



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Hans Niemann probably cheated in more than 100 chess games...

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Elephant died

Assam Rising
Guwahati, October 05 :
On Wednesday a full-grown wild elephant was found dead near the Peripur area of Gossaigaon in Kokrajhar. As per reports, the primary investigation stated that the elephant died due to electrocution. The elephant had come in contact with a live wire that was exposed from a pole. The forest department is investigating the matter. It may be mentioned that elephants tend to "invade" human inhabited areas in search of food. Every time an elephant pays an unwanted visit, an unwanted situation tends to take place in the particular area. Often the visit results in the death of the elephant or the human. In recent times, elephant deaths due to electrocution have been a major concern as many farmers in order to protect their crops from elephants set up electric wires.

Three arrested

Assam Rising
Guwahati, October 05 :
Three persons have been arrested by the police in Assam for allegedly gang-raping a minor girl. The three accused had allegedly gang-raped a 15-year-old minor girl in Goalpara district of Assam. The arrested accused have been identified as Mamud Alam, Akkas Ali and Azibul Hoque. The incident took place on October 1, police in Goalpara district in Assam informed. The family of the victim lodged a complaint in regards to the crime on October 3.

Drugs seized

Assam Rising
Guwahati, October 05 :
The Assam police have seized drugs worth Rs 1 crore from a toll gate near Guwahati city. The drugs were recovered during the process of vehicle checking before they enter the city at a toll gate located in the Sonapur area on the Assam-Meghalaya border. According to a police officer, the contraband was recovered from several soap cases kept in hidden chambers in an 18-wheel truck. The driver identified as Hannan Ali has been arrested. The vehicle was coming from Manipur and the consignment was most likely going to be delivered in Guwahati.

Priyanka Gandhi to kick off Congress' poll campaign in Himachal from Solan rally on Oct 10

New Delhi , October 05 :

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will start the election campaign from Solan in Himachal Pradesh on October 10 and will address a rally in the state. Priyanka Gandhi is likely to hold the fort of the Congress in the state since Rahul Gandhi is leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra. The Congress is eyeing a comeback in the hill state and this will be the first election in the state which will be without

Durga Puja idols immersed across the state

Assam Rising
Guwahati, October 05 :

A good number of Durga Puja idols immersed on Wednesday (Dashami), as many would prefer not to immerse them on a Thursday. To ensure the safety of the general public, particularly elderly road users like children, students, women, senior citizens, and people with disabilities on the road, the Deputy Commissioner of Guwahati Police Traffic issued a notice. The notice stated that during the day of Goddess Durga Devi's immersion on October 5th, 2022, there would be restrictions on the movement of vehicles. The limitations will be put in place as of 1 PM on October 5, 2022, and they'll



last until the immersion is finished. "All vehicles coming from Chandmari side to Jalukbari side, excluding idol-carrying vehicles, shall be diverted through GNB Road, TC Point, and RBI

Point to Panbazar over the bridge at North Point," the notice added. The vehicles must then turn left and proceed to AT Road for their respective destinations. "No cars, except those carrying

idols, should be permitted to turn right at the District Library point from GNB Road to KLB Road." "All cars going from Jalukbari,

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Local Holiday Announced in BTR on October 6

Assam Rising
Guwahati, October 05 :

A local holiday has been announced in Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of Assam on October 6

(Thursday). The local holiday has been declared as a mark of respect to Former MLA from Mazbat constituency, Karendra

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Guwahati mountaineer Deepshikha Hazarika among those missing in Uttarakhand avalanche

Assam Rising
Guwahati, October 05 :

Deepshikha Hazarika, from Guwahati in Assam, is among those who has been reported to be missing after the mountaineers' team she was a part of was hit by an avalanche in Uttarakhand. Deepshikha Hazarika is a resident of Rajgarh in Guwahati, Assam. A total of 14 out of 41 mountaineers of Nehru Institute of Mountaineering who were trapped after being hit by an avalanche on mount Draupadi Ka Danda II on Tuesday have been rescued thus far. Northeast Now has accessed the list of 28 missing mountaineers. Deepshikha Hazarika, who is

also in the list of missing personnel, is the daughter of Golap Hazarika. The 41-member team of trainee mountaineers were hit by



the avalanche when they were returning along with their instructors after climbing the peak. The avalanche

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45 Indians trapped in Myanmar rescued, says MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi

New Delhi , October 05 :

India on Wednesday said that it has rescued around 45 Indians trapped in fake job rackets in Myanmar. The information was shared by the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Arindam

Bagchi who reiterated that India has been actively pursuing the case of Indians being trapped in fake job rackets in Myanmar. "Thanks to the efforts of @IndiainMyanmar & @IndiainThailand,

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Assam Cops Constructed Huts in Disputed Inter-state Border Area: Mizoram Police

Assam Rising
Guwahati, October 05 :

Amidst the parleys between the two northeastern states to find an amicable solution to the vexed border issue, the Mizoram police alleged that Assam policemen have constructed two temporary huts in the disputed Zophai area. Kolasib superintendent of police Vanlalafaka Ralte told over the phone that the Assam police erected two temporary huts in Zophai area on October 2 at a place opposite to

Mizoram's first chief Minister Ch Chhunga's paddy field where a border clash had occurred in 2018. The

huts were, however, dismantled on Monday by the

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PM Narendra Modi attends Kullu Dussehra Festival

Kullu , October 05 :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the Rath Yatra of Bhagwan Raghunath, the region's chief deity, and sought his blessings as he participated in the Interna-

ceived a warm welcome as he arrived for the International Kullu Dussehra Festival. He extended greetings to citizens on the occasion and expressed his happiness as this is for the first time he would be a part of



tional Kullu Dussehra Festival today. Bhagwan Shri Raghunath is widely revered. The people beamed with joy and great fervour all around as PM Modi reached the Rath. PM also participated in the Dussehra Rath Yatra during the celebration. PM Modi re-

the Dussehra festival in Kullu. PM Modi can be seen visiting the Rath of Bhagwan Raghunath and seeking his blessings. The festival is unique in the sense that it is the congregation of more than 300 deities of the valley. On the first day of the Festival, obeisance is paid to the Deities in their well-decorated palanquins at the temple of the Chief Deity Bhagwan Raghunath Ji and then it proceeds to the Dhalpur Ground. "I am elated to provide the citizens of

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Nehru-Liaquat pact needs amendment to increase number of devotees from India to Pakistan

New Delhi , October 05 :

The demand for reviewing the Nehru-Liaquat pact is gaining pace especially for multiplying the visit of Indian pilgrims aspiring to pay obeisance at Sikh and Hindu religious shrines in Pakistan even as the Pakistan government is pushing to increase the day-long pilgrimage to Kartapur Sahib. With time, not only the population of India and Pakistan has increased, but Pakistan also has opened more religious shrines for Sikhs and Hindus for the Jatha. Earlier, Pakistan allowed to visit

just five of the Gurdwara, now they have increased it to about 14 Gurdwaras, given the fact that there are about 200 historical Sikh Shrines in Pakistan. Notably, an agreement between the governments of India and Pakistan regarding the security and rights of minorities was signed between the former Prime Minister of India Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Pakistani Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, also known as the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement, signed on April 8, 1950. The pact guarantees the rights of minorities in both countries following the Indo-Pak divide and under the pact Pa-

Chemistry Nobel goes to trio for development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry

Washington, October 05 :

The Nobel Prize in chemistry for 2022 is being awarded to Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless for developing "an ingenious tool for building molecule", the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in Stockholm. The Nobel laureates are being awarded for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry, the academy said. Professor Carolyn Bertozzi of Stanford University, has taken click chemistry to a

new dimension and started utilising it in living organisms. Her bioorthogonal reactions take place without disrupting the normal chemistry of the cell. Barry Sharpless and Morten Meldal have laid the foundation for a functional

form of chemistry - click chemistry - in which molecular building blocks snap together quickly and efficiently. While American Professor Sharpless works

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TRS is now Bharat Rashtra Samithi : will KCR's name-change gamble pay off?

New Delhi, October 05 :

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu's attempt to catapult his party TRS to the centre stage of national politics by renaming it is being watched by political pundits. Some see it as a move that could help increase his stature nationally, while others fear it could turn into a misadventure. In a politically-significant development in the regional political landscape, the two-decade-old Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) was rechristened Wednesday as Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), with an aim to establish KCR as a national leader. The name change resolution was passed by the party general body meeting in Hyderabad as party workers cheered and ban-



ners with slogans like "Desh ka neta KCR", "Dear India, he is coming", and "KCR is on the way" were prominently displayed around the venue of the meeting. Several analysts also surmise the idea as an exercise to fortify his party base in the state - where the BJP is making inroads and intensifying

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Five MLAs, two MPs from Uddhav group to join Shinde-led faction

New Delhi , October 05 :

Shiv Sena Lok Sabha member Krupal Tumane claimed on Wednesday that two MPs and five MLAs from the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena faction will join Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's group at the

latter's Dussehra rally in the evening. Tumane, a member of the Shinde group, told a news channel that the two MPs could be from Mumbai and Marathwada. "You will see in the evening," he added. Those who believe in

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kistan allows around 3000 Sikh pilgrims to travel to Sikh shrines in Pakistan on four religious occasions. Visa versa, India reciprocate the gesture by granting the same number of visas to pilgrims from Pakistan who wished to pay obeisance at Ajmer Sharif Dargah and some other religious

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South Korea apologises after missile fired in response to North Korea test crashes

Seoul, October 5 : South Korea's military has apologised after a missile it launched during a drill on Tuesday malfunctioned and crashed to the ground, causing alarm among nearby residents who thought they were under attack from North Korea, which had test launched a missile earlier in the day. The live-fire drill, involving South Korea and the US, was supposed to be a show of strength by the allies, hours after the North sent an intermediate-range missile over northern Japan. Instead, it ended in embarrassment when a short-range Hyunmoo-2 ballistic missile crashed to the ground inside an air force base near the South Korean coastal city of Gangneung. Although the missile did not explode, the noise and subsequent fire caused some Gangneung residents to believe the North had launched an attack, according to media reports. There were no reports of injuries. The South Korean military acknowledged the accident hours after internet users posted videos showing



an orange ball of flames emerging from an area they described as near a Gangneung air force base. The military said it was investigating what had caused the "abnormal flight" of the South Korean missile - a key part of its preemptive and retaliatory strike strategies against the North. The accident occurred as the South Korean and US militaries fired a volley of missiles into the East Sea - also known as the Sea of Japan - in response to North Korea firing a ballistic missile over Japan for the first time in five years. The nuclear-armed state launched an intermediate-range ballistic missile that flew for a record distance of 4,600km (2,850

miles) at an altitude of 1,000km, in its most provocative weapons demonstration in years. That range puts the US Pacific territory of Guam, homes to American military bases, within striking distance. The missile landed in the Pacific Ocean about 3,200km east of Japan. Japan's government issued an alert urging residents to take cover as the missile passed high over the northernmost main island of Hokkaido and Aomori prefecture. The US and South Korean militaries fired two ATACMS short-range ballistic missiles into the water "to precisely strike a virtual target," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said. The drills "showed the ability and readiness to neutralise the

origin of the provocation while maintaining a constant monitoring posture," it said in a statement. On Tuesday, South Korean and US fighter jets had carried out a bombing drill at a target in the Yellow Sea. The drills aim to "make sure that we have the military capabilities at the ready to respond to provocations by the North if it comes to that," US national security council spokesperson John Kirby told. "It shouldn't come to that. We have made it clear to (North Korean leader) Kim Jong-un we're willing to sit down with no preconditions. We want to see the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula," he said. "He hasn't shown an inclination to move in that direction - and quite frankly he's moving in the opposite direction by continuing to conduct these missile tests, which are violations of Security Council resolutions. "Pyongyang's latest launch is part of a record year of sanctions-busting weapons tests by the isolated regime, which recently revised its laws to declare itself an

"irreversible" nuclear power. US president Joe Biden and Japanese prime minister Fumio Kishida condemned North Korea's latest launch "in the strongest terms". South Korean president Yoon Suk-yeol called the launch a "provocation", and vowed a "stern response". The Tuesday test was Pyongyang's fifth missile launch in 10 days. North Korea does not routinely comment on its weapons tests in state media. South Korean and US officials have been warning for months that Kim is preparing to conduct another nuclear test, saying last week that this could happen soon after Pyongyang's key ally China holds a Communist party congress from 16 October. US vice-president Kamala Harris visited Seoul last week and toured the heavily fortified demilitarised zone that divides the Korean peninsula, on a trip to underscore her country's commitment to South Korea's defence. About 28,500 US troops are stationed in South Korea to help protect it from the North.



Artists perform Chuanju (Sichuan opera) in Ciqikou ancient town, southwest China's Chongqing Municipality

Ankle tags used to target young black men, London mayor's report finds

London, October 5 : Electronic ankle tags are being used to racially target and sentence young black men for knife crime offences in a way that "may reflect unconscious bias" among Metropolitan police officers, according to internal documents from the mayor of London's office. In an equality analysis assessment obtained through a freedom of information request, the mayor's office for policing and crime (Mopac), which has oversight for the Met, acknowledged that the use of GPS-enabled monitoring tags "may reflect unconscious bias within probation risk

assessments... that are more likely to link BAME young men to risk and serious criminality". They added: "We have found that BAME individuals were overrepresented when compared to the proportions of BAME offenders sentenced to custody for knife crime offences." An ethnicity breakdown shows that almost a quarter (22%) of knife crime offenders tagged on release from London prisons last year were black British Caribbean, and 16% were black African. More than half (57%) were aged 18-24 and nearly all (98%) were male. The Mopac is now offering probation officers refresher training on racial disproportionality, including discussion of the role of unconscious bias and "other relevant factors in decision-making". Earlier this week the new Met police commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, said he would be "ruthless" in tackling racist and misogynist attitudes, admitting that there was "a real problem with race" in the force. "Racism is a systemic issue that we have been too weak in tackling, and it's got too much of a hold in corners of the organisation," Rowley said. "I'm going to be ruthless about rooting out racism and other bad behaviours. I'm going to confront the systemic issues that have allowed it to prosper in a way it shouldn't have done." In 2019, the Ministry of Justice awarded the British



technology company Buddi Ltd a six-figure contract to produce GPS-enabled monitoring tags, initially tagging knife crime offenders released from London prisons. Last year Mopac announced the tagging scheme would also include high-risk domestic abuse offenders and would be extended through to March 2023. Information gathered from the tags is stored by Buddi and shared with the probation service, Ministry of Justice and, "when necessary, justified and proportionate to do so", with the Met. Buddi is also working with the Ministry of Justice and Mopac to provide extra analysis for court reports and "expert witness testimony in cases where location data accuracy is part of a court trial". Internal documents show that, in at least one case since the start of the GPS monitoring programme in 2019, the Met has been given direct access to Buddi systems to monitor an individual's location live.

Coldplay postpone shows after Chris Martin contracts 'serious lung infection'



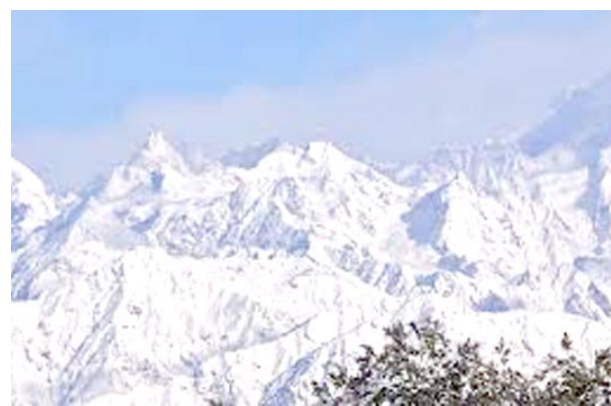
Washington, October 5 : Coldplay has announced it is postponing several shows in its latest world tour after singer Chris Martin contracted "a serious lung infection". In a statement posted on its social media accounts and its website, the band expressed "deep regret" and said the eight postponed shows, all in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil, would be rescheduled for early 2023. Martin, 45, had been diagnosed with the lung infection and "put under strict doctor's orders to rest for the next three weeks", the band wrote. "We're

working as fast as possible to lock in the new dates and will follow up with more information in the next few days... we're so grateful for your understanding at this challenging time where we need to prioritise Chris's health," the statement said. "We're optimistic that Chris will return to good health after the prescribed medical break and look forward to resuming the tour soon," they added, and thanked fans for their understanding. Coldplay is touring the world as part of its huge Music of the Spheres tour, which began in March 2022 and is due to end in July next year. Their next live performance is scheduled for 25 October in Argentina, where they'll be playing 10 shows.

Avalanche in Indian Himalayas kills at least four with dozens missing

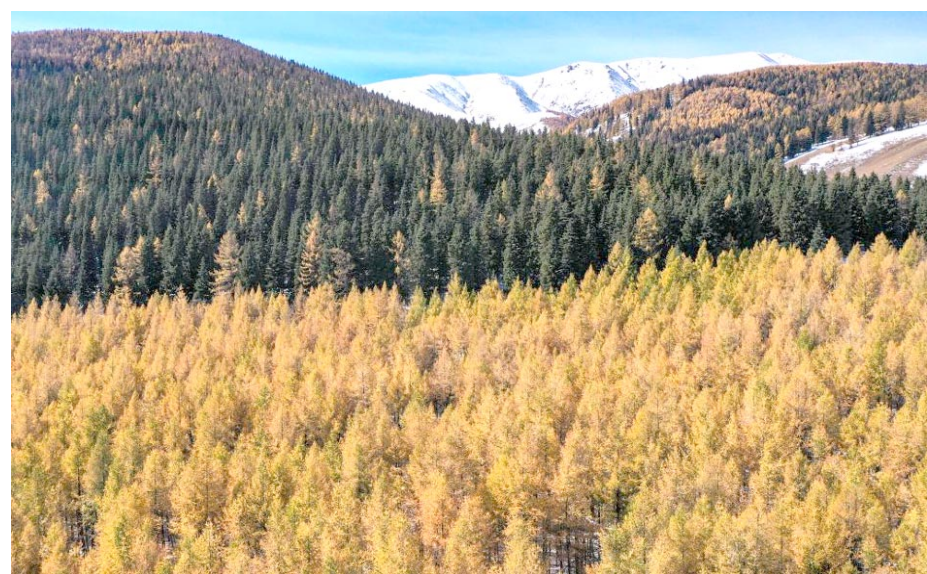
New Delhi, October 5: At least four people died and several others were missing in the Indian Himalayas after a group of 41 mountaineers was hit by an avalanche on Tuesday, the mountaineering institute in northern India said. The group, consisting of 34 mountaineering trainees and seven instructors, was hit by the

happened. It is not easy to reach the spot," Kumar said. The trainees, preparing for high altitude navigation, were returning from the Draupadi ka Danda-II mountain peak of 5,670 metres. Uttarakhand state's top elected official, Pushkar Singh Dhami, said the national disaster response force and Indian military sent teams to help



avalanche at 8.45am local time, the institute said. The group was hit by an avalanche on a mountain peak located in the Gangotri range of the Garhwal Himalayas on Tuesday morning, said Ashok Kumar, the Uttarakhand state police chief. Rescuers pulled eight survivors from the snow and took them to hospital. The Press Trust of India news agency reported 10 had died. Four bodies were recovered while officials from the state and national disaster response forces and the Indian air force scoured the area, said the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, part of the defence ministry. "The Indian air force is doing an aerial recce of the mountain where this

with rescue efforts. The Indian air force sent two helicopters to search for the missing. "It has happened for the first time in the history of Indian mountaineering that such a large group of trainee mountaineers has been killed in an avalanche," said Amit Chowdhary, an official at the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation and a former Indian air force officer. Defence minister Rajnath Singh said he was "deeply anguished" by the loss of lives: "My condolences to the bereaved families who have lost their loved ones." Avalanches are common in the mountainous areas of Uttarakhand. In 2021, a glacier burst, resulting in a flash flood that left more than 200 people dead.



shows scenery of the east section of the Tianshan Mountains in Hami City, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

Miss Crimea fined for singing patriotic Ukrainian song

Moscow, October 5 : Two women in Russia-annexed Crimea, including Miss Crimea, have been found guilty of discrediting the Russian army by singing a patriotic Ukrainian song in a video posted on social media, local authorities have said. Olga Valeyeva, who won the Miss Crimea 2022 beauty pageant, and an unnamed friend sang the popular Ukrainian Chervona Kalyna song on a balcony. A video of the women singing was posted on Instagram stories, which autodelete after 24 hours. Crimean police said Valeyeva was fined 40,000 roubles (£590), while her friend was given a 10-day prison sentence. "A video was published on the internet in which two girls performed a song that is the fighting anthem of an extremist organisation," Crimea's interior ministry said on Telegram on Monday. It said a court found the women, born in 1987 and 1989, guilty of discrediting the Russian army and publicly demonstrating Nazi symbols. Russia, whose troops are fighting in Ukraine, often alleges that Kyiv's national symbols are extremist and Nazi-like. Crimean police also posted a video of the women apologising for singing the song, blurring their faces. "I did not know and did not realise that it had a nationalist character and definitely did not want to spread propaganda by singing it," one of the women said. Valeyeva had earlier posted on Instagram that she did not wish to "harm anyone". "We just sang a Ukrainian song. We thought it was just a little song that we knew for a long time," she said. Last month, the Moscow-installed head of the peninsula, Sergey Aksyonov, warned Crimeans that authorities would react "harshly" to such songs after Chervona Kalyna was

played at a wedding. "Singing such nationalist anthems - especially during the special military operation - will be punished," Aksyonov said in a video on Telegram in September, using Moscow's terminology to describe its



shows rhinos at the Etosha National Park in Namibia

New Zealand drowning in m?nuka honey after a boom in beekeeping

Auckland, October 5 : New Zealand is drowning in honey after a boom in beekeeping collided with slowing international demand to create towering stockpiles. Over the past five years, global desire for m?nuka honey and demand for home-based honey remedies during the pandemic helped push up prices, creating a kind of honey gold rush on New Zealand farms. Now, however, demand is slowing, leaving New Zealand with reserves of honey far exceeding the amount it could usually sell in a year. Karin Kos, chief executive of Apiculture New Zealand, said there is a stockpile of 15,000-30,000 tonnes of honey. Typically, 11,000-13,000 tonnes would be sold in a year. She said the bumper 2020 season, plus years of newcomer beekeepers flocking to the industry, helped create the stockpile. "We had a massive bumper crop in 2020 - there was a national honey harvest of about 27,000 tonnes - well above the average of 19,000. So that alone is a surplus of 12,000 tonnes," Kos said. "Obviously as we haven't had the tourists coming into New Zealand and so, you know, gate sales have been down as well." Around 2017, global interest in New Zealand's m?nuka honey and its purported health properties meant prices were soaring. The top price for

bulk m?nuka had gone from NZ\$37.50/kg in 2010 to up to NZ\$100/kg, with the highest quality being sold for up to \$2,621 for a 230g pot. The price boom helped fuel a m?nuka crime wave: hundreds of hives or honey stores were stolen over the course of the year, and there were reports of vandalism and mass poisonings of hives among fiercely competitive beekeepers. It also sparked a huge rise in people wanting to take up



beekeeping - with some seeing it as an easy path to riches. "People thought that m?nuka would be the golden egg - lots and lots of money," says Jane Lorimer, a Waikato beekeeper and president of New Zealand Beekeeping. By 2020, New Zealand had close to a million hives - up from 300,000 two decades earlier. "There was no doubt that people were getting into the

m?nuka honey industry," Kos says. "[But] beekeeping is not an easy job. People think it's quite simple - it requires a lot of skill." Now, some beekeepers are being faced with a decidedly bitter outlook. New Zealand agriculture newspaper Farmer's Weekly reported this month that for beekeepers, mid-range m?nuka which would have sold for \$65-\$85 a kg in 2018 is now struggling to make \$25/kg. Lower grade South Island m?nuka that once fetched \$36/kg is down to \$20/kg. According to a Ministry of Primary Industries report, "demand soared after the onset of the pandemic as people sought health-boosting foods, and a record export volume contributed to a record total revenue of \$482m in 2021. However, those volumes could not be sustained... total export volume is forecast to fall by 15%." While international prices for single-strain m?nuka honey have been holding steady, the multifloral m?nuka blends have fallen 10% this year, according to the Ministry of Primary Industries. Within New Zealand, the pinch is being felt most acutely by beekeepers, who report their own prices dropping by as much as 50% as large buyers lean on stockpiles. While most of New Zealand's honey is exported, in-country demand has also slowed.

NFR observed Swachhata Pakhwada

Assam Rising
Guwahati, October 5: In accordance with Prime Minister's clarion call of "Swachh Bharat Mission" Swachhata Pakhwada is being observed over Indian Railways from September 16 last. In continuation to this nationwide drive, N. F. Railway launched various cleanliness activities to promote awareness about cleanliness in its premises. The fortnight-long campaign was inaugurated by administering the "Swachhata Shapath" pledge on September 16 and culminated on October 2. The campaign has been launched to sensitize people about observing of proper hygiene, encourage desisting from open defecation and keeping the stations and railway tracks clean. From the first day, various activities were organised at railway



colonies, workplaces and station premises to spread awareness amongst railway employees, their family members and passengers. During the fortnight-long campaign

emphasis was given on Swachh Awareness, Swachh Samwad, Swachh Stations, Swachh Railgaadi, Swachh Parisar, Swachh Ahar, Swachh Neer & Swachh Prasadhan. Swachhata Seminar and awareness camps were held at all the five divisions under N. F. Railway. Nukkad Natak was organized at various locations to spread awareness of Swachhata and messages of Swachhata Abhiyan being played at various stations for awareness of passengers. Regular updates of all the activities and innovative practices on Swachhata have been widely published on official social media platforms of N. F. Railway. On the occasion of 153rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a major Swachhata Abhiyan was undertaken near

Guwahati Railway Station led by The General Manager of N. F. Railway Shri Anshul Gupta along with senior officials and staff followed by a tree plantation drive involving the local childrens. Nukkad Natak, floral tribute to Gandhi's portrait and bhajan programmes were also held at the premises of Guwahati Railway Station. To mark the occasion, similar programmes were also organized at platforms, station premises, circulating areas of various railway stations, hospital premises etc across five divisions of N. F. Railway. Swachhata Pakhwada is an opportunity for Railways to showcase their efforts in trying to maintain cleanliness of the highest order in trains, stations, surrounding areas, railway colony, schools and railway hospitals.

Medical College at USTM coming up soon

Assam Rising
Guwahati, October 5: The "P.A. Sangma International Medical College & Hospital"—a mega dream project of ERD Foundation Guwahati and its founder Chairman Mahbulul Hoque has seen the beginning of implementation with the grand foundation laying ceremony held on Monday at the proposed medical college ground at the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya. The foundation was laid by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma in presence of Rhonda Vetere,

or a society can make is in human capital and institutes must play an important role in research and innovation. The CM said thorough discussions are underway to see how the state government can collaborate with USTM, especially for the medical college. The welcome address in the programme was made by Shri Mahbulul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM while the presidential speech was delivered by Shri R.S. Mooshahary. The programme was also addressed by Shri Lakhmen Rymbui, Dr R. C. Deka, Dr

students from Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Replying to the media persons, Rhonda Vetere stated that she is very happy to be the global ambassador of USTM. She will contribute towards developing an overall integrated communication strategy through international liaison to promote and enhance visibility of the university and its mission globally, and facilitate collaboration with world class institutions. Besides all technological facilities and high ending equipment, the medical college and hospital will have air am-



Global Leader from USA, former Meghalaya Governor R.S. Mooshahary, Home and Education Minister Lakhmen Rymbui, Dr R. C. Deka, former Director, AIIMS; Dr Dhruvajyoti Borah, VC, Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences; Lt. Gen. Zameer Uddin Shah, former VC, AMU; Dr Abdul Wase, Prof. of Medicine, USA; Mr Faisal Masood, Managing Partner, EO, USA, Mr Sosthenes Sohtun, MLA from Jirang constituency of Meghalaya. Eminent doctors from all over the North East and from various parts of the country and abroad witnessed the historic event at USTM. Addressing the august gathering, the Chief Minister said that the first private medical college in the state will follow standards second to none. He said his father was instrumental in establishing USTM and naming the medical college after him was a tribute to the late leader. Mr Sangma said the biggest investment a government

Dhruvajyoti Borah, Dr Abdul Wase, Mr Faisal Masood, Lt. Gen. Zameer Uddin Shah and Mr Sosthenes Sohtun. Prof GD Sharma, VC, USTM offered the vote of thanks. A press conference was held after the formal ceremony which was addressed by Rhonda Vetere and Mahbulul Hoque. Addressing the media, Shri Hoque said, "One of the main features of the Medical College and Hospital is a 200-bedded super speciality hospital with all kinds of technological facilities with cutting-edge research. Following its mission, this hospital will be made completely free for all poor patients. Moreover, we will make its service entirely free for the people of Meghalaya". Another significant perspective of this noble initiative is its emphasis on extensive research on healthcare. This new institution has its unique target: to attract patients and students from the ASEAN countries. During the initial stage, it will specially target patients and

balance facility, a network of ambulance services that will be provided covering Guwahati and Shillong. Mobile App will be developed so that patients can take hassle-free appointments of the doctors, can avail Ambulance and various other facilities. This will help save their time and get doctors available when they arrive at the hospital. "USTM will be organising National and International seminars and conferences in the healthcare sector. We welcome the support and suggestions of all healthcare experts from NE India in our mission", Hoque stated. Many doctors from the North East who are working abroad have already expressed their interest to join in this healthcare mission. In order to materialise its Mission Global, Madam Rhonda Vetere has joined USTM as its Global Ambassador, one of the top 50 Most Powerful Women in Technology, author and a global leader from New York.

West Siang DC inspects highway construction

Assam Rising
Aalo, October 5: The Deputy Commissioner of West Siang District Panga Tato inspects the construction of Pkg-9 of Potin-Pangin Highway (NH-13) to take stock of the progress



of the work. The Deputy Commissioner inspected the drain works of Aalo Town portion and foundation excavation for Sipu Bridge and under construction Mebbu Bridge at Hissam. He was accompanied by

nied by Field Officers of PWD (Highway), Authority Engineers of MORT & H and staff of the Contractor. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the representative of the contractor to expedite the work of proposed 4-Lane of Aalo township portion as the commuters and people of all walks of life are facing acute hardship and directed the Authority Engineers of MORT & H to follow up the matter with the Authorities for early approval of the DPR for 4-Lane. He instructed the contractor to execute the work by strictly maintaining the quality and specification.

Training on food processing held at Nagaon

Assam Rising
Nagaon, October 5: District Agriculture Department, Nagaon in association with Community Food Processing Unit, Nagaon organized a six days long training on process-



ing of fruits that are locally available at the office of community food processing unit here at Nagaon since September 26, 2022. The training programme was concluded recently. During the

programme, over 10 women as well as men entrepreneurs from various places of the district participated in the training and were being trained on how the locally available seasonal fruits could be processed to con-

serve it for the other seasons by the experts from the department concerned. In the closing session, Tarun Hazarika, district agriculture officer was present as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants. Mukul Bharati Nath, sub-divisional agriculture officer and Kalyan Boruah, assistant agriculture inspector of Community Food Processing Unit, ADOs Keshabananda Bora and Kalyan Goswami were present in the closing session of the training programme, a release added.

Paryavaran Sanrakshan Chetna Cycle Yatra held in Hojai

Assam Rising
Hojai, October 5: "Paryavaran Sanrakshan Chetna Cycle Yatra" led by Dr. Prodip Kumar Sahoo on Saturday has been accomplished successfully by the citizens of Lanka that

comprised of 80 numbers of cyclists including teachers and students from different educational institutions of Lanka town and around, members of Indian Red Cross Society, NSS team of Lanka Mahavidyalaya organized by Small Steps, TERRE in collaboration of Paryavaran Sanrakshan Gatividhi, Hojai. The zeal and the co-operation of the participants were appreciative. The joint venture of



Paryavaran Sanrakshan-Hojai, Small Steps, TERRE and IRCS, dist branch aimed to take out bicycle rallies with objectives to make people aware. save trees and water, avoid plastics as far as possible, plant and preserve trees, avoid burning garbage to control air pollution, all for the sake of a healthy environment, necessary for the future generations. At the end of the rally, Dr. Prodip Kumar Sahoo, Wildlife Biologist and Environment Conservationist delivered a speech and appealed to the participants to conserve all aspects of the environment and to spread the message among the people of their connection. He emphasized on segregation and to dispose of the waste properly to minimize the existing problems related to the management of the wastage of the district. The program was concluded by a song by Dr Sahoo entitled "Pani hi to Zindagi hai iske har bund ko bachayein, is k bina zindagi hum na ji payenge".

Special Campaign 2.0 Swachhata Abhiyan conducted

Assam Rising
Guwahati, October 5: Airports Authority of India, on the instructions of Ministry of Civil Aviation, Regional Headquarters North East Region has launched special Campaign 2.0 under the Swachhata mission at NER airports, ancillary offices, premises and residential locality from October 2 to 31. It aims for disposal of pending matters, upkeep of office premises and space management at all airport terminal buildings etc. This drive will cover all the airports, its offices and establishments in the North East Region. The Competent Authority had selected three AAI

airports: Agartala, Dibrugarh and Jorhat for a special campaign in the Northeast Region. At Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport, Agartala the weeding out of record management and scrap disposal activities has started from October 2. At Dibrugarh Airport, the identification of cleanliness campaign sites have already been completed. In October the remaining focus will be on cleaning and maintaining the site already selected for the purpose. At Jorhat Airport, space management planning will be carried out to increase the efficiency in passenger flow and reduce the entry time to the boarding gates.

Apart from above, inspection of all the departments and section offices of the Regional Headquarters, Guwahati was earlier done by Sanmukh Jugani, Regional Executive Director, AAI and Sandeep Jha, OSD and Nodal officer for the

campaign 2.0 for effective implementation of the campaign. In the inspection, office sites were chosen for cleaning and scrap was also identified for disposal. All the airports and the establishments were also apprised about the same.



Jugani specially instructed all the stations to carry out the campaign in the same manner for cleanliness, maintaining the healthy atmosphere and enhancing workplace experience. On October 2, Gandhi Jayanti, the special campaign was carried out cleaning of the office premises, residential colony area and the locality. The officials, Head of the Departments and the employees at AAI's Regional Headquarters, Guwahati participated in it. Similar cleaning activities were also done by the employees at all the Airports of the North East Region on the day led by the respective Airport Directors.

Durga Puja concludes peacefully with immersion of idols in Hojai

Assam Rising
Hojai, October 5: The five-days Durga Puja festival concluded on Thursday with the immersion of idols passing off peacefully. Devotees across Hojai District tearfully bid adieu to their beloved mother goddess Durga as her idols were immersed in ponds, lakes and rivers on Vijaya Dashami. Devotees in Hojai sang and danced to the beats of the dhaks and the married women smeared vermilion on each others' foreheads, cheeks as the idols of Mother Durga and other deities of her divine constellation were being taken to the pond in Bhootnath at Hojai Nilagan Road, Kalibari and Shivbari ghat for immersion. However, be-

neath the mirth lurks sense of sorrow as immersion marks the end of the four-day Durga Puja festivities. A large number of people from various walks of life, draped in beautiful attires, gathered at different puja pandals of Hojai Viz., Shivbari Sarbajanik Durga Puja, Adarsha Durga Puja, Marwari Durgotsav, Ram Krishna Mission, Bishnupally Sarbajanik Durga puja pandal, Kedia Puram, Harijan Colony and others to celebrate the immersion of the idols of Goddess Durga. At Adarsha Durga Puja Pandal (i.e Eighteen Hands Maa Durga Idol Pandal), the rituals of Dashami started with usual Puja of the Goddess amidst chanting of mantras, followed by the darpan

visarjan or the symbolic immersion of the idols. Devotees saw the feet of the Goddess Durga in a mirror. Then the bidding of mirror (darpan) started like every year. This year Bajaj Electricals took the mirror at Rs. 51,501. At Laxminarayan Temple Puja Pandal, after the rituals of Dashmi, women folk applied Sindhur on the forehead of the Goddess and offer Maa Durga paan (betel) and sweets. Here, in this Pandal after the devotees saw the feet of Maa Durga in mirror, the mirror was formally handed over by the committee members to Radheshyam Saraf. Like every year, At Kali Bari and Shivbari devotees thronged in thousands to witness the immersion of idol of

Maa Durga, as here almost all the Puja Pandal Committee of Hojai immerse the idol. They come up with colourful procession, enjoying to the hymns and

"Shanti jal" collected from the places of immersion was held, a ritual that marks the finale of the puja fiesta. Elaborate Security arrangements were put in by Hojai



drums. After the immersions were over the ceremony of distributing

District Administration and security personnel were deployed in large number.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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Violent drug offenders

A group of police commissioners at the Conservative party conference will argue that the UK government should reclassify cannabis from a class B to a class A drug, which would place it on the same legal level as heroin or cocaine, and greatly increase the penalties for anyone caught using or selling marijuana. It's an outrageous suggestion, and totally out of step with the rest of the world, where the war on weed seems to be coming to an end. In the US, state-by-state, pot prohibition is falling; several of our neighbours in Europe have made plans to legalise it; South Africa's supreme court ruled the dagga ban unconstitutional; and Canada and Uruguay were the first in decades to recognise cannabis as a legitimate commodity. Even the famously strict government of Thailand decided to lighten up and lift its ban on cannabis in June, releasing thousands of non-violent drug offenders and handing out a million seedlings to boost the nation's nascent marijuana industry. An on-off military dictatorship, liberating many a Jane before supposedly liberal Britain was not what I had on my bingo card. So why are we still so backwards? In the swinging 60s, dope became another frontline in the culture wars, peaking with the 1967 arrest of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. Although Britain's "war on drugs" wasn't as racially charged as in the US, the stereotyping of young black men as pushers or reefer addicts crossed the pond, stoking racial tensions that exploded into riots in Bristol, Brixton and elsewhere in the 1980s. In the late 2000s there was the "skunk" debate and the influence of the tabloids. They pushed the idea that modern weed wasn't like your grandpa's, and could have violent or psychotic effects. It's true that by this point indoor growing operations with hydroponic set-ups dominated the market, yielding harvests generally higher in THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) than weed "naturally" grown in tropical climes and smuggled into the country. Studies consistently find a small association between heavy cannabis use and mental illness, but no widespread effects in larger society. Although the number of tokers (and the strength of what they're smoking) has risen dramatically since the 60s, the rates of schizophrenia in Britain have stayed roughly the same over that time period. And psychosis rates haven't risen in Washington, Colorado or Canada since legalisation. In any case, the vast majority of smokers live sane, productive lives, as evidenced by legalised states not collapsing into the stoned-out dystopia that fills Peter Hitchens' nightmares. Politicians, ever mindful of press attention, play it safe, not wanting to appear "soft on crime". Ironically, keeping this business in the shadows is what drives criminality. Growhouses are magnets for shootings, stabbings and armed rip-offs, and are often staffed by victims of modern-day slavery. Meanwhile, police use the "smell of cannabis" to stop and search young black men, breeding the same kind of resentment that broke into riots in the 1980s and 2011.

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Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

The lesson from the first round of Brazil's election: Bolsonarismo is here to stay

The first lesson from Brazil's election on Sunday is that public opinion surveys severely misfired. Just a few days before the contest, many reported a 15% lead for Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva over the incumbent, Jair Bolsonaro; and many also predicted a Lula first-round victory. The second lesson is that, far from being a flash in the pan - as many had hoped - the rightwing populist movement Bolsonarismo is an organised political force, and it is here to stay, at least for the medium term. Bolsonaro finished five percentage points behind the leftist former leader Lula - as he is popularly known. Bolsonaro's party and its allies also surprised in the legislative elections the same day, winning around two dozen seats in the senate and almost 100 in the chamber of deputies. While a Lula victory still appears likely on 30 October, the thin margin separating the two candidates promises an even more bruising, mud-slinging campaign, and sharpens the risk of post-election violence should the incumbent

lose the runoff. For months, President Bolsonaro had been casting doubt on the integrity of Brazil's election system - and declaring that if he failed to win, it would be the result of election fraud and involve the complicity of Brazil's electoral and judicial authority. Those claims were made without evidence and despite audits by independent monitors. Nevertheless, around 30% of



economy and a deeply divided electorate, with a large segment of the Brazilian population distrustful of the country's democracy and political class. None of this bodes well for a country that needs to heal its deep political divisions and pull together for a raft of much-needed economic reforms and difficult decisions. When Lula first took office in 2003, the world economy was growing, fuelled in large part

Christopher Sabatini

by China's double-digit growth. At the same time, Lula's predecessor, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, had left the Brazilian economy in good shape. Brazil became a major provider of China's raw materials - everything from iron ore to chicken - and the Lula administration invested the profits to expand social programmes. During his eight years in power, the Brazilian economy grew on average by 4.5%, and around 40 million

people moved out of poverty to join a growing - though fragile - middle class. Twelve years later, Brazil is a different country. In the past eight years, Brazil's GDP growth has averaged 0.1-1.5%. Even before the 2020 Covid contraction of -3.9%, the South American giant's economy had been bumping along at under 2% growth. China's economy has - relatively - cooled off to a projected growth rate of 4.3% in 2022. It cannot bail Brazil out again. And Bolsonaro's last-minute efforts to secure his re-election through cash giveaways to the poorest families, along with his Covid stimulus package, have left the Brazilian state with a fiscal overhang. According to the government's own projections, the fiscal deficit is expected to hit \$12.25bn (£10.8bn) in 2023, requiring future belt-tightening that will crimp Lula's capacity to expand social programmes precisely at a time when poverty has increased. Bolsonaro's term has also been marked by social regression.

With god's grace, Congress has finally got its new state president in Uttar Pradesh in Brijlal Khabri. Nasimuddin Siddiqui and Nakul Dubey are also among Congress' new regional presidents. All three leaders were once members of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Now they are in the Congress holding senior posts. Many Congress members who have spent most of their political lives in the party are feeling 'cursed'. They are now ruminating if it's futile to be a 'true-born' Congressperson. Some of those who have managed to reach AICC are now saying if it would be a good idea to join the BSP now and then return to Congress later, as that might increase their chances of getting the 'chair' of state president. Some other Congressmen are heard saying that their stature is worse than a bad penny. Even the bad penny has some 'worth' associated with it. However, a divine angel seems to have whispered a consolation mantra in the ears of these 'true-born' Congresspersons. "Oh son, why do you worry so much? It's true that a state president and six regional presidents in UP have been named by the Congress, but you should see the larger picture. The lifespan of a regional president's post in Congress is less than six months. Just see that, far from any grand celebration, not even a bouquet has reached Nehru Bhavan. This is because only one of the seven presidents has a Congress background. Rest of them are turncoats from other parties. And oh the great aspirants of



state president post, it is your own deeds that are responsible for your current state of affairs. After all, it is you who has said that you will report directly to the state in-charge. Did you

Bharat Agrawal

forget how outdated have things like spine, etc become?" The two 'youths' are in their 50s. Discussions around the possibility of them coming back together have started to gain ground. This time, their alliance is taking place for the Lok Sabha election. Previously, when they had joined forces for the 2017 assembly election, it had ended in a fiasco. The new alliance managers are claiming that the situation has changed now. Yet, the billion dollar question remains, how many seats will the Congress get to contest? The political situation that has developed in

Rajasthan has coerced many powerful officers to make arrangements for their deputation in Delhi. For them, the term 'powerful' means 'fully powerful'. These days, if you care to meet Niranjan Arya, the former chief secretary of Rajasthan, you will be left fully surprised. What to say about his full power? The crowd used to flock to his place previously too; but now neither any minister, nor any builder, or any politician can match his charisma. Nowadays he is the main advisor to the chief minister. The current situation suggests that there is an alternate path to politics. BJP's Bihar in-charge Vinod Tawde has become extremely nervous. He wished to get a closer look at the state's caste equation during his tour to Madhubani. When the person deputed to explain it started recounting dozens of sub-castes within the so-called 'upper castes' as well as the various categories

of Dalits within the community, Tawde lost his nerves. He is said to have bluntly told the officials that he should be informed only about the castes in a much simplified manner - who all fall in the forward caste bracket, and who all fall within the backward classes and Dalits. The recent launch of 5G services hasn't left BJP workers worried about having to buy new smartphones at all. Reason? Most of these workers are considered close to one or the other senior party leader. Now, when these leaders will 'receive' the new 5G-enabled smartphones as gifts, out of 5-10 such phones, at least one would definitely fall into the hands of the workers close to them. Problem solved. By the way, requests regarding this are already being submitted. Predictions are rife that on Diwali this year, mobile phones will likely dominate the bouquet of gifts. Usually, BJP workers complain that the party's national general secretary (organisation) does not give them any appointments. But there is a general secretary who has adopted such a unique method of meeting that the workers themselves do not dare to ask for re-appointment. This general secretary makes all the workers sit and wait in one room. He arrives after a while, and post exchange of pleasantries, orders tea for all of them. At the same time, all of them start watching a recorded video of any historical event or speech by any senior party leader. Minutes later, the general secretary leaves the meeting on the pretext of making or receiving a phone call and returns hours later. By then, nine out of ten have left.

How RSS pracharak BL Santhosh has emerged as BJP's 'rock star' general secretary

Who is No. 3 in the Bharatiya Janata Party after Narendra Modi and Amit Shah? Dumb question, isn't it? It has to be BJP president JP Nadra. Look at the pictures when they walk together at party events. It's Prime Minister Modi in the lead, Home Minister Shah a few inches behind him and Nadra a few feet-almost in single file. There are photographs of Nadra presiding over party meetings, addressing rallies and meeting chief ministers and other bigwigs in the organisation and the government. All decisions in the party are taken in Nadra's name, just as all executive action of the government of India is taken in the name of the President. So, on the face of it, the debate over No. 3 position may sound out of place. Where it assumes relevance is when one looks at the emergence of a strong No. 4 in the party hierarchy, with the No. 3 question deemed to be settled. During Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Lal Krishna Advani years, No. 1 and No. 2 positions were cemented, while the rest of the pecking order virtually depended on public

perception - no matter if a stalwart like Kushabhau Thakre was the party president or some political lightweight like Bangaru Laxman (remember the only Dalit BJP chief?), Jana Krishnamurthi or Venkaiah Naidu occupied that vaunted position. The same held true for Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari's presidential tenures. There was always a Pramod Mahajan, an Arun Jaitley, a Sushma Swaraj or some chief ministers who would muddy the hierarchy after the top two. Not much has changed in the Modi-Shah era. The party president is deemed to be No. 3 as was the case in the Vajpayee-Advani era. Of course, the No. 3 spot becomes redundant if one of the top two holds the post of the party president. What has changed now is a clear emergence of No. 4 in the BJP hierarchy. It's B.L. Santhosh who has emerged as a rock star general secretary (organisation) who flies from one state capital to another, with chief ministers, ministers, party leaders all in attendance. On Friday, when he visited Dehradun, a BJP MLA wanted to greet him with a

bouquet but the man entrusted to bring it was taking time. "Aap susta hain, ki vyavastha hi susta hai (Are you lazy or is the entire system lazy)?" Those present there could only smile in embarrassment. Santhosh met ministers and party office-bearers a day after CM Pushkar Singh Dhami returned from Delhi to take

D.K. Singh

their feedback about the functioning of the government and the party. The next day, Santhosh was in Ratapani sanctuary in Bhopal presiding over a BJP meeting attended by CM Shivraj Chouhan, some of his ministers, Union ministers from the state and senior BJP leaders. They weren't supposed to use any mobile or talk to the media - a practice Modi had started in Gujarat in the 1980s when he would send batches of BJP leaders to meet at far-flung places with no connectivity. Last month, Santhosh was in Shimla holding one-on-one meetings with ministers to take their feedback about the functioning of the government. One can only guess what message Santhosh gives the CMs, ministers and party leaders. He is a big fan of Shahrukh Khan-starrer Chak De! India. He is said to have watched the movie about a dozen times. One wonders Shahrukh Khan's dialogue resonates in Santhosh's meetings: "Is team ko sirf woh players chahiye jo pehle India (read BJP) ke liye khel rahe hain... phir apni team mein apne saathiyon ke liye... aur uske baad bhi thodi bahut jaan bach Jaye, toh apne liye." Santhosh has also become Modi's pointsman when it comes to conveying tough messages like asking then-Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani or then-Tripura CM Biplab Deb to resign. In the Union Cabinet revamp last year, Modi entrusted him with the task of calling up party MPs to tell them that they were to become ministers and so they should be in Delhi in the next 24 hours. There have been many illustrious personalities who held the post of General Secretary (Organisation) - from Deendayal Upadhyay and Sunder Singh Bhandari in the Jana Sangh, the BJP's precursor, to Narendra Modi, K.N. Govindacharya, Sanjay Joshi and Ram Lal in the BJP. All of them wielded great influence by virtue of the post

they held. General Secretary (Organisation), at the national or state level, is a full-time pracharak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) who is 'loaned' to the BJP. He reports to the BJP president but only technically. For all practical purposes, his reporting manager is the RSS sarsanghachalak through a dotted line reporting to the Sampark Adhikari (joint general secretary Arun Kumar in this case) who acts as a coordinator between the Sangh and the BJP. Santhosh keeps a close watch on the happenings in the organisation and intervenes when and where he has to - from ensuring the BJP's adherence to its larger ideological agenda and vision to ironing out wrinkles in its organisational

concerned parties and do the needful discreetly, without making any public display of it. If they had to, they would meet ministers without many outside the party knowing about it. They wouldn't make public comments. But Santhosh is different. He shares his views on anything and everything on Twitter, targeting his party's critics and adversaries. He even threatened US presidential candidate Bernie Sanders with intervention in the election, tweeting, "How much ever neutral we wish to be you compel us to play a role in Presidential elections." So, what's behind the change in the role of the RSS pointsman in the BJP? First, it has to do with Santhosh's individual personality. A chemical



machinery and effecting coordination between the Sangh and the BJP at all levels. As the RSS representative in the BJP, he has a say in installing the 'right people in the right places' within the organisation and the government as also in dropping them. Obviously, the post B.L. Santhosh holds has enormous powers. But none of his predecessors were so high-profile when they held the post - not even Narendra Modi. His predecessors were virtually invisible, backroom players. An RSS old-hand recalled this incident to me. In 2003, Sanjay Joshi was traveling in an AC 3-tier train from Delhi to Ranchi. His close aide kept bringing him the phone, "Sir, Advaniji ka phone hai... Sir, Pramodji (Mahajan) ka phone hai..." After a while, a co-passenger got upset: "Arre, aap sahi mein itne bade hain toh third class mein kyon chal rahe hain (if you are so big, why are you traveling in an AC 3-tier)?" Sanjay Joshi smiled it away. In the past, Santhosh's predecessors relied on General Secretaries (Organisation) in state BJP units. If they needed to intervene - say, in case of factionalism - they would call the

engineer, the 55-year-old is a social media-savvy RSS pracharak a la Modi. His detractors accuse him of harbouring political ambitions and this is attributed to his longstanding feud with B.S. Yediyurappa. Santhosh has, however, been grooming young leaders in the state, including Mysore MP Prathap Simha and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya. If he has any political ambitions, he has been extremely discreet about it. Anyway, if one RSS pracharak can become the Prime Minister of India and another Haryana CM, why to blame Santhosh for nursing ambitions, if at all? Second, Santhosh is the RSS pointsman in the BJP at a time when the line between the ideological patron and political protégé is blurred. Prime Minister Modi is the RSS and vice versa today. Santhosh knows it well. And that's why he seems to have changed his reporting manager from the RSS sarsanghachalak to PM Modi. That's the source of his power. And, unlike his predecessors, he doesn't mind flaunting it. If someone in the Sangh or the BJP is uneasy about it, so be it.

Air pollution and our environment

Air pollution consists of chemicals or particles in the air that can harm the health of humans, animals, and plants. It also damages buildings. Pollutants in the air take many forms. They can be gases, solid particles, or liquid droplets. Pollution enters the Earth's atmosphere in many different ways. Most air pollution is created by people, taking the form of emissions from factories, cars, planes, or aerosol cans. Second-hand cigarette smoke is also considered air pollution. These man-made sources of pollution are called anthropogenic sources. Some types of air pollution, such as smoke from wildfires or ash from volcanoes, occur naturally. These are called natural sources. Air pollution is most common in large cities where emissions from many different sources are concentrated. Sometimes, mountains or tall buildings prevent air pollution from spreading out. This air pollution often appears as a cloud making the air murky. It is called smog. The word "smog" comes from combining the words "smoke" and "fog." Large cities in poor and developing nations tend to have more air pollution than cities in developed nations. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), some of the worlds



Smog City. Air pollution is usually thought of as smoke from large factories or exhaust from vehicles. But there are many types of indoor air pollution as well. Heating a house by burning substances such as kerosene, wood, and coal can contaminate the air inside the house. Ash and smoke make breathing difficult, and they can stick to walls, food, and clothing. Naturally-occurring radon gas, a cancer-causing material, can also build up in homes. Radon is released through the surface of the Earth. Inexpensive systems installed by professionals can reduce radon levels. Some construction materials, including insulation, are also dangerous to people's health. In addition, ventilation, or air movement, in homes and rooms can lead to the spread of toxic mold. A single colony of mold may



most polluted cities are Karachi, Pakistan; New Delhi, India; Beijing, China; Lima, Peru; and Cairo, Egypt. However, many developed nations also have air pollution problems. Los Angeles, California, is nicknamed

exist in a damp, cool place in a house, such as between walls. The mold's spores enter the air and spread throughout the house. People can become sick from breathing in the spores. People experience a wide

range of health effects from being exposed to air pollution. Effects can be broken down into short-term effects and long-term effects. Short-term effects, which are temporary, include illnesses such as pneumonia or bronchitis. They also include discomfort such as irritation to the nose, throat, eyes, or skin. Air pollution can also cause headaches, dizziness, and nausea. Bad smells made by factories, garbage, or sewer systems are considered air pollution, too. These odors are less serious but still unpleasant. Long-term effects of air pollution can last for years or for an entire lifetime. They can even lead to a person's death. Long-term health effects from air pollution include heart disease, lung cancer, and respiratory diseases such as emphysema. Air pollution can also cause long-term damage to people's nerves, brain, kidneys, liver, and other organs. Some scientists suspect air pollutants cause birth defects. Nearly 2.5 million people die worldwide each year from the effects of outdoor or indoor air pollution. People react differently to different types of air pollution. Young children and older adults, whose immune systems tend to be weaker, are often more sensitive to pollution. Conditions such as asthma, heart disease, and lung disease can be made worse by exposure to air pollution. The length of exposure and amount and type of pollutants are also factors. Like people, animals, and plants, entire ecosystems can suffer effects from air pollution.

tion. Haze, like smog, is a visible type of air pollution that obscures shapes and colors. Hazy air pollution can even muffle sounds. Air pollution particles eventually fall back to Earth. Air pollution can directly contaminate the surface of bodies of water and soil. This can kill crops or reduce their yield. It can kill young trees and other plants. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide particles in the air, can create acid rain when they mix with water and oxygen in the atmosphere. These air pollutants come mostly from coal-fired power plants and motor vehicles. When acid rain falls to Earth, it damages plants by changing soil composition; degrades water quality in rivers, lakes and streams; damages crops; and can cause buildings and monuments to decay. Like humans, animals can suffer health effects from exposure to air pollution. Birth defects, diseases, and lower reproductive rates have all been attributed to air pollution. Global warming is an environmental phenomenon caused by natural and anthropogenic air pollution. It refers to rising air and ocean temperatures around the world. This temperature rise is at least partially caused by an increase in the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases trap heat energy in the Earth's atmosphere. (Usually, more of Earth's heat escapes into space.) Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that has had the biggest effect on global warming. Carbon dioxide is emitted into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels (coal, gasoline, and natural gas). Humans have come to rely on fossil fuels to power cars and planes, heat homes, and run factories. Doing these things pollutes the air with carbon dioxide. Other greenhouse gases emitted by natural and artificial sources also include methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Methane is a major emission from coal plants and agricultural processes. Nitrous oxide is a common emission from industrial factories, agriculture, and the burning of fossil fuels in cars. Fluorinated gases, such as hydrofluorocarbons, are emitted by industry. Fluorinated gases are often used instead of gases such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). CFCs have been outlawed in many places because they deplete the ozone layer. Worldwide, many countries have taken steps to reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions to combat global warming. The Kyoto Protocol, first adopted in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997, is an agreement between 183 countries that they will work to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. The United States has not signed that treaty. In addition to the international Kyoto Protocol, most developed nations have adopted laws to regulate emissions and reduce air pollution. In the United States, debate is under way about a system called cap and trade to limit emissions. This system would cap, or place a limit, on the amount of pollution a company is allowed. Companies that exceeded their cap would have to pay. Companies that polluted less than their cap could trade or sell their remaining pollution allowance to other companies. Cap and trade would essentially pay companies to limit pollution. In 2006 the World Health Organization issued new Air Quality Guidelines. The WHO's guidelines are tougher than most individual countries existing guidelines. The WHO guidelines aim to reduce air pollution-related deaths by 15 percent a year. Anybody can take steps to reduce air pollution. Millions of people every day make simple changes in their lives to do this. Taking public transportation instead of driving a car, or riding a bike instead of traveling in carbon dioxide-emitting vehicles are a couple of ways to reduce air pollution. Avoiding aerosol cans, recycling yard trimmings instead of burning them, and not smoking cigarettes are others.

population. Livestock has become a mainstay in income, employment, food, social security, draught, and manure. The livestock sector employs 8% of the country's labor force, including many small and marginal farmers, women, and landless agricultural workers in the sectors such as the milk production, organic fertilizer, and important input to crop production. Among the livestock species, pigs find an important place as they are being reared by socio-economically weaker sections of the society. According to the 19th livestock census of India, pigs comprise 2.0% to the total livestock population and about 10 million pigs which contribute about 6.7% of the total meat production in the country. Pigs, as compared to larger livestock species, have a great potential to contribute

Pig rearing system

Livestock is common in Indian cities and contribute to food security as well as livelihoods. Urban livestock keeping has been neglected, and in India, little is known about the topic. Therefore, urban and peri-urban pig farms of Guwahati, Assam, India, were surveyed in order to understand more about the pig rearing systems and risks of diseases. A total of 34 urban and 66 peri-urban pig farms were selected randomly. All reared cross-bred pigs. Free-range pig rearing was common in both urban (58.8%) and peri-urban (45.45%) farms. Artificial insemination was used by around half of the pig farmers. Disinfection in pig farms was practiced in 26.5% of urban and 28.8% of peri-urban farms. More urban pig farms were ob-

served to be moderately clean in (82.4%) compared to peri-urban (69.7%). However, more urban (67.7%) than peri-urban farms (57.6%) reported a high rodent burden. Pig sheds were mostly basic, with brick floors in 18.2% farms in peri-urban areas, and more than 80% had corrugated iron roofing sheets. In conclusion, free-roaming pigs in both urban and peri-urban areas of Guwahati can contribute to disease transmission, and the low standard of hygiene and buildings may further increase the risk of diseases. The livestock sector plays a crucial role in the rural economy and livelihood, but with growing urban populations the livestock sector is increasing both in cities and in the surrounding areas. In India, this sector contributes 4.1% GDP and 25.6% of the total agriculture GDP, and the country comprises 11.6% of world livestock

ductivity, export potential, safety, and quality of pig products. Many zoonotic diseases are present in Assam, including brucellosis, leptospirosis, hydatidosis, cysticercosis, taeniasis, and toxoplasmosis. These zoonotic diseases can have a great impact on the livelihood of livestock farmers by affecting their health and reducing the quantity and quality of animal products. Particularly in an urban setting, where livestock and humans live more crowded, keeping animals such as pigs may increase the risk of zoonotic infections in humans. Urban livestock systems have been little studied in India, and particularly not in the poorer Northeast region where Assam is located. The present study was carried out to understand the urban and peri-urban pig rearing systems in Guwahati, Assam, and its social and economic implications, as well as its sustainable livelihood possibilities.



Let's get together to define a new green lining this festive season and educate the people around us to bid adieu to false practices and add new constants in our changing future.

vidual must take the initiative to clean the streets and surroundings after Diwali. Most noteworthy, each individual must clean up his own mess. Another efficient way of preventing pollution during Diwali is by using an air purifier. The level of air contamination significantly increases during Diwali. Therefore, one must make sure to keep the inside environment pollution-free. This way, people inside the house or office would be able to breathe safe and pure air. Most noteworthy, this is achievable by using air purifiers during Diwali. To sum it up, Diwali is one of the happiest occasions of happiness in India. Let us not let this beautiful festival be marred by the evil of pollution. Most noteworthy, the festival must immediately become environmentally friendly. The government must take appropriate measures to ensure a pollution less Diwali.

and damage they are posing towards aquatic life. They somehow forget that earlier the idols were made of clay and sand which were gamished with vegetable colours and biodegradable materials, everything was raw and organic. With changing times and for one's convenience, it's "Us" who shunned those ways and polluted the environment. In addition to this, water is a gift granted to us, it is our moral duty to protect and preserve the purity of water. In today's times, the idols are painted with pigments containing lead, chromium, nickel, cadmium and heavy

Idol Immersion and water pollution

Holy rituals are to be followed but it should also be in sync with the times. We may following the traditions but not accepting some changes in the rituals should not be done and it keeps our future at stake. Immersing deity idols in rivers is one such example. People wish to immerse it into the holy waters as they have been doing for decades, being completely blind to the impact they are causing

metals which make them non-biodegradable. This forms a filmy layer on the surface of water after idol immersion and reduces the dissolved oxygen (DO) level and prevent the sunlight from penetrating into the water, thus disturbing the entire river ecosystem. To put an end to this, there are alternatives that are the need of the hour which can keep rituals intact. Given below are some solutions to the ongoing threat

duce water pollution in water bodies. Certain ponds can be designated in particular regions for this purpose. It helps restrict pollutants and heavy metals in the idols from entering into the

water. Lastly, the above artificial ponds can be used in all festivals like Durga Puja, Ganesh chaturthi, etc. By this we can also recycle the clay and other material for use next year.

ful to various animals and birds. Land pollution is another significant type of pollution during Diwali. This certainly results from the leftover pieces of the burnt crackers. Furthermore, it can take many weeks to clean these. Most noteworthy, these pieces are non-biodegradable in nature. Hence, they cannot be disposed of so easily. Also, they turn toxic gradually with time. Noise pollution is a major problem during Diwali. Firecrackers cause a tremendous amount of noise pollution. Most noteworthy, this noise pollution is pretty damaging to hearing. Also, noise pollution is a major problem for animals, old people, students, and sick people. First of all, people must strictly avoid burning firecrackers. Maximum pollution during Diwali occurs due to the burning of firecrackers. Furthermore, there is a release of toxins during the



and we should implement and promote some environmental friendly ways. Firstly, we should try to reduce pollution from the initial step that is formation of the idol. Eco friendly and Organic materials should be used to make idols like clay, sand, newspaper, cow dung, sugarcane etc. Secondly, Using natural dyes like dried flower-powders can be used as dry-colour used in Holi- festivals to decorate the idols is one of the best ways to reduce chemicals and heavy metals into the rivers. Thirdly, artificial ponds should be made for idol immersions. They are the best ways to re-

duction of firecrackers. This certainly makes it hard for people to breathe. Moreover, loud noises from firecrackers give anxiety attacks to many people and animals. Therefore, people must use eco-friendly crackers. These eco-friendly crackers produce a low amount of

noise. Nevertheless, avoiding the use of firecrackers is the best solution. Diwali is the festival of lights. To celebrate Diwali without lights is unthinkable. Furthermore, many people make use of electricity for lightening purposes. However, one must use diyas over electricity.

Most noteworthy, the diyas or earthen lamps are bio-degradable in nature. Cleaning up is an essential way of preventing pollution. The festival of Diwali ends up with a lot of garbage. After Diwali, the roads are filled with plastic, paper, chemicals, and other types of garbage. Hence, each indi-

Air pollution due to Diwali

vidual must take the initiative to clean the streets and surroundings after Diwali. Most noteworthy, each individual must clean up his own mess. Another efficient way of preventing pollution during Diwali is by using an air purifier. The level of air contamination significantly increases during Diwali. Therefore, one must make sure to keep the inside environment pollution-free. This way, people inside the house or office would be able to breathe safe and pure air. Most noteworthy, this is achievable by using air purifiers during Diwali. To sum it up, Diwali is one of the happiest occasions of happiness in India. Let us not let this beautiful festival be marred by the evil of pollution. Most noteworthy, the festival must immediately become environmentally friendly. The government must take appropriate measures to ensure a pollution less Diwali.

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Contd. From Page 1

Durga Puja idols immersed across

Bharalumukh side to Chandmari, Dispur side shall be regulated at Apollo Point on MG Road and diverted via TRP Road, then to HB Road or AT Road," it stated. These vehicles must use either HB Road (towards Chandmari, Noonmati, and Geetanagar) or AT Road (towards Dispur and Khanapara) to reach KLB Road."All vehicles entering Uzanbazar, Kharghuli, and Noonmati shall be controlled and diverted via Tayabullah Road and GNB Road." "TRP Road and HB Road will be one-way from Apollo Point," it added."All idol bearing vehicles arriving from the Chandmari side must be regulated at TC Point and redirected via MC Road, FC Road, and MG Road," it added. Idol-carrying cars from Tokobari, Paltanbazar, Ulubari, Rehabari, Birubari, Chatribari, Bishnupur, and Lalganesh regions must use either (a) BK Kakoti Road, Ulubari, GS Road, Paltanbazar, Panbazar Road over bridge, MLN Road, and MG Road, or (b) AK Azad Road, Nepali Mandir.It went on to say, "Idol carrying cars from Kumarpara, Athgaon, and Fatasil regions shall travel to Kaachomarighat through AT Road, TRP Road, Kedar Road, and MG Road." Vehicles transporting idols from Rajgarh, Bhangagarh, and Christianbasti would use GS Road, Bhangagarh Road, RG Barooah Road (Zoo Road), GNB Road, Guwahati Club, TC Point, MC Road, FC Road, and MG Road. Vehicles carrying idols from Ganeshguri, Dispur and Kahilipara regions are to go from Ganeshguri via RG Barooah Road (Zoo Road), GNB Road, Guwahati Club, TC Point, MC Road, FC Road and MG Road. No cars transporting idols shall be permitted to travel on the B.Baruah road from Ulubari to the TC point."

Chemistry Nobel goes to trio for

in Scripps Research, Mr. Meldal is a Professor at University of Copenhagen. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2022 is about making difficult processes easier. Click chemistry and bioorthogonal reactions have taken chemistry into the era of functionalism, the academy said.Click chemistry is utilised in the development of pharmaceuticals, for mapping DNA and creating materials that are more fit for purpose. Using bioorthogonal reactions, researchers have improved the targeting of cancer pharmaceuticals. Last year the prize was awarded to scientists Benjamin List and David WC MacMillan for finding an ingenious and environmentally cleaner way to build molecules that the Nobel panel said is "already benefiting humankind greatly."The Nobel Prize announcements kicked off on Monday with Swedish scientist Svante Paabo receiving the award in medicine for unlocking secrets of Neanderthal DNA that provided key insights into our immune system.Three scientists jointly won the prize in physics on Tuesday. Frenchman Alain Aspect, American John F Clauser and Austrian Anton Zeilinger had shown that tiny particles can retain a connection with each other even when separated, a phenomenon known as quantum entanglement, that can be used for specialised computing and to encrypt information.The awards continue with literature on Thursday. The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize will be announced on Friday and the economics award on Monday.The prizes carry a cash award of 10 million Swedish kronor (nearly \$900,000) and will be handed out on December 10.The money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel in 1895. Three scientists share Physics Nobel for quantum mechanics John Clauser, Alain Aspect, and Anton Zeilinger are being awarded Physics Nobel for their groundbreaking experiments using entangled quantum states, where two particles behave like a single unit even when they are separated.The Nobel Prize in physics for 2022 is being awarded to Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser and Anton Zeilinger for their work on quantum mechanics, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced on October 4, 2022.The 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded "for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities, and pioneering quantum information science," the academy said.The 2022 physics laureates' development of experimental tools has laid the foundation for a new era of quantum technology. Being able to manipulate and manage quantum states and all their layers of properties gives us access to tools with unexpected potential.Intense research and development are underway to utilise the special properties of individual particle systems to construct quantum computers, improve measurements, build quantum networks and establish secure quantum encrypted communication.This year's Nobel Prize laureate John Clauser built an apparatus that emitted two entangled photons at a time, each towards a filter that tested their polarisation. The result was a clear violation of a Bell inequality and agreed with the predictions of quantum mechanics. Alain Aspect - awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics - developed a setup to close an important loophole. He was able to switch the measurement settings after an entangled pair had left its source, so the setting that existed when they were emitted could not affect the result.Anton Zeilinger, 2022 Nobel Prize laureate in physics, researched entangled quantum states. His research group has demonstrated a phenomenon called quantum teleportation, which makes it possible to move a quantum state from one particle to one at a distance.The 2022 Nobel Prize laureates in physics have conducted groundbreaking experiments using entangled quantum states, where two particles behave like a single unit even when they are separated. The results have cleared the way for new technology based upon quantum information.The 2022 physics laureates' development of experimental tools has laid the foundation for a new era of quantum technology. Being able to manipulate and manage quantum states and all their layers of properties gives us access to tools with unexpected potential, the academy said.Intense research and development are underway to utilise the special properties of individual particle systems to construct quantum computers, improve measurements, build quantum networks and establish secure quantum encrypted communication, it added.Anton Zeilinger, one of the winners of the prize, said, "I'm still very shocked but it is a very positive shock. I was surprised to get the call an hour ago."His area of research has demonstrated a phenomenon called quantum teleportation, which makes it possible to transfer a quantum state from one particle to one at a distance.Explaining the concept of quantum teleportation, he said that it uses the features of entanglement which can be used to transport information, carried by the object, to another place where the object is then reconstituted. This can be done without knowing the information, because to know the information would violate Heisenberg's uncertainty principle which states that the position and the momentum of an object cannot both be measured exactly, at the same time, even in theory."So far this can be done on very small particles. It is fundamentally important for transferring information between quantum computer," he said.Last year, the academy honoured Syukuro Manabe, of Japan and the United States, and German Klaus Hasselmann for their research on climate models, while Italian Giorgio Parisi also won for his work on the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems.The physics prize is followed by chemistry on Wednesday, with the literature and peace prizes announced on Thursday and Friday respectively.Swedish paleogeneticist Svante Paabo, who sequenced the genome of the Neanderthal and discovered the previously unknown hominin Denisova, on Monday won the Nobel Medicine Prize.

Nehru-Liaquat pact needs

years now and since then the population has multiplied several times, there is a need to review the pact and make amendments accordingly". Besides Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC), a few Sikh NGOs also take jatha's to Pakistan on different religious organizations. A philanthropist Dr Avtar Singh opined that Sikh NGOs and religious bodies should come forward in leading the Sikh jatha to Pakistan on religious occasions. "Fulfilling religious aspirations of faithful is a pious work and Sikh religious bodies should come forward and lead jatha's to Sikh religious places in Pakistan and if required the Nehru-Liaquat pact should also be viewed to increase the number of devotees from India," said Dr Avtar Singh. Presently, India sends Sikh jatha to Pakistan on the occasion of Baisakhi, the martyrdom anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev, the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. However, two to three more jatha's were sent to Pakistan depending upon the management of the Evacuee Trust Property Board. India also sends Hindu Jathas to visit Katsaraj Temple and other historical Hindu temples situated in Pakistan. Interestingly, the Pakistan government had been stressing on increasing daily pilgrimage to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartapur Sahib via Integrated Check Post, Dera Baba Nanak since it levy a service fee of US \$20 from every pilgrim visiting the neighbouring country which was not in case of pilgrimage to Pakistan via any other border.

45 Indians trapped in Myanmar

around 32 Indians had already been rescued. Another 13 Indian citizens have now been rescued, and reached Tamil Nadu today," tweeted Bagchi.Arindam Bagchi also said that some more Indian citizens have been rescued from their fake employers and are in the custody of Myanmar authorities and legal formalities have been initiated for their return."Some more Indian citizens have been rescued from their fake employers and are in the custody of Myanmar authorities for illegal entry into that country. Legal formalities have been initiated to get them repatriated at the earliest," added Bagchi.The spokesperson further stated that the details of agents allegedly involved in this job racket have been shared with relevant authorities in various states in India for appropriate action.Notably, instances of similar job rackets have also come to light in Laos and Cambodia. The Indian Embassies in Vientiane, Phnom Penh and Bangkok have been helping in repatriating people from there."Sincere gratitude to all the agencies for ongoing cooperation in rescuing Indian nationals stuck in Cambodia," tweeted India in Cambodia.Bagchi further warned Indian citizens to cross-check before accepting dubious employment offers overseas and apply extreme caution against such jobs. Earlier in September, in an advisory to Indian citizens, the MEA had cautioned IT skilled youth who were the targets of such fake job rackets."Instances of fake job rackets offering lucrative jobs to entice Indian youths for the posts of 'Digital Sales and Marketing Executives' in Thailand by dubious IT firms involved in the call-centre scam and cryptocurrency fraud have come to our notice recently by our Missions in Bangkok and Myanmar. The target groups are IT skilled youth who are duped in the name of lucrative data entry jobs in Thailand through social media advertisements as well as by Dubai and India-based agents," read the MEA statement.The victims were reportedly taken across the border illegally mostly into Myanmar and held captive to work under harsh conditions."Indian nationals are advised not to get entrapped in such fake job offers being floated through social media platforms or other sources. Before travelling on tourist/visit visa for employment purposes, Indian nationals are advised to check/verify credentials of foreign employers through concerned Missions abroad, and antecedents of recruiting agents as well as any company before taking up any job offer," added the statement.

TRS is now Bharat Rashtra Samithi

political activity ahead of 2023 assembly polls -- by shifting focus to national issues.However, a big question remains whether TRS -- founded in 2001 with a single-point agenda of creating a separate Telangana state -- will manage to capture any space in national politics; whether KCR's leadership will be accepted in other states, especially in the north.KCR is not a politician who does things without a reason. His plan to enter national politics stems from his ambition to fill a vacuum caused by a lack of formidable opposition to the BJP-led ruling National Democratic Alliance at the centre, said a political analyst.In addition, the 68-year-old leader of Telangana believes his party's success in winning the support of women, farmers, and marginalised groups with several welfare schemes. Some of the major schemes are: 'Rythu Bandhu' which takes care of the initial investment needs of every farmer; 'Dalit Bandhu' --under which one-time capital assistance of Rs 10 lakh is provided for every SC family to set up a suitable income-generating business; 'KCR Kit', a Rs 12,000 aid for pregnant women to take care of herself and the newborn child and 'Aasara' pensions to all the poor.In renaming TRS and repositioning it as a "national" party, KCR is also eyeing a pole position in opposition politics ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.As the main opposition Congress party struggles to reverse its slide in the country's electoral politics, major regional parties across the country are trying to forge a united front that can take on the ruling BJP. KCR, who has long championed the idea of a non-Congress, non-BJP opposition, would want to play a pivotal role in such an alliance.However, not all share that optimism. M Kodandaram, the founder of Telangana Jana Samithi and political analyst, feels, "It is for the first time, a state-recognised party like TRS is renaming itself as BRS. It is going to be a misadventure".He further added that Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which had a strong presence in united Andhra Pradesh, is a registered national party but has not made any headway at the national level and a similar case is with the AIMIM, which is primarily based in the city of Hyderabad. Both TDP and AIMIM did not rename their parties, he added."KCR has an identity as chief minister at the national level, but it is not sufficient to build a national party," he observed. As BJP intensifies its political activity in the state, KCR wants to divert focus on national issues, another analyst said.It is a "gamble" that he is plunging directly into the national arena, the analyst from the well-known Kautilya Institute of Public Policy (KIPP) said on condition of anonymity. Given that the country's politics changed after the 1980s with the emergence of regional forces, parties like SP, BSP, RJD, JD(U), DMK and others have been playing a national role either through alliance building or by forming pressure groups.KCR is trying to work on the sentiment that individually the small regional parties have not been able to assert themselves effectively at the national level but collectively they can and will replace the traditional Opposition to become a formidable opposition.In the recent past, KCR has met several regional party leaders including JD(S) chief H D Deve Gowda, NCP's Sharad Pawar, TMC's Mamata Banerjee, AAP's Arvind Kejriwal and others, and has been rooting for a non-BJP, non-Congress' alliance. However, most of these parties have maintained that there cannot be any united opposition without the Congress as it may end up only helping BJP.

Assam Cops Constructed Huts in

Assam police itself, he said. The authorities in Assam could not be contacted for comments.The tension in the area due to the construction of the huts dissipated after the huts were razed demolished. The area is contiguous to Hailakandi district in Assam.The Assam police dismantled the two huts after Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga and state Home Minister Lalchamlana spoke to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is also its home minister, the SP claimed on Monday.Ralte said that Assam officials had conducted a survey in the area last week.Mizoram shares a 164.6-km long boundary with Assam.Ralte also stated that the Kolasib deputy commissioner and he had spoken to their counterparts in Hailakandi over phone and told them that the area is in the disputed zone where both state governments had agreed to maintain status quo.The Assam officials said that they were not aware that the area was disputed, he added.A clash had taken place in the same area in March 2018 when MZP functionaries attempted to construct a wooden hut there and more than 60 people were injured.In September this year, the chief ministers of the two states met in Delhi on the border issue and agreed to carry on the ongoing ministerial level talks.The next round of ministerial-level talks is scheduled to be held in Guwahati within this month.

Priyanka Gandhi to kick off

Youth Congress for nine years, the longest serving president so far, and served as a cabinet minister and a parliamentary secretary for 10 years.Before Mahajan, the other prominent leaders who defected were five-time legislator Ram Lal Thakur, who resigned as vice-president of the party committee citing "displeasure" over its working, and two sitting legislators -- Lakhwinder Rana and Pawan Kajal.Interestingly both Mahajan and Kajal were appointed the state working presidents, along with two others, Rajinder Rana and Vinay Kumar, when the three-term MP Pratibha Singh, the widow of Virbhadra Singh, was appointed to the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president in April.Corruption, unemployment and poor performance of the government will be among the major issues in the forthcoming Assembly elections, said AICC spokesperson Alka Lamba.She said the BJP government, both at the Centre and the state, has been making false claims.

PM Narendra Modi attends Kullu

Himachal Pradesh with the gifts of projects of education, health, and infrastructure worth thousands of crores," PM Modi said adding that he will seek the blessings of the country by joining the Raghunath Ji Yatra."I am very fortunate to participate in the Kullu festival after so many years," he added. PM Modi's remarks came after he inaugurated AIIMS Bilaspur and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects here. The Kullu Dussehra in Himachal Pradesh is a weeklong festival celebrated in October, is a special occasion and an opportune time to witness different shades of the valley's vibrant culture. The Kullu Dussehra is however, markedly different from rest of the country as the weeklong festival begins on the day it ends elsewhere. Started in the 17th century, the tradition was established when Raja Jagat Singh installed an idol of Lord Raghunath that had been brought from Ayodhya at the palace temple in Kullu.Celebrated with great fanfare, more than 300 deities ('Devtas'-Gods & God-desses) of Kullu district, participate and pay their obeisance to Lord Shri Raghunath ji, the Principal deity of Kullu valley. The festival gets underway with the arrival of Goddess Hadimba from Manali, but the main function is that of the Lord Raghunath, colourfully dressed, riding into the ground in a hand pulled wooden chariot. The local Administration invites the deities to participate in the festival.

Guwahati mountaineer

occurred at 8.45 am on Tuesday. After the avalanche hit, NIM released a statement saying, "The course arrived at Base Camp on September 25. As per the training schedule on October 4, the course moved for High Altitude Navigation and height gain to Mount Draupadi ka Danda-II (5670m) at 4.00 am while returning back from the mountain peak the Advance Mountaineering Course was met with an avalanche occurred above camp-1 in which 34 trainees and 7 mountaineering instructors were caught under avalanche at 08:45 hrs."It added, "The Rescue work is in progress as of now four bodies have been recovered. SDRF, NDRF and Indian Air Force are helping in the rescue."

Five MLAs, two MPs from

the Shinde faction's ideology are calling up and joining it, according to Tumane, a Maharashtra MP from Ramtek. The Shinde faction currently has 40 MLAs, including the CM, and 12 Lok Sabha members. Thackeray's faction now has 15 MLAs and six Lok Sabha members.The Shiv Sena had 18 Lok Sabha members from Maharashtra and one from Dadra and Nagar Haveli before the split in June of this year. Shinde's rebel group will hold a Dussehra rally on Wednesday evening at the MMRDA ground in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. The Thackeray faction will hold its rally in central Mumbai's historic Shivaji Park, which has been associated with the Shiv Sena since its inception in 1966.Shinde and 39 other Sena legislators rebelled against the party leadership in June, resulting in the collapse of Thackeray's Maha Vikas Aghadi government. Shinde was sworn in as CM on June 30, along with BJP's Devendra Fadnavis as his deputy.

Local Holiday Announced in

Basumatary. All educational institutions, public organizations, business establishments and government offices will remain closed in five districts under BTR on Thursday.It may be mentioned that Karendra Basumatary passed away on Monday, at age 71.According to sources, Basumatary had been battling a chronic disease for a long time.Basumatary was a senior leader from the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) before joining the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) in 2020. He is considered as one of well known Bodo leaders amongst the Bodo society.

In defiance of international law, Vladimir Putin signs laws annexing four Ukrainian regions

Kyiv, October 5 : Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed laws absorbing four Ukrainian regions into Russia, a move that finalises the annexation carried out in defiance of international law. The documents were published on a Russian government website on Wednesday morning.Earlier this week, both houses of the Russian parliament ratified treaties making the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions part of Russia. The formalities followed Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" in the four regions that Ukraine and the West have rejected as a sham.The move comes as Moscow's war in Ukraine has entered a new, more dangerous phase. Russia faces mounting setbacks on the battlefield, with Ukrainian forces retaking more and more land in the east and in the south - the very regions Moscow has pushed to annex.The borders of the territories Russia is claiming still remain unclear, but the Kremlin has vowed to defend Russia's territory - the newly absorbed regions, too - with any means at its disposal, including nuclear weapons.Ukrainain President Volodymyr Zelenskyy responded to the annexation by announcing a fast-track application to join NATO and formally ruling out talks with Russia. Zelenskyy's decree, released Tuesday, declares that holding negotiations with Putin has become impossible after his decision to take over the four regions of Ukraine.On the battlefield on Wednesday morning, multiple explosions rocked Bila Tserkva, setting off fires at what were described as infrastructure facilities in the city to the south of the capital Kyiv, regional leader Oleksiy Kuleba said on Telegram.Early indications are that the city was attacked by so-called "kamikaze" or suicide drones, he said.Russia has increasingly been using suicide drones in recent weeks, posing a new challenge to Ukrainian defenses. The unmanned vehicles can stay aloft for long periods of time before diving into their targets and detonating their payload at the last moment.Many of the earlier attacks by the Iranian-made drones happened in the south of the country and not near the capital, which hasn't been targeted for weeks.In a later post, Kuleba said that a total of six Shahed-136 drones struck the city, one of the largest in the region after Kyiv itself. One person was injured in the attacks.Dozens of rescue workers were on the scene and still working to extinguish the fires hours after the attacks were reported, he said.Ukrainian forces, in the meantime, continued to make gains in the south. Kyiv's military said Wednesday they have recaptured more villages in the Kherson region as a part of their massive counteroffensive effort.Operational Command South said that the Ukrainian flag has been raised above Liubymivka, Khreschenivka, Zolota Balka, Biliaivka, Ukrainka, Velyka and Mala Oleksandrivka villages.

Zelenskiy hits back as Elon Musk sets up Twitter poll on annexed areas of Ukraine

Moscow, October 5 : US billionaire Elon Musk was embroiled in a social media spat with Ukrainian officials including President Volodymyr Zelensky, over his ideas on ending Russia's invasion. Elon Musk has prompted an online row with Ukraine's president after he asked Twitter users to weigh in on his ideas to end Russia's war.In a tweet, Musk suggested UN-supervised elections in four occupied regions that Moscow has falsely annexed after what it called referendums. The votes were denounced by Kyiv and western governments as illegal and coercive. "Russia leaves if that is will of the people," Musk wrote.The Tesla chief executive also suggested that Crimea, which Moscow seized in 2014, be formally recognised as Russia, that water supply to Crimea be assured, and that Ukraine remain neutral. He asked Twitter users to vote yes or no to his idea.The tweet infuriated Ukrainians, and President Volodymyr Zelenskiiy responded with his own poll."Which @elonmusk do you like more?," Zelenskiiy tweeted, offering two responses: one who supports Ukraine, or supports Russia.The Ukrainian presidential aide Mykhaylo Podolyak suggested a "better peace plan" under which Ukraine took back its territories including Crimea; Russia was demilitarised and denuclearised; and "war criminals" faced an international tribunal.Ukraine's outspoken outgoing ambassador to Germany, Andriy Melnyk, had a blunt reaction."Fuck off is my very diplomatic reply to you @elonmusk," tweeted Melnyk.Other European leaders also voiced their opposition to Musk's plan."Dear @elonmusk, when someone tries to steal the wheels of your Tesla, it doesn't make them legal owner of the car or of the wheels. Even though they claim both voted in favour of it. Just saying," Lithuania's president, Gitanas Naus'eda, tweeted in response.Musk, who is also chief executive of SpaceX, followed up his first tweet with another poll: "Let's try this then: the will of the people who live in the Donbas & Crimea should decide whether they're part of Russia or Ukraine."He said he didn't care if his proposal was unpopular, arguing that he did care "that millions of people may die needlessly for an essentially identical outcome".In February, when Ukraine's internet was disrupted following Russia's invasion, Musk responded to a tweet by a Ukrainian government official seeking help. Musk said SpaceX's Starlink satellite broadband service was available in Ukraine and that SpaceX was sending more terminals.

Hans Niemann probably cheated in more than 100 chess games, investigation finds

London, October 5: The latest bombshell in the scandal that has rocked the chess world to its foundation dropped on Tuesday when an investigation into the games of Hans Niemann found the American grandmaster has cheated far more frequently than previously disclosed. The 72-page report, conducted by Chess.com and initially reviewed by the Wall Street Journal, found that Niemann "likely received illegal assistance in more than 100 online games" as recently as 2020, including in events where prize money was at stake. The suspicions around Niemann, a 19-year-old who has made a meteoric ascent into the world's top 50 over



the past four years, were initially amplified last month when the world champion Magnus Carlsen first suggested, then outright declared, the American was winning through illegitimate means. Niemann has mounted a vigorous denial of the allegations, though he did

confess to violating the rules of fair play at least twice in the past by using the assistance of chess engines: first as a 12-year-old in an online tournament, and then as a 16-year-old playing unrated games while streaming. But the Chess.com report, which relied on cheating-detection

tools including a comparison of a player's moves to those recommended by powerful supercomputers, has offered compelling data-driven evidence that dramatically contradicts those statements. The investigation made no conclusions regarding Niemann's over-the-board games, but did flag contests from six of his stronger in-person events, stating they "merit further investigation based on the data". The full investigation, which was made public on Tuesday evening, stated that Niemann privately confessed to the allegations, and that he was subsequently banned from a period of time from Chess.com, the world's most popular chess platform.

Champions League roundup Napoli pummel Ajax 6-1, Inter beat Barcelona

London, October 5: Giacomo Raspadori scored twice as Napoli came from behind to deliver a masterclass and score a runaway 6-1 win at 10-man Ajax in the Champions League on Tuesday. The captain, Giovanni Di Lorenzo, Piotr Zielinski, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and the substitute Giovanni Simeone added the other goals for the Italian league leaders, after Mohammed Kudus had given the hosts the lead inside the opening 10 minutes. Napoli, who might have scored more such as their dominance,

have a 100% record at the halfway point in Group A, leaving Ajax with three points from their opening three games and in danger of missing out on next year's knockout stages after their biggest defeat in European football. Internazionale bounced back after two consecutive losses in Serie A with a crucial 1-0 win against Barcelona thanks to a Hakan Calhanoglu goal. The midfielder slotted home a clinical strike from just outside the area, with the ball going into the corner to the goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen's right in added time before the break. The home win lifted Inter to second place in Group C on six points, three behind leaders Bayern Munich and three in front of Barcelona. Bayern struck three times in the opening 21 minutes en route to a 5-0 demolition of Viktoria Plzen to set a record for the longest unbeaten run in group matches. The German champions have now gone 31 group games in the competition without defeat. Elsewhere, goals from Club Brugge forwards

Kamal Sowah and Ferran Jutglà saw the Belgian champions beat Atlético Madrid 2-0 at home to extend their perfect run in Group B this season. The hosts took the lead in the 36th minute when Jutglà's low pass across the goal found Sowah, who tapped the ball into an empty net for his second European goal in three games. Jutglà doubled the lead in the 62nd minute after winger Tajon Buchanan calmly waited for the right moment to set up the Spanish forward inside the box. Atlético had a chance to get back into the match with a penalty 15 minutes later but Antoine Griezmann lashed the ball against the bar and moments later the forward thought he had scored but his effort was ruled out for offside. Porto substitutes Zaidu and Galeno were both on target as they beat Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 to seal the Portuguese side's first victory in the group stage. They are level on points with Leverkusen after three matches. Marseille secured their



first Champions League win of the season when they recovered from a shaky start to outclass 10-man Sporting 4-1 in an incident-packed Group D encounter at an empty Stade Vélodrome. The game, played behind closed doors after crowd trouble marred Marseille's home match against Eintracht Frankfurt, was delayed by more than 20 minutes following Sporting's late arrival at the stadium due to a traffic jam.

USWNT players 'horrified, exhausted and really angry' after NWSL abuse report

London, October 5: The United States captain, Becky Sauerbrunn, has demanded root and branch reform of elite domestic soccer in North America after an independent investigation found that emotional abuse and sexual misconduct had become systemic throughout the

not doing well. We are horrified, exhausted and really, really angry. "We're heartbroken and frustrated. We're angry it took a third-party investigation and over 200 people sharing their trauma to get to the point we're at right now. Passion for the game has been taken away from players because of this abuse,

Thorns and North Carolina Courage coach Paul Riley. Although Riley, who is English, denies those allegations the report Yates published on Monday found that verbal and emotional abuse, as well as sexual misconduct was rife across multiple teams. Yates and her team spoke to about 200 players in the North American top tier and soon discovered that the problem extended far beyond the allegations made not merely against Riley but a handful of other leading coaches. Investigators found that such problems were exacerbated by leading club and league officials persistently failing to heed warnings and take complaints from players and their parents seriously. The report said that three clubs - Sauerbrunn's Portland Thorns, Racing Louisville FC and the Chicago Stars - failed to fully cooperate with investigators. Although US Soccer has pledged to implement wholesale change, it is clear that there is considerable damage to repair. So much so that, in the course of an emotional press

conference, Vlatko Andonovski, the US's Macedonian-born manager, made it clear that he will understand should any of his players decide they are not in the right frame of mind to face England on Friday. "It's been a difficult day and it's a very difficult night, there's a lot of different emotions; I'm in disbelief and disgust and I'm saddened by the report but I have tremendous respect for the bravery of the players who spoke out and participated in this report," said the 46-year-old, who succeeded Jill Ellis as US coach following the team's 2019 World Cup triumph in France. "Soccer is a game we all love and it should be a safe space no matter at what level." Now the report and its recommendations are out it's our job to make sure no one has to deal with this at any level in our sport or any sport. All we can do is make sure it never happens again. "Right now Andonovski, whose side will travel to Pamplona to face Spain in another friendly on Tuesday as they begin preparations for next year's World Cup,

acknowledges long festering wounds will take time to heal. "Playing is difficult, it's not easy for our players or staff," he said. "We're all impacted in different ways, we all deal with this in different ways. Some people need time and space." All this means more than any game, if they don't want to participate in a meeting or in training or in the game [against England] that's up to them." At one point in the course of a high charged 45-minute press conference, in which the impending game against England in front of 80,000 people at Wembley seemed a total irrelevance, Sauerbrunn was asked if NWSL players may be tempted to strike in protest at their treatment. "I haven't thought about not playing," she said. "I hope it won't get to that point. A lot of us have been navigating these things for a very long time and you, maybe not compartmentalise, but you find a way to deal with it. We, as women, as players have faced a lot for a very long time and, unfortunately, I'd say you get used to it."



National Women's Soccer League. "It's time for those in authority to start being accountable and make players in this league feel safe," said the 37-year-old Portland Thorns defender after she and her US teammates arrived in London to prepare for Friday's high-profile friendly against England at Wembley. "The players are

we need to bring that joy and accessibility back to the game. The executives perpetuating this should be gone." The investigation, commissioned by the US Soccer Federation and conducted by former US deputy attorney general Sally Yates, was launched in the wake of allegations made last year against the former Portland

forward. "Discussions are now at a relatively advanced stage and we remain hopeful of securing a deal that will allow the group, and the entities that sit within it, to move forward. "We would like to thank all stakeholders for their engagement during this

process and in particular the constructive support and approach provided by the Rugby Football Union and Premiership Rugby. "This will continue to be vitally important as negotiations with interested parties proceed and we remain in regular dialogue with both organisations. "While the financial circumstances facing the group are extremely challenging, we remain optimistic about a positive outcome and will keep our players, staff, supporters, partners, bond holders and suppliers updated as this process moves forward. "Failure to secure the

finance needed to prevent administration could result in automatic relegation from the Premiership. However, the Rugby Football Union has the discretion to reduce or waive any sanction if the insolvency was deemed to be beyond the control of the club, including in the event of a pandemic. Worcester face an exodus of players from Sixways this week with a hearing at the high court due on Wednesday. Privacy Notice: Newsletters may contain info about charities, online ads, and content funded by outside parties. For more information see our Privacy Policy.

Mitchell Marsh and Stoinis prioritised over Green for Australia's T20 World Cup

Melbourn, October 5 : Australia all-rounder Mitchell Marsh is set to return at No 3 in the first T20 World Cup warm-up against West Indies on Wednesday but will be spared bowling duties as he continues his recovery from an ankle injury. Marsh's return is good news for defending champions Australia in the lead-up to the World Cup starting on 16 October, given Marcus Stoinis is still nursing a side strain. Captain Aaron Finch said he had "nothing" to give on the makeup of the team to play on Wednesday, with all to be revealed at the toss. But he confirmed Marsh's status as a batsman-only should he be selected for the match at Metcon Stadium. "He is being managed," Finch said. "He had his second bowl yesterday and pulled up really well from it. That is a real positive sign." [Marsh] has made that No 3 spot his own in T20 cricket and I think the way that he played in the lead-up and through the World Cup is so important to the way we want to play and gives a lot of flexibility through that middle order. "He's at a level where we think that he'll be fully fit for that first game against England," he said. "We were

just conscious of the travel with a quick turnaround." It can be quite a high-risk game for some guys with some soft-tissue injuries so he's just still planning and preparing there. "Should Stoinis and Marsh prove their fitness over the next couple of weeks, Finch said it was unlikely that exciting

opportunities. "The reason we have carried him is to have an extra bowling resource as well. His batting is exceptional and he shows a lot with the ball. He keeps developing and keeps improving every time he gets an opportunity." Opener David Warner, who was rested



young all-rounder Cameron Green would play a part at the World Cup. Green was not included in Australia's experienced 15-man World Cup squad but travelled with the group to India where he scored half-centuries opening the batting in two out of the three T20s. "I am not sure at the moment. I don't think so," Finch said. "He had a really good tour of India and it was a good opportunity for him to open the batting. He will get more

from the India tour, will return against West Indies but Green could still feature in the two-match series given the injury-hit bowling stocks. "It's never easy when you're trying to balance up the side, particularly when the all-rounders aren't fully fit at the moment," Finch said. "So that gives us an opportunity to keep tinkering with the squad. We feel as though we've got our best 11 in the back of our mind, but it's just not everyone's 100% fit at the moment."

Wasps granted more time to fix financial mess while Worcester brace for worst

London, October 5 : Wasps have bought more time in their bid to lift the financially stricken club out of crisis by filing a second notice of intention to appoint administrators. A statement issued by Wasps Holdings Limited revealed that talks are at "a relatively advanced stage" with possible investors in the face of a winding-up order from HM Revenue and Customs for £2m in unpaid tax. The Premiership club is also struggling to repay the £35m bond that was raised to help finance their relocation from High Wycombe to Coventry in 2014 that was due in

May. Worcester have been placed into administration and face liquidation on Wednesday because of an action brought by HMRC. Wasps are desperate to escape the same fate. "A second notice of intention to appoint administrators has been filed to allow negotiations on securing its long-term future to continue and to protect the interests of the group," a spokesperson for Wasps Holdings Limited said. "Since filing the original notice of intention on 21 September, a number of additional potential investors and funders have come

forward. "Discussions are now at a relatively advanced stage and we remain hopeful of securing a deal that will allow the group, and the entities that sit within it, to move forward. "We would like to thank all stakeholders for their engagement during this



process and in particular the constructive support and approach provided by the Rugby Football Union and Premiership Rugby. "This will continue to be vitally important as negotiations with interested parties proceed and we remain in regular dialogue with both organisations. "While the financial circumstances facing the group are extremely challenging, we remain optimistic about a positive outcome and will keep our players, staff, supporters, partners, bond holders and suppliers updated as this process moves forward. "Failure to secure the

finance needed to prevent administration could result in automatic relegation from the Premiership. However, the Rugby Football Union has the discretion to reduce or waive any sanction if the insolvency was deemed to be beyond the control of the club, including in the event of a pandemic. Worcester face an exodus of players from Sixways this week with a hearing at the high court due on Wednesday. Privacy Notice: Newsletters may contain info about charities, online ads, and content funded by outside parties. For more information see our Privacy Policy.

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Alexander-Arnold and Salah fire Liverpool to victory against Rangers

Anfield, October 5: The first competitive meeting between two of Britain's most successful clubs captured the imagination, drew Steven Gerrard back to his beloved Anfield and even lured Sir Alex Ferguson into enemy territory. It proved an occasion only on paper. The gulf between Liverpool and Rangers in terms of Champions League experience, revenue and quality was reflected on the pitch where Giovanni van Bronckhorst's team were thoroughly outclassed. Jürgen Klopp's 60th Champions League game as Liverpool manager - qualifiers excluded - was just the elixir his team required in their quest for confidence and defensive solidity. Trent Alexander-Arnold reminded Gareth Southgate of the attacking prowess that the England manager may decide to go without at the World Cup with a stunning free-kick. Mohamed Salah added a second from the penalty spot. Limiting the defeat to two was Rangers' finest achievement on a night when they were indebted to the enduring excellence of goalkeeper Allan McGregor. Van Bronckhorst's side did not seriously threaten Alisson's goal until the 85th minute when the substitute Rabbi Matondo had a shot hooked off the line by Kostas Tsimikas. The away supporters' renditions of God Save the King caused more consternation among the home crowd than anything their players produced on the pitch. Rangers were meek in



the extreme and remain both pointless and goalless on their return to the Champions League stage. There was rehabilitation of sorts for Darwin Núñez, however. Klopp had taken the Liverpool striker aside at training on Sunday and told the Uruguayan international not to worry about the difficult introduction to his Anfield career. He backed up that reasoning message by handing the 23-year-old only a third start of the season, and as the focal point of a formation that was even more attack-minded than usual. "If we can help the boys with a way to defend differently we will do that," the Liverpool manager said at his pre-match press conference. The answer was to dispense with Liverpool's customary three-man midfield and load the attacking third with Salah, Diogo Jota and Luis Díaz all working off Núñez, whose movement and work rate across the frontline impressed from the off. Jota, revelling in the

space between Rangers' three central defenders and centre midfield, was also integral to Liverpool's complete first-half dominance. It made perfect sense to reintroduce Núñez against a team that, after the opening two matches, had the joint-worst defensive record in the Champions League. The £64m summer signing caught his first sight of McGregor's goal after merely two minutes. A snapshot from Jota's touch was straight at the veteran goalkeeper. Moments later Núñez was fouled outside the area by the former Liverpool defender Ben Davies, who never played for the club prior to his £4m move north of the border this summer. It was prime territory for Alexander-Arnold. The Liverpool right-back was denied a release from recent criticism when the Brighton goalkeeper, Robert Sánchez, saved his late free-kick from a similar position on Saturday. He would not be thwarted again. Alexander-Arnold's

intentions were clear as he lined up the set piece but McGregor, arguably leaving too much room to his right, was powerless to prevent a brilliant free-kick curling just inside the top corner. Alexander-Arnold, Klopp, everyone of a Liverpool persuasion inside Anfield in fact, savoured a timely demonstration of what the defender contributes as an attacking force. But that has never been in question. Salah was close to doubling Liverpool's lead after being released down the right by a lovely first-time flick from Núñez. The forward curled a low effort towards the far bottom corner but McGregor intervened with a fine save. The 40-year-old also denied Núñez three times before the first half was out: at close range after Jordan Henderson floated a delightful ball over the Rangers' defence, with his legs when Salah threaded a fine pass into the area and from distance following a flowing

move involving Díaz and Jota. Privacy Notice: Newsletters may contain info about charities, online ads, and content funded by outside parties. For more information see our Privacy Policy. We use Google reCaptcha to protect our website and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply. Rangers offered next to nothing as an attacking threat. Their opponents have been vulnerable defensively all season yet were rarely tested on that score with Alfredo Morelos, preferred to leading goalscorer Antonio Colak, isolated by a Rangers' midfield that lacked the legs and the quality in possession to stem the tide. Any concern Klopp harboured over the interval scoreline - and they must have been fleeing at best - disappeared early in the second half when Díaz burst into the area between John Lundstram and Leon King. The Colombia international was tripped by the 18-year-old defender for a clear penalty. Salah swept the resulting spot-kick down the middle of the goal as McGregor dived to his left. McGregor produced an excellent save to tip away a Jota shot that was destined for the top corner and Joel Matip headed a good chance wide from a Tsimikas corner. Núñez display deserved a goal, his confidence could have done with one too, but he had to make do with a warm ovation from all four sides of the stadium when replaced late on. Rangers desperately need a response of their own at Ibrox next Wednesday.

Emma Raducanu loses to Daria Kasatkina in first round of Ostrava Open

Washington, October 5: Emma Raducanu lost to the fifth seed Daria Kasatkina in her opening match at the Ostrava Open in the Czech Republic. There was no sign of any strapping after Raducanu withdrew during her semi-final against Jelena Ostapenko in Korea a week and a half ago with another muscle injury. And the British No 1 produced some good moments against her Russian opponent, ranked 11th in the world and one of the game's best defenders, but she paid for too many errors in a 7-5, 6-4 defeat. Raducanu, 20 next month, recovered from a loose start to lead 3-2 in the first set and looked to be the one applying more pressure until Kasatkina broke through to lead 5-4. Raducanu responded well with a break of her own only to drop serve again, and this time Kasatkina - who has been the most outspoken Russian player against the invasion of Ukraine - clinched the set. The second set was again tight but Raducanu,

now the world No 67, snatched at several shots in a poor service game to drop serve at 2-2 and was unable to get back on level terms. There were better news for the British No 2, Harriet Dart, who was a 6-2, 6-4 winner against Spain's Nuria Parrizas-Diaz at the Jasmin Open in Monastir, Tunisia.



Rugby urged to cut matches as study finds players' risk of MND is 15 times higher

London, October 5: Rugby union has been urged to cut back on competitive matches and stop contact training sessions altogether during the season following a landmark study which found the risk of motor neurone disease among Scottish international players was 15 times higher than the general population. The research, which compared 412 former Scotland internationals born between 1900 and 1990 to over 1,200 non-players with the same age, area and socioeconomic status, also found that the rugby players - all male - were twice as likely to get dementia and more than three times likely to get Parkinson's disease. Dr Willie Stewart, a consultant neuropathologist at the University of Glasgow who led the study, said that the MND figure was alarming and warned that the issue of brain damage in rugby could be even worse in 20 years' time. "I think that we're seeing these observations from largely an amateur era," he said. "The way the game has changed professionally, with much more training and game exposure, has meant head injury rates and head impact rates have gone up. I am genuinely really concerned about what's happening in the modern game. In 20 years time, if we repeat the study, we may see something which is even more concerning. "While the numbers of former Scotland internationals believed to have had MND is still small overall, Stewart said the results were "statistically significant". It also follows a number of high-profile cases of rugby players being diagnosed with the degenerative condition, the latest being Gloucester lock Ed Slater who announced this year that he would be retiring at the age of 34. The former Scotland international Doddie Weir and the late South African scrum half

Joost van der Westhuizen are other high-profile rugby players to have contracted MND, which affects nerves in the brain and spinal cord. Stewart said that while rugby had talked a lot about head injury management, the pace of



progress had been "pretty slow". He said: "I think this stimulus to them is to really pick up their heels and start making pretty dramatic changes as quickly as possible to try and reduce risk." Instead of talking about extending seasons and introducing new competitions and global seasons, they should maybe talk about restricting it as much as possible. "Contact training during the week, during the competition season, should be pretty much a thing of the past. At the same time look at the number of matches that are being played - is it credible that young men and young women are playing week in, week out for the majority of the year just for entertainment and is there a way we can trim back on that? Things like that have to be addressed pretty rapidly. "Stewart also called for more research into the link between rugby and MND, but suggested that genetics, high-intensity exercise, hits

to the brain and possibly someone's environment could all be factors. World Rugby's chief medical officer, Dr Eanna Falvey, said he welcomed the findings and insisted the game's governing body was having a "constant and open conversation about what changes to the game may be appropriate". Falvey said: "World Rugby will never stand still on player welfare. To date, we have invested over £10m [£8.7m] in welfare studies including the largest study into head impacts in community sport anywhere in the world and a study of health outcomes for over 3,000 retired rugby players, both delivered in partnership with New Zealand Rugby." The results, which have been published in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry, were also welcomed by Dr Virginia Newcombe, of the Academy of Medical Sciences at the University of Cambridge. "This is an important study which adds to the growing evidence that repetitive head impacts in the sporting arena may lead to an increased risk of neurodegenerative disease," Newcombe said. "While it is likely the increased risk of dementia and Parkinson's disease is secondary to repetitive head impacts, the reason for higher risk of MND is unclear and understanding the mechanism will be important to facilitate future preventive strategies. "A similar study published by the same researchers three years ago found that former professional footballers were three and a half times more likely to die of dementia than the general population - slightly higher than rugby. However Stewart said he was not convinced there was a big difference between the two sports, and that further research was likely to show it.

IND vs SA Big Opportunity For Fringe Players To Make A Statement

New Delhi, October 5: A new-look Indian team, led by Shikhar Dhawan, will aim to make a statement and be in the reckoning for next year's 50-over World Cup when the three-match ODI series against South Africa begins on Thursday. In the absence of big guns like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Mohammed Shami and Ravichandran Ashwin, who are off to Australia for the T20 World Cup, the Indian selectors opted for a fresh squad that includes Mukesh Kumar and Rajat Patidar, who earned their maiden call ups. Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer, who is part of the reserves named for the T20 World Cup, will serve as Dhawan's deputy in the series. Right-arm pacer Deepak Chahar and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, the other players from the standby list, have also been included in the ODI team for the matches against South Africa. Dashing opening batter Shubman Gill, who has impressed in limited opportunities in ODIs, is likely to resume his partnership with Dhawan at the top. Among other batters, either Rahul Tripathi or Patidar is likely to make an ODI debut on Thursday. Madhya Pradesh batter Patidar has been rewarded for his stellar performances in domestic cricket, IPL, where he turned out for Royal Challengers Bangalore, and more recently, his brilliant run for India A against New Zealand A in the four-day games. He smashed two centuries against the Kiwis. Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan are the other batters in the squad who will form the fulcrum of India's middle-order. Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed, who was recently called up to the T20I squad for the South Africa series, Bishnoi and Kuldeep Yadav form India's spin attack. The pace department will be spearheaded by Shardul Thakur, Chahar, Avesh Khan and

Mohammed Siraj and will also have new face Mukesh, a prolific red ball bowler for Bengal, who emerged as top wicket-taker in the first class games against New Zealand 'A' and produced a stellar show in the Irani Cup match against 2019-20 Ranji champions Saurashtra. The squad features as many as six players who could potentially make an ODI debut. The series provides a big opportunity to the second-string players to make their presence felt and impress the se-

Rabada, Dwaine Pretorius, spinner Tabraiz Shamsi among others. Weather is going to play a crucial role in the match as it has been raining incessantly here and there is also prediction of heavy showers on Thursday. The second ODI will be held in Ranchi on October 9 and Delhi will play host to the last match on October 11. Teams (from): India: Shikhar Dhawan (C), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Shreyas



lectors with noticeable performances to be in the fray for a place in next year's ODI World Cup. But it will be a tough test for India as the South Africans will be playing for points which they need to qualify for the World Cup next year. The Proteas will be banking on the experienced Quinton de Kock, skipper Temba Bavuma, Avesh Khan, Mohd. Siraj, Deepak Chahar. South Africa: Temba Bavuma (C), Quinton de Kock (WK), Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Janneman Malan, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, A ndile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi.

Paris joins other French cities in World Cup TV boycott



Paris, October 5: Paris has joined several French cities in announcing they will not show World Cup matches in public places or set up "fan zones" in protest at human rights and environmental abuses in the host nation, Qatar. The moves to boycott the competition next month come after what has been described as a "last minute crisis of conscience" by the public authorities. Local authorities in Marseille, Lille, Bordeaux, Reims, Nancy, Rodez and the capital have announced they will not install giant television screens as in the past to relay matches. "This competition has gradually turned into a human and environmental disaster, incompatible with the values we want to see conveyed through sport and especially football," Benoît Payan, the mayor of Marseille and head of a leftwing and environmentalist coalition, said in a statement. In Lille, the city council unanimously voted not to broadcast World Cup matches. The city's Socialist mayor, Martine Aubry, said holding the competition in Qatar was "a nonsense in terms of human rights, the environment and sport". In Paris, Pierre Rabadan, a former French rugby international

and the deputy in charge of sport at city hall, said there was "no question" of installing fan zones. This is despite the city's football team, Paris Saint-Germain, being owned by Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar since 2011. Strasbourg has also decided not to screen the World Cup. "It is impossible for us not to listen to the numerous alerts from NGOs denouncing the abuse and exploitation of immigrant workers. Thousands of foreign workers have died on the building sites, it's unbearable," the city's ecologist mayor, Jeanne Barseghian, told 20 Minutes. "Strasbourg, the European capital and seat of the European court of human rights, cannot decently con-

done these abuses, cannot turn a blind eye when human rights are being flouted in this way," she added. Pierre Hurmic, the ecologist mayor of Bordeaux, said screening the World Cup and setting up fan zones would make the city an "accomplice to this sporting event which represents all the humanitarian, ecological and sporting aberrations". Eric Cantona, the former French international and Manchester United footballer, is also boycotting the World Cup. "I will not watch a single match of this World Cup. This will cost me because since I was a kid it's been an event that I love, that I look forward to and that I watch with passion. But let's be honest with ourselves.

This World Cup makes no sense. The only meaning of this event, as we all know, is money," he wrote. In a communicate at the end of last month, the French Football Federation responded to criticism of its "deafening silence" over the forced labour and deaths of migrant workers at World Cup sites. It said the "campaign of stigmatisation" of Qatar was to be "deplored" and that it had defended "human rights and other essential causes on a daily basis". "Taking part in the World Cup doesn't mean closing one's eyes and supporting [abuse]," it wrote. The FFF claimed to have "implemented various verification measures concerning the respect of social rights and the application of respectful working conditions at the French team's base camp" in Qatar. The FFF believes the World Cup has brought progress to Qatar. "Even if the reality on the ground is not perfect, this progress is undeniable and positive," it said. Laurent Bodin, an opinion writer for L'Alsace newspaper, wrote: "The call to boycott is legitimate... but it's a bit late. "He added: "Such behaviour cannot be selective.