demands a global response," he added. UN chief further said that families had lost their houses, and the farmers had lost their crops and their livestock. Massive and urgent financial support for Pakistan is

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## 14 gold bars weighing 2.323 kg gold seized in Assam's Karbi Anglong, 2 held

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 11 :

Karbi Anglong (Assam) [India], September 11 (ANI): In a joint operation, Assam Police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) arrested two persons and seized 2.323 kg of gold from a passenger bus in Karbi Anglong district on Saturday night. Based on secret information, a Naka checking was



set up by police and CRPF

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## Delhi LG gives nod to CBI probe into 'irregularities' in buying 1,000 low-floor DTC buses

New Delhi, September 11 :

Delhi LG V K Saxena has approved a proposal to forward a complaint to the CBI to probe the alleged corruption in the procurement of 1,000 low-floor buses by the DTC, official



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Tura September 11 :

The All Meghalaya Minority Students' Union (AMMSU) has written to the Drug Controller of the state seeking his intervention into Assam-based quacks taking up residency in Meghalaya and attending patients. "Some people from Assam are taking up temporary shelter in the



state and running illegal shops where they are dispensing drugs to patients. This has put the lives of many in danger," claimed president of AMMSU, Nur Islam. AMMSU stated that

there were many qualified pharmacists from the Garo Hills region who have remained unemployed while those coming from outside (Assam) and being al-

lowed to run shops by the concerned department and support from some local activists. "There are so many qualified yet unemployed pharmacists in Meghalaya who are being denied the opportunity of an employment as those from outside are being pushed in under NHM on contract basis. This has led to many of the indigenous qualified youths not being allowed into the trade. All this while those

from outside come and get rich on our money," added Islam. AMMSU sought the intervention of the department concerned to stop this 'quackery' and to allow unemployed youths of the state to prosper. AMMSU is based mostly in the plain belt of Garo Hills and shares a long border with the state of Assam. The complaint was filed on Sep 5.



# Will the Queen's death change Meghan and Harry's new chapter?

**London, September 11** : On Thursday, the website Prince Harry and his wife Meghan created a platform for their new business ventures in California went dark. The links to Meghan's new podcast disappeared and so did the references to the couple's



philanthropic efforts and their production deal. Instead, the homepage featured a tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. To veil a website in digital mourning was a decision in line with

royal protocols, but also with public sentiment, even in the seaside towns of southern California, where the Duke and Duchess of Sussex have lived since stepping back from their official roles in the Windsor family hierarchy. At Ye Old King's Head, an English pub

Americans, said Dusty Kerr, a 65-year-old from Leeds, who has worked at the shop for 23 years. "She's well missed," she said. As people bought commemorative teapots and tea towels, and drank toasts to the queen's memory in the pub, there were plenty of questions about what kind of a king Charles would be, Kerr said, but she didn't hear much about California's most famous British expats. "Nobody's done any negativity today," she said. "Not been really hearing much about that - it's all about Elizabeth." It's unclear whether Elizabeth's death, at age 96, will do much to change the path Harry and Meghan have begun to chart for themselves in California. In his first address to the nation, King Charles III gave their choice his stamp of approval, saying, "I want to also express my love for Harry

and Meghan as they continue to build their lives overseas. "The couple live in the celebrity enclave of Montecito, in a mansion reportedly purchased for \$14.65m and have started Archewell, a combination of nonprofit and for-profit ventures that aims to "unleash the power of compassion to drive systemic cultural change". In a move that echoes the post-White House ambitions of Barack and Michelle Obama, the pair signed a reported \$100m, multi-year deal with Netflix to produce TV shows, films and children's programs. Meghan launched a Spotify podcast Archetypes, featuring interviews with American celebrity royalty such as Serena Williams, Mariah Carey and Mindy Kaling. The duo is engaged in several humanitarian organizations, including Harry's Invictus games, and frequently speak out on public issues. In November 2021, the New York Times announced the couple was "getting into finance" and trying to make

"sustainable investing mainstream"; Meghan called Republican senators on their personal cell phones to advocate for paid family leave, and was criticized for introducing herself as the "Duchess of Sussex", and Harry, who had served alongside actual academic experts on an Aspen Institute Commission on Information Disorder, said that he had emailed Twitter's then-CEO Jack Dorsey on 5 January 2021 and "warned" him "that his platform was allowing a coup to be staged". The couple's Archewell website encourages readers to share their own personal stories and warns them to be "mindful of screen time" and not spend too much time online, a reference to their engagement with the Silicon Valley "Time Well Spent" movement led by the Center for Humane Technology.



Students take photos with mooncakes at a Mid-Autumn Festival celebration in Cairo, Egypt

## EU Council adopts full suspension of visa facilitation with Russia

**Prague, September 11** : The Council of the European Union (EU) on Friday adopted a decision on the full suspension of a visa facilitation agreement with Russia. The decision "will result in an increase in the visa application fee from 35 euros to 80 euros, the need to present additional documentary evidence, increased visa processing time, and more restrictive rules for the issuance of multiple-entry visas," the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU said. The decision entered into force on Friday and will apply as of Sept. 12, the statement said. The 2007 EU-Russia visa facilitation agreement aimed to facilitate the issuance of short-stay visas on the basis of reciprocity. Following the start of the



Russia-Ukraine conflict in late February this year, the EU partially suspended the visa facilitation agreement for Russian officials and business people. At their informal meeting last month in Prague, the foreign

ministers of the EU member states reached a political agreement to move forward with the full suspension of the agreement. The full suspension "affects all categories of travelers coming to the EU for a short stay," the statement said, adding that the European Commission will present additional guidelines to ensure that the suspension "does not negatively impact certain people traveling to the EU for essential purposes." Russia said on Sunday that it would take serious retaliatory measures if the EU formally introduces visa restrictions on Russian citizens. The Czech Republic is currently holding the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU for the second half of this year.

## Will he, won't he? Trump's big tease keeps 2024 election rivals guessing

**Washington, September 11** : In Tennessee in June, he asked a crowd: "Would anybody like me to run for president?" Then in Nevada in July he remarked: "We have a president who ran twice, won twice and may have to do it a third time. Can you believe it?" In Pennsylvania earlier this month, he vowed that "in 2024, most importantly, we are going to take back our magnificent White House". Donald Trump - former US president and architect of the big lie that he was robbed of victory in the 2020 election by electoral fraudsters - is now finding fresh political utility in the big tease. For more than a year he has tiptoed up to the line of declaring his candidacy for the White House in 2024 but never quite crossed it. It is a rare show of self-discipline from a man notorious for saying the quiet part out loud. It is also a strategy that yields benefits. The coyness about his intentions ensures a steady stream of coverage for his rallies and keeps potential Republican primary rivals guessing. He avoids a conflict with party leaders who fear that an official Trump candidacy would



overshadow their midterm elections campaign. And it keeps money flowing to his Save America political action committee, which has raised more than \$100m since it was formed after the 2020 election. "He's an attention whore and everything always has to be about Donald," said the Democratic National Committee adviser Kurt Bardella. "He has to make himself the centre of the universe so he goes out there and plays this little flirtatious 'will he, won't he?' card and it's just designed to continue to keep that conversation going." It's also designed to try to keep his would-be competitors like Ron DeSantis or Mike Pence or Mike Pompeo at bay. "When Trump suffered a crushing defeat to Joe Biden in the 2020 race, many observers expected him to follow

the example of previous one-term presidents such as Jimmy Carter and George HW Bush, accept that his political career was over and contemplate a presidential library and museum. But Trump has never done anything by the book. He pushed the "big lie" that culminated in his supporters' deadly attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021. Six months later he resumed his raucous campaign rallies with an event in Ohio, and he has since held a further 20 in locations that include Alaska, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wyoming. At every one of them supporters have thronged in expectation that this might be the day that Trump declares he is staging a great political comeback and running

for president again. Invariably he drops a hint or two in that direction, generating headlines that he is "floating" or "teasing" a run, but he never makes it explicit. Donald Trump gives the keynote address at the Faith & Freedom Coalition's annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee, in June. The closest he came was not an adoring rally but when pressed by a journalist from New York Magazine over what would factor into his decision. Trump replied: "Well, in my own mind, I've already made that decision, so nothing factors in any

more. In my own mind, I've already made that decision." But one factor, perhaps, does give him pause. If and when Trump formally declares, he will trigger Federal Election Commission requirements about financial disclosures and limits on how much money he can raise from individual donors. The 76-year-old's reticence may ultimately be about financial - rather than political - expediency.

## Pakistan: Economic loss due to floods rises to around USD 18 billion

**Islamabad, September 11** : The estimated economic loss due to the unprecedented floods in Pakistan has neared around USD 18 billion, an increase from USD 12.5 billion estimated earlier, as calculated by the Centre and endorsed by the provinces. Agriculture growth faced a much more severe impact in the aftermath of floods. The catastrophic floods have destroyed crops in 8.25 million acres as compared to the initial assessment of 4.2 million acres which has further increased the economic losses, reported The News International. Cotton, rice, and minor crops have been damaged severely and if dewatering is not done properly, it can cause serious problems for wheat sowing. The cotton crop has evaporated in most parts of the country and now wheat sowing is under threat. The Ministry of National Food Security has been assigned to come up with a summary to increase the minimum support price of wheat for the coming crop. The authorities have held meetings with international donors and assured them that Pakistan would place an effective monitoring and

evaluation system to utilise each and every penny to mitigate the flood losses in a transparent manner, reported The News International. In the wake of the increased economic losses and reduced GDP growth, the per capita income is projected to slow down. The government had envisaged a GDP growth rate of 5 per cent for the current fiscal year. Moreover, poverty and unemployment will go up manifold from 21.9 per cent to over 36 per cent. Some 37 per cent population was hit by poverty after floods in 118 districts, as estimated by the Pakistan government. A high-profile committee with representation from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, State Bank of Pakistan, FBR, PIDE and others evaluated that poverty and unemployment have gone up manifold, rising from 21.9 per cent to over 36 per cent. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday landed in Pakistan on a two-day

visit to take stock of the floods-related situation and express solidarity with the country's people hit by extreme monsoon rain. The UN chief will have meetings with the Pakistani leadership and senior officials to exchange views on the national and global response to this catastrophe caused by climate change, an official statement read. Guterres will travel to areas most impacted by the climate catastrophe in Pakistan. He will interact with displaced families and first responders in the field, and oversee the UN's humanitarian response work in support of the Government's rescue and relief efforts for millions of affected people. Meanwhile, as Pakistan struggles with the unprecedented floods, World Health Organisation (WHO) has also warned about the worsening crisis in the country ravaged by the record rains. "We are following closely and with deep concern the humanitarian crisis currently facing the people of Pakistan as a result of

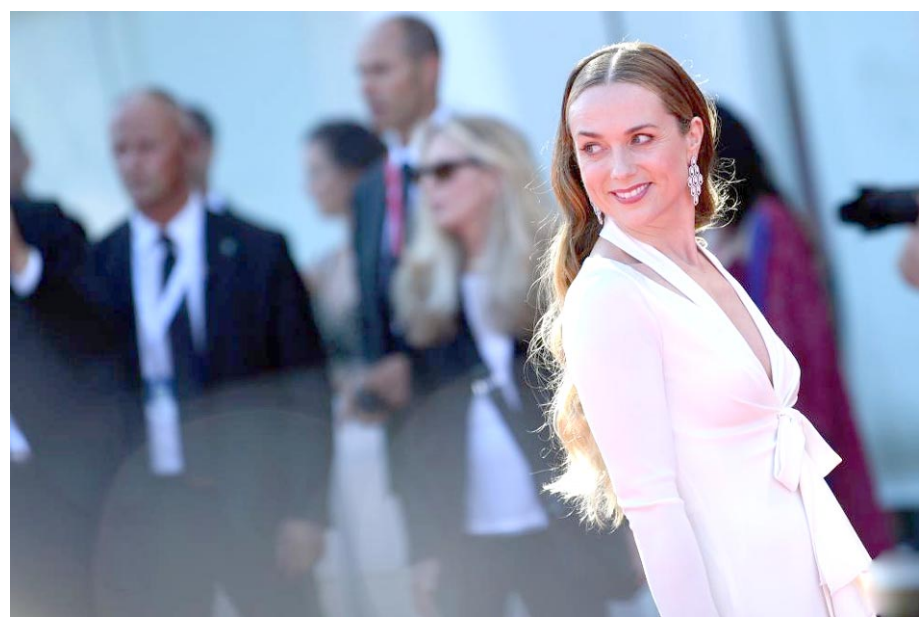
devastating monsoon floods," said Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, on the floods in Pakistan. In a press statement issued on September 5, Dr Al-Mandhari said the current scale of damage and destruction due to the floods is like none seen before in Pakistan - a result of long-term global climate

floods and impacts such as landslides, destroying infrastructure, homes, agricultural land and livestock. The calamitous floods have so far claimed at least 1,325 people in Pakistan. The human and socio-economic toll is expected to increase as flood levels continue to rise, with immense pressure on the country's dams. The Pakistan Meteorological



change leading to more severe weather conditions. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Pakistan is facing one of the worst flooding events in its history. The government estimates that millions across the country are affected by the rains,

Department said that it was the wettest August since records began in 1961. National rainfall was 243 per cent above average. In the province of Balochistan, it was +590 per cent and in Sindh +726 per cent, according to the monthly report.



Actress Kerry Condon poses on the red carpet for the premiere of a film

## King Charles III pledges "lifelong service" as Britain's new monarch

**London, September 11** : Britain's Prince Charles addresses the opening ceremony of the World Leaders Summit at the 26th United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, Britain, Nov. 1, 2021. Queen Elizabeth was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is

mourned most deeply in her passing," he said in his televised speech. "That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today." LONDON, Sept. 9 (Xinhua) - Britain's King Charles III on Friday pledged "lifelong service" in his first address to the nation and the Commonwealth after assuming the throne following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, on Thursday. "Throughout her life, Her Majesty the Queen (...) was an inspiration," he said in his televised speech. "Queen Elizabeth was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in

her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today." He said he felt "profound sorrow" over the public's "sense of loss beyond measure." Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-reigning monarch in history, died at Balmoral, Scotland, on Thursday, aged 96. Charles, 73, will be officially proclaimed King at the Accession Council on Saturday in a ceremony held at St. James's Palace in London. Charles bestowed

the titles of Prince and Princess of Wales on his eldest son William and daughter-in-law Kate - titles that he and his late wife Diana



previously held. He also expressed love for his son Harry and daughter-in-law Meghan Markle as they "continue to build their lives overseas."

## California sizzled in a record heatwave this week. We mapped where it was hottest

**California, September 11** : California this week endured one of its longest and most intense September heatwaves, smashing temperature records up and down the state. Since 1 September, more than a dozen cities across the state set new all-time highs, with numerous others tying previous records or setting new monthly records. Thermometers in Sacramento, California, recorded a stunning 116F (47C) on Tuesday. Other states in the American



west were not spared either. Temperatures in Reno, Nevada, reached 106F (41C) this week, while Salt Lake City, Utah, registered 107F (42C). Scientists say the

blistering week underscores an alarming new reality: heatwaves are getting bigger, longer and extend across larger swaths of land. "By mid-century, the

spacial size of heatwaves in the US are expected to increase between about 50% to 80% from what they are in the current climate," said Bradfield Lyon, a professor at the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine. "The frequency will increase, the duration will increase, as well as the intensity." Here's a look at some of the records that were shattered across the US west this week, from San Diego to the San Francisco Bay area and beyond.

### নাম সলনি

মোৰ নতুন নাম পুনৰ বাও বৰা  
পুৰণি নাম পৰম পদ্মজা বাও বৰা  
সলনি কৰি উপৰোক্ত নাম হিচাপে  
পৰৱৰ্তী সময়ত জনা যাব।  
নগাঁও, অসম



## CM Attends Golden Jubilee celebration of Sonari College 4-year degree courses to start from college next year : CM

**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, September 11:** Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today attended the closing ceremony of the golden jubilee year of Sonari College in Charaideo district. He also released souvenirs on the occasion of the golden jubilee celebration. In his speech, Dr. Sarma urged the students of the state to take on challenges of the new world. He also said that our personality is fully developed in the combination of knowledge and wisdom. He said that the new education policy aims to develop students into full human beings by providing them with knowledge as well as wisdom. He said that the colleges of the state should play vital role for implementation of new education policy.



Every university in the state is preparing itself to launch the new education policy from next year, he added. He hoped that India will transform its education system as on the best in the world under the new education policy. CM Sarma said that India is emerging as a new economic power in the world. He also said that the world is stepping in new direction in various areas such as industry sector, information technology sector and artificial intelligence. He urged everyone to earn knowledge about the new technology movement. For uplift of the

economic condition of the state in a new direction, the Chief Minister said that the state government has been taking various steps. The student community should prepare themselves so as to be stakeholders in the progress of the state. In his speech, the Chief Minister said that the golden heritage of the state is reflected through the 'Maidam' of Sonari, which was established as his kingdom by Chaolung Syukapha. The Chief Minister also said that freedom fighter Maniram Dewan had established a tea garden here. Maniram Dewan had been trying to turn around our economy on the basis of the agricultural sector. The CM also highlighted the contribution of Sonari's son, Gitikabi Parbati Prasad Baruah. He also laid emphasis on finding out the possibility of the pupils so that they can earn their education on the basis of moral and spiritual values. The CM also highlighted upon the teacher-student relationship. He said that Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev, Anandaram Dhekial Phukan, Banikanta Kakaty achieved great success in their life through inspiration of their teacher. The CM said that four-year under graduate courses will be started in colleges of the state from next year. The government has been taking various steps for earning knowledge through the education system. The Chief Minister also said that the state government will provide full cooperation in various aspects including up gradation of infrastructure, recruitment of faculty to facilitate to introduce post graduate classes at Sonari college, so that the college become a full fledged post graduate colleges. The president of golden jubilee celebration committee cum MP Tapan Kumar Gogoi, Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University Dr. Jiten Hazarika, Principal of Sonari College Dr. Biman Chandra Gogoi, the Union Minister of State Ramswar Telia also spoke in the meeting. The Guardian Minister of Charaideo district Bimal Bora, MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLA of Sonari constituency Dharmeswar Konar, Ex Minister Hiranya Konwar, Ex MLA Nabanita Handique, DC Paul Baruah and other dignitaries also present in the meeting.

laid the foundation of the Ahom Empire throughout the Brahmaputra Valley for 610 years. He united all the ethnic groups living in Assam during this period. Therefore, the contribution of Chukapha to Assam and

## Statue of Swargadeo Chaolung Chukapha installed at Dhakuakhana Tai Cultural Research and Development Center

**Assam Rising**  
**Dhakuakhana, September 11:** Chaolung Chukapha was the first Chaolung of medieval Greater Assam and the prince of the Chu clan of the Chang dynasty of the Tai kingdom of Ming Mand and the founder of the Ahom Empire. The empire founded by Chukapha from 1228 AD

the Assamese nation is paramount in building Greater Assam. Chaolung Chukapha is truly the father of Assam and Assamese and the father of the larger Assamese nation. Today, the Tai Cultural Research and Development Centre, Assam; The foundation stone of the statue of Swargadeo Chaolung



laid the foundation of the Ahom Empire throughout the Brahmaputra Valley for 610 years. He united all the ethnic groups living in Assam during this period. Therefore, the contribution of Chukapha to Assam and

Chukapha was laid at the premises of the Tai Development Centre to unite the entire Ahom people of Dhakuakhana. The foundation stone of the statue was laid by the Chairman of the Tai Ahom Development Council

Lital Buragohain. After laying the foundation stone, Buragohain said in an interview with the media that we must work together to rebuild that prosperous Assam with our determination and collective efforts following the ideals of Chukapha. The statue of Swargadeo Chaolung Chukapha will re-establish the dignity of the Ahom people in Dhakuakhana and will be welcome for the new generation. He also said that the Tai Ahom Development Council will undertake the construction of a beautiful Tai language school at this place at a cost of Rs 30-40 lakh from the Tai Ahom fund in Dhakuakhana in memory of Swargadeo Chaolung Chukapha. The statue will be inaugurated on 2nd December, 2022 on 'Assam Day' and the ceremony was attended by the people of Dhakuakhana and various parts of the country.

## Office of Diamond Jubilee of Golmagaon High School Inaugurated

**Assam Rising**  
**Udalguri, September 11:** The office of Diamond Jubilee Celebration of

Golmagaon High School was inaugurated by Mr. Gobinda Chandra Basumatari the BTR



Deputy Chief and the MLA of Udalguri constituency. He also urged the sub committees to step up their activities to conduct the celebration in a smooth way. Mr. Bishnu Sarma Neupane the working president of the celebration committee, Mr. Kamal Upadhyaya the headmaster of the school and other dignitaries were also present. The committee has decided to invite Assam Chief Minister, Education Minister, BTR CEM and others to the celebration which will be held in the last week of November this year. A memorial statue will also be constructed to commemorate the celebration. The committee has decided to bring out a souvenir in four languages to mark the celebration. Mr. Dhirendranath Barua the assistant headmaster of the school will edit the souvenir.

## A drug dealer arrested in Barbari, Laharighat



**Assam Rising**  
**Bhuraogon, September 11:** The Morigaon police arrested a drug dealer from ward 1 of Barbari under Laharighat police station in Morigaon district in a joint operation. The arrested drug dealer was identified as Ziaur Rahman. Police seized six containers of suspected drugs from the arrested drug dealer. The arrested drug dealer was taken to Laharighat police station for questioning.

**NEMCARE Group of Institutions**  
Approved By: HFW Govt. of Assam, AICTE, PCI and INC Govt. of India, and IMA  
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## NHRCB submits memo to Shah and Himanta Biswa Sarma

**Assam Rising**  
**Biswanath Chari, September 11:** The National Human Rights and Crime Control Bureau (NHRCB) today submitted a memorandum to Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam and Amit Shah, Union Home Minister requesting them to take necessary measures to implement the online RTI system in Assam. Talking to this correspondent, the organization's Sonitpur District Media Officer Minmay Kumar Nath said that while there is no facility to file an online RTI applications in government offices under the Assam government. On the contrary online applications are available

in many states of India including Bihar. He also added that due to non availability of online RTI system, public faces many problems in obtaining the necessary information. He further added that the most common problems faced by the public in this regard is the scarcity of postal orders at the post offices in rural areas or there is a long delay in receiving such postal orders on demand. Nishant Thord, chairman of NHRCB Assam chapter has requested the offices under the Government of Assam to arrange online RTI as soon as possible.

## One-Day Livelihood workshop held in Namoni Cherepai Majuli

**Assam Rising**  
**Majuli, September 11:** The Mising Autonomous Council's Ganashakti Assam and TMPK, MMK



central and Majuli district committee jointly organized a Meeting at Namoni Cherepai Rongmancha on Sunday. A one-day workshop on livelihood was held in No 30 Sanga Majuli constituency. Hariprasad

Pegu presided over the meeting. The workshop was inaugurated by MMK Central Committee Member Rajib Pegu. Notably, the workshop

Doley, Central Committee Member of Sonmilita Ganashakti Assam Chappal Doley, Samilita Ganashakti Assam, Secre-

tary of Ujani Majuli Block Committee Dilip Bora and Sammilita Ganashakti Assam, Narishakti Assam Ujani Majuli Block Committee Secretary Bidyawati Patir and Others.

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**Assam Rising**  
**Khanapara, Ri-Bhoi, September 11:** A National seminar on 'Quality in Legal Education in the 21st Century' was organized by the University School of Law and Research (USLR), USTM on Thursday at Prof. NKC Auditorium. Mr. Pratap Singh, Member Bar Council of India, New Delhi was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Addressing the gathering Prof GD Sharma, Vice Chancellor of USTM said that USTM is planning to come up with B.Tech LLB and B.Sc. LLB. Speaking to the participants, Mr. Pratap Singh mentioned about how the academic discipline of law was different back in his time and pointed out how the scope in law is ever expanding. In 1980s, only 500-800 professors or teachers were there but now even the Kindle App has more than 1000 teachers. He has also advised that USLR should introduce courses like Mass Communication LLB, B.Sc. LLB, Agriculture LLB, B.Tech LLB etc. The vote of thanks was offered

by Dr. Baharul Islam, Dean, USLR. The seminar con-



cluded with the national Anthem by all the participants.

**REGIONAL OFFICE**  
**G. N. B. Road, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003**  
Phone: 0361-2680637-638

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002**  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:  
**E-AUCTION DATE AND TIME : 20.10.2022 between 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)**

**Name and address of the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) : M/s R. S. LOGISTICS INDIA, Proprietor : Rinku Singh, At - First Floor, Jatini Tamuli Complex, Opp. Maruti Service, NH-34 Sarusajai Goralia, P.S. Basistha, Guwahati, Assam-781034, MRS. RINKU SINGH Wife of Sri Mangesh Kumar Singh House No. 10, Bishnurabha Path, Bye Lane - H, Udalakra Road, Odalakra, Lalgaon, District - Kamrup (M), Assam-781034, MR. SANDEEP SINGH Son of Late Raghunath Singh House No. 115, Ward No. 16, Lal Gaon, Udalakra, Guwahati, District - Kamrup (M), Assam-781034, MR. MANJESH KUMAR SINGH Son of Late Panmananda Singh House No. 10, Udalakra Road, P.O. - Lalgaon P.S. - Dispur, Guwahati, District - Kamrup (M), Assam-781034.**

**Name and address of the secured creditor : Chandmari Branch (Opp All India Radio, Near Fly-over, GNB Road, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003.**

**Description of Immovable property :** All that part and parcel of land measuring 3.65 Acres, covered by Dag No. 2363 of K. P. Patta No. 564 situated at Revenue Village - Odalakra, Mouza - Bellola, Guwahati, District - Kamrup Metro (Assam) and the building standing thereon in the name of Mrs. Rinku Singh & Mr. Sandeep Singh and bounded as follows:- North : Land of Dag No. 249, East : Land of Dasarath, South : Road, West : Road.

**Amount Due : Rs. 157,88,029.54/- (Rupees One Hundred Fifty Seven Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Twenty Nine and Fifty Four paise) only as on 31.08.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses.**

**Reserve Price : Rs. 87,25,000/- (Rupees Eighty Seven Lakhs and Twenty Five Thousand only).**

**Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 8,72,500/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand and Five Hundred only).**

**Bid Increase Amount : Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only).**

For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.ibapi.in>, and <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx>. For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.

**Place: Kamrup (M)**  
**Date: 05.09.2022**

**Authorised Officer**  
Union Bank of India

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**Office of Executive Engineer, PWD**  
**Nagaon, Raha, Dhing & Batadrava**  
**Territorial Building Division, Nagaon**

**PRESS NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Nagaon, Raha, Dhing & Batadrava Territorial Building Division, Nagaon on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Item rate bids in two bid system for the work "Construction of brick boundary wall 1.5 mtr. height and 70 cm grill above wall, RCC post, beam etc. complete including iron gate around the residential complex of G+1 RCC building of Judicial Officers, quarter at Sankardev Nagar, Hojai," with an approximate value of Rs. 17, 19, 867.00 from APWD registered Class-I (A/B/C), class-II & III contractors (under this Circle) having experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bids may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours up to 14.09.2022.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer, P.W.D.  
Nagaon, Raha, Dhing & Batadrava  
Territorial Building Division, Nagaon.

Memo No. EE/NBD/CS/41/Jud./Hj/22-23/ 3329-A

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## Heroine worth of 3 crore seized in Srirampur

**Assam Rising**  
**Gossaigaon, September-11:** Acting on a tip off information Simultapu police led by Sanjay Kumar Rai, i/c, Simultapu police out post on the intervening night of Saturday seized heroine worth of 4 crore and seized a luxurious car and apprehended two person in this connection from NH-31 (C) in Srirampur. The car XUV bearing registration number WB-74Z-5016 was heading towards Coochbehar, West Bengal from Jalukbari, Guwahati when it was intercepted by the police person-

nel. The person from whom the heroine weighing around 2477 gram was seized has been identified as Sahinur Miya and Raju Hussain of Coochbehar, West Bengal. Police sources informed that the expected value of the seized heroine would be around INR 3 crore in open market. Notably, Amar Jyoti Bailung, O/C, Gossaigaon police station was also present when the police seized the heroine.



## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 206 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

# Uncertainty prevails

In the past two and half years our health service has endured a global pandemic, staff shortages, terrible ambulance queues, long-waiting lists and a social care crisis; and we are now again seeing warnings of severe pressures in the NHS in the coming winter season. But the truth is that we are confronted by even more uncertainty than usual about the scale of "winter pressures" that we will face. The excess emergency admissions in a normal winter are largely driven by viral respiratory illnesses in the colder months, and the three prominent winter viruses that are a concern now are influenza, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus, a cold-like virus that can cause serious illness in some cases) and Covid-19. What we mean by "winter pressure" is large numbers of vulnerable people, particularly elderly people, getting one of these viral infections on top of pre-existing health conditions, or the frailty of old age, and ending up in hospital - so that the system grinds to a halt. We haven't had any significant flu outbreaks for the past two winters (wonderfully absent as a side effect of Covid-19 restrictions) and so there is a real concern that it may be back with a vengeance now that we are back to more normal levels of social mingling: it came earlier than usual in the recent Australian winter and produced a sharp peak in cases. When flu comes to our shores this year, and we can be reasonably sure it will, vaccination of children (with the nasal vaccine) and of older adults could reduce its potential impact. But we are uncertain about what will actually happen: we can't be sure exactly how the virus will behave in the northern hemisphere, we don't know how many of those who are in need of a jab will come forward, and we don't know whether or not the virus we get here will match our vaccine strain well and give the highest levels of protection to vaccine-recipients. So it could be bad, but it's difficult to say how much pressure it will put on hospitals this year. RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) arrived unseasonably early here in the UK this year. In most years, this virus is fairly predictable, reaching a sharp peak in infections in November, but its behaviour has changed since lockdown and social distancing caused a dramatic reduction in population immunity. Fewer people got it in the past few years, so fewer people have immunity. There is now much more opportunity for its spread out of season. So, with this early transmission, RSV might be gone before the winter and not even in the mix. But it might also roll through the autumn and winter, and cause a more normal peak as the darker months arrive. Again, this adds uncertainty. As for the newest virus, we really just don't know what will happen next with Covid-19. BA.4/5 Omicron has largely had its day and is now in decline, so it is highly unlikely that these variants will be here for the winter - just as Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta all fizzled out after their appearances around the globe last year. Will the immense wall of immunity from all the vaccine doses and infections delay the next wave further into the future so that we are spared this winter? Or will a new Covid-19 variant emerge to add to a bad flu season and cause a deepening crisis? We simply don't know.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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

## Letter to The Editor

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

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

## The loss of the Queen will test a divided Britain

The death of a monarch is an entirely foreseeable event, the solemn formalities hardwired into the rituals of dynastic succession. But it is also an event that is difficult, partly for the simple reason of good manners, to anticipate with any accuracy at any particular time. With the death at Balmoral of Queen Elizabeth II, a prepared but nevertheless shocked nation finds itself at such a moment, and it is important that our troubled politics and our wounded civil society face up to it as calmly and sensibly as possible, because this event will resonate politically and constitutionally for years to come. Elizabeth was on the throne for so many years that, through no fault of her own, she made this process difficult. She reigned longer than any other monarch in British history, and by

a considerable margin. She is the only one to have reigned for more than 70 years, a span that is unlikely to be repeated in the foreseeable future. Until yesterday, she was the only monarch that the vast majority of us had ever known - you have to be at least 75 to have had any memory of George VI's reign. This is a big, big event for Britain. She presided over a system of doing monarchy that in some ways felt timeless, but which was in fact adaptive and distinctive. Her staying power and her skill at keeping her distance have bequeathed a model of monarchy that will not be easy for Charles III to replicate, especially if, as is distinctly possible, he fails to earn the breadth of respect that Elizabeth enjoyed. The signs were

suddenly ominous yesterday. It is unusual for Buckingham Palace, normally so tight-lipped and uncommunicative on such matters, to volunteer the kind of frank statement on the monarch's health problems that it put out. It is even more unusual for the scattered and sometimes warring members of the royal family to descend en masse to the monarch's bedside at Balmoral. This is the moment, nevertheless, for which the new monarch has long prepared, and it will be marked by change at least as much as hallowed continuity. But it is a process of change in which the many institutions of British society, not just the palace, are entitled to have their say. Even monarchy evolves, albeit slowly.

**Martin Kettle**

# Britain's charities have done all they can to help desperate people. What will Truss do?

Not only are the country's poor people now stretched beyond their limits, but so too are the country's charities. Just as many breadwinners are finding it difficult to pay for bread, so there are now food banks fearful of running out of food. Preparing for a winter wave of unprecedented need, our voluntary sector is having to be innovative - and fast. Faced with rising deprivation in the local community where I was brought up, the family centre I volunteer at has pioneered the bank of banks: a food bank, bedding bank, clothes bank, toiletries bank, home furnishings bank, hygiene bank and baby bank, all rolled into one. In just eight months, it has grown from being one of the county's smallest charities, with a turnover of £500,000 a year and 30 staff, to among the largest, with a £5m turnover in goods. Benefiting from a unique agreement to receive surplus items donated by the local Amazon warehouse and backed up by the Co-op, Scotmid and 12 local firms, it is now working with 500 nearby organisations - charities, food banks, schools, health centres and social work teams - which have been able to provide 35,000 Fife families with 230,000 goods, from tinned food, nappies, toilet rolls and children's clothes to duvets, kettles, microwaves and beds. Now stocks are being built up to prepare for the biggest demand surge of all - for blankets, sleeping bags and hot-water bottles as families give up on heating their homes and concentrate on heating themselves. But this central warehouse does more than hand out goods. In addition to



delivering paint, wallpaper, carpets and home furnishings to families who can no longer afford basic household maintenance, a local team of volunteer painters, plumbers and electricians is now being assembled to help refurbish and improve homes. Plans are now under discussion for a shop that will lend electrical and mechanical tools free of charge for do-it-yourself repairs, while help is being extended from house to gardens and the planting of allotments. With its breakfast clubs, after-school clubs and mothers and toddlers groups now complemented by a pioneering dads' club, grannies' club, and its own team of mental health counsellors, the family centre is like so many charities I know - endlessly creative in helping families to do more with less, and I am constantly impressed by the selfless support offered by local business, from the struggling one-man electrical outfit to the biggest

**Gordon Brown**

superstore. Yet the caregivers and social workers at the family centre know that no matter how inventive and extensive these already herculean efforts become, they will not be enough to prevent destitution this winter. At best, all this charitable assistance that has been brought together locally can bring an additional £10m to Fife's poorest families this year. But those extra millions cannot compensate for the £76m that the very same families are short of compared with last year. This is because 35,000 Fife families lost in excess of £30m after the £20 a week cut in universal credit last October, and are another £46m short because benefits have risen only 3% while

inflation is pushing up their weekly bills by more than 10%. And this shortfall from one year to the next is only a fraction of the £200m that Fife council estimates has been lost to 35,000 families through benefit cuts since 2010. For 75 years, the British welfare state, in sharp contrast to the US, has stepped up and in where and when the need is greatest. But now, as a result of austerity economics, it is not the social security system but food banks that have become the lifeline for families in need. And it is no longer universal credit but charity that is their last resort. That is why Keir Starmer has demanded an energy price freeze and extra discounts for low-income families, including reduced charges on prepayment meters. What we already know of the multibillion energy package from our new prime minister, Liz Truss, suggests it is unlikely to do enough to prevent dire poverty this winter unless there is additional provision for low-income families. It will not undo the failure to uprate universal credit in line with prices, nor address the limitations of Rishi Sunak's summer flat-rate payment of £650, which worked out at only £2.60 a week each for a couple with three children, leaving little after paying fuel bills for food, mobiles, TV licence, travel, children's clothes, toiletries and cleaning materials. Indeed, our threadbare official safety net has been so violently ripped apart over the past 12 years that research from Loughborough University shows that family benefits this year will cover only half of essential living costs.

Small wonder that my local food bank has already run up a deficit of £28,000 this year, as appeals for help have risen 50%. With these last lines of defence now breached and charities about to hit a breaking point, only the government has the resources to end the unspeakable suffering caused by unpayable bills and unmet needs. On Tuesday Truss travelled the length of the country to Balmoral and back. There is despair in the communities she flew over but is unlikely to ever visit. There is fear in the eyes of people she and her ministers will never meet. For across our country there is suffering they do not see, hardship they do not hear and pain - and yet they pass on by. From Covid to conflicts, we have always relied on some of the lowest-income earners - caregivers, nurses, ambulance workers, our armed services - to show up in an emergency. Now it's time for the government to show up for them. Only action to resurrect our national mission to end child and pensioner poverty can reunite an ever more divided and despairing country. As is often the case, doing the right thing is a matter of political will, and no one doubts Truss's determination. In the worst of times, she now needs to deliver for the best and most urgent of causes. And if, instead, she is resolved to be irresponsible in the fight against mounting poverty, decent people will devote their energies to assembling an unprecedented national coalition of churches and faith groups, charities and anti-poverty campaigners, local councillors and mayors to change her mind. Change is coming. This is a moment for it to replace desolation with hope.

# The Queen was the ultimate matriarch, with a power exercised quietly and artfully

For once, the opening lines of WH Auden's poem Funeral Blues seem to fit the moment. Like it or not, much of public life will grind to a halt in the black-tied days of mourning ahead, as broadcasters suspend their schedules and a state funeral is prepared. However long it may have been gently anticipated, the death of the longest reigning monarch in British history is a significant and unsettling moment in a nation's life. And never more so, perhaps, than when it coincides with the arrival of a new prime minister amid an emerging economic crisis. There was something terribly poignant about her insistence, even in what we know now were her dying days, on personally ushering Liz Truss into office. The Queen has been a constant, steady presence in the background of millions of lives for 70 years, a reassuring voice in troubled times. But it is the depth of knowledge accumulated over decades that may perhaps only be fully appreciated now. That benign, grandmotherly manner belied a keen and occasionally

caustic intelligence. Hers was a form of female power exercised so artfully as to be almost invisible. The sweeping nature of the constitutional powers she held - to dissolve parliament, or withhold consent from legislation - were tolerated within a modern democracy precisely because they were sparingly used. She helped shape and guide governments through her weekly audiences with 14 previous prime ministers, who all took their turn at stepping gingerly past the sleeping corgis lining the way to her study at Buckingham Palace. But her political leanings went with her to the grave. The closest she perhaps strayed to expressing an opinion publicly was during the 2014 Scottish independence referendum campaign, when she told well-wishers outside a church service that Scots should think very carefully about their vote. Even then, the palace was furious when David Cameron was overheard revealing that she had "purred down the line" when told that Scotland had voted to stay. The Queen pulled off the rare trick for a woman of exercising profound influence without inciting



**Gaby Hinsliff**

a backlash, in part because the scope of that influence remained so shrouded in mystery. She did not so much normalise the idea of a woman in charge as make the nation largely forget that that was what she was, while retaining the ability to freeze grown men with a look. As Tony Blair noted in his autobiography, describing a G8 summit dinner of world leaders where some were evidently fooled by the relaxed atmosphere: "You don't get matey with the Queen. Occasionally she can be matey with you, but don't try to reciprocate, or you get The Look." The actor Olivia Colman, who played Elizabeth II in the Netflix series The Crown, once called her the "ultimate feminist". But you suspect the Queen would never have claimed such a thing for herself, even if it is her face on all the money. There is more to feminism than being a woman who exercises power, and while she approved legal changes preventing future monarchs' firstborn daughters being leapfrogged by their younger brothers in the line of succession, she did not obviously strive to leave a legacy for women. When she made a point of her gender - as she rather fabulously did in 1998, electing to chauffeur the visiting Saudi crown prince around the Balmoral estate personally in her Land Rover at a time when Saudi women

were not allowed to drive - the gesture of female solidarity was all the more striking for being so rare. She treated feminism largely as a political issue on which she remained neutral, while granting her daughter-in-law Camilla intriguing licence in recent years to speak out on issues such as domestic abuse or the normalisation of sexual violence against women. But if she was no feminist icon, she became perhaps the ultimate matriarch, a word denoting not merely a position within the family but a very specific life stage. Matriarchal power is the kind exercised by older women who have managed to become valued for their wisdom and experience, not overlooked once their youth fades; who have arguably earned the right to please themselves, yet choose to offer comfort and counsel to younger generations. A true matriarch is formidable, yet mature enough to put petty vanity aside. The monarch's role as defined by the Victorian constitutional expert Walter Bagehot - to encourage and to warn her government, while having the grace not to enforce her views - could have been written for a matriarch. But if the Queen's power lay in what her daughter, Princess Anne, once called her pragmatism, the new king may prove rather less inscrutable. Perhaps that represents a movement with the times. The Queen's iron sense of duty and emotionally contained manner resonated deeply with older generations, but younger ones increasingly see the suppression of feelings as unhealthy. Her apparent reluctance to emote publicly over

the death of her daughter-in-law Diana, Princess of Wales marked one of the few times the monarch seemed out of step with her country, while the memory of her young grandsons walking publicly behind their mother's coffin still reverberates uneasily down the years. The younger of them, Prince Harry, would later renounce a conventional royal life, moving to California in 2020 with his new wife, Meghan, and baby son. When he talked earnestly of wanting to "break the cycle" as a father, some heard a veiled repudiation of the way generations of royals were raised, being cared for by nannies and then dispatched to boarding school. In his biography of Prince Charles, Jonathan Dimbleby described the Queen as a "not indifferent so much as detached" mother. But if she could sometimes seem distant when her children were small, she may have felt she had little choice. Princess Elizabeth was only 25, and her children Charles and Anne three and one respectively, when her father's death in 1952 catapulted her into the all-consuming role for which she had been groomed since childhood, but never expected to assume so soon. Any private maternal regret over those early years of weighty expectations and long overseas trips perhaps expressed itself in her determination to let Prince William enjoy time with his young children before assuming the working load of a future heir, and in her evident delight in her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The Queen had grown obviously frail of late, particularly after the death of her beloved Duke of Edinburgh, yet the sense of time running out if anything intensified her moral authority. Advised by doctors to rest rather than attend the Cop26 climate conference in 2021, there was a quiet urgency to the video message she sent in her place. "We none of us live for ever," she said, a photograph of her late husband beside her. "But we are doing this not for ourselves, but for our children and our children's children." Stop the clocks indeed.



# Flipkart launches Flipkart Hotels for Domestic and International Booking

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, September 11:** Flipkart, India's Homegrown commerce market place, has announced the launch of a new hotel-booking feature, Flipkart Hotels, on its platform to bolster its offerings in the travel sector. To offer better reach and options to customers, Flipkart Hotels will provide customers the opportunity to book hotel rooms across 3 lakh domestic and international hotels. With the launch of hotel services, Flipkart aims to offer its customers a host of affordable benefits, including flexible travel and booking-related policies, easy EMI options etc to

make travel affordable, and budget-friendly options, among others. Backed by Cleartrip's API, Flipkart Hotels also aims to provide improved service to its customers. For the



ers and sectors. Available on the Flipkart app, this new offering provides a hassle-free booking experience, and timely communication through popular messaging apps. The platform further enables

erstoaavail third party offers on Flipkart platform. In addition to enhanced experience and attractive deals, Flipkart Hotels also aims to provide improved service to its customers. For the

so far with a notable surge in demand both in the domestic and international accommodation market. New travel trends like exploring lesser known destinations, workations, longstays, and vacation rentals are becoming mainstream. These developments are giving a boost to the travel industry. Given the 70% growth in the last quarter compared to a CAGR of 60% over the last two years, the next festive quarter is expected to be even better for the overall travel industry. Adarsh Menon, Senior Vice President, Flipkart, said, "We are excited to launch Flipkart Hotels on

the Flipkart app which will provide access to affordable hotel stays convenient for the customers. Flipkart Flight is on an steady path of growth in the travel industry since we entered this space. With Flipkart Hotels, we are strengthening our commitment to provide a better experience and superior service to our customers across metros and beyond tiers. With our banking partner's financial offerings, the customers will unlock great value in this segment and enhance Flipkart's capabilities as a preferred one-stop shop for the travel booking needs of Indian customers."

## Royal Enfield hunter 350 launched in Assam

**Delhi, September 11:** Royal Enfield, the global leader in the mid-sized (250cc-750cc) motorcycle segment, today launched the new Hunter 350 in Guwahati. Engineered and designed for the urban hustle, the new Hunter 350 is a remixed roadster with the character of a Royal



Enfield reimagined in a stylish, compact-yet-muscular geometry, that can tackle crowded city streets, suburban backroads and beyond, with aplomb. Assam continues to be one of the key growth markets for Royal Enfield with a significant customer base in the roadster segment. Over the last few years, Royal Enfield motorcycles have built a strong riding community in the state and enjoys a substantial market share in the mid-size motorcycle segment (>250cc-750cc). The Hunter 350 will open up new audiences for Royal Enfield in the state, thanks

to its functional and simplistic design ingenuity that's refreshingly new but exudes old school cool and retains that essential Royal Enfield DNA. The Royal Enfield Hunter 350 will be available at all its 80 outlets across the North Eastern states. The Hunter 350 is distinctly unique within the

Royal Enfield line-up. Built on the award-winning 350cc J-series platform, combined with a highly flickable Harris Performance chassis, the Hunter delivers agility without fragility on city streets and sheer, grin-inducing pleasure on the open road. Walk up to the Hunter 350 and you'll long to jump on this fun, tactile motorcycle with its old school analogue meets new age vibes. Fire it up and you'll be greeted with an appealing burble that transforms into a spine-tingling growl as you accelerate away. Cut through congested streets thanks to

its compact geometry, nimble steering and confident braking. Take it beyond the city limits and this remixed roadster will glide along the straights on wide alloys and tubeless tyres. Then, angle it into twists and turns and its firm and ultra-responsive chassis and torquey 350cc engine will light up your senses. It comes in two distinct editions - Retro Hunter and Metro Hunter - both finished with on-trend, blacked-out engines and components. The Retro Hunter runs on 17" spoked wheels and has a 300mm front disc brake combined with a 6" rear drum brake, single channel ABS, an uncluttered retro-styled digital-analogue instrument cluster that displays just the right amount of essential information and a choice of two classical, single-colour tanks. Aimed at young riders, the Hunter is available for test ride and bookings in Assam. The new Hunter 350 starts at INR 1,49,900/- for the Factory series, INR 1,63,900/- for the Dapper Series and INR 1,68,900 for the Rebel series (ex-showroom, Assam). Available in exciting colour options such as Rebel Blue, Rebel Red, Rebel Black, Dapper Ash, Dapper White, Dapper Grey, Factory Black and Factory Silver.

## Max Life PF Management Limited receives Certificate for Commencement of Business

**Delhi, September 11:** Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. ("Max Life"/ "Company"), has announced the receipt of the Commencement of Business (COB) Certificate for its wholly owned subsidiary, Max Life Pension Fund Management Limited ("Pension Fund") on August 23, 2022. This subsidiary will manage the pension assets with investment choices under the National Pension Scheme. The Pension Fund will manage pension assets for private sec-



tor subscribers and government sector subscribers excluding the "default scheme", aiming to scale AUM to Rs 1L Cr over the next 10 years. With this development, the Company and Pension Fund will now cater to all product categories including pension products, annuities, and pension fund management to help customers plan their retirement. Pension Fund is also in process of applying for a point of presence (POP) registration to Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) to offer services that will help subscribers open new NPS ac-

counts. Prashant Tripathy, MD & CEO, Max Life said, "Max Life Pension Fund Management Limited strengthens our presence in the retirement segment. We are committed towards financially protecting Indians in their golden years. We will leverage our competitive fund management capabilities and the distribution strength of Max Life, including our corporate business teams, individual advisors, and our direct sales teams, to spread awareness about NPS and drive value for our customers. "Establishing the pension fund management subsidiary is a critical lever of Max Life's growth strategy of becoming a dominant player in the retirement space. Pension Fund aims to maximize risk-adjusted returns for its subscribers on a consistent and long-term basis while adhering to PFRDA guidelines. The Company's investment choices will draw from the expertise of the highly accomplished leadership and will focus on profitable investment strategy and fund management capabilities to create attractive investment returns for its subscribers while adhering to the regulatory limits as prescribed by the PFRDA.

**Mumbai, September 11:** Lux Industries Limited one of the country's largest innerwear and outerwear manufacturers, known for its innovative and customer-demand driven product offerings, manufacturing more than 100 products across 14 major brands comprising a complete range of innerwear and outerwear for men, women, and children is aiming to double the market share of its brand Lux Venus in the Indian innerwear segment. To achieve the same, the company has repositioned Lux Venus and has rolled out a brand-new campaign "Sabko Maangta Hai", featuring actor Salman Khan. Onboarding the new brand ambassador through the dramatic and exhilarating campaign is the brand's latest strategy to revamp the leadership of Lux Venus brand in the hosiery industry. Lux Industries Limited, which has achieved a turnover of about INR 2,300 cr in FY22, is set to elevate its business operation across India with the new 360-degree campaign. Lux Industries Ltd, with its oldest and best-selling brand Venus is establishing a strong foothold in India. Lux Venus has had a great brand am-

## Nissan India registers wholesales of 8915 vehicles in August 2022

**Mumbai, September 11:** Nissan Motor India announced cumulative wholesales of 8915 units, inclusive of domestic of 3283 units and export of 5632 units for the month of August 2022. The cumulative wholesale YTD growth stood at 29%. In line with its focus on the global market, Nissan India exported 5632 units in August 2022, 534% per cent month-on-month and 71% year to date increase. This strong export performance comes on strength of Nissan products being modern and aspirational with Nissan achieving the key milestone of export of one million units in the month of July 22, on the philosophy of 'Make in India, Make for the World'.

Launched in December 2020, the Big, Bold, Beautiful Nissan Magnite (currently at a starting ex-showroom price of 5.97 lakh), has been designed in Japan and made in India, underlining Nissan India's manufacturing philosophy of 'Make-In-India, Make for the World'. The Nissan Magnite has received a superlative market response, with over 1 lakh domestic bookings, with 25% of bookings being generated



Chennai's Kamarajar Port (formerly Ennore Port) to various regions including Middle Eastern countries; Europe; Latin America; New Zealand; Australia; South-East Asia; SAARC countries; and Sub Sahara and Africa. In recent years, Nissan India has transitioned its primary export market from Europe to the Middle East countries like Saudi Arabia; the United Arab Emirates; Oman; Qatar; Bahrain; and Kuwait.

## Lux Industries Ltd repositions its brand Lux Venus

assador relationship - from Amitabh Bachchan to

achieved a turnover of Rs. 640 Cr in FY22, selling ap-



Salman Khan, who has been recently roped in to cater to the young crowd. Lux Venus with its product portfolio of drawers and vests has a strong presence in the market due to its high brand recall for comfort, innovation and a superior price-value proposition, currently enjoys a market share of 15-16% in the men's innerwear market, which is expected to double in the near short-term future. Contributing around 28% to the topline, Venus

proximately 12 Cr. Pieces. Lux Venus is expected to grow at a good rate, that would strengthen the bottom of the Company's brand pyramid. The film featuring Salman Khan yields a high-action scene where the actor chases his Lux Venus vest through the busy streets of a city amidst heavy traffic and pedestrians and finally gets a grip of it with his powerful swag. The superstar's impeccable delivery of the campaign tagline

'Sabko Maangta Hai' in his own trademark style evokes the desire to wear the vest at one's best comfort and convenience. On his association with the brand, Salman Khan commented, "It gives me immense pleasure to join the Lux Venus family as their brand ambassador. It was a lovely experience shooting the ad with the team and I sincerely wish that they scale even greater heights in the years to come." Another power brand of the group 'Lyra' is a leading womenswear brand having a diversified product portfolio of women's outerwear and innerwear - it achieved a turnover of more than Rs. 300 Cr in FY22. A high double-digit growth is expected to continue due to its strong brand recall, diversified product offering and competitive pricing. Lux Industries Ltd has always been proactive in adopting newer methods of production, developing innovative products and targeting the right audience through first-of-its-kind branding and promotional activities. Its customer centric approach has helped the brand to expand their visibility and created strong brand equity for the entire brand portfolio across 47 countries.

## Meesho announces "Mega Blockbuster Sale"

**Mumbai, September 11:** Meesho, India's fastest growing internet commerce company, today announced its flagship festive sale event, Mega Blockbuster Sale, from September 23 to September 27, 2022. Furthering its mission to democratise e-commerce for everyone, the company will continue to boost access and affordability for the country's heterogeneous customer base. With over 7 lakh sellers and ~6.5 crore active product listings across 30 categories, Meesho aims to fuel discoverability of a wide assortment of products at the lowest prices for consumers. To fulfill Bharat's festive shopping aspirations, the company will continue to focus on underserved users who have different needs around selection and affordability. Ahead of this year's festive sale, Meesho strengthened its regional foothold by adding eight new vernacular languages on the app: Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia. Last year, the 5-day annual sale saw ~60% orders coming from tier 4+ regions. On an average, sellers on Meesho have seen their business grow by 82% within two years. Ahead of the festive season, Meesho is educating and working closely with sellers on various aspects of business such as demand forecasting and order volume man-

agement. The company has created a robust training program on the Supplier Learning Hub with educational infographics and easy to understand videos on selection of catalogs and best practices for sale events. As a result, participation from small businesses in the festive sale is expected to surge 4X compared to last year. Utkrishta

ping destination for the next billion Indians. Driven by our 'user-first' mindset, we will continue to fuel the discoverability of small businesses, making quality products at the lowest prices accessible to customers from the deepest regions of the country." This year, Meesho has also partnered with nine well-known celebrities across the



Kumar, CXO, Business at Meesho, said, "Meesho's Mega Blockbuster Sale is meticulously curated based on our deep understanding of India's consumers, along with their needs, aspirations and buying patterns during the festive season. To fulfill this demand, we are working with lakhs of sellers across the country, many of whom will be selling online for the first time this festive season. At Meesho, we are focused on building a platform that enables high growth and margins for MSMEs, giving them the confidence to digitize their business and succeed on Meesho. Through our annual Mega Blockbuster festive sale event, we aim to cement Meesho's position as the most preferred shop-

country, namely Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Rohit Sharma, Rashmika Mandanna, Kapil Sharma, Trisha Krishnan, Karthi Sivakumar, Ram Charan and Sourav Ganguly, to spread awareness about the company's value propositions. These celebs will be seen in a brand new, quirky avatar, each of them donning the role of sellers in different categories and representing the regions they respectively belong to - building local relevance with customers across Bharat. Meesho has partnered with major wallets like PhonePe and Paytm for offers on payments and instant bank discounts, and exclusive offers on 'Buy Now Pay Later' by Simpl and LazyPay.

## HCL Technologies positioned as a 'Leader' in the IDC Market

**Mangalore, September 11:** HCL Technologies (HCL), a leading global technology company, has been positioned as a leader in the IDC MarketScape: Worldwide Adobe Experience Cloud Professional Services 2022 Vendor Assessment. The report validates the business impact brought by HCL to its clients by leveraging Adobe, using some of their flagship platforms such as ADvantage Experience, Commerce and industry solutions which are powered by Adobe Experi-

ence Cloud & Adobe Commerce Cloud. The IDC MarketScape assessed service providers' strengths in several areas, including the following: Adobe Experience Cloud applications, Adobe Commerce, Adobe Experience Manager, Adobe Analytics, Adobe Audience



Manager, Adobe Target, Adobe Campaign, and Adobe Marketo Engage, Adobe Workfront, Adobe Experience Platform, the underlying architecture for Adobe Experience Cloud, was also evaluated. HCL Technologies is a Platinum partner of Adobe. With over 16 years of partnership with Adobe, HCL Technologies has participated in beta programs for products including Adobe Campaign, Adobe Experience Manager, and Adobe Sensei and is also in the process of being onboarded to Adobe's Partner Advisory Board. HCL Technologies has an Adobe Accredited Solution: HCLADvantage Experience, for Hi-Tech and Manufacturing, a partner/customer engagement platform that can be hosted by

high tech and manufacturing enterprises encompassing B2B and B2C interactions. In early 2022, HCL Technologies held seven Adobe specializations, including global specialization for Experience Manager (Sites) and America's specializations for both Analytics and Target.

HCLTech has a number of key intellectual property assets to help its clients drive value from Adobe technology, including Advantage Suite with Advantage Experience, that helps clients accelerate their Adobe Experience Cloud transformation journey; Industry Playbooks and Process enablement toolkits for multiple industries; FENIX 2.0, an industry-aligned execution framework that helps organizations rewire their core DNA to realize digital transformation objectives; Nexus Consulting, a framework for human-centered approach for end-to-end customer experience transformation that helps client from strategy through execution with a focus on business outcomes; Digital Marketing Maturity, a framework that measures the performance of a client's digital marketing landscape and initiatives, measuring its customer experience maturity across 11 dimensions and more than 600 parameters.

Kinetic Green launches Zing High-Speed, electric scooter

## Kinetic Green launches Zing High-Speed, electric scooter

**Pune, September 11:** Kinetic Green Energy and Power Solutions Limited, India's pioneering manufacturer of electric vehicles, today launched electric two-wheeler, Zing High Speed Scooter ("Zing HSS"). Zing HSS is a lifestyle statement that takes inspiration from the modern, new-age rider. The scooter is equipped with advanced features like multi speed mode, part failure indicator and boasts of range of 125 Km per charge. Its great styling, technology, and riding

experience promotes an unscripted experience for the customers. With top speed of 60Kmph, the vehicle is well tested and ensures safety for the customers. It's advanced batteries, 3-step adjustable suspension and regenerative braking system ensures smooth ride.





Contd. From Page 1

## Assam to get Rs 300 cr from Centre

Chief Minister, speaking on the history of the country’s judicial system, lauded it for providing a robust foundation for the country’s democracy.arma hailed the judiciary for upholding the rule of law and ensuring that the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens of this country remained intact.“The judiciary has always played a key role in upholding the rule of law and maintaining the fine balance of power among the four pillars of our democracy. This has ensured the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens of this country remained intact,” the Chief Minister added.Sarma also heaped praises on the judiciary for protecting the rights of Indian women, while at the same time upholding their dignity through landmark judgments on subjects like triple talaq, daughter’s right to property, etc. Terming the judiciary, a great arbitrator, he said the landmark judgment in the Ram Janambhoomi case in 2019 addressed the claims of all stakeholders and settled this long-standing issue in the most remarkable and amicable manner.The Chief Minister lauded the Indian judiciary for strengthening the country’s legal and constitutional framework, which he said emanated from the numerous landmark judgments passed by it. It has earned a global distinction as Judiciary with a difference that seeks to build a progressive jurisprudence, he added.The Chief Minister exuded confidence the judicial institutions would always remain a sentinel of justice and a guiding force of the world’s largest functional democracy.Chief Minister Sarma also referred to the judiciary as the saviour of Indian democracy, stating that its landmark judgments on subjects such as “basic structure”, among others, saved the Constitution from losing its spirit.He lauded the Bar Council for activities such as orientation programmes for advocates, steps towards digitization of records, etc.The Chief Minister heaped praises on the Bar Council for its performance of regulatory functions, raising the standard of practice in the profession of legal service.Speaking on the long and illustrious history of the country’s judicial system, he lauded it for providing a robust foundation to the country’s democracy.“Our judiciary has not confined its powers in dispensing justice alone, he said, while adding “This hallowed institution has been a major catalyst in empowering our citizens to be well informed about their rights and also upholding them through its pronouncements.”Referring to the Vedas, the Upanishads and other ancient texts, the Chief Minister touched upon the subject of the rich tradition of law in the country since times immemorial.He credited the practitioners from various philosophical schools in ancient India for law/justice attaining a prominent position in the ancient period.“No doubt the modern Indian Judiciary is partly a continuation of the British Raj legal system,” he said.“However, one fact still holds ground that from time immemorial, our country had a well-developed system of administration of justice,” the Chief Minister stated, adding: “The ancient Indian law was based on Principle of Dharma or Nyay that talked about the principle of Natural Justice. It is the same principle that continues to govern our judicial system even today.”Referring to the lawyers as one of the most important components of our judicial system, the Chief Minister termed them a bridge that connects the judicial system with the people seeking justice.“If the court is a temple of justice and then lawyers play the role of priests in this temple of justice,” he said.Appealing to the advocates to be icons of dedication, honesty and kindness, Sarma requested them to hone their professional skills so as to advance themselves strongly in the workplace.Coinciding with the celebration, a national seminar on the subject “Role of Technology in Facilitating Speedy Justice” was also held.Addressing those present, which included the Union Minister of Law & Justice Kiren Rijiju, Judges of the Supreme Court Surya Kant, Hrishikesh Roy, Sudhanshu Dhulia, the Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court RM Chhaya, the Chief Minister congratulated the Bar Council for having successfully completed 60 years of glorious existence.Earlier in the day, Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Gauhati High Court Museum, built at the old block of the Guwahati High Court premises in the presence of the Chief Minister.

## Med field experts rue lack of

the detection “certain irregularities”. “These issues have been now resolved and GMCH is waiting for a ‘go ahead’ from the government for fresh recruitments,” the source said.ROTTTO is a regional office under National Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organisation (NOTTO), the apex body that coordinates and networks all activities related to organ donation in the country.ROTTTO, Guwahati, handles all matters pertaining to this sector for the northeastern states.Dr Baishya, however, maintained that patient services have not been affected due to the issues that had arisen in ROTTO. “Transplants in any hospital of the state or issuance of NOC for transplants outside the state or any such documentation concerning patients faced no hurdle due to non-functioning of the ROTTO. “Our staff members as well as those of Directorate of Health Services have ensured that no patient encounters any problem,” the principal added.Isfaqur Rahman of Ellora Vigyan Mancha (EVM), a Guwahati-based NGO working in the organ donation sector since 2004, said his organisation had been seeking adequate cadaveric transplant facilities in the state since inception.“Not just transplantation facilities, we also need infrastructure for organ and tissue preservation,” he said, pointing out that facilities for retrieval of cornea from people who have pledged their eyes for donation, “a relatively simple procedure”, are also extremely limited in the state.Rahman pointed out that if an eye donor dies at a place far from the cities, and the cornea is not extracted within the mandated four to six hours, the donation goes to waste.“When the present chief minister was the state health minister, he had given assurances in the Assembly that the government will facilitate free-of-cost transportation of bodies pledged for donation. But no such measure has been taken as yet,” Rahman lamented.An anatomy department professor of GMCH, who did not wish to be named, said that body donations are also extremely rare in the state and this has proved to be a problem for medical students “Earlier, unclaimed bodies were sent to the anatomy department without much hassle. But now, number of such bodies coming to the department has gone down. The few available have to be routed through so many legal systems that it gets decomposed by the time it reaches us,” the senior doctor said.Rahman, aware of the crisis, added that the bodies pledged to Ellora Vigyan Mancha are now being donated to the Anatomy department of medical colleges, though “transportation remains a major problem”.Zublee Foundation, another NGO working for organ donation awareness, however, stated that engagement with the Assam government is starting to show results.“The chief minister had last month put thrust on organ donation campaigns at a meeting with health department officials. We believe our repeated meetings with the health department officials over the issue must have given the matter a push. We are hopeful now that something concrete will come out of it soon,” the foundation’s CEO, Priyanka Borah, maintained.Borah also said that breaking “myths and superstitions” associated with organ donation is still a challenge.“Once cadaveric transplants start happening here and people see for themselves how it can save multiple lives, we think more people will be forthcoming with donations,” she added.

## WHO makes BIG claim, says

trends will persist. The most dangerous thing is to assume they will,” he said in his latest remarks.“The number of weekly reported deaths may have dropped by more than 80 per cent since February, but even so, last week one person died with Covid-19 every 44 seconds,” Ghebreyesus said during his regular briefing. “Most of those deaths are avoidable. You might be tired of hearing me say the pandemic is not over. But I will keep saying it until it is. This virus will not just fade away,” he added. Meanwhile, the global health body is all set to publish a set of six short policy briefs next week. These briefs will outline the essential actions that all governments can take to reduce transmission and save lives.The briefs will cover the essential elements of testing, clinical management, vaccination, infection prevention and control, risk communication and community engagement, and managing the infodemic. “We hope countries will use these briefs to reassess and readjust their policies to protect those most at risk, treat those who need it and save lives. The pandemic is always evolving, and so must the response, in every country,” said the WHO chief.

## 14 gold bars weighing 2.323 kg

personnel at the Laharijan area in Karbi Anglong district and seized the gold.“During checking, the security personnel recovered 14 gold bars weighing 2.323 kg from the night super bus. We arrested three persons in connection with this,” John Das, SDPO of Bokajan Sub-Division told.The arrested persons have been identified as 24-years-old Md Mohim 41-years-old and Md Masharudin, both hail from the Thiubal district of Manipur.The police official also said that the bus was coming from Manipur and was going towards Guwahati.

## 'Never seen climate carnage on such

the need of the hour, he said, adding this is not a question of solidarity or generosity but is the question of justice."I was moved by the generosity of people affected by the Pakistan floods toward one another. They have opened their homes and shared what they have. This is an example of solidarity for all countries as the impacts of the climate crisis continue to impact the most vulnerable," Guterres tweeted. He called upon the international community to scale up their support for flood-hit Pakistan saying that "It is a question of justice, Pakistan is paying the price of something that was created by others." Guterres said that he hopes his visit will galvanise support for Pakistan, which has put the provisional cost of the catastrophe at more than USD 30 billion, according to the government’s flood relief centre.UN chief on Saturday visited several areas of Pakistan ravaged by floods, calling for increased global financial support at the end of a two-day trip aimed at raising awareness of the disaster, ARY News reported. Pakistan receives heavy -- often destructive -- rains during its annual monsoon season, which is crucial for agriculture and water supplies. But the heavy downpour this year has created havoc in the country, while rapidly melting glaciers in the north have for months heaped pressure on waterways. Pakistan is responsible for less than one per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions but is eighth on a list compiled by the NGO Germanwatch of countries most vulnerable to extreme weather caused by climate change. "Wealthier countries are morally responsible for helping developing countries like Pakistan to recover from disasters like this, and to adapt to build resilience to climate impacts that unfortunately will be repeated in the future," Guterres said, adding that G20 nations cause 80 per cent of today’s emissions.Pakistan needed "massive" financial support for relief, recovery and rehabilitation in the wake of the catastrophic floods that displaced more than 33 million people and are estimated to have caused USD 30 billion of damage, UN Secretary-General said after he attended a briefing at the National Flood Response Coordination Centre (NFRCC) alongside Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.UN Secretary-General who was on a two-day visit to Pakistan landed on Friday to express solidarity with the country’s people drenched by extreme monsoon rains that have led to the country’s worst flooding in a decade.According to an official statement, the Secretary-General’s visit will further raise global awareness about the massive scale of this calamity and the resulting loss of life and widespread devastation.Record monsoon and heavy floods in Pakistan have given rise to hunger and various illnesses which have affected 33 million people and the experts believe that the situation would aggravate in the coming days as the flood affectees are forced to live under the sky depriving the required resources.Huge areas of the country are still under-water and hundreds of thousands of people have been forced from their homes.In the wake of severe floods, the initially estimated losses have accumulated in the range of USD 18 billion, Pakistan’s agriculture sector faces the worst blow as the agriculture growth might remain zero or slide into negative The catastrophic floods displaced more than 33 million people and are estimated to have caused USD 30 billion of damage.According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Pakistan is facing one of the worst flooding events in its history.The government estimates that millions across the country are affected by the rains, floods and impacts such as landslides, destroying infrastructure, homes, agricultural land and livestock.The calamitous floods have so far claimed at least 1,325 people in Pakistan.The human and socio-economic toll is expected to increase as flood levels continue to rise, with immense pressure on the country’s dams.The Pakistan Meteorological Department said that it was the wettest August since records began in 1961. National rainfall was 243 per cent above average. In the province of Balochistan, it was +590 per cent and in Sindh +726 per cent, according to the monthly report.

## Delhi LG gives nod to CBI probe into

sources have said. A complaint addressed to Saxena in June this year had claimed that the appointment of the Minister of Transport as the chairman of the committee for tendering and procurement of buses by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) was done in a "premeditated manner". It had also alleged that the appointment of DIMTS as a bid management consultant for this tender was done with an aim to facilitate wrongdoing.The complaint had alleged irregularities in a July 2019 procurement bid for 1,000 low floor BS-IV and BS-VI buses and another bid made in March 2020 for the purchase and annual maintenance contract for low floor BS-VI buses, the sources said. The complaint was forwarded to the chief secretary on July 22 to seek comments from the departments of the Delhi government and consequently their recommendations.The report submitted by the chief secretary on August 19 had pointed out certain "irregularities", following which the L-G has now forwarded the complaint to the CBI, sources said, adding the CBI is already conducting a preliminary inquiry into the matter.Saxena has approved the clubbing of the current complaint with the complaint already being inquired into by the central probe agency.A committee, headed by retired IAS officer OP Aggrawal, constituted to look into the charges of corruption in the procurement of buses in June 2021, in its report submitted in August last year, had clearly indicted the AAP government for "procedural deviations in the entire tendering and procurement procedure", the sources said."Criminal misconduct by public servants in this tender exercise will be ascertained by the investigating agency, ie the CBI. On the basis of this, the Chief Secretary recommended to refer the matter to the CBI, which was approved by the LG," said a source.here was no immediate reaction from the Delhi government on the matter.

## Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena fumes

at an event in Mumbai where Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju was also present along with Maharashtra deputy CM and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP ) leader Devendra Fadnavis. Shinde had led a revolt against the Shiv Sena leadership in June this year which resulted in the collapse of the Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. He was then sworn in as the CM on June 30 and Fadnavis took the oath as his deputy.The Supreme Court recently referred to a five-judge bench the petitions filed by the Shiv Sena and factions raising several constitutional questions related to defection, merger and disqualification. Meanwhile, Maharashtra NCP president Jayant Patil, whose party is a constituent of the MVA along with the Sena and Congress, also said that it is "improper" that Shinde has shared the stage with the Chief Justice of India when a "serious case of challenging the legitimacy" of his government is being heard by a Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court."A serious case of challenging the legitimacy of the Eknath Shinde government is being heard by a Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court."In such a case, it is improper that Shinde shares stage with the Chief Justice of India. This is not as per protocol," Patil said.Posting pictures of Saturday's event, Congress spokesman Sachin Sawant also said, "When legitimacy and legality of the Shinde-Fadnavis government is being examined by Hon'ble SC itself and not only the current state government but also the man heading it can be disqualified, the dais looks rather incongruous."

## Taliban crash American Black Hawk helicopter during training exercise, three dead

**Islamabad, September 11 :** At least three Afghan crew members were killed on Saturday when a US-manufactured Black Hawk helicopter they were flying crashed, the Taliban's defence ministry said. The statement said that five others were wounded in the accident during a training session overseen by Afghanistan's defense ministry in the capital of Kabul. It is not known how many US choppers remain in the hands of the Taliban government. As the US-backed Afghan government collapsed in mid-August last year, dozens of Afghan pilots fled to Central Asian countries, including Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.Afghan air force pilots played a key role, alongside their US counterparts, in the 20-year war against Taliban insurgents that ended with the departure of foreign troops last year.The airstrikes inflicted heavy casualties among the Taliban and repeatedly drove them from positions they had seized in different parts of the country.Last year about 140 Afghan pilots and others were flown out of Tajikistan and then to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and their final destination in the US.Separately, three civilians were wounded when a bicycle bomb exploded in Kabul, said Khalid Zadran, spokesman for the capital's police chief.The attack occurred in the Shai neighbourhood and there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast.

## BIG relief for Ukraine Russia announces troop pullback from Kharkiv area

**Kyiv, September 11 :** Russia's Defence Ministry announced Saturday that it's pulling back troops from two areas in Ukraine's eastern Kharkiv region where a Ukrainian counteroffensive has made significant advances in the past week. The news came after days of apparent advances by Ukraine south of Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, in what could become the biggest battlefield success for Ukrainian forces since they thwarted a Russian attempt to seize the capital of Kyiv at the start of the nearly seven-month war. Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said that troops would be regrouped from the Balakliya and Izyum areas to Ukraine's tern Donetsk region. Izyum was a major base for Russian forces in the Kharkiv region and earlier this week social media videos showed residents of Balakliya joyfully cheering as Ukrainian troops moved in. Konashenkov said the Russian move is being made "in order to achieve the stated goals of the special military operation to liberate Donbas," one of the eastern Ukraine regions that Russia has declared sovereign.The claim of pullback to concentrate on Donetsk is similar to the justification Russia gave for pulling back its forces from the Kyiv region earlier this year when they failed to take the Ukrainian capital. Ukrainian officials earlier claimed major gains in a counteroffensive against Russian forces in the Kharkiv region, saying Ukrainian troops had cut off vital supplies to Izyum.Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleh Nikolenko also suggested the Ukrainian troops had retaken Kupiansk, a town along the main supply route to Izyum, long a focus on the Russian front line and the site of heavy artillery and another fighting. Nikolenko tweeted a photo showing soldiers in front of what he said was a government building in Kupiansk, 73 kilometres (45 miles) north of Izyum.The Ukrainian Security Service of Ukraine hours later posted a message that it said showed its forces in Kupiansk, further suggesting it had been seized by Ukrainian troops. The Ukrainian military didn't immediately confirm entering the town, a railway hub that Russia seized in February.Videos on social media appeared to show Ukrainian forces on the outskirts of Izyum at a roadside checkpoint. A large statue with the city's name could be seen in the footage. Ukrainian forces did not acknowledge holding the city.Earlier Saturday, the British Defense Ministry told reporters it believed the Ukrainians had advanced as much as 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Kharkiv and described Russian forces around Izyum as "increasingly isolated".“Russian forces were likely taken by surprise. The sector was only lightly held and Ukrainian units have captured or surrounded several towns,” the British military said, adding that the loss of Kupiansk would greatly affect Russian supply lines.The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, likewise referenced sweeping Ukrainian gains, estimating that Kyiv has seized around 2,500 square kilometers (965 square miles) in its eastern breakthrough. The institute said it appeared that “disorganized Russian forces (were) caught in the rapid Ukrainian advance.” They cited social media images of apparent Russian prisoners seized in the advance around Izyum and surrounding towns.The same report said Ukrainian forces “may collapse Russian positions around Izyum if they sever Russian ground lines of communication” north and south of the town. Vladislav Sokolov, head of the Russian-appointed local administration, said on social media that authorities in Izyum have started evacuating residents to Russia.The fighting in eastern Ukraine comes amid an ongoing offensive around Kherson in the south. Analysts suggest Russia may have taken soldiers from the east to reinforce around Kherson, offering the Ukrainians the opportunity to strike a weakened front line.Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told the television channel Ukraina that the Russians had no food or fuel for their troops in the area as Kyiv had cut off their supply lines. “It will be like an avalanche,” he said, predicting a Russian fallback. “One line of defence will shake and it will fall.”The Ukrainian military was more circumspect about the reported gains, claiming Saturday to have taken “more than 1,000 square kilometres” (386 square miles) from pro-Kremlin forces this week. It said “in some areas, units of the Defense Forces have penetrated the enemy's defences to a depth of 50 kilometres,” matching the British assessment but did not disclose geographical details.Officials in Kyiv have for weeks been tight-lipped about plans for a counteroffensive to retake territory overrun by Russia early in the war, urging residents to refrain from sharing information on social media.However, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday that Ukrainian troops had reclaimed more than 30 settlements in the Kharkiv region since the start of the counter-offensive. “We are gradually taking control over more settlements, returning the Ukrainian flag and protection for our people,” Zelenskyy said.He spoke after the Ukrainian governor of Kharkiv reported that the national flag had been raised over Balakliia, a town recaptured by Ukrainian troops on Thursday following six months of Russian occupation.“Balakliia is Ukraine! Today, together with the military, led by the commander of the Ground Forces Oleksandr Syrsky, we raised the Ukrainian flag,” governor Oleh Syniehubov wrote on Telegram. Elsewhere, Ukrainian emergency services reported that a 62-year-old woman was killed in a Russian missile strike in the Kharkiv region when her home was flattened overnight.Syniehubov also accused Moscow of pummeling settlements retaken by Kyiv. He said in a Telegram post that five civilians were hospitalized in the Izyum district, while nine others suffered injuries elsewhere in the region.In the embattled Donbas region south of Kharkiv, the Ukrainian governor said civilians were killed and wounded overnight by Russian shelling near the city of Bakhmut, a key target of the stalled Russian offensive there. Pavlo Kyrylenko said on Telegram that two people died and two more suffered injuries in Bakhmut and the neighbouring village of Yahidne.Meanwhile, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock arrived in Kyiv on an unannounced visit Saturday, saying that Europe would not tire of helping Ukraine despite Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts to raise the pressure by withholding energy supplies from European Union nations.Baerbock said Germany will assist Ukraine in finding and removing mines and other unexploded ordnance left by Russian troops in areas where they have been pushed back by Ukrainian forces. Despite the gains made by Ukraine's armed forces, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the head of NATO warned Friday that Ukraine's fight against Russia appears set to drag on for months. Blinken said the war was entering a critical period and urged Ukraine's Western backers to keep up their support through what could be a difficult winter.



# China's women's basketball team to head to Australia for WC preparation



**BEIJING, September 11 :** The Chinese team said on Friday they will depart for Australia after finishing their final warmup match in Europe on Saturday to

prepare for the FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup. The Chinese team has played seven matches against the national teams of France, Belgium and Serbia, as well as local clubs in Spain over the past month. Centers Han Xu and Li Yueru reunited with the team in Serbia but still need time to better fit into the team as they missed the first five warmup matches in Europe due to their visas. The Chinese team is scheduled to depart for Australia in two groups

and join together in Sydney on Monday. China plans to play warmup matches against Australia, Canada and Puerto Rico, with the 12-player World Cup roster to be confirmed three days ahead of the tournament, which is scheduled to take place in Sydney from September 22 to October 1. China, who finished sixth four years ago, has been drawn in Group A with Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Puerto Rico, South Korea and the United States at the World Cup.

# Venezuela to play friendlies against Iceland, UAE

**CARACAS, September 11 :** Venezuela will begin preparations for a new World Cup qualifying campaign with friendlies against Iceland and the United Arab Emirates next month, the Venezuelan Football Federation said on Friday. The matches will be the South American team's first appearances

since June, when they won friendlies against Saudi Arabia and Malta. "[We] will travel to Europe again to face Iceland on Thursday, September 22, and the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, September 27 in Vienna, Austria," read a post on the Venezuelan national team's official

social media accounts. The Vinotinto finished last in the 10-team South American qualifying group for this year's World Cup in Qatar. Jose Pekerman's men will begin their quest for a World Cup berth when the South American qualifiers for the 2026 tournament begin next March.

# Hampshire take the weather with them and go top of table

**London, September 11 :** In cricket (especially in England) there are always two opponents: the team you are playing and the weather. Sometimes, the weather is working with you, sometimes it's against you, but it's always an active participant in the contest. Long may it be so. Hampshire needed to make the most of their game in hand if they were to steal a march on Championship leaders Surrey and they had followed the perfect template for maximising not just their chances of a win, but of securing maximum points. Form batters Felix Organ and Aneurin Donald made runs and Kyle Abbott surprised nobody in making a half-century just when it was needed. Northamptonshire racked up 68 for the first wicket, but a seam attack as experienced as Keith Barker, Mohammad Abbas, James Fuller and Abbott won't be denied for long and Emilio Gay and Will Young were soon obliged to pad up again. Once more the openers made a decent start and once more the Hampshire seamers demolished almost all the Northants' batting (with Ian Holland filling in for the injured Abbott). Clouds had scowled over the Ageas Bowl all day and the players had been on and off - the next time would be the last. James Fuller ran in, rain in the air, maybe one ball



left to do it - and hit the luckless Jack White's stumps. Hampshire had their win, 24 points and an eight-point lead in Division One - and the weather gods had to look elsewhere for a victim. They found one on a favourite patch of theirs - Old Trafford. Actually, that's unfair, as the Roses match did not lose much time and Yorkshire's young side showed real strength of character to earn their draw in a typically hard-fought derby, which was brilliantly covered by Lancs TV. After Keaton Jennings and Luke Wells had each scored centuries (203 runs in the first innings for the openers and 192 in the second, Wells recording Lancashire's third fastest ton), Yorkshire had to bat last on a tired pitch against two good spinners, Tom Hartley and Matt Parkinson. Credit to Tom Kohler-Cadmore (34 runs off

159 balls) and Will Fraine (18 off 83), who batted against type to deny the home side. "We set them 302 in 84 overs which for me is 50-50 game," said Lancashire coach Glen Chapple. But with Lancashire needing a win to keep their Championship hopes alive and Yorkshire needing a draw to pull away from any threat of relegation, maybe it was worth risking a 30-70 game - not that it would have made much difference in the end. Essex, ruing their very slow spring, annihilated Kent by an innings and 260 runs at Canterbury. Feroze Khushi led the batting effort with a maiden first class century, scoring 164 before he was last man out. Starting at a scoreboard showing 573 for the opposition, the last thing you want to see is 40-3 on your own side and resistance was minimal from there.

# Reign stops play for the Queen, who spent much of her 96 years around big sport

**London, September 11 :** Rain rituals. Sombre men in coats. Waiting in a grey, mannered place while the BBC talks about the Queen. A day of non-cricket at the Oval turned out to be an eerily fitting place to wait out Thursday afternoon. For much of the time it felt like a pastiche of ceremonial Englishness, the kind of thing John Lennon might have scribbled on a napkin in the back of a London cab and considered turning into a waspish and satirical limerick. Timings and statements and black ties on the news. An obsessive tending of lawns. Queues, flags, beer and measured talk (nice pins, Rodney Hogg said, for an old Sheila). Prince Charles has arrived at Balmoral. Tea will be taken early. And we will now cut to a special announcement. I make no apologies for writing about the Queen here. It has after all after been 96 years, a fair part of this spent around the kind of places where big sport happens, from the Austerity Games to the

Matthews Final to a minute's Uefa-approved solemnity in the Europa Conference League (it's what she would have wanted) on Thursday night. Not that the Queen had any obvious fondness for sport. "I have often observed in women of her type a tendency to regard all athletics as inferior forms of fox-hunting," Evelyn Waugh wrote of Lady Circumference in Decline And Fall. Does that sound about right? The Queen did love the horses. She seemed to quite like going to cricket. One of her first non-ceremonial appearances was to meet the touring Indian team of Vijay Hazare at Lord's in 1952. She met Don Bradman's Australians at Balmoral and her sister stood very near Keith Miller looking pleased. But generally the Queen's regular appearances at sport had an air of something to be endured, on the spectrum between another garden party full of people who actually want



to be at royal garden parties, and an ill-fated Dane Bowers dubstep set at a rain-sodden jubilee concert. I once followed the Queen around on a visit to Wimbledon. The crowds cooed as she stalked the concourses in a mint-green suit and an impressive matching hat the shape and size of an elegantly turned casserole dish. The most remarkable part was the physical reality, still startling in the flesh, of that total commitment at all times to Being The Queen, to being a cipher, a presence, an object. The moment this really came into focus was on Centre Court. From a distance the Queen seemed to be actually watching and possibly even enjoying the tennis, that mint-green hat fixed rock solid in its upright position. The giveaway came when a line call was challenged and the entire

court wrenched around to stare at the Hawkeye screen. Only one object remained stationary among those 20,000 heads, the lime green hat staring resolutely straight ahead, magnificently unmoved, regally disinterested in line calls, and surprisingly tender out there in all that air. There are probably two things worth saying about all this. First, football should not have been cancelled in tribute, and not just because this seems far too timorous and craven. Probably there are sound operational reasons, but the Queen was all about getting on with stuff. More to the point, people don't mourn and grieve like this now, obediently tucked up in their drawing rooms. Public sentiment is restless and volatile. What, exactly, are they worried will happen in these spaces? Certainly

cancelling sport is unlikely to do much for those of us who believe that a monarchy is a silly thing, that we could probably just let this one go from here (Charles III? Really? Do we have a Gracious King now?) Much better to use the occasion as a celebration, a wake for a 96-year-old monarch who had (I am going to say it) a very decent knock. Plus, no matter how opposed the absurd, sealed world of monarchy may be to the ideal of sport for all, Queen Elizabeth II was also a fixture of how we have arranged these things, a part of the architecture and the myth kitty of sport. The Queen is in all the pictures. The Queen has lifted the FA Cup more than any other human, even Ashley Cole. She was there when Rob Key made his double ton against West Indies. At the other end of the scale only the hardest heart could find nothing poignant or at least interesting in Bobby Moore wiping his hands on the Wembley steps before shaking those white gloves. This is one shade of what Englishness has been, a presence in the shared sporting memory bank that will never be repeated, that is now gone for good.

# Pitch clocks and shift limits: MLB adopts sweeping rule changes for 2023

**London, September 11 :** Major League Baseball adopted its first pitch clock, limits on defensive shifts and larger bases for next season in an effort to shorten games and increase offense in a tradition-bound sport. The decision on the clock and shift restrictions by the sport's 11-man competition committee was made Friday over the unanimous opposition of the panel's players, who approved the larger bases. The changes had long been pushed by baseball commissioner Rob Manfred in an effort to combat the increase in dead time over four decades and suffocation of offense in the age of analytics. "Throughout the extensive testing of recent years, minor league personnel and a wide range of fans - from the most loyal to casual observers - have recognized the collective impact of these changes in making the game even better and more enjoyable," Manfred said in a statement. Until last winter, MLB needed one year advance notice to make on-field rules changes without approval of the players' association. The union



agreed in the March lockout settlement to establish the committee, which includes six management representatives, four players and one umpire. "Players live the game - day in and day out. On-field rules and regulations impact their preparation, performance, and ultimately, the integrity of the game itself," the union said in a statement. "Major League Baseball was unwilling to meaningfully address the areas of concern that players raised." The pitch clock will be set at 15 seconds with no runners on base and 20 seconds with runners - up from the 14/19 tested at Triple-A this season and 14/18 at lower minor league levels. There will be a limit of two of what

MLB calls disengagements - pickoff attempts or steps off the rubber - per plate appearance, and a balk would be called for a third or more unless there is an out. The disengagement limit would be reset if a runner advances. A catcher will be required to be in the catcher's box with nine seconds left on the clock and a hitter in the batter's box and focused on the pitcher with eight seconds remaining. Penalties for violations will be a ball called against a pitcher and a strike called against a batter. A batter can ask an umpire for time once per plate appearance, and after that it would be granted only at the umpire's discretion if the request is made while in the batter's box.

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# Joe Salisbury and Rajeev Ram make history with US Open doubles triumph

**London, September 11:** Joe Salisbury and Rajeev Ram became just the second team in the open era to successfully defend their US Open doubles title. With Neal Skupski and his Dutch partner Wesley Koolhof on the other side of the net, there was guaranteed to be a British winner, and it was Londoner Salisbury and American Ram who came out on top of a tight contest, winning 7-6 (4) 7-5. It is a third grand slam title together for Ram and Salisbury, who also won the Australian Open in 2020, and they follow in the footsteps of the Australian greats Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, the last team to win back-to-back titles in New York, in 1995 and 1996. The victory means Salisbury, who has also won two mixed doubles



titles, holds on to the world number No 1 ranking. Skupski would have overtaken him had he and Koolhof lifted the trophy. Salisbury said: "It's pretty crazy. I can't quite believe that we're standing here again. It's so special to be playing in this incredible stadium and to have that piece of history, to have won this twice in a row, is amazing." Both British play-

ers paid their respects to the Queen, Salisbury with a black armband and Skupski a black ribbon on his shirt. There was little to choose between the teams throughout on Arthur Ashe Stadium. The first set was especially tight, with a nervous opening game from Skupski on serve in his first men's doubles slam final the only show of weakness from either pair until the tie-

break. Koolhof and Skupski, who have won six titles in a brilliant season, looked to have created a solid lead at 4-1 but some fine returning from Salisbury and Ram helped them reel off six points in a row to take the set. The first break came in the third game of the second set, when consistent pressure from Koolhof and Skupski saw Ram drop serve, but he and Salisbury hit straight back. The pressure on the second seeds was growing and, with Skupski serving at 5-6 they set up a first match point, taking it on a Salisbury smash. Alfie Hewett is through to the US Open men's wheelchair singles final for a sixth straight year after a comfortable win over France's Nicolas Peifer. Norfolk's Hewett

has reached the final on every one of his visits to Flushing Meadows, winning the title in 2017 and 2018 but losing the other three finals. In an expanded draw, he is yet to drop a set after three matches and eased to a 6-3 6-1 victory against Peifer. The 24-year-old will now renew his rivalry with the top seed, Shingo Kunieda from Japan, who is bidding to become the first man to complete the calendar slam in men's wheelchair singles. Hewett lost to Kunieda here last year as well as in the finals of the Australian Open and the French Open this season. Meanwhile, the first boys' wheelchair singles final at a grand slam will be an all-British affair between Ben Bartram and Dahnon Ward.

## 66 teams to compete at Chengdu 2022 table tennis worlds

**Beijing, September 11:** The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) on Friday unveiled the list of teams' entries for the Chengdu 2022 World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals, with a total of 66 teams competing for titles later this month. The tournament

will be held between September 30 to October 9. The men's competition will feature 35 teams, while 31 teams will compete in the women's category. It has been four years since the event was last held, when China took gold in the men's and women's events in Halmstad, Sweden, in 2018. The 2020 World Team Table Tennis Championships in Busan, South Korea was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. China has taken the men's title at the last

committee, and the city of Chengdu for making the event happen. "As the countdown to Chengdu will soon come to an end, all members of the table tennis family should feel extremely proud," said Sorling. "The World Championships Finals in Chengdu will be an unforgettable experience which, ultimately, will bring our family together, maybe closer than it has ever been. The first stage draw is scheduled for September 28. Teams will arrive in Chengdu on September 26 via special flights



convenient and pleasant environment for all. I would also like to thank the table tennis family for their support in the lead up to this event. I believe Chengdu can become the link that deepens our friendship and brings us closer together," commented Liu Guoliang, executive vice president of the ITTF, and World Table Tennis Director and Council Chair. "Finally, to all those who are departing for China soon: Welcome to Chengdu!" said Liu, also president of the CTTA.

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## Australia's Aaron Finch Announces Retirement From ODIs

**New Delhi, September 11:** Australian limited-overs captain Aaron Finch announced his unexpected retirement from one-day cricket Saturday after a lean run with the bat, saying it was time to hand over the baton. The 35-year-old will play his 146th and final ODI on Sunday in Cairns against New Zealand, capping an outstanding career in the 50-over game in which he has scored 5,401 runs. His 17 centuries put him behind only greats Ricky Ponting (29), David Warner and



Mark Waugh (both 18). Finch will remain captain of the Twenty20 side preparing to defend its World Cup title on home soil next month. "It has been a fantastic ride with some incredible memories," said Finch, who has skipped the one-day side 54 times. "I have been extremely fortunate to be a part of some brilliant one-day sides. Equally, I have been blessed by all those I have played with and the many people behind the scenes." While no one questioned his outstanding captaincy, the opener has been in

a form rut with the bat, scoring 5, 5, 1, 15, 0, 0 in his last seven ODIs with pressure building in the media. Despite this, he had been expected to lead the team to the 2023 ODI World Cup in India. Finch stated in 2020 that being in charge for that tournament was his "ultimate goal". "It is time now to give a new leader the best possible opportunity to prepare for and win the next World Cup," he said. "I thank all of those who have helped and supported my journey to this point."

## Serena Williams had to be so good no one could deny her Black women can relate

**London, September 11:** What people don't understand about strong Black women is that we were raised strong. We have a different experience. The one thing I remember my father always telling me was: 'Hey, you're good, but you've got to be better than everybody else.' That's what Serena Williams represents to me. What sets her apart is her endurance to keep going and keep going no matter what the obstacle is to



reach that higher standard. To be undeniable. It's just harder for us. We all know this. Racism is the dumbest thing I've ever had to deal with. The fact that she's dealt with that and still made it to No 1 and never used it as an excuse is something else. We know her as a Black phenomenon, but she just wanted to go into her field like all of us want to go into our fields, as actresses or comics or tennis

players. We don't want to be the first Black this, the first Black that - it's great when it happens, we're not scared to be first either - but what stands out is how hard she had to fight just to get a seat at the table. When I was coming up, I went to Lynwood High School in South Central Los Angeles. And there's a tennis court in Lynwood Park. I don't remember Compton having tennis courts, so I think Serena and Venus had to come and practice there. I

have been some Black people who watched golf before Tiger, but I can tell you the percentage was probably very low. The day that I got Saturday Night Live, I was in a parking lot off of Crenshaw and Adams. That's the hood. And I was screaming: "I got SNL! I got SNL!" None of these motherfuckers knew what SNL was. But now they do. A whole different audience of people now know what tennis is. There's also the way Serena embraces her femininity and how beautiful she is and how strong she is. I remember my best friend telling me one time, when I was crying about how big my feet were: So what are you gonna do? You just going to cut them off, have a foot surgery or something? She said if anybody is going to accept who you are, you have to start accepting yourself. And that's what Serena did when people were said her body type was all wrong for tennis. Serena accepted who she was, who she was gonna be and went right through it. That message got through to a lot of people whether she realized it or not. And she did it all with flavor and swag. Those tutus and all of those outfits. I've never seen another tennis player dress like them. The shoes, the glitter, the braids. It's like a whole cultural funk. They brought that Flo-Jo flair to it. That's just the Black Girl Magic she brought to the court. That's just her.

## Tommy Fleetwood and Andy Sullivan turned heads

**London, September 11:** On a day when Tommy Fleetwood and Andy Sullivan turned heads with wonderful rounds of 64, Ian Poulter drew glances for his choice of attire. Keith Pelley, the European Tour Group's chief executive, had asked that LIV rebels competing at the PGA Championship did not wear clothing which advertises their new professional domain. Enter Poulter, whose left sleeve carried the logo of Majestic, the LIV team he is part of. "This is a business that I actually own part of, so it has a right to be there," insisted the Englishman. "I have had about six different sets of clothes in the last five weeks. I can't possibly go to the embroiderers and have another set

made up for this week. I am here for three weeks. I'm travelling, so this was the set I brought." The mere appearance of Poulter and co back on the DP World Tour has drawn critical comment. The 46-year-old, a Ryder Cup icon, believes it should be possible to separate business disagreement from long-term friendships. Poulter also insists this tour's main sponsors want him on the premises. "There's been a lot of petty comments in the last few weeks and I'm not going to comment on them," he said. "I'm not going to play the clickbait game. I'm just not playing it. I'm here to win and that's that." A three-under-par 69 represented a rea-

sonable start. Graeme McDowell, another LIV convert, made a call for common sense as opposed to legal wrangling after his 71 here. A February hearing will determine whether LIV golfers can remain a part of this tour in the future after suspensions were stayed. "Does it have to happen in a court of law?" asked McDowell. "Let's send 326 emails out and maybe two videos - one from the LIV players saying we'd love to support this tour eight, 10, 12 times a year and then the other side of it is Keith Pelley's statement this week. "Rory McIlroy appeared slightly disappointed with his 68. The Northern Irishman shrugged off the proposal put forward by McDowell, his countryman.



"I didn't know he made the rules," McIlroy said. "At this point we just have to go by the book. Again, if you abide by the rules and regulations of the tours, by all means you can play. But if you break those rules, actions have consequences. And you have to live by that, even if they are not actually doing that at the minute. "Fleetwood, on his first start since the Open, birdied the last four holes for a back nine of 31. Sullivan matched Fleetwood's inward half and total. The duo sit one clear of

Matthew Jordan and two ahead of a group including Shane Lowry, who finished with an eagle. "This is as good a year as I've had in my career without winning," said Lowry. "That's the best way to sum it up. I'd love to win one of the next few tournaments I play over the next few months. To finish the calendar year with a win would be nice." There will be no play on Friday out of respect for the royal family. All flags at Wentworth will be lowered to half-mast, a statement from the PGA Championship said.

## Swiatek to meet Jabeur in US Open final

**New York, September 11:** Iga Swiatek of Poland swept past Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 to advance to the women's singles final at the US Open here on Thursday. World No. 1 Swiatek recovered from a slow start before taking control and winning the match. She will play Tunisia's Ons Jabeur in the final. Fifth seed Jabeur breezed past France's Caroline Garcia 6-1, 6-3 in just 66 minutes.

"Mentally I was so ready," Jabeur said. "I gave it all today. I don't disbelieve in myself and I know that I'm going to come back and win a Grand Slam, for sure. This is tennis, and it's part of it. I have to learn from it, definitely. But I'm very, very positive about it. Iga never loses finals, so it's going to be very tough." This will be the first time either Swiatek or Jabeur has made it to the US Open final.



## Poland eliminates USA in five-set thriller at FIVB Men's World Championship

**Warsaw, September 11:** Poland's men's volleyball team overcame a strong challenge by the United States team in front of home fans in Gliwice on Thursday to continue on its quest for a third straight FIVB Men's World Championship title. After a strong start, the Poles saw the Americans come back to win sets three and four and force a tie-breaker, but in the end, the home team found a way to win in five sets (25-20, 27-25, 21-25, 22-25, 15-12) to the delight of a partisan crowd. In the semifinals, the Poles will meet Brazil in a rematch of the finals of both the 2014 and 2018 editions of the tournament. Their next opponents overcame Argentina 3-1 in an all-South American quarterfinal earlier on Thursday. The other semifinal will

reunite Italy and co-host Slovenia, who defeated France and Ukraine respectively on Wednesday. Dominating the middle was one of the keys to the Polish victory in Gliwice.



While Jakub Kochanowski and Mateusz Bieniek combined for 34 points on the European side, American middle blockers David Smith, Jeff Jendryk and Taylor Averill

produced just 16. 25-year-old Kochanowski was on fire from the service line, tallying a match-high three aces to go with his 15 kills and round up an 18-point performance. Bieniek, on the other hand, was in top form at the net, producing a match-high six blocks - he also had eight kills and two aces in his 16-point match.