



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### DC, ADC suspended

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 29:

The Deputy Commissioner and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Hojai district were suspended after they were accused of assaulting a father-son duo in a drunken state. The Assam government has issued orders for immediate suspension after a backlash from the locals. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma after the incident came to light directed the suspension of Hojai DC Anupam Choudhary and ADC Raktim Barua on Wednesday night. As per reports both were drunk when they assaulted the father-son duo but the reason how the incident at first started was not known. The incident was reported in front of the DC's government residence. The CM reacting to the incident said that assaulting general public is an intolerable act and strict would be taken any official found of such acts.

### Brown sugar seized

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 29:

A massive consignment of brown sugar was seized and a person were held in a major drug bust in Assam's Lumding on Thursday. According to reports, brown sugar weighing 421.86 grams of concealed in 31 soap cases was seized at Lumding Junction in the Hojai district of Assam. Officials said that the seizure was worth around Rs 2.5 crores. The brown sugar was recovered from a Dibrugarh-Howrah express, they added. Police also took one person in custody in connection with the drug haul. He was identified as Rashidul Haque. The brown sugar consignment was being smuggled from Dimapur in Nagaland to Chaparmukh in Assam's Nagaon, informed police. Meanwhile, cracking the whip on illicit drug smuggling, another accused was taken into custody by Guwahati police from the city's Garchuk area.

### Acid attack

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 29:

A resident of Assam's Goreswar had acid thrown at him by miscreants, officials informed on Thursday. According to reports, the incident took place yesterday evening. The victim was identified as Manik Debnath, a resident of Bokulguri in Goreswar in the Baksa district of Assam. Debnath sustained burn injuries from the attack. Officials said that they suspect a family feud behind the attack. The victim's wife said that there may have been some personal enmity which led to the incident. A group of four miscreants resorted to throwing acid at the victim as the conflict turned violent, according to them.

## Assam Officials Among 10 Missing After Boat Overturns In Brahmaputra



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 29:

At least ten people are missing after a boat overturned in the Brahmaputra River in Assam's Dhubri district today. 29 Passengers were on the country-made boat that was on its way to Bhashani when it hit the post of a

bridge at Adabari, around 3 km from Dhubri town. Along with some local villagers, three government officials were also present on the boat including Dhubri Circle Officer Sanju Das, a land record official and an Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) official.

Mr Das remains missing while the other two government staffers managed to swim to safety. The boat was carrying the officials and some locals to survey an erosion-hit area. Locals have initiated a search and rescue operation on country-made boats while the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has deployed a

team of divers to rescue those still missing. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel are engaged in search-and-rescue operations. "A country-made boat capsized in the Brahmaputra river in Dhubri district. Search and rescue teams have started the operations. More details are awaited," said Gyanendra Dev Tripathi, chief executive officer, Assam State Disaster Management Authority, as saying. "This mechanized country boat was meant for carrying goods only. Why the circle officer himself was travelling with so many other

passengers is a matter that needs to be probed," said Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Officials said that a circle officer, identified as Sanju Das. He was on the boat alongside other officials and locals. Meanwhile, four people who were injured in the incident were rushed to the Dhubri civil hospital. Those injured were identified as Victor Saha, Baby Begum, Ayanal Haque and Abdus Salam Sheikh. Moreover, two teachers are among those missing in the incident. They have been identified as Hassen Ali and Hussain Ali. Rescue operations are underway, informed SDRF.

## Three PFI offices sealed in Assam



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 29:

The Assam police has sealed three offices of the Popular Front of India, PFI in the state following the decision of Centre to ban the outfit for 5 years. Senior police officials said that the sealed offices were located at Guwahati, Karimganj and Baksa. The

NIA and police have arrested 37 leaders and members of the outfit so far in the state. Police said that investigation against the PFI would be continued in Assam. The notification clearly mentioned that the ban has been imposed against PFI and its associates or affiliates or

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## Assam government fails to submit report on encounter probes

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, September 29:

The Assam government on Thursday failed to submit to the Gauhati High Court a detailed updated investigation report for every encounter case since May 2021. Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Delhi-based lawyer-activist Arif Jwadder, the court observed that the State government was on July 29 given six weeks to submit the updated report into all the police encounters that have taken place in Assam from the stated month. Assam had recorded 161 incidents of police action in 13 months



after Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took charge in May 2021. These incidents resulted in the death of 51 accused people while 139 others were injured. In an affidavit on June 20, the Assam govern-

ment told the high court that the number of deaths had increased to 54 in another months after May 21, 2022. Mr Jwadder had sought an inquiry into the Assam police encounters by an independent agency

such as the Central Bureau of Investigation or any police team from any other State under the supervision of the high court. Apart from the State government, Assam's Director-General of Police, the Law and Justice Department, the National Human Rights Commission and the Assam Human Rights Commission had been named as respondents in the PIL. According to the petitioner, the dead or the injured persons were

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## Russia to formally occupy four Ukraine regions tomorrow: Kremlin

Moscow, September 29:

Russia will hold a signing ceremony on Friday to incorporate the annexed four occupied regions of Ukraine at Kremlin, Moscow's President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "Tomorrow in the Georgian Hall of the Grand Kremlin

Palace at 15:00 [1200 GMT] a signing ceremony will take place on the incorporation of the new territories into Russia," spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday, as quoted by Al Jazeera. He further added that Putin will make a speech at this event. The referendum by the Russian authorities on the annexation

of occupied territories of Ukraine was largely seen as a "sham referendum" and has been widely criticised by various countries. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that Germany will never accept the results of "sham" referendums on joining Russia in occupied regions

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## 'It's a friendly contest and not battle between rivals': Shashi Tharoor after meeting Digvijaya Singh



New Delhi, September 29:

Amid fast-paced dramatic developments, senior Con-

gress leader Digvijaya Singh, who is likely to file his nomination for the Congress president's post on Friday, met another top contender Shashi Tharoor and both agreed that theirs is "not a battle between rivals but a friendly contest" among colleagues. Singh met the party MP from Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday after collecting nomination papers for the

polls. "Received a visit from Digvijaya Singh this afternoon. I welcome his candidacy for the Presidency of our Party," Tharoor said in a tweet. "We both agreed that ours is not a battle between rivals but a friendly contest among colleagues. All we both want is that whoever prevails, @incIndia will win!" he said. Digvijaya Singh earlier this morning confirmed that he

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## Won't contest Congress presidential polls, apologised to Sonia Gandhi: Ashok Gehlot amid Rajasthan political crisis

New Delhi, September 29:

Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday (September 29, 2022) said that he will not contest the Congress president's election. The development comes after Gehlot held a meeting with Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi at her residence in New Delhi today amid Rajasthan political crisis. A massive internal conflict erupted in Rajasthan Con-



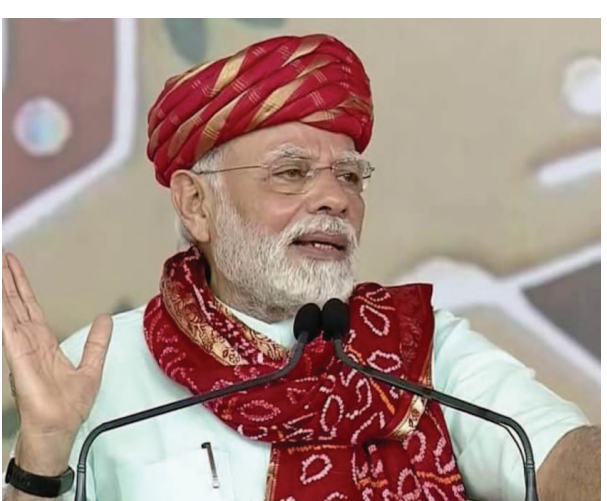
gress over the Congress president election and ap-

pointment of his successor in the state. After meeting party

president Sonia Gandhi, Gehlot told reporters that he apologised to her for the developments on Sunday when MLAs supporting him defied the central observers and thwarted their move to hold a meeting of party legislators. "I met Rahul Gandhi in Kochi & requested him to fight in the polls (for Congress President). When he didn't accept, I said I'll contest

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## Bhavnagar Can Emerge As a Centre For Metal Scrapping in India and the World, says PM Modi



New Delhi, September 29:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that Gujarat's Bhavnagar could become a metal scrapping centre for India and other countries around the world. The Prime Minister made the remarks after laying the foundation stone and launching a slew of development projects worth over Rs 5,200 crore in Bhavnagar. "The new Vehicle Scrapping Policy can improve waste management in the country. Bhavnagar can

emerge as a centre for metal scrapping for not just the country but for other nations across the world," quotes PM Modi. "India will lead the charge in developing a robust circular economy. As Bhavnagar emerges as a scrapping hub, the metal from ships can be reused for large construction projects. This will create many opportunities for the youth," he further added.

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A cotton picker is seen working in fields in Xayar County, Aksu Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous

## US strikes partnership deal with Pacific Island leaders at historic summit

**Washington, September 29 :** The United States said at a summit with Pacific island leaders that it had agreed on a partnership for the future with them and held out the prospect of "big dollar" help to a region where it hopes to stem China's expanding influence. The Washington Post quoted US officials as saying the Biden administration would announce it would invest more than \$860m in expanded programs to aid the islands at the two-day summit, on top of more than \$1.5bn provided in the past decade. The White House had no immediate comment on the funding figure, but a US official said the newspaper's reporting that all the visiting leaders had endorsed an 11-point statement of vision committing to joint endeavours was accurate. They included Solomon Islands prime minister Manasseh Sogavare, whose government had earlier indicated it would



not sign the declaration, raising further concerns about his ties to China. Sogavare's spokesman had no immediate comment. It is the first time the United States has been host to so many leaders of a region it has considered its maritime

showing that Solomon Islands had rejected a draft US agreement with the region and that Micronesian leaders had raised serious concerns about the level of financial assistance on offer. A leaked note seen by the Guardian, written by the embassy of Solomon Islands in New York, announced that the country, which signed a controversial security deal with China in April,

would not be endorsing a regional diplomatic agreement being proposed by the US. Blinken on Wednesday made a veiled reference to China's growing assertiveness around the region and across Asia, saying that the US would work with the islands on "preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific where every nation - no matter how big, no matter how small - has the right to choose its own

backyard since the second world war, but into which China has been making steady advances. Some of the nations have complained about being caught in the middle of the superpowers' battle for influence. Secretary of state, Antony Blinken, welcomed the leaders to the summit and promised: "You can count on the United States partnering with you." The lead-up to the meeting had been clouded by the leak of documents

path. "Following up on an initiative last week on the sidelines of the UN general assembly, Blinken promised \$4.8m to strengthen "blue economies" - cleaner oceans with more sustainable fishing. He also promised an assertive stance on climate change by the US, which under Biden has approved domestic action on green energy after years of gridlock and skepticism by much of

the rival Republican party. Biden will meet the leaders on Thursday, a personal touch that US officials hope will help reestablish Washington's preeminence after long taking for granted a region the US has dominated for decades. Administration officials did not deny that Pacific Island nations voiced concerns that the pivot could be temporary.

## Italy's Giorgia Meloni denies she is anti-women as credentials questioned

**Rome, September 29 :** On election day, Giorgia Meloni appeared to have found a way to flout rules demanding candidates stop all campaigning. The Italian far-right leader posted a video of herself on social media holding two melons in front of her chest while winking into the camera and saying: "25 September [voting day], I've said everything". Meloni in Italian means melons, and it is also slang for breasts. For those who found the clip distasteful, the sexualised image was a further indication that Meloni would not be carrying the torch for feminists as prime minister. Others were surprised by the sudden turn in style by the Brothers of Italy chief, who had made being a woman and mother central to her campaign, but nonetheless acknowledged that it was a clever way of showing voters she knows how to have a laugh, even if the humour hailed from a more masculine culture. A spokesperson for Meloni, who is putting together a government after a coalition led by Brothers of Italy, a party with neo-fascist roots, won the election, told the Guardian the melons were simply a play on the surname Meloni and that the narrative of the 45-year-old being "a woman against women" was "distasteful" and "outside of reality". Meloni's appeal to her voters



is that she is a strong woman and the only one who has led an Italian party to power while holding her own against powerful men, namely her coalition allies - Matteo Salvini, leader of the far-right party League and Silvio Berlusconi, the three-time former prime minister who leads Forza Italia. Meloni does not describe herself as a feminist, instead saying she is against "pink quotas" and that roles should be achieved through merit, not gender. She illustrates this point by claiming hers is the only party that contains several women in leadership positions. "Not only might we have the first female prime minister but we also have a large number of women who were elected to parliament," said Lavinia Mennuni, a Brothers of Italy councillor in Rome who was elected senator in her constituency after fending off competition from rivals including Emma Bonino,

the leftwing leader who was among the feminists who fought to legalise abortion in Italy in the 1970s. "But frankly, it is not about whether Meloni is a woman or not - she is simply a very good leader, someone who is

determined and coherent. We need to stop attributing feminist labels to everything." Giorgia Serughetti, a sociologist at the University of Milan-Bicocca who writes about women's issues, said Meloni's victory for the rightwing was not about "celebrating women" but a person who "made it". "She has no language in terms of women's battles and neither has the desire to become a role model," Serughetti said. Monica Cirinnà, a politician with the centre-left Democratic party (PD) who became a symbol for Italy's LGBTQ+ community after drafting legislation that led to civil unions being approved in 2016. She said leadership needed to be "earned" and that Meloni had earned her role. There was an outcry in August after PD leader, Enrico Letta, selected Cirinnà as a senator candidate, but in a constituency she was likely to lose. Cirinnà was also furious but decided to run after being encouraged by her supporters, even knowing she would lose. "He put me in a losing constituency, essentially he was saying that I was no longer powerful for the party," said Cirinnà. "Let's just say he wanted people who are more agreeable; I am difficult and do not give in easily."

## New Zealand man jailed for seven years under discredited 'three strikes' law awarded \$450,000

**Auckland, September 29 :** A man who was sentenced to seven years in prison for kissing a woman in the street under New Zealand's controversial "three strikes" law has been awarded \$450,000 in compensation by the government. The man, Daniel Fitzgerald, who has significant mental health issues, was charged with indecent assault after he approached and kissed a stranger in a Wellington street. He had committed two similar crimes, and so was sentenced under New

Zealand's recently repealed laws, which compelled the judge to give a maximum sentence - seven years - for the offence, despite mitigating factors, unless it was "manifestly unjust" to do so. In 2021, by which time Fitzgerald had been in prison for more than four years, the supreme court ruled that the three strikes law had resulted in a sentence so grossly disproportionate that it breached his rights. He was re-sentenced to six months. The compensation, outlined in a high court decision on Thursday, is

for the four years he had already served. In her ruling, judge Rebecca Ellis said: "Mr Fitzgerald's sentence was not simply disproportionate, it was grossly so, in breach of one of his most fundamental rights." The judge also found that the Crown prosecutor, who had repeatedly declined to downgrade to lesser charges, had failed to exercise prosecutorial discretion to avoid the risk of Fitzgerald receiving a grossly disproportionate punishment. Earlier this year, New Zealand's Labour government repealed the law, which had been brought in by the previous National-ACT governing coalition.



Newborn giant panda cubs held by staff members make public appearance at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province

**In continuation of NIT No.1 of 2022-23  
SHORT TENDER NOTICE**

in continuation of NIT NC.- 1 of 2022-23 vide No. PHEE/G-III/TC-218/Vol-VI/2022-23/692-98 Dt. 26/05/2022 is hereby invited of quotation from the tenderers of NIT NO-1 of 2022-23 of Guwahati (PHE) Division No II for various types of repairing, renovation & maintenance works under different Head of Account for the year of 2022-23 ( Civil, Electrical, Mechanical water supply & sanitary works etc.) under the jurisdiction of Guwahati (PHE) Division No. II as discontinue the all APWD schedule for the year 2013-14. Tenders duly issued will be received up to 2 PM on 06/10/2022 as expression of interest for execution of aforesaid different maintenance works and will be open on the same date & hour in presence of tenderers or their authorized agent who like to be present. If the tender could not be opened due to unavoidable circumstances as the same will be opened on immediate next working day for which no separate communication will be made to anybody. The under signed reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Terms & condition-

1. Detail notice inviting tender & specification may have from the office of The under signed on all working days except Sunday & holidays up to 1 PM of 06/10/2022
2. Rates are to be quoted on percentage basis at par/above/below of CPWD, S.O.R for the year of 2021/ CPWD (E & M) S.O.R for the year of 2022/APWD (bldg NH) SOR for the year of 2020-21 & APDCL. SOR for the year 2021-22
3. All terms & condition condition will remain same as mentioned in NIT I No.-II of 2022-23

Executive Engineer (PHE)  
Guwahati Division No. II  
Guwahati - 21.

Janasanyog/C/11087/22

**// SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER //**

Sealed tender affixing (non-refundable) court fee stamp of Rs.8.25 (Rupees Eight & paise twenty five) only, in prescribed form subsequently to be drawn in A.P.W.D.F-2 form of tender Agreement are hereby invited from the registered Class-I, Class-II & Class-III contractors of Irrigation Department, Assam for the following works will be received by the undersigned at this office up to **10.30 A.M. on 06.10.2022** and will be opened at **12 P.M.** on the same day. If the last date of submission of the tender falls on any Govt.holiday etc. the same will be received on the next working day.

The tenderer or their authorized representative may remain present at the time of opening of the Tender.

The Details, Particulars, Approved Item of Works, Terms & Conditions and Tender paper etc. maybe seen & obtained from office of the undersigned on any working days in the office hours upto **10.30 A.M. on 6th October/2022** on payment of Non-Refundable Rs. 100.00 (Rupees one hundred) only from

Class-I, II & Class-III contractors in the form of I.P.O. payable to the Executive Engineer of the Division concerned.

**Name of works:-** Restoration of 7 Nos. of PMKS Y-HKKP-GW (PH-II) Solar Tube Well points damages by cyclonic Storm.

**Approximate Value:-** - Rs. 5,06,000.00

**Earnest Money:-** 2% for General and 1% for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC on estimated cost of the Group.

**Time of Completion:-** 7(Seven) Days from date of Issue of Work Order.

Rate should be quoted as per percentage basis on the estimate rate clearly and any cancellation and over writing of rate should bear the signature of the tenderer failing which tender will be rejected.

Tender paper must be filled up addressing to all points / terms specified in the tender form, otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.

Details of work and amount nos may vary from the NIT work and amount.

1. The undersigned is not bound to accept lowest tender rate.
2. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
3. Earnest money in the form of Bank Draft / Call deposit signed by the bidder on the reverse side & duly pledged to the Executive Engineer of Division concerned, where the work is to be executed to be submitted along with the tender, failing which tender will be rejected outright.
4. All the tenderers will have to submit a duly signed Xerox copy of their registration certificate (for Class-I & II contractor) up to date GST clearance certificate, up to date Labour license, PAN card etc.
5. Payment will be made subject to availability of fund.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Morigaon-Laharighat-Jagiroad  
Division (Irrigation) Jagiroad

Janasanyog/C/11077/22

### No. SE/TB/TEN/34/2022-23/5148 PRESS NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Tezpur Building Circle, Tezpur on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites Bid with approximate Bid Price of **Rs. 94,77,446.00 (Rupees Ninety four lakhs seventy seven thousand four hundred forty six) only** for "Construction of designated parade ground in front of SDO ( C ) office, Gohpur in Biswanath District," with a validity of 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of opening of the tender from registered APWD (Bldg.) Contractor/Firm/ Pvt. Limited Co. Class-I (A, B & C) category and Class-II category (Registered under Tezpur Building Circle). Details of the Bid and Detail Notice Inviting Bid may be seen in the P.W.D portal [assamtenders.gov.in](http://assamtenders.gov.in)

The Bidders must be registered with the **E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam, (website: <http://assamtenders.gov.in>)**

The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

Janasanyog/C/11065/22

Superintending Engineer P.W.D.  
Tezpur Building Circle, Tezpur



# AAI organizes free Covid vaccination camp at NER HQ



**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, September 29:** Airports Authority of India, North East Region organised a free COVID (precautionary dose) vaccination camp under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' campaign at community centre, AAI residential colony, Guwahati on September 29 for the eligible employees,

Jugani, Regional Executive Director, AAI in presence of Heads of the Department and members of the recognised employees union. The vaccination camp was organized in association with the Azara Primary Health Centre, Govt. of Assam, Guwahati. A Separate help desk, registration counters and waiting area was arranged for the employees at the vaccination camp for smooth flow of the event following all Covid related protocols. Over 150 doses were administered to the employees including the contractual staff working at AAI's Regional

Headquarter, Guwahati and related stakeholders. A general health check of the eligible individuals, who had registered themselves for the dose, was also carried out by the paramedic staff. All the necessary documents and eligibility criteria like age, duration from the second dose etc. were checked before the vaccination. The Human Resource Department led by Harish Mehta, Jt. General Manager, HR conducted the Covid Vaccination camp wherein he thanked all the stakeholders and employees for their support.

## Khagarijan College organizes 'Nabyabaran 2022'

**Assam Rising**  
**Nagaon, September 29:** Khagarijan College, Nagaon ceremonially 'Nabyabaran 2022' at the college premises to welcome the freshers of the college today. The programme was initiated with the unfurling of the flag of the institution by Dr Ramesh Nath, principal of the college following which the local MLA Rupak Sarma inaugurated the renovated central library of the college. In the 'Nabyabaran' programme, Dr Ramesh Nath, principal of the college welcomed the freshers and urged the senior students fraternity of the college to guide the freshers so that the freshers could focus on studies for a better future. Attending the programme as the chief guest, local MLA Rupak Sarma said that education is the most important treasure for an individual and the merit is the ladder to

reach the mark of success. It is not the era of corruption and backdoor dealings for government jobs. The government has stressed on providing job opportunities only to the merits, he accorded further in his speech. Sarma also declared his willingness to provide an auditorium in the college premises soon. Sarma also ceremonially re-

leased the college magazine 'Amritdhara' during the programme. Retired principals of the college like Arun Bikash Dutta, Selima Sultana Khandakar were also present in the 'Nabyabaran' programme today which came to a conclusion with a colourful cultural programme in the afternoon, a release added.

## Golden jubilee of Dhakuakhana Sarvajanin Milan Mandir Durga Puja

**Assam Rising,**  
**Dhakuakhana, September 29:** Dhakuakhana Sarvajanin Milan Mandir ready to celebrate Durga Puja with pomp and gaiety. One of the oldest Durga Pujas of Lakhimpur, Dhakuakhana Sarvajanin Milan Mandir Durga Puja will turn 50 years this time. Last year, due to Covid-19 pandemic, the Durga Puja celebration was not possible with idols at Dhakuakhana. But this time, the puja will be celebrated

following all rituals from October 1 to 5 with a budget of Rs 8 lakh. Different types of competitions such as Aarati, Uruli, Shankh playing etc. to organize during puja. The organizing committee is looking forward to the attendance of the devotees and spectators on all the days of the Puja. Similarly, one of the historical temples of the city, Sri Sri Thakur Bari Mandir, Sri Sri Ishwari Harhi Devalaya (Gosani Than), Sri Sri Ma Manipuri Than, also gears up to celebrate the Puja. This year, ducks, goats, buffaloes, etc. will be sacrificed to worship Durga maa.

## JBF observed World Rabies Day 2022

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, September 29:** World Rabies Day has been observed on September 28 every year since 2010 as an initiative to spread awareness on the importance of Rabies disease. Based on this year's World Rabies Day "One Health Zero Death", JBF (INDIA) Trust conducted a street play performed by Dream 92 Socio-Cultural Society in Guwahati today. The play was successfully enacted in Royal Global University, Digholi Pukhur and Central Mall. With the objective of spreading awareness regarding rabies, the street play tried to convey the importance of rabies day among the masses. "JBF(INDIA) Trust is an animal welfare organization actively working from Guwahati. The organization's main objective is to build coexistence of animals and humans. It performs Animal Birth Control surgeries under Humane Dog Population Control management and administers Anti-Rabies Vaccine to street dogs across Northeast of India while spreading awareness on animal welfare. "JBF has been rigorously working on the administration of free Anti-Rabies Vaccine to dogs from the September 25 to 28 in Guwahati, Bongora, Dhemaji, Gogamukh, Jorhat, William Nagar and Aizwal in collaboration with other clinics and organizations to observe World Rabies Day. The founder and managing trustee of JBF, Dr. Sashanka Sekhar Dutta stated that JBF has been working since 2007 to eliminate rabies from the society and to achieve this milestone the organization will work more energetically in the society.

## Myanmar leader Suu Kyi gets 3 years jail for violating official secret act

**New Delhi, September 29:** A court in military-ruled Myanmar on Thursday sentenced deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her former economic adviser, Australian Sean Turnell, to three years in prison, a source familiar with the proceedings said. Both had been charged for violating an official secrets act, which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years, and had pleaded not guilty. "Three years each, no hard labour," said the source, who declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the issue. Suu Kyi, Turnell, and several members of her economic team are among thousands arrested since the junta overthrew an elected government in a coup early last year, including politicians, lawmakers, bureaucrats, students and journalists. Nobel laureate Suu Kyi has already been sentenced to more than 17 years in prison in separate cases, mostly related to corruption charges. She denies all allegations against her.

## World Heart Day observed at Aalo



## Talk on Number Theory held at USTM

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, September 29:** The Department of Mathematics, University of Science and Technology Meghalaya organized an orientation program on "Number Theory Enhancing Quality Application" for the students yesterday. Professor Anupam Saikia, senior faculty of the Department of Mathematics, IIT Guwahati was the resource person for the program. Addressing the students, Professor Anupam Saikia spoke on the development of Number Theory start-

ing from prehistoric ages to the modern age and highlighted the importance of Elliptic Curves on Cryptography. He also suggested the students emphasize continuous practice along with study. The talk was followed by an enthusiastic interactive session. Earlier, the welcome address was made by Prof. Prabin Das, HoD, Department of Mathematics, USTM while the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Anupam Dutta, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, USTM.



## Freshmen Social of MSSV held

**Assam Rising**  
**Nagaon, September 29:** Freshmen Social of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha, Nagaon unit has been successfully concluded today. The informal session started from 9 am to 11 am. The formal session started at 11 am. The programme started with the university anthem performed by the students of the university. The guests, parents, journalists and new students were welcomed and the oath-taking ceremony was conducted by the Registrar of the university, Prof. Mrinal Kumar Bora. After the oath taking, the Chancellor of the University cum Padadhikar of Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha, Kamala Kanta Gogoi also addressed the

gathering. Attending as a guest, Director (Finance and Planning) cum Chief Coordinator and Prodhanta Sompadak of Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha, Babul Bora said that the blessings and spirit of Sankaradeva lies in every nook and corner of the University. He also advised students not to be distracted from their goals and not to run after jobs. He suggested that every student should love society from where s(he) belongs. A student who makes excuses can never be a real student. "A student can be successful if he understands his skills and qualifications. The university has taken the initiative to be worthy and wished everyone the best -- attending as the guest the Joint Editor of Pratidin Times Sumit Kumar Bhuyan said. In

the event, Mridusmita Das, Post graduate student of the department of Economics recited a poem by Debakanta Baruah. Another student Babita Nath of the department of Education shared her experiences and said that it was her first to learn at this University. Towards the end of the programme, Vice-Chancellor Professor Mridul Hazarika advised the students to be polite and eager to study and gave examples of how good company can change people's lives by giving examples of Shelley, Byron and Keats. The program was hosted by Mridhusmita Hazarika and Antara Parashar where Shekhar Jyoti Neog, Assistant Librarian of the University offered the Vote of thanks.

## 2 illegal liquor traders held in Digboi



**Assam Rising,**  
**Margherita, September 29:** The Digboi Excise Circle along with the cooperation from Bordumsa Police apprehended Debo Borah (34) from No 2 Ritu Kothalguri and Biplab Bora (40) from No 2 Naya Kuju of Dihing Mouza under Bordumsa PS on September 28. Case No.s DIG/EX/2022/731 and DIG/EX/2022/732 dated 28/09/2022 under section 53(1)(a) of Assam Excise act 2000(as amended) was registered against the accused at Digboi Excise Circle. Beer around 20.39 BL and IMFL 13.68 BL marked for sale in Arunachal Pradesh only were seized by the Excise team. The two accused were sent to judicial custody as ordered by the SDJM Court, Margherita.

## Obituary Putu Das



**Assam Rising Nagaon, September 29:** Senior sports reporter, former state player, noted sports organizer and secretary to Basketball branch of Nagaon Sports Association - Putu Das breathed his last suddenly early this morning at his Amulapatty residence here. He is around 70. His demise was condoled by Nagaon Sports Association, Nagaon press club and a host of dignitaries of sports as well as other fields of the small town including local MLA Rupak Sarma. His earthly remains were brought to the office of Nagaon Sports Association at Nagaon Nurul Amin Stadium today where the members of Nagaon Sports Association paid floral tributes to him and also prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul in heaven. The members of Nagaon Press Club also paid floral tributes to him at the press club premises. His demise has cast a pall of gloom across the small town today.

## Executive meeting of Marherita Garia Maria Desi jatiya parishad was held

**Assam Rising, Margherita, September 29:** The first executive meeting of marherita sub-divisional committee of All Assam Garia Maria Desi jatiya parishad was held in Margherita today. The meeting was presided over by Ramzan Ali, President, Margherita Sub-Divisional Committee of All Assam Garia Maria Desi jatiya parishad. The purpose of the meeting was explained by general secretary Raju Hazarika. One of the oldest tribes of Assam is the Garia Marias. The All Assam Garia Maria Desi Jatiya Parishad was formed for the overall development of the community. The organization has been working for the overall development of the people of the community since its inception. As part of this, many important decisions were taken in the first executive meeting of marherita sub-divisional committee of All Assam Garia Maria Desi Jatiya Parishad held at the conference hall of Margherita Development Block today. Every executive member of the organization is present in the executive meeting.



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## THE ASSAM RISING

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## The value of the Indian rupee

The Indian rupee is experiencing its worst slump in four years. Since the start of 2022, the currency has depreciated by more than 7% against the U.S. dollar, weakening past a historic low of 80 to a dollar mark earlier this week. While the Indian currency is not alone in faring poorly against the greenback, with even the historically strong euro and the British pound taking a hammering and weakening by more than the rupee has, the fact that other currencies too have appreciably lost value against the dollar can only offer cold comfort to India's real economy. The value of the Indian rupee to the US Dollar works on a demand and supply basis. If there is a higher demand for the US Dollar, the value of the Indian rupee depreciates and vice-versa. If a country imports more than it exports, then the demand for the dollar will be higher than the supply and the domestic currency like Rupee in India will depreciate against the dollar. The rupee's fall these days is mainly due to high crude oil prices, a strong dollar overseas, and foreign capital outflows. The rupee has been on the decline since early this year, especially after supply chain disruptions in view of the Russia-Ukraine war, global economic challenges, inflation, and high crude oil prices, among other issues. Besides, there have been heavy foreign fund outflows from the domestic markets as the foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have sold shares worth \$28.4 billion so far this year, outstripping the \$11.8-billion sell-off seen during the Global Financial Crisis of 2008. The rupee has depreciated 5.9 per cent versus the dollar so far this calendar year. As money flows out of India, the rupee-dollar exchange rate gets impacted, depreciating the rupee. Such depreciation puts considerable pressure on the already high import prices of crude and raw materials, paying the path for higher imported inflation and production costs besides higher retail inflation.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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## Letter to The Editor

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

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

## Keir Starmer has found his winning position- as the antidote to Liz Truss



It takes a truly abysmal prime minister to make the opposition leader's job look easy. It is the toughest gig in Westminster. You struggle to get noticed until you make a mistake, when the pillory is merciless. If you attack the government without a better offer, you are carping from the sidelines. When you come up with a better plan, the government nicks it. If you have ambitions but few policies, critics say there is no substance. If you go into detail, pundits lament an absence of vision. Any strategy to beat an incumbent party involves appealing to its voters, which is denounced as treason by your own activists. You must generate excitement about the prospect of change, while emitting reassurance that the change is not alarming. Keir Starmer has had mixed success grappling with those dilemmas and it isn't hard to imagine scenarios where Labour's conference in Liverpool was mired

in recrimination over missed opportunities and consumed by factional feuding. Liz Truss might have been enjoying a bounce in opinion polls. The Tories' offer to subsidise the nation's energy bills through the winter might have closed down a fruitful line of opposition attack. There was public goodwill available to a new prime minister who benefited from the paramount quality of not being Boris Johnson. But Truss has squandered that potential with more efficiency than Labour dared hope was possible. If Starmer could have asked Downing Street for a single favour, he might have requested that the chancellor do exactly what he did last Friday. Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget was exquisitely designed to destroy what is left of Conservative claims to be serious stewards of the economy, while advertising the party as a factory of favours for the super-rich. The errors are unforced but that doesn't mean the benefits that accrue to Labour are pure luck. Starmer is well placed to capitalise on Kwarteng's mistakes because he and Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, have manoeuvred their party into a position of fiscal sobriety. It is not enough for the Tories to shrug off the mantle of sound money. Labour has to pick it up and try it on without soliciting sniggers of derision. Starmer has achieved that with only meagre, grudging credit

**Rafael Behr**

from the right of his party, which complained that he was too squeamish in repudiation of Jeremy Corbyn's legacy, and even less from the left, where that legacy is not up for repudiation. All sides are given to fretting about wooden performances and a lack of contagious phrases. The leader's keynote speech in Liverpool on Tuesday marked out the terrain on which Labour must fight the next election with more precision than panache, but the delivery was assured. It expressed new confidence with credible foundations. Starmer explicitly and correctly identified the electoral landing zone as the centre of British politics. It is a phrase that can trigger allergic reactions in activists who associate it with mid-90s campaign tactics. In the left account, centrism mortgaged the party's soul for Tory votes and is not relevant to the task of winning in the 21st century. But Starmer's map follows the contours of a changed political landscape. The pledge of a "Great British Energy" company is recognition that, on matters of public ownership at least, the centre is not where it was when New Labour sprawled across it in 1997. The broader argument - voters want a government that is prudent with their money, while also investing in public services - is not new, but still true. Starmer did not give his audience a

complete blueprint for government or a display of rhetorical pyrotechnics, but he didn't need them. He needed to look like a man who could be trusted to run a country better than Truss. A portion of any party's frustration with its leader expresses the gap between politics as a minority interest for enthusiasts and politics as most people see it, most of the time. It is the difference between fandom and passing interest. Fans value things like consistency and rhetorical uplift. They make new words by inserting "ism" after a leader's name; they ask whether the new word is a creed that can be illuminated as a vision. Politics fans will always find Starmer frustrating because he isn't very ism-able. That is sometimes mistaken for being unprincipled or shallow. To the doctrinaire mind, the absence of doctrine indicates a shortage of belief. But most people go about their lives carrying values and principles in their heads without feeling the need to codify them as a system and test it for internal consistency. They judge politicians on the basis of impressions formed about their character, using the normal human metrics - does someone seem decent, trustworthy, kind, capable, sane? Those judgments can be wrong, but views of a politician are rarely changed by adoption of a theoretical label or by their enemies' attempts to pin one on them.

# PFI ban is no quick fix for jihadi threat. See how SIMI ban birthed Indian Mujahideen



**S**ocial Democratic Party of India (SDPI). Safwan Pookatail, a graphic designer with the PFI house-journal Thejas, is alleged to be among Shajeer's recruits, along with Manseel Bin Mohamed, who researched Hindutva for the now-banned group. Kannur-origin Muhammad Sameer-who took his wife, Fauziya, and three children to the Islamic State caliphate in Syria, where they are suspected to be incarcerated in a prison camp following his death-once served as sub-divisional convenor of the PFI as Valappattanam. Earlier this year, police in Assam charged Maqbul Hussain, the former PFI district head of Barpeta, of recruiting for Ansarullah Bangla Team-a Bangladeshi al-Qaeda affiliate that has carried out multiple attacks targeting Left-wing secularists and the Hindu religious minority. Telangana police arrested PFI activist Abdul Khader on charges of providing Kung-Fu combat training to hundreds of young men-although local media later reported that in this case, nothing more dangerous was recovered than "three sets of loose paper bunches, three hand books, a notebook, [and] some bus and train tickets." Long before recent killings in Karnataka and Kerala, PFI cadre have been alleged to be involved in religion-driven violence. Two members of the National Development Front-one of three organisations that formed the PFI, together with the Karnataka Forum for Dignity and the Manitha Neethi Pasara in Tamil Nadu-were charged with involvement in the hacking to death of eight Hindus at Marad in 2003. Far larger numbers of cadre of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUM) were, however, reported to have been arrested. Then, in 2011, PFI

members chopped off the hand of Idukki college professor T.J. Joseph, over a question he had set for second-year BCom students during an internal examination. In 2013, the Kerala Police discovered a camp in Narath, near Kannur, where PFI

**Praveen Swami**

members were receiving training in bomb-making and use of swords. Like in the case of SIMI, the exact connection between the organisation and jihadist groups like the Islamic State isn't clear. In most cases, Islamic State recruits were former PFI members, rather than active cadres. The case of Sadiq Sheikh is instructive. Failing to find jihadist opportunities in SIMI, Sheikh turned to distant relative Salim Azmi-later killed in a controversial shootout with police-to make the right connections. Azmi is alleged to have put him in touch with the ganglord Amir Reza Khan, who financed the training of the core Indian Mujahideen members. The recruitment of former PFI members like Sameer into the Islamic State took place in the diaspora, clouding the details of their stories. Islamic State recruiters, moreover, have drawn several Indians with no known PFI link-underlining the influence of personal ties and online propaganda. From the demolition of the Babri Masjid,

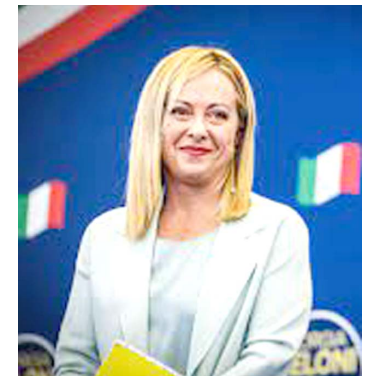
SIMI's language had become explicitly pro-jihadist. At its Kanpur convention in 1999, seven-year-old Gulrez Siddiqui was held up before an estimated 20,000 cheering members: 'Islam ka ghazi, butshikan, mera sher, Osama bin Laden,' the child intoned ['warrior of Islam, destroyer of idols/My lion, Osama bin Laden']. SIMI called for a caliphate, claiming democracy had failed India's Muslims, and even appealed to God to send an avatar of the temple-pillaging eleventh-century conqueror, Mahmud of Ghazni. Learning from SIMI's mistakes, the PFI has studiously avoided inflammatory language. The organisation's constitution, researcher Mohammed Sinan Siyech notes, commits it to "upholding the country's democratic and secular order, working for peace, [and] advancing the cause of minorities." Through an extensive network of social-work organisations, the PFI also engaged in large-scale welfare activities. The organisation's cadre, for example, built schools for poorly served Bengali-speaking Muslim communities in Assam. The organisation engaged in anti-drugs programmes in Kerala, and medical outreach across north Indian states. Funding for these programmes came, the PFI claims, through Rs 10-a-month donations from its 500,000 members, as well as affluent donors across India and West Asia. Early in its trajectory, SIMI had used the same tactics. In 1982, for example, it organised what was called an "anti-immorality" week, burning purportedly obscene books. It won approval among communities

with programmes seeking to draw young people away from drugs and alcohol. The historians Irfan Habib, Iqtidar Alam Khan and KP Singh observed in a 1976 essay that SIMI's social service wasn't altruistic: Its motive was "preservation of Muslim separateness, not the end of Muslim backwardness." Like the PFI, SIMI thrived, scholar Yoginder Sikand has perceptively observed, because it gave its young Muslim supporters "a sense of power and agency which they were denied in their actual lives." The organisation flourished in a political landscape where Muslim political representation within the large mainstream parties had atrophied. This created a vacuum which Islamist organisations like SIMI could fill, their rhetoric offering the illusion of a solution to the challenges faced by Muslims. The ban on SIMI ensured an end to the toxic Islamism the organisation peddled, which could have led to a dangerous escalation of communal violence. This came at a cost, though. Large-scale arrests of young Muslims accused of SIMI membership, most of whom were acquitted, engendered deep bitterness. Former SIMI president Shahid Badr Falahi-ironically, among a group of political Islamists who sought to resist the jihadist current-spent fourteen years under trial accused of having pasted a sticker on a wall. Local police, moreover, found SIMI members a convenient scapegoat for the Indian Mujahideen bombings which began in 2005-allowing the real perpetrators to continue their attacks for years, unchecked. The toxic influence of Islamism represented by the PFI shows a complex matrix of deeply embedded political and social problems. The fight against it needs political action, not just police.

## Italy's Giorgia Meloni is no Mussolini - but she may be a Trump

**I**taly, wrote the situationist philosopher Guy Debord in 1968, "sums up the social contradictions of the entire world". As such, it was a "laboratory for international counter-revolution". Political analysts the world over are now busy parsing Giorgia Meloni's statements to determine if she is a fascist, a neofascist or a post-fascist. Why, they ask, are Italians seemingly willing to consider a return to the politics of their country's darkest hour? But is Italy really dealing with the resurrection of its fascist past? And, more important, is Italy a laboratory whose experiment the rest of the world could eventually follow? The answers, respectively, are: no and (therefore) yes. Those who brand the Brothers of Italy as fascists miss the point. Meloni's party is not so much the heir to Benito Mussolini's fascist movement as the first European copycat of the US Republican party. Meloni is an astute political leader and able to play the long game. In 2012, she left the relative security of Silvio Berlusconi's fold to set up her own tiny Brothers of Italy party. She bided her time and painstakingly built its following over the years. In 2021 she turned down a quick route to power and refused to join Mario Draghi's national unity government. She has now won that power, the first woman to do so in a painfully patriarchal society. It is unlikely she has any wish to squander such an achievement on a trashy remake of fascist corruption a hundred years too late. Her goal is to grow the kernel of a new Italian and European politics. This desire came out clearly in the runup to the elections. Meloni did everything in her power to assure the US administration of

full continuity with an Atlanticist, anti-Russian and anti-Chinese stance. At the same time, she aimed to reassure the financial markets - and, yes, the EU - that her government would keep public debt in check. On both counts she frustrated her now junior allies, Berlusconi and Matteo Salvini, who were flirting with empathy for Russia and with careless spending. If she could reassure Washington and Brussels on foreign and economic policy, she correctly reasoned, she would be left in



**Lorenzo Marsili**

relative peace to build her power and carry out her agenda at home. No one would risk ostracising the Italian government during a security, energy and cost of living crisis just to come to the defence of migrants, or to protect women's reproductive rights. This approach, however opportunistic, is allowing her to carve out a place for a new type of far-right regime in Europe. Hawkish on foreign policies, orthodox on economic policies, nostalgic, nationalist and inimical to civil liberties, this rightwing politics is illiberal at heart. But it would aim for respectability in what used to be called the establishment, including by not undermining the rule of law in the way the Hungarian prime minister, Viktor Orbán, has done. It is precisely because Meloni is not a fascist outcast that her actions offer a blueprint for, if not the world, then Europe. Gone may be the days when the victory of far-right populists and extremists appeared unthinkable or untenable. We may instead be in a new degenerated, rightwing normality: where that honourable and necessary

space in a democracy - the space occupied by Jacques Chirac, Margaret Thatcher or Angela Merkel - becomes perverted and consistently occupied by Trumps and Melonis. Meloni may succeed in mutating the far right from the status of outsider in European politics to tenacious insider. Such degeneration has been spearheaded in the US by the Republican party, as remade by its collusion with Donald Trump, which the FT columnist Edward Luce rightly described recently as a "nihilistic, dangerous and contemptible" political force. One half of the traditional political spectrum in the US has broken away, taking with it the health of American democracy. That same process - rather than the sensational emergence of a fascist, but ultimately short-lived government in Italy - may be what is taking hold in Europe. The theory will be put to the test in less than a year in Spain, where an alliance between the far-right Vox party and the fast-degenerating centre-right People's party is on the cards. It is regrettable that Italian progressives are the enablers of this transformation. The liberal-left camp scored more votes overall than the rightwing alliance. But the rightwing was, precisely, an alliance, whereas the progressive field was fractured and heavily punished in the partly first past the post electoral system.





## Ponniyin Selvan I Box Office Prediction

**Mumbai, September 29 :** Touted as one of the biggest releases in recent times, the first of the two-part Mani Ratnam film is all set to hit the theaters. The tentpole stars popular names like Chiyaan Vikram, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Trisha Krishnan, Karthi Jayam Ravi and Sobhita Dhulipala among others. The larger-than-life story not only exhibits grandeur in terms of the cast but also in its story and set. Even before the release of the movie, the period drama adapted from Kalki Krishnamurthy's 1955 novels, Ponniyin Selvan I received a warm response from the audience. Its trailers, teasers and songs by AR Rahman have struck a chord with the audience and advance bookings speak volumes about the same. Going by the reports, the film is en route to becoming the best first-day advance booking for a Tamil film this year. Reportedly, Ponniyin Selvan I has done a business of Rs 11.30 crores gross. Tamil version of the film has made the most contribution in this. Talking about the film's release in international markets, trade analysts claim that the film is expected to premiere at USD 1 million at the US box office, reports, the Times of India. Mani Ratnam, the maestro who is bringing his epic film 'Ponniyin Selvan: I' to the theatres this week, had earlier attempted to adapt Kalki Krishnamurthy's eponymous novel into a film not once, but twice. The first time, it was in the 1990s, and the second time, in the 2010s, but somehow neither effort materialised into a film. The filmmaker is happy that the film wasn't made back then. 'Ponniyin Selvan: I', also features an ensemble star cast of Aishwarya Lekshmi, Prabhu, R. Sarathkumar, Vikram Prabhu, Prakash Raj, Rahman and R. Parthiban besides the lead cast. It is arriving in cinemas on September 30 and will face competition against Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan starrer Vikram Vedha. Will Ponniyin Selvan I prove to be a blockbuster and a film that could bring back the booming Indian box office or it will turn out to be a film without steam? Well, given Mani Ratnam's line of films, chances are higher on the positive note but we'll have to wait for the verdict of the audience.

# Shweta Tiwari breaks silence on mother's guilt syndrome

**Mumbai, September 29 :** Shweta Tiwari is one of the most popular actresses in the entertainment industry. Even after two failed marriages, once with Raja Chaudhary and then with Abhinav Kohli, Shweta has proved to be a doting mother to her kids Palak Tiwari and Reyansh. Recently the actress opened up about her personal life and the challenges she felt after broken marriages. Shweta first got married at the age of 18 to Raja Chaudhary and the couple separated when their daughter Palak was just twelve years old. Recalling those days Shweta talked about the mother's guilt syndrome. She shared that she could not give the required attention to her daughter. Talking to ETimes, Shweta said, "I have always felt the mother's guilt. Especially when my daughter

was growing up. During those days I didn't have that much understanding of how to take care of my daughter. I was not in a very great position to demand from the production houses, the perks, I also didn't have time. Whatever time I would get it would get wasted because of my messed up situation in my personal life. I have given very less time to Palak, but I sometimes feel relieved that I was able to spend some quality time with her." The actress also revealed that people call her house 'Sita Ka Ghar' as every woman from her mother, daughter and maids have been through a difficult phase in their life. "Not many people know this but my real house is known as 'Sitakaghar' by people who live close by or our neighbours. They call it 'Sitakaghar' because we only have a majority of



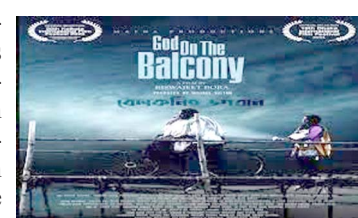
women in our house. My mother, my daughter, my maids and each one of us have faced some kind of disturbance in our life. Whether it is related to husband, family, daughters, there's something going on and our house is full of ladies. I have my father who's very old and my son," she said. For the unversed, Shweta Tiwari got married

that marriage also ended in 2019 on a bitter note. She has a six-year-old son with Abhinav. On the work front, Shweta Tiwari will be seen in a show titled Main Hoon Aparajita opposite Manav Gohil. She is excited to reunite with Manav after so many years. She told IANS, "I still remember, we were very young when we both started our journey on television. Now, after 15 years, we are coming back together for Main Hoon Aparajita. He is an amazing professional, and I am sure we will have a gala time shooting with each other."

## 'God on the Balcony' to be released on 7 October

♦ **Rupak G. Duarah**

Assamese Film-maker Biswajeet Bora's internationally acclaimed movie 'God on the Balcony' to be released on October 7 in theatres. Earlier, the movie was screened in



a number of prominent national and international film festivals and widely appreciated by viewers and critics. In the prestigious 13th Bengaluru International Film Festival 2022, the movie won the 'First Best Asian Film 2020' award in the 'Asian Cinema Competition, 2020' section and in the '10th DC South Asian Film Festival, 2022' held in the United States of America, Harish Khanna won the 'Best Actor Award (Jury Mention)' for his extraordinary performance in the film. Moreover, in 2021 Biswajeet Bora won the 'Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Best Director' award for the film in the '26th Kolkata International Film Festival'. 'God on the Balcony' is based on the true story of a poor man of a remote village who could not save his wife who was seriously injured after the attack of wild elephants in his house. The film reflects some common problems of rural areas such as poor healthcare, lack of quality education, pitiable condition of roads, underprivileged livelihood etc. in an artistic manner of picturization. It is a matter of pride for us that the film has been warmly welcomed by more than 20 national and international film festivals and has been appreciated with 9 awards till date. The film is produced by Noorul Sultan under the banner of 'Maina Production' and Harish Khanna plays the lead role as 'Khagen'. Other characters are played by Pranami Bora, Porinandhi Jima Sultana, Arun Hazarika, Rajib Kro, Pabitra Baruah, Sunit Bora, Gauri Sankar Bhuyan, Binod Lal Das, Ajay Bharali, Jatin Khanikar, Jyotisman Kashyap, Eva Mahanta, Alok Baruah etc. Moreover, senior advocate Bijon Mahajan, senior actor Dinesh Das and journalist Rajdeep Bailung Baruah have also acted in the film.

## Madhuri's movie Maja Ma trailer out

**Mumbai, September 29 :** The trailer of its highly anticipated, Maja Ma was unveiled today. The movie presents the original queen of Bollywood- Madhuri Dixit, in a complex and fearless avatar. Along with her, the family entertainer boasts of a stellar cast of veterans as well as fresh faces of the industry including Gajraj Rao, Ritwik Bhowmik, Barkha Singh, Srishri Shrivastava, Rajit Kapur, Simone Singh, Sheeba Chaddha, Malhar Thakur and Ninad Kamat, who bring this warm, light-hearted yet thought provoking drama to life. A true-blue Bollywood entertainer, Maja Ma is set against the celebratory backdrop of a traditional festival and a lively, colourful wedding, with a story that will tug at your heartstrings. The just launched trailer gives us a glimpse into the life of Pallavi (essayed by Madhuri Dixit) - a delightful woman who is the backbone of her middle-class family and the society she lives in, around whom the movie revolves. As a series of events unfold, a life that she has built with so much love starts to fall apart, putting her son's upcoming engagement in jeopardy. The conflict tests existing relationships for resilience, understanding and beliefs. What is this unprecedented situation? How will Pallavi and her family deal with the turmoil? Will this bring the families closer or will the new relationships crumble? Watch this complete entertainer, that packs punches and twists, to know more.

## KBC 14: Amitabh Bachchan opens up on spending time with granddaughter Aaradhya

**Mumbai, September 29 :** Amitabh Bachchan is currently seen hosting quiz based reality show Kaun Banega Crorepati's season 14. Bollywood's superstar had a very busy year when it comes to his professional commitments. Apart from the television show, he also has an impressive lineup of films to look forward to. In the latest episode, he was questioned by a 20-year old contestant and content writer Vaishnavi Kumari on how he gets time to spend with his granddaughter Aaradhya Bachchan. He replied: "I cannot spend much time with her. I go out for work at 7-7:30 a.m. and she goes to school at 8-8:30 a.m. She comes back home at 3 or 4

p.m. and then she has homework, among other things to do as told to her by her mother. And I return home at around 10-11 p.m. and by that time she is off to sleep. So, I hardly have time to meet her." During a conversation with Dehradun-based Vaishnavi, he talked in detail about his bond with his granddaughter. He made sure to take out time for her on Sunday and he mentioned that: "When she is free on Sunday, I play with her for some time." And he also added that when she gets angry, he gives her chocolate and hair bands. She loves pink colour and so he gives her pink hairbands.

# HBO reclaims its Emmy crown with 'Succession'

**London, September 29 :**

Following is a summary of current entertainment news briefs. Quinta Brunson helps broadcast break through at TV's Emmy awards. Network sitcoms have rarely won Emmy awards in recent years as Hollywood has showered honors on shows at streaming outlets. On Monday, Quinta Brunson helped change that when she won the prize for best comedy writing for ABC show "Abbott Elementary." Brunson, 32, is the first Black woman to be nominated three times within the comedy category in the same year. She received nominations for writing, lead actress and series for the show that she created. 'Succession,' 'Ted Lasso' repeat as winners of top Emmy awards. Media dynasty drama "Succession" and feel-good comedy "Ted Lasso" took the top trophies at the Emmy awards on Monday, and a "Squid Game" actor landed a major acting prize as Hollywood handed out the highest honors in television. "Succession" was named best drama series, an award the HBO show had won in 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted its production schedule. The show, which secured four trophies overall, tells the story of the wealthy and backstabbing Roy family as members jockey for power. Factbox- Key winners at the 2022 Emmy Awards. The Emmy awards, the highest honors in television, were handed out at a live ceremony in downtown Los Angeles on Monday. Following is a list of winners in key categories. Ohio man sentenced for threatening, stalking actress Eva LaRue. An Ohio man, who was accused of threatening and stalking



television actress Eva LaRue and her daughter for 12 years, was sentenced to over three years in federal prison, prosecutors said. The 12-year campaign of harassment by James David Rogers, 58, of Ohio, via letters and phone calls included threats of torture, rape and death, prosecutors said in a statement. It lasted from March 2007 until the man's arrest in November 2019. Duchess Meghan pauses Spotify podcast during mourning for Queen Elizabeth. Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, has paused new episodes of her Spotify podcast during the official mourning period for Queen Elizabeth, according to an alert on the platform on Monday. Earlier in the day, her husband Prince Harry paid a highly personal tribute to the late queen, saying how he cherished the time he had spent with his grandmother and promising to honour his father King Charles as the new monarch. Leading New Wave film director Jean-Luc Godard dies aged 91. Film director Jean-Luc Godard, the godfather of France's New Wave cinema who pushed cinematic boundaries and inspired iconoclastic directors decades after his 1960s heyday, died on Tuesday aged 91, his family and producers said. Godard was among the world's most acclaimed directors, known for such classics

as "Breathless" and "Contempt", which broke with convention and helped kickstart a new way of filmmaking, with handheld camera work, jump cuts and existential dialogue. German reboot of famous war novel premieres at Toronto film festival. German director Edward Berger said the world needed a reminder of the horrors of war as his remake of the anti-war classic "All Quiet on the Western Front" premiered at the 47th Toronto International Film Festival on Monday. It is the first German cin-

ematic treatment of the epic 1928 novel by German author Erich Maria Remarque, which depicts the devastation of World War One from the perspective of a German soldier and helped to change the narrative around the glorification of war. Documentary on activist photographer wins rare top film prize at Venice. "All the Beauty and the Bloodshed", a documentary about U.S. photographer Nan Goldin and her fight against the wealthy Sackler family, won the top Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday. Made by investigative journalist Laura Poitras, the film interweaves the remarkable story of Goldin's life with her campaign to hold the Sacklers and their pharmaceutical firm accountable for the U.S. opioid crisis. Chinese actor Evan Li detained on suspicion of soliciting prostitutes - CCTV. Chinese actor Li Yifeng, who played former Communist Party leader Mao Zedong in a 2021 movie, was detained

recently by Beijing police on suspicion of soliciting prostitutes, China's state broadcaster CCTV reported on Sunday. CCTV said it was citing a Beijing police statement on the agency's Weibo social media account on Sunday that it recently detained an actor with the surname Li for multiple instances of soliciting prostitutes. CCTV said it confirmed the person is Li Yifeng. HBO reclaims its Emmy crown with 'Succession,' 'White Lotus' wins. The dysfunctional dynasty of "Succession," the teen drama "Euphoria" and a comedy series set in the fictional White Lotus resort helped propel HBO to the top of the Emmy Awards heap Monday, surpassing streaming rival Netflix Inc. The Warner Bros Discovery Inc division entered the night with the most nominations of any network or streaming service, with a total of 140 nominations for HBO and its companion online offering, HBO Max.

## Parineeti & Harrrdy's fearless mission Code Name: Tiranga

**Mumbai, September 29 :** The teaser of 'Code Name: Tiranga' is finally out and we can't take our eyes off from Parineeti Chopra as she is all ready to set the big screens on fire with her impeccable performance. The teaser is an espionage action thriller, it is a story of a spy on an unfaltering and fearless mission for her nation in a race against time where sacrifice is her only choice. Directed by Ribhu Dasgupta, the film marks the filmmaker's return to the espionage genre who earlier had directed the Netflix spy series, 'Bard of Blood'. The beautiful actress took to his Instagram handle to share the teaser. The

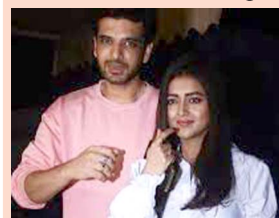
post read, "Honoured to be a part of this mission for my country. Excited to be collaborating with two of my favs! @harrrdyandhu and @ribhu\_dasgupta! Let the ACTION BEGIN!". In the teaser, we can see Parineeti in an all-out action role, this will be the first time the actress will step into this genre. Previously, the actress said, "I am back again to present myself in a whole new avatar that no one has seen me do before! It is my attempt to keep doing disruptive content as I have been and to push my limits to bring something new to the table for the audiences". Further, she revealed, "The

bruises and me holding the gun in the poster is just a teaser of all the things that are in store for the audiences. This is just a sneak peek into my character and I can assure you that we intend to shock and awe with this film." Seasoned actors like Sharad Kelkar, Rajit Kapur, Dibyendu Bhattacharya, Shishir Sharma, Sabyasachi Chakraborty and Deesh Mariwala will also be seen sharing the screen. The film will hit the theatres on 14th October. Parineeti and Ribhu Dasgupta will be collaborating for the second time, the duo was earlier seen the Netflix film 'The Girl on the Train' though the movie didn't do that well in the market.



## Tejasswi Prakash breaks up with Karan Kundrra?

**Mumbai, September 29 :** Tejasswi Prakash and Karan Kundrra's love story is nothing less than a fairytale. Ever since Tejasswi Prakash and Karan Kundrra came out of the Bigg Boss house, they have become one of the most beloved Telly Town couples. Their fans cannot wait for the couple



to tie the knot. They both enjoy a massive fanbase who lovingly call them TejRan and always shower their love on the couple. On Wednesday, Tejasswi's Instagram post created a storm on the internet which was about her breakup. The duo who is currently in Goa treated their fans with happy news yesterday sharing that the Naagin actress has bought a new house in the city. Their fans were left shocked after they learnt about the couple's breakup via Tejasswi's Instagram post. Hashtags like Tejasswi Broke Up, TejRan breakup started trending on Twitter as their loyal fans were disappointed. For the unversed, Tejasswi shared a picture of herself which she captioned as, "I broke up because I danced." This is not the first time the actress created a social media stir, earlier she had dropped a post in which she is seen flaunting a diamond ring leading to rumours of her engagement with Karan. Some of the fans thought their dream has come true after Tejasswi shared a picture of herself with an engagement ring. In no time, her post was bombarded with congratulatory messages. Celebrities including Mahekk Chahal wrote and Arjun Bijlani also commented on her post. While all this was going on, the main man, Karan Kundrra, finally came to the comment section and smashed the fiasco, commenting, "Babe you broke my whatsapp. it's an #Ad nincompoops". Karan Kundrra and Tejasswi Prakash met inside the Bigg Boss house and their love flourished during their stay on the reality show. Ever since they both have been making several public appearances together. They both have also worked together on several projects including music videos and advertisements. They were recently seen in the music video Baarish Aayi Hain. The track has been performed by Stebin Ben and Shreya Ghoshal.



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## Three PFI offices sealed in Assam

fronts for indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty and security of the country and have the potential of disturbing public peace and communal harmony of the country and supporting militancy in the country. PFI News: After the Central Government declared the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts as an unlawful association with immediate effect for a period of five years, other states followed suit. The state governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have issued notifications declaring the PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts as an unlawful association. The Maharashtra govt issued an order declaring PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts as an unlawful association. Apart from this, the official Twitter account of PFI has also been withheld in India by the social media platform "in response to a legal demand", a day after the Centre banned the outfit under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for "terror links". The government had yesterday ordered the blocking of all the social media traces of the banned outfit, including its Twitter, YouTube channels, Instagram, and Facebook accounts. Along with PFI, the ban is also imposed on its fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala as an "unlawful association". Imposing a ban on PFI, the Kerala government states, "The power which has been directed to be exercised by the State Government under section 7 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, stands delegated to the District Magistrate/ Commissioner of Police/ Superintendent of Police concerned, within their jurisdiction." "The power which has been directed to be exercised by the State Government under section 8 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, stands delegated to the District Magistrate/Commissioner of Police/ Superintendent of Police concerned, within their jurisdiction," it further added. The Tamil Nadu government in its order stated, "The Governor of Tamil Nadu hereby directs that all the powers which are exercisable by the Government of Tamil Nadu under sections 7 and 8 of the said Act in relation to the aforesaid unlawful association, namely "Popular Front of India (PEI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala" shall also be exercised by the Commissioners of Police in the Cities and by the District Collectors elsewhere."

## 'It's a friendly contest and

will contest the polls for party president even as Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot later confirmed that he won't run for the Congress president's post. He even apologised to Sonia Gandhi after a rebellion over his candidature for the post by MLAs in the state loyal to him. Digvijaya Singh told reporters outside the AICC headquarters that he was here to collect his nomination form from the party's Central Election Authority (CEA) and that he is likely to file his nomination tomorrow. "Today I have come here to collect the nomination form and will possibly file it tomorrow," Singh said. He said that the decision to contest was solely his and he had not consulted with anybody else. "I represent myself... The time is between 11 and 3 (when he will file the nominations tomorrow)," Singh told the media persons. On being asked whether his entering the race for the top Congress post will be a face-off against Ashok Gehlot or Tharoor, Singh asked them to wait and see till October 8, the last date of withdrawal of nominations. "Wait till 8th, the date of withdrawal," the former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh said. When pressed on the issue, Singh said "Why don't you take me seriously." The veteran leader had met with Rahul Gandhi in Kerala at the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra and had arrived in the national capital late Wednesday evening. The entry of Digvijaya Singh has made the battle for the top Congress post interesting as G23 leader Shashi Tharoor is also likely to file the nomination on Friday. Tharoor has already declared that he will file his nomination for the post of Congress president on Friday, the last day of the nomination process. Polling for the post will take place on October 17 while the result will be announced on October 19.

## Russia to formally occupy four

of Ukraine. According to Al Jazeera, Scholz made these remarks in conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Scholz reaffirmed Germany's stance saying that the country's support for Ukraine remains unwavering. Meanwhile, Canada also said that they will not recognise Russia's attempted illegal annexation of Ukrainian territories. "Canada does not and will not ever recognise the results of these sham referendums or Russia's attempted illegal annexation of Ukrainian territories," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement. Serbia, too, will not recognise the results of referendums held in four regions of Ukraine partly occupied by Russian forces. President Aleksandar Vucic has said, as per the portal. "Serbia ... will not recognise that [referendums] as it adheres to international law, the United Nations Charter and UN resolutions," Vucic said as quoted by Al Jazeera. Meanwhile, Russia's President Putin signed a decree on Thursday authorising the government to ban some Western trucks from crossing Russian territory. The ban, which applies to vehicles carrying goods, comes into force immediately and applies to countries with similar restrictions against Russia due to their invasion of Ukraine, according to Al Jazeera.

## Assam government fails to submit

not extremists and it "cannot be the case that all the accused could snatch a service revolver from a trained police officer". In most of the cases, the police had claimed the accused shot had tried to escape after snatching a weapon from the policemen on duty. The Gauhati High Court has fixed November 14 as the next date of hearing the case.

## Bhavnagar Can Emerge

According to the Prime Minister, Bhavnagar is emerging as an important region for port-led development. "Multi-modal connectivity will play an important role in increasing maritime trade opportunities in the region," he said. "The Renewable energy, Space and semiconductor industry being developed in Dholera will benefit Bhavnagar as well," PM Modi added. PM Modi stated that the world needs a "reliable" container supplier and that the containers manufactured in Bhavnagar will not only meet this global demand but will also create job opportunities. The Prime Minister said that the region is becoming a hub for the fulfillment of energy requirements of the country and Gujarat. "Today the coastline of Gujarat is emerging as a synonym for renewable energy and hydrogen ecosystem. We have also tried to make Saurashtra an important centre of energy. Whatever is required to fulfill the energy requirements of Gujarat and the country, this region is becoming a big hub for it," he said. In Gujarat's Bhavnagar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also laid the foundation stone and inaugurated a slew of development projects worth over Rs 5,200 crore. In the city, the Prime Minister laid the ground-work for the world's first CNG terminal and a brownfield port. The port will be built at a cost of more than Rs 4,000 crore and will include cutting-edge infrastructure for the CNG terminal. The port will include a cutting-edge container terminal, multipurpose terminal, and liquid terminal, all with direct door-to-door access to the existing roadway and railway networks. PM Modi also dedicated a regional science centre in Bhavnagar, which spans 20 acres and cost around Rs 100 crore to build.

## Won't contest Congress presidential

but now with that incident (Rajasthan Political Crisis), I've decided not to contest the elections," said Genlot. "I had a conversation with Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. Whatever happened two days ago shocked us. It gave a message that all of it happened as I wanted to be CM. I apologised to her," said CM Ashok Gehlot after meeting Sonia Gandhi. Gehlot, a three-time state chief minister, described himself as a disciplined soldier of the party and expressed his sadness over the turn of affairs in the state. "Have always been a disciplined soldier of the Congress," the Rajasthan CM said. On being asked if he will remain Rajasthan Chief Minister, Gehlot said, "I won't decide that, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi will decide that." "One-line resolution is our tradition. Unfortunately, a situation arose that resolution wasn't passed. It was my moral responsibility (to pass the resolution), but despite being a CM I couldn't get it passed," he added. Talking to reporters, Gehlot said the party works under the Congress president and decisions will be taken in the time to come. Gehlot said Congress workers worry about the direction in which the country is heading and tackling the issue was more important.

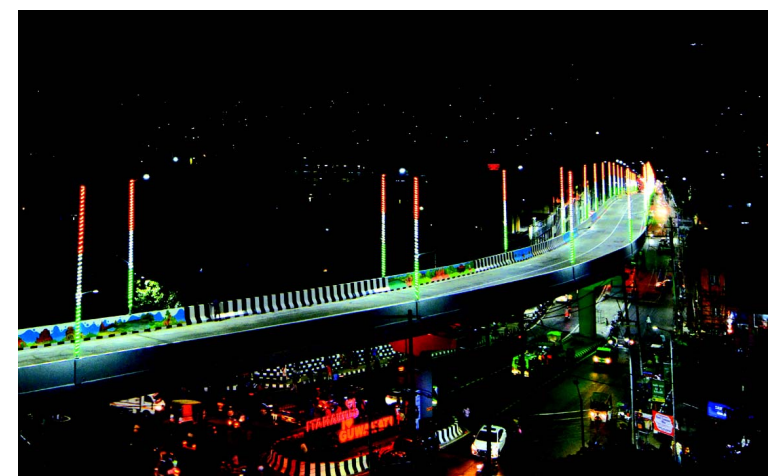
## Assam CM takes part in various programmes in Barpeta

## 5-crore Loan by bell-metal entrepreneurs to be written off: Dr. Sarma



**Assam Rising, Guwahati, September 29:** Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday on a day-long visit to Barpeta district took part in a number of events, including the inauguration ceremony of the newly-constructed Inspection Bungalow of the Public Works Roads Department at Kayakuchi. Built at a cost of ₹22 crore under the State-Owned Priority Development (SOPD) fund, the new inspection bungalow is spread across three floors, including the ground floor, and has a total of 11 rooms, of which 6 are air-conditioned while the rest of the rooms are non-air-conditioned. It also contains a suite for a very important person (VIP) visit. The Chief Minister, in a brief meeting at the conference hall of the inspection bungalow with

officials of PWRD and representatives of civil society organizations, took stock of the various ongoing developmental activities as well as grievances and expectations of the public from the Sarukhetri assembly constituency. The Chief Minister directed the officials concerned to take necessary measures for timely completion of the developmental activities while assuring the civil society members of all support from the government in mitigating their grievances and fulfilling their demands. The Chief Minister lauded Sarukhetri Member of Legislative Assembly Jakir Hussain Sikdar, under whose constituency Kayakuchi falls, for his efforts at overall development of the Kayakuchi area. Earlier in the day, Dr. Sarma laid the foundation stone for construction of a new Monikut (the sanctuary) and



Guwahati- Newly Constructed Fly Over Bridge at Sarab Bhatti

pathway leading to it of the historic Jagannath Temple at Pachkhel Goyagoyoroh in Sarthebari. The Chief Minister declared a sum of ₹50 lakh as first tranche of funding from the government for the above works. The Chief Minister also declared a series of projects and schemes aimed towards overall development of the bell-metal town and its residents. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma assured the residents of Sarthebari of immediate actions from the government in upgrading the current Sarthebari civil hospital into a state-of-the-art hospital equipped with the modern medical machinery and adequate healthcare staff. He also declared that loans and credits totalling ₹5 crore being availed by various bell-metal industry entrepreneurs will be treated as grants and neither the principal amount nor the interests will have to be returned. This would act as a huge boost to the bell-metal industry, Dr. Sarma added. The ongoing works related to improving the condition of Dr. Jinaram Das Road connecting Sarthebari with Pathshala shall be completed soon, the Chief Minister stated. He further assured the residents of Sarthebari of the government's seriousness in preserving their identity and culture and in this regard, and promised necessary actions required for the same. The Chief Minister also paid a visit to the Krishnaguru Sewashram at Nasatra locality of the bell-metal town. The Chief Minister sought blessings at the ashram and also interacted with the residents and members of the religious site. It is worth mentioning that in every location the Chief Minister visited, he was accorded a rousing welcome by the local population. The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the people of Barpeta for showering him with limitless love and affection. The Chief Minister was today accompanied by Bhawanipur Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Phani Talukdar, Palasbari MLA Hemanga Thakuria and Sarukhetri MLA Jakir Hussain Sikdar, along with a host of senior officials of the government.

## 'Checkmated Sachin Pilot, again': BJP on Ashok Gehlot's REFUSAL to run for Congress president's post

**NEW DELHI, September 29:** BJP on Thursday called Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot 'consummate politician' who has once again checkmated his rival Sachin Pilot from becoming the chief minister of his state by refusing to contest the Congress presidential election. BJP's national media cell in-charge Amit Malviya took to Twitter and said that Gehlot not only retained his chief minister's post but also saved himself from the embarrassment of being a remote-controlled party president. Malviya's tweet came shortly after Ashok Gehlot announced that he will not contest the Congress



presidential polls as he took moral responsibility for the political crisis in his state, and said the decision on whether he would remain CM would be taken by party chief Sonia Gandhi. After meeting the party president at her 10 Janpath residence, Gehlot told reporters that he apologised to Gandhi for the developments on Sunday when MLAs supporting him defied the central observers and thwarted their move to hold a meeting of party legislators. Instead, they held a parallel meet to pitch for Gehlot's continuation or the guarantee that his bete noire Sachin Pilot does not replace him. Gehlot, a three-time state chief minister, described himself as a disciplined soldier of the party and expressed his sadness over the turn of events in the state. Asked if he will continue as chief minister, Gehlot said Gandhi will decide on the issue. "In the last 50 years, I have worked as a loyal Congress soldier from the time of Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Narasimha Rao and Sonia ji, be it becoming a central minister or state unit chief, general secretary or CM for the third time, I cannot forget that. The events that happened (on Sunday) have shaken all of us. Only I know how hurt I am because a message went that I want to remain CM," Gehlot said. "I have apologised to Sonia Ji because a simple resolution, which is our tradition and which we always pass, a situation emerged that it could not be passed. I, as a CLP leader, whatever the reasons, could not get the resolution passed," he said. He also said that in the aftermath of the events, he has decided that he will not fight the party president polls. Meanwhile, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, who is likely to file his nomination for the Congress president's post on Friday, met Shashi Tharoor, who said they agreed that theirs is "not a battle between rivals but a friendly contest" among colleagues. Singh met the party MP from Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday after collecting nomination papers for the polls. "Received a visit from Digvijaya Singh this afternoon. I welcome his candidacy for the Presidency of our Party," Tharoor said in a tweet. "We both agreed that ours is not a battle between rivals but a friendly contest among colleagues. All we both want is that whoever prevails, @inIndia will win!" he said. Tharoor has already declared that he will file his nomination for the post of Congress president on Friday, the last day of the nomination process. Polling for the post will take place on October 17 while the result will be announced on October 19.

## Pakistan's largest bank HBL aided, abetted Al Qaeda: Report

**Islamabad, September 29:** Pakistan's largest bank, Habib Bank Limited (HBL), faces secondary liabilities in a terror financing case in the US in which the plaintiffs had alleged that it aided and abetted Al Qaeda terrorism and joined a conspiracy to launch attacks that killed or injured 370 people, a media report said on Thursday. Judge Lorna G Schofield observed that bank faces the liabilities under the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act as a party that "aids and abets, by knowingly providing substantial assistance, or who conspires with the person who committed such an act of international terrorism". Dawn news quoted the Bloomberg report as saying. The Bloomberg report quoted the judge as saying that the plaintiffs in three consolidated cases "sufficiently" alleged that the attacks were planned or authorised by a 'Foreign Terrorist Organisation' such as the Al Qaeda or syndicates Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, the Afghan Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, and the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan. "The plaintiffs sufficiently allege that the bank knew its customers were integral to al-Qaeda's overall campaign of terrorism, carried out directly and by proxy, which is sufficient to allege general awareness." The complaints also show that the bank knowingly and substantially helped al-Qaeda and its proxies evade sanctions and engage in terrorist acts, which satisfies the 'knowing assistance' requirement," the judge said. Judge Schofield said the allegations were sufficient to show that HBL "joined in a conspiracy to commit the attacks". However, she turned down the plaintiffs' claims of primary liability because none of the alleged banking services provided by HBL "were themselves acts of international terrorism", the report added. Prior to this, HBL had agreed to pay a fine of \$225 million, the largest ever imposed upon a Pakistani bank by regulatory authorities, in 2017 for various violations of New York's regulatory provisions, Dawn news reported. The bank had also agreed to surrender its licence to operate a branch in New York and unwind its operations there. The branch had been operational since 1978. In a strongly worded release issued at the time, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) of New York State had harshly castigated the bank and added that it "will not stand by and let Habib Bank sneak out of the US without holding it accountable for putting the integrity of the financial services industry and the safety of our nation at risk". HBL had become the target of an enforcement action by DFS for 53 separate violations allegedly committed between 2007 and 2017.





# Football League clubs taking cut of gamblers' losses with SkyBet



**London, September 29 :** English football clubs have been taking a cut of the money fans lose with the bookmaker SkyBet, the Guardian can reveal, prompting accusations that they are exploiting supporters and gambling addicts. An internal document shows that members of the Football League (EFL), comprising the 72 clubs outside the Premier League, operated as "affiliates" for SkyBet. An affiliate is a middleman who encourages a gambler to bet with a particular company, which then pays them a percentage of the money that person goes on to lose, sometimes for the rest of their life. The document states clubs were entitled to a "share of losses [...] from accounts registered in your club name to Sky Bet through our affiliate partnership". The EFL said the arrangement,

which lasted six years, was scrapped at the start of the 2019-20 season but admitted some clubs were still receiving funds under the "legacy" contracts and would continue cashing in until the end of the 2023-24 season. The Guardian understands that one League Two club made £5,000 from the deal in a year, indicating potentially much larger sums for the best supported Championship teams. Campaigners and MPs condemned the relationship, called on Premier League clubs to reveal whether they have any similar deals and said the revelation should give fresh impetus to government plans to reform gambling laws. Whitehall sources have suggested a draft white paper outlining potential reforms, put

together under Boris Johnson's leadership, could fall victim to a bonfire of regulations under the new prime minister Liz Truss. But the shadow minister for sport, Alex Davies-Jones, said the plans should not be scrapped, warning that evidence of affiliate deals "raises some serious questions about the government's approach to gambling". Despite promising much-needed reform, the government have failed to bring forward their white paper and it is

people across the country who continue to be impacted," she said. "We have an analogue approach to regulation but we live in a digital world and the government can and must do more." The Conservative MP Iain Duncan Smith, who has been trying to ensure the white paper is not ditched, described the arrangements uncovered by the Guardian as "terrible". He said: "That a football club might benefit from this runs against all that they are supposed to stand for - support for their fans, for the people who go to the ground." SkyBet, part of the Flutter gambling empire, has sponsored the EFL for 10 seasons. Sources in the gambling world have previously alleged that clubs have affiliate deals with bookmakers, but this is thought to be the first time that hard evidence of such an arrangement has come to light. The Labour MP Carolyn Harris, who co-chairs a cross-party parliamentary group examining gambling-related harm, said: "This appears to be proof that football clubs

are exploiting their own fans, some of whom will be gambling addicts, by taking a cut of every penny they lose to greedy bookmakers. The government must now step in to loosen the hold that the gambling industry has on the national game." A walk organised by The Big Step to demand gambling reform, outside Everton's Goodison Park this summer, Harris said Premier League teams should now "come clean" about whether they too have affiliate deals. The Guardian has written previously to every Premier League club, as well as some in the Championship and Scottish Premiership, to ask whether they operate an affiliate arrangement with any gambling companies. Crystal Palace, Newcastle United, Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United said that they did not; the remaining clubs declined to comment or did not respond. The document seen by the Guardian appears to be an account of commercial revenues made by Accrington Stanley through EFL Digital, a division of the EFL.

# Worcester players left in limbo on their futures after confusion over contracts



**London, September 29 :** Worcester Warriors players have been left in limbo after receiving conflicting information over whether they can leave the stricken club immediately. After the government put the club into administration, the expectation was that the players were free to leave, but the Rugby Players' Association has informed the squad they are still under contract. Players had initially been told that "if the club enters administration you have the ability to immediately terminate your contract". Accordingly, on Monday, when it was announced the club was being put into administration after being suspended from all competitions, the door appeared open for the players to leave. However, the RPA clarified the situation and gave the players different information on Tuesday night in an email seen by the Guardian, because while WRFC Trading Limited is in administration, the company that they are contracted to - WRFC

Players Limited - is not. That, in turn, means that rather than being able to leave immediately, players have to wait to learn if they will be paid September's wages on Friday. If not, they can give 14 days' notice of their intention to leave, and in theory would be obliged to wait another fortnight before doing so. The RPA's email read: "The RFU has now confirmed that WRFC Players Limited [the company that you are contracted to] has not entered into administration. You may have seen that a different company WRFC Trading Limited has entered into administration. We can only imagine how frustrating this news will be and we will be speaking with all stakeholders to urge them to

find a reasonable solution for the players as soon as possible. We will be in contact again as soon as we have further information." As a result, the players are in limbo. Some are training in groups away from Sixways, others on their own and some have returned to their home towns. All, however, are contemplating alternatives according to the captain Ted Hill, amid widespread discussions with clubs over possible future moves. "Everyone wants everything to work out at Worcester, but at the end of the day, we are professional players," he said. "I think people will be being advised by their agents about what is the best thing to be doing going forward."

## County cricket: Gloucs beat Yorkshire to give Warwickshire hope-as it happened



**Yorkshire, September 29 :** A seat-squirming day at Headingley could not provide a happy ending for club institution Steven Patterson, last man out after a valiant 27-ball duck as Yorkshire fell just 18 short of victory against Gloucestershire. The result leaves them reliant on Hampshire denying Warwickshire victory in order to stay in Division One next year. Dom Bess was stranded on 79 not out, nearly carrying Yorkshire over the line after the middle order had foundered. Zafar Gohar and David Payne finished with four wickets each, and already-relegated Gloucestershire end a forlorn season with two victories and a spring in their step. One bit of good news for White Rose fans came from Otis Gibson, who confirmed Shan Masood as Yorkshire's captain next year. Warwickshire fought desperately to bowl out Hampshire at Edgbaston but were held up by a pretty 98 from James Vince and 76 from their former player, Keith Barker. The visitors reached 311, with Warks 62-2 in their second innings, a slender 23-run lead. The home side's only hope of avoiding relegation is to somehow complete a victory on the last day of the season. Lancashire delivered six of the best to Surrey, thrashing them by an innings and 130 runs to hand the champions their only defeat of the season. Surrey were dismissed for 209 in their first innings and folded for 173 in the second, with young slow left-arm Tom Hartley taking five for 52, including Rory Burns, for 61, and Hashim Amla. The trophy presentation followed, as dusk fell over Old Trafford for the last time this year. Middlesex are but an outstretched finger from crossing the line in their quest for Division One status.

**Lahore, September 29 :** In the end the fifth game of this series came down to whether or not Moeen Ali could hit 15 runs off the final over. England were chasing only 145, but it was a steamy evening under lights in Lahore, on a skiddy, tricky pitch, and aside from Moeen, none of their batsmen were able to get comfortable in conditions that felt very different to the ones they had experienced in Karachi last week. Moeen, though, had managed to drag the game out and, thanks to a miscalculation on Babar Azam's part, found himself facing Aamir Jamal, a 26-year-old debutant, with six balls to go and the match on the line. At least, it seemed like a miscalculation before Jamal started bowling. The first two deliveries were full, and fast, and Moeen refused to take singles off either of them. The third was a wide. Moeen caught the fourth, which disappeared for six. But the fifth and sixth were right back where they needed to be, and it was all Moeen could do to squeeze the first of them away for a single. That meant David Willey needed to hit a six off his very first delivery to tie the scores and he did not manage it. There had, it needs to be said, been a lot



of brainless batting before all that. In the first five overs Phil Salt, Alex Hales and Ben Duckett were all caught midway to the deep. The silly dismissals were as thick as the flies that filled the night skies. Some of them thicker. After that, Pakistan's three spinners throttled England's middle order. "Today was our most disappointing game with the bat, for sure," Moeen said afterwards. "I just felt like we needed one partnership, 60 or 70 runs would have won us the match, but we couldn't get it. It looked like England had picked their strongest XI yet, too. Dawid Malan, San Curran and Mark Wood were all back, and so was Chris Woakes, who last turned out for England in the third Test

against West Indies in March. England won the toss and Woakes slipped right back into his old role of opening the bowling. He, Curran, Wood and Willey split eight wickets between them. Only Adil Rashid, who conceded 41 in his four overs, struggled to make an impression. It appeared to be a seamer's pitch, until Pakistan started bowling on it. Shadab Khan, who was one of three players Pakistan brought in to their team, gave a lesson in how to go about bowling spin on the surface in the second half of the game, when he delivered four overs for 25, and took a key wicket, Malan lbw for 36, with one that shot straight on. Wood was the best of England's quicks. He took

wickets in each of his first three overs, Babar caught on the boundary, Haider Ali caught and bowled off the top edge, and Asif Ali, bowled with a yorker. He had figures of three for 10 before conceding a further 10 runs from his final six deliveries. In between, Willey, who had his best game on tour thus far, had Shan Masood caught off a slower ball, and then had Iftikhar Ahmed caught at point. By the time Shadab and Mohammad Nawaz had contrived a couple of calamitous run-outs, Pakistan were a droopy 106 for seven off 14 overs. Mohammad Rizwan was still going though. He was dropped by Hales, again, when he was on nine, and went on to make 63 off 46 balls.

## Fran Kirby and Sam Kerr help Chelsea recover to defeat West Ham in WSL

**London, September 29 :** Chelsea came from behind to beat West Ham in their Women's Super League match at Kingsmeadow. Dagny Brynjarsdottir headed the visitors into a shock lead after only three minutes, before Chelsea responded as Sam Kerr twice hit the woodwork and Fran Kirby scored a deserved equaliser in the 40th minute. Kerr then tapped in a second on the hour, with Millie Bright nodding home a third shortly after, before Lauren James saw her late penalty saved. The match at Kingsmeadow was rearranged following the death of the Queen. West Ham, who have never beaten Chelsea in the WSL, took the lead after just three minutes when the Iceland midfielder Brynjarsdottir powered in a header from a corner. Chelsea, who beat Manchester City after losing their opening match at newly-promoted Liverpool, looked to make a swift response as Bright's goalbound flick was clawed off the line by the goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold. Kerr cut inside from the left and crashed a 20-yard drive against the far post and the Australian forward soon hit the other post with a low effort as Chelsea remained on the front foot. The equaliser eventually arrived five minutes before half-time when Kirby dug out a cross from the left to chip the ball into the top corner. Chelsea remained on the offensive at the start of the second half. Their pressure told just before the hour when Kerr slotted in after West Ham failed to clear following a corner which dropped into the six-yard box. The England defender Bright added another in the 63rd minute, heading home from a corner. With 15 minutes left, Chelsea were awarded a penalty after Lucy Parker brought down James but the forward saw a tame spot-kick saved by Arnold down low to her left.








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Date: **30 September 2022**

Time: **11 am**

Venue: **Arya Nagar, Guwahati**

#### Inauguration by

**Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam

#### In august presence of

**Shri Ashok Singhal**  
Hon'ble Minister, Housing & Urban Affairs Department

**Smt Queen Ojha**  
Hon'ble MP, Guwahati

**Shri Siddhartha Bhattacharya**  
Hon'ble MLA, East Guwahati

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