



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Fear of backsliding on Glasgow pledges dominates... 02

Rory McIlroy says Greg Norman should 'exit stage left' and quit 07



NEWS IN BRIEF

Bail granted

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 16:

The Gauhati High Court on Tuesday granted bail to one of the main accused in the Dhula minor girl death case, Ashirbad Hazarika. This comes after three doctors, accused in the case were granted bail by the court earlier today. They had been arrested on charges of framing the murder of the minor tribal girl as suicide. Ashirbad Hazarika was the Executive Magistrate of the Dalgaoon Revenue Circle in Assam's Darrang district. He had been surrendered by the Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Assam Police in connection with the matter. According to reports, Hazarika had stated the minor girl's death as a result of suicide without him being present at the spot when the incident had occurred.

Bollywood actor

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 16:

Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan arrived in Assam's Tezpur to shoot for his upcoming movie 'Fighter'. He along with his team of shooters has already arrived at a military air base in Salonibari. According to sources, the movie will be shot on a state-of-the-art Sukhoi 30 fighter jet. The shooting of the movie will start from November 18. Two other lead stars, Anil Kapoor and Deepika Padukone will also join Hrithik at the site for shooting of the film. Hrithik announced Fighter on his birthday last year. He shared a motion poster and wrote, "Presenting a glimpse of the MARFLIX vision as Fighter! Looking forward to my first flight alongside the exceptional Deepika Padukone. All buckled up for this Siddharth Anand joyride."

Signature drive

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 16:

The Assam Trinamool Congress (TMC) proceeded with its signature drive in Guwahati, to protest against the city's escalating expenses of living, increasing property taxes, and insufficiency of clean water. Members of Assam TMC, Assam TMC Youth and Women's wing took part in the signature drive at Fancy Bazaar in Guwahati in the presence of its party president Ripun Bora. Before this, the party ran its signature campaign in Beltola Bazaar and Paltan Bazaar as well, gaining vigorous support from the general public.

India to host G20 summit in 2023

Regional countries to benefit

New Delhi, November 16:

India will host the G20 summit in 2023, assuming leadership shortly after the Bali conference in Indonesia this November. In a significant step in this direction, India will assume the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022. The G20 Presidency offers a unique opportunity for India to contribute to the global agenda on pressing issues of international importance. The logo, theme, and website of the G20 Presidency would reflect India's message and overarching priorities to the world. The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation, representing around 85% of global GDP, over 75% of global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population. During the course of its G20 Presidency, India will be holding about 200 meetings in 32 different sectors in multiple



locations across the country. The G20 Summit to be held next year will be one of the most high-profile international gatherings to be hosted by India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday unveiled the logo, theme, and website of India's G20 presidency via video conferencing and said that the mantra for the G20 presidency will be "One Earth, One Family, and One Future."

"India led the renewable energy revolution with one sun, one world, and one grid." India strengthened the global health initiative with "One Earth, One Health." "And now India's theme for the G20 will be One Earth, One Family, One Future," PM Modi said on Tuesday. At the launch of the logo and website of India's G20 presidency, Prime Minister

Modi said, "I congratulate my countrymen on the historic occasion of India's G20 Presidency." Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is a symbol of India's compassion for the world. "Lotus portrays the cultural heritage and faith of India in bringing the world together." Prime Minister Modi acknowledged all previous governments' efforts, as well as citizens' efforts, to move India forward. The Prime Minister noted that following independence, they commenced a journey to the heights of development. It includes the efforts of all governments in the last 75 years. "Every government and citizen had put in efforts to take India forward." India's foreign policy has evolved to assume global leadership roles, guided by the Prime Minister's vision. India will

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Army Colonel killed by a speeding car in Assam

Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 16:

An army officer posted at Shillong lost his life after he was allegedly hit by a speeding car on Wednesday. As per the information, the colonel was hit by the car while walking from his office at around 5 pm. He later succumbed to his injuries while undergoing

treatment in the hospital. "A tragic news. Col Ramesh Rathore of 12 Armd Regt, posted as Col A HQ 101 Area Shillong, walking to office around 5pm was hit by a speeding Scorpio and succumbed later at the hospital," the Defence PRO of Guwahati said. The last rites of the deceased colonel will take place at his native place-

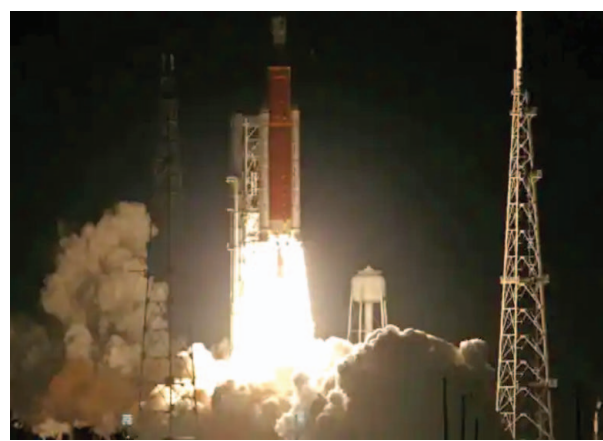
Ghanau Sadulpur village in the district Churu of Rajasthan's Jaipur on Friday (November 18). The Defence PRO Guwahati further condoled the demise of Col Ramesh Rathore and said that his son had recently joined the NDA. "Body being taken to Jaipur on 17 Nov 22 for

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NASA's Artemis rocket lifts off on test flight to moon

Cape Canaveral, November 16:

NASA's new moon rocket blasted off on its debut flight with three test dummies aboard early Wednesday, bringing the US, a big step closer to putting astronauts back on the lunar surface for the first time since the end of the Apollo programme 50 years ago. If all goes well during the three-week, make-or-break shakedown flight, the rocket will propel an empty crew capsule into a wide orbit around the moon, and then the capsule will return to Earth with a splashdown in the Pacific in December. After years of delays and billions in cost overruns, the Space



Launch System rocket thundered skyward, rising from Kennedy Space Centre 4 million kilograms of thrust and hitting 160 kph within seconds. The Orion capsule was perched on top, ready to bust out of Earth orbit toward the moon not quite two hours

into the flight. The moonshot follows nearly three months of vexing fuel leaks that kept the rocket bouncing between

its hangar and the pad. Forced back indoors by Hurricane Ian at the end of September, the rocket stood its ground outside as Nicole swept through last week with gusts of more than 130 kph. Although the wind peeled away a 3-metre strip of caulking high up near the capsule, managers gave the green light for the launch. NASA expected 15,000 to jam the launch site, with thousands more lining the beaches and roads outside the gates, to witness NASA's long-awaited

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Assam Rising
Guwahati, November 16:

Police in southern Assam's Hailakandi and Cachar districts seized seven exotic primates and narcotic drugs worth ₹10 crore on November 14. The day also saw the Cachar police seize Burmese areca nuts and foreign-made cigarettes - both illegal commodities - in hidden chambers of trucks. Barring the drugs seized from a house, the other items had come in trucks from Mizoram, the police said. "The seven pri-

mates, all black, were crammed in four boxes measuring 2 ft by 1.5 ft. We brought veterinarians to check their health before handing them over to the forest department officials," Hailakandi district's Superintendent of Police Nabaneet Mahanta told The Hindu on Tuesday. "Wildlife officials have not been able to identify the species but said they are endangered and

not Indian," he said. Mr. Mahanta said two persons, including the truck driver identified as Rakesh Debbarma from Tripura, were arrested along with the seized animals. "The two said they were paid to deliver the primates to someone in Shillong, from where another unknown person was to have taken the consignment," he added. The destination of the animals, like at least 175

other exotic mammals, reptiles and birds seized in Assam since September, was Siliguri in northern West Bengal for delivery to private zoos and amusement parks, police said. The Assam police said all loaded trucks from Mizoram are thoroughly checked at the border between the two States. Of late, the police have focused on empty trucks that are modified in a manner that escapes the untrained eye. The primates were in a large empty truck in boxes that had the same colour scheme as the inside of the vehicle. "High-value illegal items are often smuggled in empty trucks as a trick to outwit the enforcement agencies," a local police officer said. The truck carrying the primates managed

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Sunak greenlights 3,000 UK visas for Indians

New Delhi, November 16:

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has given the go-ahead for 3,000 visas for young professionals from India to work in the UK each year. The British government said India is the first visa-national country to benefit from such a scheme, highlighting the strength of the UK-India

Migration and Mobility Partnership agreed last year. "Today the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme was confirmed, offering 3,000 places to 18-30-year-old degree-educated Indian nationals to come to the UK to live and work for up to two years," the UK Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet. This announcement in the

Downing Street readout came hours after Sunak met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the 17th edition of the G20 Summit. This was their first meeting after the first Indian-origin British PM assumed office last month. "Prime Ministers @narendramodi and

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Army to construct next-gen 3D-printed bunkers at LAC

New Delhi, November 16:

The Indian Army will construct modular, 3D-printed, next generation bunkers to provide better protection to front-line soldiers guarding the country's border with China in the Ladakh sector, create underground facilities for the storage of ammunition at forward locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and build a raft of new roads,

bridges and tunnels as part of an overarching infrastructure push to strengthen its capabilities in the sensitive sector at a time of a lingering border standoff with the neighbour, officials familiar with the matter said, asking not to be named. The modern bunkers, which the army terms 3D printed permanent defences, will come up near LAC next year onwards, and will be able to

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Shashi Tharoor opts out of Gujarat campaign



New Delhi, November 16:

Kerala Congress MP Shashi Tharoor will not campaign for his party in the upcoming assembly elections as he was not in-

cluded in the Congress party's list of star campaigners, said reports on Wednesday. It has been reported that the Kerala Congress MP is miffed over not being included in the party's star campaigners list for Gujarat. It has emerged that Tharoor was invited by the Congress' student body to campaign in Gujarat, but he decided to opt out of it. The Shashi Tharoor camp says that he

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Fear of backsliding on Glasgow pledges dominates Cop27



Paris, November 16 : Fear of countries backsliding on their commitments to tackle the climate crisis dominated the Cop27 UN climate talks in Egypt on Tuesday, as the first tentative drafts started to emerge of key potential decisions. Governments are supposed to be building on pledges made last year at Cop26 in Glasgow. These include limiting global heating to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, doubling the amount of financial assistance for poor countries to adapt to the impacts of extreme weather, and addressing the issue of loss and damage, which means financial assistance for countries stricken by climate disaster. However, documents and proposals seen by the Guardian on Tuesday, and accounts from negotiating teams, showed some countries attempting to unpick agreements and water down commitments. Negotiators cautioned that the situation was still highly

fluid, and threats by some to renege on previous promises may be merely a gambit, at this early stage. Many countries may be setting out extreme negotiating positions on some issues in order to win concessions on others. "There really is nothing definite you can say yet at this stage about where these issues will go," one delegate said. "It's all still up for grabs." Draft texts go through many iterations before they are finally accepted by the Conference of the Parties, and key proposals can be dropped, reinstated or modified many times. Some countries also leak drafts in order to push others into changing position. The central promise to limit global heating to 1.5C has been targeted by China and India, who want instead to emphasise the Paris agreement goal of an upper limit of 2C. The UK, which hosted Cop26, has pushed back strongly. Alok Sharma,

the Cop26 president, told the conference: "At Cop26 we did resolve collectively to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5C. I have always said what we agreed in Glasgow and Paris has to be the baseline of our ambition. We've got to stick to that commitment. We cannot allow any backsliding." He warned: "We'll either leave Egypt having kept 1.5C alive or this will be the Cop where we lose 1.5C." On finance, one potential draft shows a proposal to water down a commitment made in Glasgow to double finance for adaptation, from about \$20bn a year to \$40bn, by 2025. One version of the new text would relegate this to "considering" to double finance. On loss and damage, Sweden's climate minister, Romina Pourmokhtari, queried the need for a new fund to direct money from rich to poor countries afflicted by climate disaster. Greta Thunberg, the Swedish youth activist, tweeted: "Sweden opposes the creation of a fund for climate damages and thus complicates the negotiations on Cop27. This fund would provide crucial support for those most affected - it is a matter of life and death for countless people." Frans Timmermans, vice-president of the European Commission, insisted that the EU was still supportive of providing finance for loss and damage, but that

there was not broad agreement among developed and developing countries on what form any new finance mechanism should take. "I don't see today agreement emerging on a new facility, but the EU is building bridges [with other countries]," he said. The question of whether there should be a whole new fund for loss and damage, and how any such fund should be administered, is a bone of contention at the talks. The Guardian has seen a proposal from the G77 and China - one of the developing world negotiating blocs at the talks - that insists a new fund is necessary.



Farmers harvest dates in Biskra Province, Algeria

Russia launches fresh missile strikes across Ukraine as G20 leaders meet

Kherson, November 16 : Russia launched a wave of missile strikes across Ukraine on Tuesday, leaving many cities without power, as G20 leaders met in Bali. Ukrainian authorities



said it was another planned attack aimed at the country's energy infrastructure facilities. The deputy head of presidential administration, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, wrote on Telegram that the energy situation across Ukraine was "critical" as a result. Ukraine's public broadcaster reported that the strikes targeted Kyiv, Kyiv region, Kharkiv city as well as Poltava, Mykolaiv, Dnipro, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, Lviv, Volyn,

Rivne, Cherkassy, Odesa, Kirovohrad, and Chernihiv regions. Ukraine's state energy company, Ukrenergo, said the extent of the damage was still to be determined but that emergency shutdowns "for all categories of consumers have been introduced" in the northern and central regions which have been most affected. "There is 'incoming' to our infrastructure in all regions of the country," Ukrenergo wrote on Telegram. The head of Ukraine's presidential administration, Andriy Yermak, said the attack was a response to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's address to the G20 on Tuesday. The strikes were

reportedly launched in waves. Yuriy Ignat, a spokesperson for Ukraine's air defence forces, said at 5.20pm Kyiv time that more than 80 rockets had been launched and 20 were still in transit. He said the number exceeded attacks on 10 October which had been the biggest so far. The mass strike follows Russia's retreat from Kherson and the west bank of the Dnipro River last week. "Most hits were recorded in the centre and north of the country. The situation in the capital is extremely difficult, special schedules of emergency shutdowns have been introduced," Tymoshenko said. He added that Ukrenergo had been forced to introduce the measures to balance the grid and called on Ukrainians to "use electricity sparingly and keep it up! The terrorists will be defeated". Electricity is reportedly out in at least half of the capital, Kyiv, as well as parts of Dnipro, Odesa, Mykolaiv and Zhytomyr regions. Three residential buildings in Kyiv were hit, according to the city's mayor, Vitali Klitschko. He said the buildings were in Kyiv's Pechersk district, a residential area just north of the presidential administration. Klitschko said that medics and rescue workers were on their way to the scenes. Tymoshenko published a video of a burning apartment building in Kyiv, while Klitschko said the first

body from an apartment block had been recovered by Kyiv rescue workers who were working at one of the scenes. At the G20 summit, Zelenskyy called on the leaders to support Ukraine to end the war on its terms - the primary one being that Russian troops leave all of Ukraine, including the areas it occupied in 2014. "We will not allow Russia to wait, build up its forces, and then start a new series of terror and global destabilisation. There will be no Minsk 3, which Russia will violate immediately after the agreement," Zelenskyy said. Recent media reports have claimed Ukraine's allies are keen to avoid a protracted war and envisage negotiations beginning soon. "I am convinced that now is the time when the Russian destructive war must and can be stopped," said Zelenskyy. The attacks came shortly after Russia's representative to the summit, the foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, accused western countries of trying to politicise the end-of-summit declaration by circulating a draft that said: "Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy." Ukraine's permanent representative to the UN, Sergiy Kyslytsya, described the strikes as Russia "spitting in the face" of fellow attendees at the G20. On Telegram, Yermak

addressed the Russian leadership as "cowards who only increase the amount of compensation that Ukrainians will be paid by their citizens". He added that Russia "will not win the war, we will restore everything," and said the situation across Ukraine was "critical" as a result. The last week was relatively quiet across Ukraine. Since early October, Russia has launched mass strikes on an almost weekly basis, mostly targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure. In an interview on Thursday, Ukraine's military intelligence chief, Vadym Skibitsky, said that Russia's resources were depleted after months of war and it was gathering its resources. "Their tactic is to save up their weapons, pick out targets and then carry out a mass strike."

Name Correction

I, Nur Islam, resident of the below mentioned address here declare that my actual and correct name is Nur Islam and my actual and correct date of birth is 06/04/1993. That my name has been Wrongly inserted in my Passport Vide Passport No. K0613424 As Mahammad Nur Islam in place of Nur Islam. That Nur Islam and Mahammad Nur Islam is The same and one person.

Sd/-
Nur Islam
S/O : Abdul Mazid
Vill : No. 2 Kuari Pukhuri
P/O : Kuari Pukhuri
P/S : Kharupetia
Dist : Darrang (Assam)

Poland missile 'unlikely' to have been fired from Russia, Biden says

Bali, November 16 : Joe Biden has said the missile that landed in Poland, killing two people, was unlikely to have been fired from Russia due to its trajectory. The US president was speaking at the G20 meeting in Bali, Indonesia, after convening an emergency meeting of western leaders to discuss the explosion on Nato territory that has the potential to take the war in Ukraine into a new even more dangerous dimension. Asked if the missile was fired from Russia, Biden said: "There is preliminary information that contests that. I don't want to say that until we completely investigate. But it is unlikely in the minds [sic] of its trajectory that it was fired from Russia." He added: "But we will see, we will see." The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the missile as a "Russian-made" missile, a phrase that could include S-300 ground to air missiles in the possession of Ukraine. "We agreed to support Poland's investigation into the explosion in rural Poland, near the Ukrainian border, and they're going to make

sure we figure out exactly what happened," Biden said before visiting a Mangrove germination plant with other G20 leaders. Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said he took Russian denials of involvement in the attack seriously adding it was likely to be a technical error. He said in Bali: "I have met with the German chancellor, Olaf Scholz. There is general impression that this missile is not Russian made and this declaration paves the way to certain facts so we should not insist this missile was launched from Russia. This would be a provocation." He added: "Peace can only be established through dialogue and we want to establish dialogue." The remarks come after Biden had convened an emergency meeting of the G7 group of western leaders to discuss the implications of the strike in Poland. The meeting underscored the possibility that the attack represented a Russian assault on Nato territory, something that might require invocation of Nato's collective self-defence articles. Moscow denied responsibility. The G7

consists of Canada, Italy, France, Germany, the UK, the US and Japan. The two EU leaders Charles Michel and Ursula von der Leyen also attended, as did the Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte and the Spanish prime minister Pedro Sánchez.

Taylor Swift tour tickets listed for as much as \$22,000 as Ticketmaster crashes

London, November 16 : Millions of Taylor Swift fans swarmed Live Nation's Ticketmaster website on Tuesday to try to score seats for her first tour in five years, causing periodic outages and long online waits as some tickets were quickly posted for resale for thousands of dollars. The ticket-selling site said in a statement that "historically unprecedented demand" for Swift's 52-date United States tour had seen millions of people attempt to buy presale tickets, which had caused "intermittent issues" that the company was "urgently" working to resolve. Fans elsewhere reported waiting in online



queues for up to eight hours, and many finding they were too late to purchase tickets, which cost between \$49 and \$449 each. While presale tickets were initially only open to Swift fans selected as "verified fans" - a system set up to deter bots and scalpers - some tickets were already being listed on resale sites such as StubHub for as much as US\$22,700 (£19,100, A\$33,500) each. Ticket sales for west coast shows were delayed by three hours to help ease pressure on Ticketmaster. Another presale, for Capital One credit cardholders, was postponed from Tuesday to Wednesday. The Eras tour will be Swift's first tour since 2018. "I'm a failure as a father," wrote Dave Pell, author of the popular NextDraft newsletter. "The one time my daughter really needed me to come through for her, I ended up on the outside looking in, banished to the barren

badlands of the Taylor Swift ticket waiting list wasteland," he said. Other Swifties, the nickname for Swift's fans, said they were repeatedly dropped from queues and turned their ire towards Ticketmaster. Some said they took a day off work and felt the process should have gone more smoothly. A Democratic US lawmaker also criticized the company. "@Ticketmaster's excessive wait times and fees are completely unacceptable, as seen with today's @taylorswift13 tickets," David Cicilline wrote on Twitter. He added that the 2010 merger of Ticketmaster and Live Nation, which had Justice Department approval, should not have been allowed. "It's no secret that Live Nation-Ticketmaster is an unchecked monopoly," he said. Cicilline, who chairs the House of Representatives antitrust panel, called on the Justice Department to investigate. The agency declined to comment. The ticketing industry has frustrated Americans for years with hidden fees, limited ticket availability because of presales, and other irritations. Hundreds of thousands of people did manage to buy tickets, Ticketmaster said. Swift released her latest album, *Midnights*, in October. She has promised hits from albums spanning her career on the Eras tour, which is scheduled to start in March and end in August.



Participants are seen near an earth model at the venue of the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Corrigendum

Tender Reference Number - CADA-303/2022-23/Agri/2178-81
Tender ID - 2022_WMDD_27642_1
Tender Title - Supply of Battery operated Hand Sprayer Machine for the year 2022-23

Sl. No	Page No & Sl No	Revised Text/ Remarks
1.	Page 8 Sl. 4	Eligible Bidders: The bidder shall be an Authorized Dealer/Distributor of the items for which the bidder offer their bid.
2.	Page 8 Sl. 13	May not be submitted as it carries the same meaning at Sl 4 of Page 8
3.	Page 8 Sl. 15	-do-
4.	Page 9 Sl. 18	-do-
5.	Page 9 Sl. 19	Please read the Annual Turnover of Rs. 200.00 Lakh instead of Rs. 500 Lakh
6.	Page 8 Sl. 16 Page 9 Sl. 17 Page 9 Sl. 25	The point at Sl-16, Sl-17 of page 9, Sl- 25 of page 9- carries the same meaning and only against Sl- 16 of page- 8 only need not to be responded.
7.	Page 12 Sl 25- (v)	May not be submitted
8.	Page 12 Sl 25- (vii)	May be read as freight i.e. free delivery without the word 'Insurance'.
9.	Page 15 Sl A- 2 (i) & (ii)	May not be submitted.
10.	Page 15 Sl B-5	May be read as submission of latest GST return instead of Sales Tax Clearance certificate.
11.	Page 15 Sl F-3	May not be submitted
12.	Page 15 SIG	Document indicated at G carries the same meaning as point B-5 of page 15. Only one document is required to be submitted.

Sd/-
Director
Char Areas Development Assam
Dispur, Ghy-06

Janasanyog/C/14210/22

SITA Co-Vice Chairman attended review meeting



Assam Rising, Udalgori, November 16: State Innovation & Transformation Aayog (SITA) Co-Vice Chairman

Dhruba Prasad Baishya visited Udalgori district today and held a meeting in the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner,

Udalgori to review the status of the schemes and projects under Aspirational District Programme. The meeting

was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Udalgori Dr. Sadnek Singh, IAS and all Heads of development Departments. Co-Vice Chairman Baishya reviewed the progress of the indicators of five sectors of the Aspirational district. In the meeting, Baishya interacted with the officials of development departments and forward his views and suggestions to the various schemes and also raised his queries to the Health department regarding the Atal Amrit Yojana and Ayushman Bharat and also regarding the immunization programme in the district. He also enquired

about the prospects of organic farming and about PM Kishan of the Agriculture department and also regarding the Fish farming in the district. He enquired about the start-up programme in the district and advised them to take appropriate action against the willful defaulters of bank loans. The Project Director, DRDA coordinated the meeting. Biraj Boruah, ACS, GG Das, Advisor (F & A), SITA, D, S Hazari, ARO SITA and other officials of District Administration attended the review meeting.

Assam Rising, Guwahati, November 16: To improve catering services on trains, Ministry of Railways has decided to give Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) flexibility to customize the menu so as to include the items of regional cuisines/preferences, seasonal delicacies, requirement during festivals, food items as per the preferences of different group of passengers such as diabetic food, baby food, health food options including millet based local products etc. For prepaid trains in which catering charges

IRCTC given flexibility to customize food menu in trains



are included in the passenger fare, the menu shall be decided by IRCTC within the tariff already notified. In addition, sale of a-la-carte meals and branded food items on MRP will also be permitted in these prepaid trains. Menu and tariff of such a-la-carte meals will be decided by IRCTC. For other Mail/Express trains, the menu of budget segment items like standard meals shall be decided by IRCTC within the fixed tariff. Menu and Tariff of Janta Meals shall remain unchanged. Sale of a-la-carte meals and branded food items on MRP will be permitted on Mail/Express trains. Menu and tariff of such a-la-carte meals will be decided by IRCTC. While deciding the menu IRCTC has been instructed to ensure that upgradation in quality and standards of food and service is maintained and safeguards are built in to avoid frequent and undue changes such as curtailment in quantity and quality, use of inferior brands, etc to avoid passenger grievances. The menus will be commensurate with the tariff and pre-notified for information of passengers before introduction.

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Vox Populi all set to organise Golaghat Book Fair

Assam Rising, Golaghat, November 16: Golaghat Book Fair and Literature Festival which has been organized by Vox Populi, a leading organization from Golaghat since a decade, will be held from November 18 to 27 next. On November 16 a press meet was organized by the organising committee of Golaghat Book Fair and Literature Festival at Samannay Kshetra in Golaghat where the organisers stated about the ongoing preparations and the ten day long schedule. In the press meet Working President of the organising committee Purna Rajkhowa and General Secretary of Vox Populi Devojit Phukan stated that this National Level Book Fair and Literature Festival will be inaugurated by renowned writer Ranju Hazarika on November 18 at 2 PM. The inaugural ceremony will be presided over by Organising Committee President and state Agriculture Minister Atul Bora where MLA of Golaghat and state Finance and Social Welfare Minister Ajanta Neog, All Assam Students Union's Adviser Dr Samujwal Bhattacharya, MLA of Sarupathar LAC Bishwajit Phukan, MLA of Khumtai LAC Mrinal Saikia, Senior Official of Numaligarh Refinery Limited Dr Kajol Saikia along with several other distinguished personalities will be present. On November 19, a state level Open Quiz Competition will be held in fond memory of Bitul Sharma. On November 20 a state level Art Competition will be organized by Golaghat Regional AASU. On that day a unique event named 'Xapunor Paridhi' will also be held. Several such other events will be held in the next few days. A cultural program of three popular artists of the state namely Kusum Kailash, Achurjya Borpatra and Neel Aakash will be there in the Book Fair premises. Leading book sellers and publishers from Delhi, Kolkata, Ludhiana, Bengaluru will have their stalls in Golaghat

Book Fair and Literature Festival. Joint Secretary of the organising committee Kaustubhmoni Hazarika, Partha Jyoti Bora, Ritupallab Saikia, Jadumoni Gogoi, Angshuman Baruah, Vice Chairman of Golaghat Municipal Board Simanta Bora, Vice President of Assam Cricket Association Pariksheet Dutta, official of All Assam Book Publishers and Sellers Association Raktim Thakuria along with officials and members of different organizations were present in the press meet.

Book Fair and Literature Festival. Joint Secretary of the organising committee Kaustubhmoni Hazarika, Partha Jyoti Bora, Ritupallab Saikia, Jadumoni Gogoi, Angshuman Baruah, Vice Chairman of Golaghat Municipal Board Simanta Bora, Vice President of Assam Cricket Association Pariksheet Dutta, official of All Assam Book Publishers and Sellers Association Raktim Thakuria along with officials and members of different organizations were present in the press meet.

Assam Rising, Aalo, November 16: The Children's day was celebrated joyously at Bagra, marking the birthday of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and the commencement of the National Book Week. A series of creative writing competitions like Creative Story Writing and Translation contest (from English to Gali) for the Bagra Circle school students were held during the week. It was jointly organized by Circle Office, Kamru, the DDSE Office, West Siang and Govt. Secondary School, Bagra. Speaking at the Children's Day function at the Govt Sec School Bagra, the Chief guest Anuman Perme, Circle Officer, PushiBango, Kamru/ Bagra congratulated the students for participating



enthusiastically in the contests. After giving away book prizes, she also lauded the active participation of many students in the contest to translate English stories in their mother dialect Gali.

Scholars Institute of Technology and Management (SITM) to host Tech Fest "UDBHABAN"



The Assam Rising, Guwahati, November 16: Scholars Institute of Technology and Management (SITM) Tech Invent, "UDBHABAN" 2022, is kick off today which will be continue to 18th November 2022. The three-day event is a congregation of various technical events from diversified fields of Engineering, Management, Fine Arts, Science & Technology, where young minds from various engineering colleges, Girijananda Institute of Management and Technology, Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, Assam Engineering College, would be taking part and showcase their talent in their respective fields. This was informed by Jhumur Lodh, Director of SITM. Prizes worth Rs 20 thousand would be given to the winners of various technical events on the concluding day of Tech Fest. The Chief Guest for the inauguration session of the occasion was the distinguished academician, environmentalist, Prof Dr. Parimal Ch. Bhattacharjee. He addressed the gathering with nostalgia about the past and took pride in the achievements of the students and faculty members, while congratulating them for the same. He also declared the tech fest open for the participants. He emphasised on the contribution of engineers in various field. He opined that there should be technical intervention from the engineers in various fields such as agriculture, health, climate change, etc. The Director in his speech emphasized on the importance of such events for the

holistic development of the student. The Chairman of SITM, Sudip Lodh also shared words of motivation for the students and their enthusiastic participation in such events. He also declared open for the participants by the Chief Guest.

5 gamblers arrested in Laharighat

Assam Rising, Buraigaon, November 16: Police continue to raid against gambling in Laharighat, Morigaon district. The victims were identified as Dildar Ali of Haldhibari village of Barbari Chariari reserve and his wife, Aisha Hussain of Laharighat police station. The victims were arrested around a tip-off. Finally, the Laharighat police arrested the gamblers. The arrested gamblers were identified as Dildar Hussain, 26, Abul Hussain, 25, Rabbul Islam, 32, and Ishaq Ali. The arrested gamblers were arrested last night after receiving complaints that they had been conducting illegal activities like gambling in the area for a long time. Police registered a case under section 396/22 and sent him to jail.



activities like gambling in the area for a long time. Police registered a case under section 396/22 and sent him to jail.

Byatikram international writers meet concludes



Assam Rising, Guwahati, November 16: Byatikram MASDO successfully conducted the three-day literary meet-Byatikram International Writers Meet 2022 from November 11 to 13 in Guwahati, Assam. A few acclaimed poets and writers from different parts of the world graced the occasion. The program was inaugurated by eminent Indian writer and editor of Gariyoshi Magazine Rita Chowdhury. Inaugurating the meet, Chowdhury said, "Feels great to see such literary programs being organized and as a writer I am happy to be present in these international writers meet." Dr. Saumen Bharatiya, President, Byatikram MASDO said, "We feel really honoured

and pleased to have our eminent writers from different countries and we are looking forward to hosting such meets on a bigger scale. We believe in enhancing and building a strong connection between all the eminent writers and the budding poets to provide them with a platform to showcase their creative writing skills and talents'. The program had a live painting by Manoj Dey, photography exhibition displayed by Dr. Reshma Ramesh, a stall displayed by Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Govt. of Assam showcasing the Assamese traditional dresses and handcrafted products etc. On the 2nd day, the program had a discussion on 'World Contemporary Literature' Various programmes were organized at Gauhati Artists' Guild, Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Guwahati, Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Center, PWD Convention and Training Centre, followed by a valedictory ceremony at Assam Down town hospital auditorium during the 3 day literary event. The programme had a Bihu performance by the students of Down Town University followed by a felicitation from India Tourism North East and a beautiful session where all the eminent writers expressed their words through their poems. The program was supported by NEDFi, ASRLM, Ajmal Foundation, Incredible India, NERIM Group of Institutions and many others.

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SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixing Court fee stamp Rs. 8.25 [Rupees eight and paise twenty five] only are invited from registered eligible Contractors/Firms for civil works under "SOPD Scheme - "Roads & Bridge" during 2022-23 to be executed in the Kamrup East Division, Basistha, Guwahati -29 as mentioned below:

Details of Works: -

Sl No.	Item of works	Unit	Estimated amount (In Lakhs)	Location	Earnest money
1.	Improvement of Patrolling Path from Garopara to Timikhuti under Rani Range	7 KM	Rs. 7,00,290.00	Under Rani Range	2% for General 1% for SC/ST/OBC of estimated amount

The tenders will be received up till 07/12/2022 up to 3.00 PM (IST) in the office of the undersigned and it will be opened on the same day by Tender Evaluation Committee at 3.30 PM (IST) in presence of the interested tenderers or their authorized representative.

The detailed estimate particulars of works may be seen and tender paper may also be obtained from the office of the undersigned on all working days up to 5.00 PM on payment of Rupees 250.00 (Rupees Two Hundred Fifty) only in the form of Demand Draft in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup East Division, Basistha, Guwahati - 29.

The works to be completed within 25 (Twenty Five) days from the date of issue of the final order. Payment will be made only after the receiving of fund from the competent authority.

The undersigned and Tender Evaluation Committee reserves the right to accept or cancelled any tender without assigning reasons thereof and does not bind to accept the lowest tenderer

**Divisional Forest Officer,
Kamrup East Division, Basistha,
Guwahati -29.**

Janasanyog/C/14168/22

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 269 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

Visas for Indian

Indian citizens received the largest share of U.K. student, skilled worker and visitor visas for the year ending June 2022, as per official data published by the British government on Thursday. This data comes as British visa applicants have faced severe delays in the adjudication of their applications, owing to an increase in the number of applicants as travel recovers post-pandemic and the prioritisation of visas for Ukrainians. As per the data, 1,17,965 students received student visas in the year ending June 2022, up 215% from 2019. India has displaced China to become the country with the highest number of sponsored study visas in the U.K. for the first time since the year ending June 2011. Indian and Chinese nationals get just under half of all sponsored study visas. Indians received 1,02,981 work visas in the year ending June 2022, an 80% increase compared to the year ending December 2019, just before the pandemic began. Nigeria, the Philippines, Zimbabwe and the United States followed India (in that order) for work visas. Forty-six percent of worker (formerly, 'skilled worker') visas went to Indians. Indian nationals received 28% of visitor visas in the year ending June 2022, moving ahead of China, which was the largest recipient pre-pandemic. (China has extensive quarantine requirements for individuals entering or re-entering the country). More than 2,58,000 Indians received tourists visas - but this was still down 50% from the 2019 calendar year. The largest fall over the same period was for Chinese nationals (6,12,495 or 95%). "India first again. I'm delighted that Indian nationals were issued the largest number of U.K. study, work and visitor visas in the year ending June 2022. More strength to the unique living bridge that connects our people," British High Commissioner to India, Alex Ellis, said in a statement on Thursday. "As this shows, we're experiencing unprecedented demand for visas. I encourage students starting courses soon to apply as early as possible." Mr. Ellis said. On August 12, he had posted a message on Twitter, apologising for the delays and acknowledging that they were "causing a lot of problems". In that message, Mr. Ellis had said Britain was training more people to work on visa applications and keeping open priority visa channels.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

At age seven, I had to cover my hair. Now women in Iran are fighting for freedom

I held my first photo exhibition in late 2017, a few months after returning from Mosul, Iraq, where I had documented the operation to liberate the city from Islamic State. From the first moments of the event, I felt gloomy as my family cast concerned looks at me while the press took pictures of my hair freely protruding from my scarf and clothes - a deliberate rebellion on my part against Iran's conservative traditions and beliefs. I suddenly experienced a flashback to all the ways in which I had been oppressed as a woman during my life. When I turned six, they pulled me out of my games with the boys in the neighbourhood. When I turned seven, they covered my head with the ugliest scarf in the world, which looked like a burlap sack, and sent me to school where, even though it was staffed solely by women, no one was allowed to remove the scarf. Knowing my stubbornness, my mother tried to keep a scarf on my head by choosing a sky-blue one decorated with flowers and ribbons, something different from the black scarfs of others. I, however, found some release by ripping the scarf from under my chin, allowing me to breathe more

freely. Although I had the best marks at school, my disobedience towards the restrictive rules meant that I was never encouraged academically. Every day, I wished I had been born a boy. When I turned nine, I was close to the age of puberty and it was time to observe religious obligations. I was taught that if a man saw my body, it was me who would be burned in hell, where I

 **Maryam Mazrooei**

would be hung by each strand of hair that had been visible. After weeks fearing being hung in hell, with my childish logic I found a solution in rebellion, reasoning that being hung from a bunch of hair would be less painful than from a strand. I ripped my scarf some more. The more I matured and the more feminine I appeared, the heavier the burden of sins became. I started to hunch under this burden, to avoid the sin of seducing men with my growing breasts. The final straw came when I was 14 and the authorities of the top-rated school that I was tending made me wear a chador, a big black cloth that covered my whole body except for my face. It led to a long depression, one that lasted 10 years. With the help of a

therapist, I finally found the most important cause was the chador, that big black shroud. I decided to wear a loose hijab and prepared myself for the price I would have to pay. I would lose the financial and emotional support of my wealthy community, which only passively respected women's rights. I was aware of the consequences in a country where the hijab is legally obligatory and on every corner the morality police hunt women who don't properly hide their female bodies, and arrest them using a snare pole. I would have no chance of being hired officially and permanently. Even so, I decided to drop out of studying physics and restart my career as a freelance journalist and photographer. That night at my exhibition, I was again reminded of the wounds that I had thought were healed, wounds shared by women in neighbouring countries whose photographs I had taken. The deep wounds of the Yazidi and Iraqi women whose bodies became a battlefield and who were forced to become sex slaves, the women of Afghanistan who ran away to avoid being sold by their brothers and fathers to sex trafficking agents.

AAP grabbing attention in Gujarat. But BSP got 20% votes and still got 0 seats in UP 2014

In a contest that seems pre-determined in favour of Bharatiya Janata Party, the only question that invites curiosity about the upcoming Gujarat assembly elections is how Aam Aadmi Party would fare and how much damage it would inflict upon Congress and BJP, both of which are rethinking their strategies in the face of an emerging challenge from the Arvind Kejriwal-led party. The AAP unit in Gujarat has the advantage of a largely unblemished image that any new political entrant gets. Its confidence springs from several factors: Kejriwal's fighting instincts, attraction for freebies promised by it, highly-charged social media campaigns, a morale-boosting landslide victory in Punjab, positive perception of the so-called Delhi model of governance and so on. But would all this be enough to cause a qualitative transition from the two-party dominance that has been the mainstay of Gujarat politics since 1995, despite several efforts by minor parties to alter it? While some opinion polls (ABP C-Voter Survey and Hindu-CSDS Survey) have predicted a vote share of roughly 20 per cent for AAP-placing it after BJP and ahead of Congress in the Gujarat elections- ground realities foretell that it would be challenging for the party to pull off a surprise. Even if it does manage to get a sizeable chunk of the total votes, whether it would succeed in translating it

into seats is open to debate. In a first-past-the-post election system, constituency-wise distribution of votes matters more than merely the high share of aggregate ballots, which might not get converted into the proportionate number of seats if votes are spread thin over the state and not concentrated into winnable seats. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), for instance, secured the third largest vote share of 20 per cent in Uttar Pradesh in the 2014 Lok Sabha election but won zero seats. Likewise, AAP got 20 per cent votes in the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation election held last year but could win only one seat. What succeeded in Delhi and Punjab might not succeed elsewhere because the dynamics and variables of different states' politics aren't the same. Besides, new parties in a two-party state face structural barriers to success. The psychology of voters favours the existing parties. Voters primarily want to elect a winning or a winnable party. They see the ballot for a third party as a waste of opportunity. AAP itself faced humiliating defeats when it tried to enter new territories. In the 2017 Gujarat election, the party contested 30 seats and secured just about 0.1 per cent votes. It got 6 per cent votes and two seats in the 2022 Goa elections. Its debut appearance in UP and Haryana was disastrous. In both states, the party got less than half a percentage of votes and no seats despite Kejriwal's blitzkrieg

campaign and the party's tall claims. AAP contested all 70 seats in Uttarakhand but came to nought after securing 3 per cent votes. As a new party, the biggest challenge AAP faces is putting in place a minimal organisational structure to bring its voters to the polling booth. AAP is mostly an urban phenomenon in Gujarat. Its political visibility is confined to Surat, Rajkot and the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar area. People in rural and semi-urban regions poorly identify with its symbol, candidates and programmes. AAP has created its main voter base from Patidars. For one, AAP's prominent state leaders are either previous collaborators of Patidar BJP leader Hardik Patel or activists of the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti, which spearheaded the reservation agitation between 2015-17. The party's plans to penetrate Gujarat's tribal vote bank seems to be floundering as its alliance with Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) fell through. Its mobilisation and campaign strategies have largely ignored the interests of Dalits, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and minorities. AAP has virtually no presence in Gujarat's civil society networks (milk cooperatives, agricultural marketing committees, students' bodies, professionals' associations, trade unions etc.) dominated

 **Amit Dholakia**

Biden and Xi shake hands in Bali but show they won't stop blunting each other's strengths

The G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, is a microcosm of strained international cooperation in dire times. The central attraction of the summit was a highly scripted meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping. The bilateral meeting can be best described as a "squabble with smiles". The zeitgeist of the microcosm at the Mulia Hotel in Bali - where Biden and Xi met - is the 'bipolar world order' moment. The meeting lasted over three hours and included discussions about the most challenging areas of the US-China relationship. There was much riding on the 'personal

relationship' Biden has with Xi - going back 11 years - to revive a difficult relationship. But Xi may have won a propaganda victory at home by showing his people that Beijing isn't isolated and seeks dialogue. The hashtag "Chinese and US presidents meet in Bali" was briefly the number one trend on the Chinese social media platform Weibo and was viewed over 310 million times. On the Chinese search engine Baidu, the search term "A 10-minute video to watch of the meeting between Chinese and US leaders in Bali" was the number one trend, capturing the importance of the meeting for Xi. Marking an exception, the Chinese censors allowed images of Xi smiling and shaking hands with Biden - which People's Daily on Weibo also shared. Given the significance of the meeting with Biden in Bali - at this juncture - the handshake offered a propaganda victory for Xi. In Bali, the US and China tried to revive a stale marriage and found themselves talking about their 'core interests' instead. Biden and Xi were seen repeating the same talking points about fast slipping 'common ground' in a highly choreographed handshake. The sheer scale of the discord is captured by an incident at the summit's sidelines. An alleged Chinese official pulled news producers from the back when they asked if Biden would talk about human rights with Xi. "Instantly a man from the Chinese side....yanked the producer backwards by the backpack. She lost balance without falling and was pushed toward the door," according to an account by The White House reporters who saw the alleged incident. Biden summarised his meeting with Xi as "very blunt with one another". But there was little beyond the high stake optics of the choreographed handshake. "China continues to pursue an independent foreign policy of peace firmly, always decides its position and attitude based on the merits of the matter itself, advocates dialogue and consultation, peaceful settlement of disputes, deepens and expands global partnership, and safeguards the UN-centered international system and international law based on the

international order, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind," Xi said during the meeting with Biden. Xi took a direct swipe at Biden's China policy while obliquely alluding to his discomfort with the Quad Security Dialogue and other such mechanisms the US uses to challenge China. In one

 **Aadil Brar**

instance, Xi's comments were even more pointed. "No one should engage in beggar-thy-neighbor practices, building a small yard with high fences, or creating closed and exclusive clubs," said Xi during his address at the G20. The US and China competition can be better understood through game theory. Both sides are making moves with the fundamental assumption that the other side will take the best shot at blunting the opposing side's advantage - the two sides are acting in an environment full of mistrust. Hence, the pithy repetition of diplomatic talking points may appear absurd but essential to maintain a semblance of stability. Xi's comment about 'technological wars' captures his deep frustration over the US's targeted actions against Huawei and the semiconductor industry as well as his inability to become self-reliant in the primary innovations. President Biden recently announced the measures to choke China's access to semiconductor technology - well surpassing any measures taken by former President Donald Trump. "When President Biden took office, he promised to abandon Trump's 'if you don't support us, you are against us' line toward China. Instead, he is now forcing American partners to choose sides in a deepening global tech standoff," said an op-ed in Chinese published by Global Times. Chinese officials see how the limited scope of dialling down the tensions in previously apolitical arenas such as semiconductor technology have become politicised. Chinese state media have

blamed the US for 'acting like a bully' with the most stringent semiconductor measures announced by Biden. "But with Biden saying coming into the meeting that 'I know I'm coming in stronger' - after his party's performance in the midterm elections, the window of opportunity is likely to be short to get things moving in the right direction before old habits set in again. The longer Washington delays in adjusting its China policy, the higher the stakes will be in its competitive gamble", said China Daily in an English editorial without a byline. The US and China are trying to blunt each other's geopolitical advantages, and so-called bottom lines, or fundamental interests, are beginning to fade. The blunting strategy was Beijing's preferred tool over the years, and Washington mimics some of it. Despite the underlying tension, Biden tried to reassure Xi by telling him Washington will not interfere in Beijing's core interests, such as not supporting 'Taiwan's independence'. "The United States respects China's system, does not seek to change China's system, does not seek a 'new Cold War', does not seek to oppose China by

strengthening alliances, does not support 'Taiwan independence', and does not support 'Two Chinas' and 'one China, one Taiwan'." Biden was quoted by the Chinese state media. But it was immediately unclear if Biden made the exact comments about not supporting 'Taiwan independence' as quoted by Chinese state media in Chinese and English readouts. This won't be the first time Biden was misquoted to win a propaganda victory at home. Washington's strategy ahead of the meeting with Xi was poorly coordinated. US officials tried to create a comfortable environment for the Chinese side under which they might be willing to make some compromises at the high-stakes meeting. "I think there is undeniably a discomfort in Beijing about what we've seen in terms of reckless rhetoric and activity on the part of Russia," said a US official who asked not to be identified. The Wall Street Journal reported that a US official cited comments by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang made during the ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh. But what Chinese officials may say in private is contradicted by the foreign ministry's public posture, which seeks to assure the world about the stability of China-Russia relations.

Letter to the Editor

Superstar Krishna is a legend in Telugu Film Industry

Dear editor,

Superstar Krishna entered films with tene manasulu, playing key roles, though he did minor roles in movies like kula gotralu earlier. Sakshi received appreciation at the Tashkent film festival. Alluri Seetha rama raju was a turning point. He played roles in all types of movies. He started James bond movies in telugu, like Gudachari 116. He started many firsts technically. He encouraged many newcomers. People in the film industry vouch for his humane behaviour. He acted in more than 350 movies. His film career spans half a century. He was a director and producer too. Padmabhushan was awarded by Govt of india in 2009. Andhra University honoured him with doctorate. Lifetime achievement award South, was awarded to him. His having 2005 Fans Associations reflects his being a good human. His exit created a big vacuum in the Telugu Film industry .

 **Kantamsetti Lakshman Rao**
Seethamadhara
Visakhapatnam

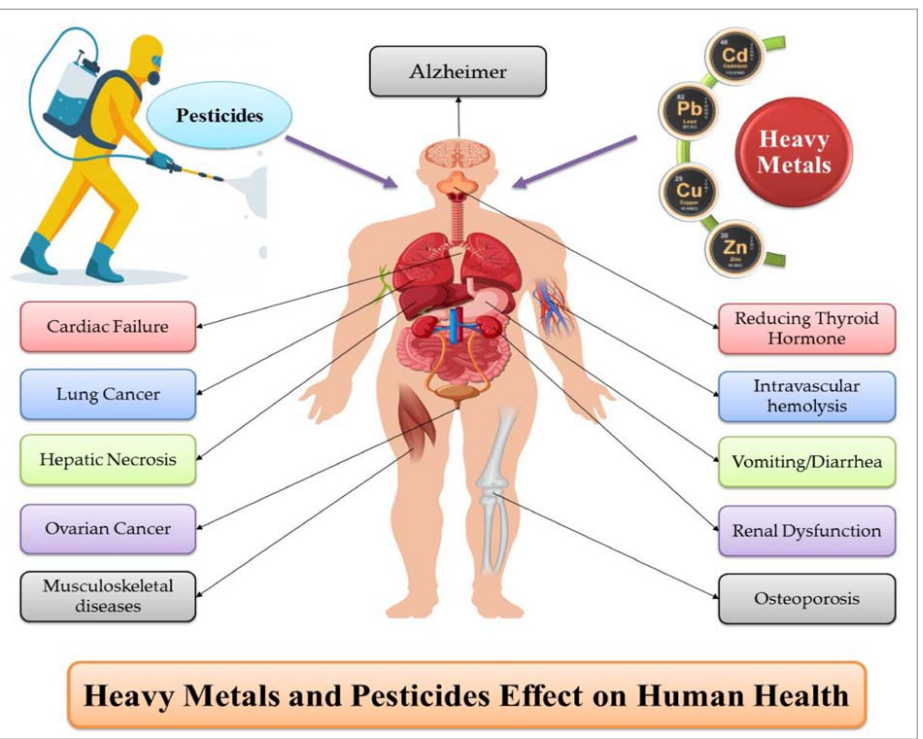


Pig rearing system

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 observed 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 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 to faster economic return to the farmers, because of certain inherent traits like high fecundity, better feed conversion efficiency, early maturity, and short generation interval. The pig requires minimum capital investment, labor, buildings, and equipment, and can easily be kept in cities. The pig farming sector is highly un-organized in most parts of India as the pig population is reared under traditional smallholder, low-input, demand-driven production systems. The distribution of the pig population across the country is not uniform with the highest population of pigs in the eastern and north-eastern states. The highest population is in Assam (2 million), followed by Uttar Pradesh (1.4 million), West Bengal (0.8 million), Jharkhand (0.7 million), and Nagaland (0.7 million). Assam is a state in Northeastern India and its economy is mainly dependent on agriculture and allied activities. Livestock is reared by almost every household in the rural areas of Assam. Non-descript cattle, small ruminants, mainly goats, and backyard poultry are common along with agriculture, while pig rearing is mostly done in areas dominated by scheduled tribes and scheduled castes, historically disadvantaged groups in India. Pig farming in Assam has established itself as a major livelihood supporter for poor, marginalized, and landless farmers. The pig sector in the state of Assam has major challenges such as shortage of feed and feed crops, low productivity of indigenous pigs, infectious and metabolic diseases and impact of climate change and global warming, which need to be addressed enabling the sector to grow according to its potential. A large number of infectious diseases that are prevalent in Assam have serious implications on pig productivity, 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.

One of the major health risks caused by chemical fertilizers can possibly happen through the plant macronutrients that it contains, including nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. The problem with chemical fertilizers is that it can infiltrate the soil, and can make its way to the groundwater and even surface water like rivers and lakes through runoffs, which can result in contamination. Nitrogen can remain in the water for several years, which can contain excessive levels of nitrates and nitrites. And nitrate and nitrite-contaminated water can cause a blood disorder called methemoglobinemia, also known as the "Blue Baby Syndrome." This condition is described as the abnormal production of methemoglobin, which is a form of hemoglobin. Studies say that

it results from feeding infants with baby formula using nitrate-contaminated water. When this happens, the infant literally turns blue and may eventually suffer from coma and even death. A recent study has also found an association between increased amounts of nitrates in the environment and our food with increased deaths from Alzheimer's disease and diabetes mellitus. This is due to human exposure from a chemical reaction between nitrites, which are heavily used in fertilizers, and secondary amines or proteins, which then causes DNA damage, lipid peroxidation, and oxidative stress, which can all result in increased cellular degeneration and even death. Another major health risk that comes with the excessive use of the synthetic fertilizer is that it may increase the risk of develop-



ing cancer. A 1973 study links high levels of sodium nitrate in groundwater with gastric cancer. Synthetic fertilizers can also poten-

tially increase one's risk of dying from different types of cancer for up to six times. These include prostate cancer, brain cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and leukemia. One of the harmful effects of fertilizers on the environment can be caused by eutrophication, a process by which a body of water gets an excess amount of nutrient like nitrogen and phosphorus, which mainly happens because of human activities that cause these nutrients to be pushed into the ocean. This process creates a "dead zone." The nutrients encourage the growth of excessive amounts of aquatic plants, to the extent that when they die, the process of decomposition consumes oxygen that fish and other marine life need to survive. Therefore, because most marine life either dies or leave that area because of less oxygen, experts call it a "dead zone". Moreover, a study found that the excessive use of inorganic fertilizers around the world is linked to the accumulation of contaminants such as cadmium, arsenic, lead, mercury, and fluorine in the agricultural soil. In fact, in the United States, a set of studies done by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on the aquatic life on major river basins in the country found that 90 percent of water and fish samples from streams contained one, or more often, several pesticides. Chemical fertilizers may be beneficial for plant growth, but they can also potentially cause adverse health effects in humans and also have a detrimental impact in the environment. Whether you are using a farm or lawn fertilizer, applying more than what is suggested or needed by a plant may help them grow fast, but it can have negative consequences to the ecosystem and the people around you.

Fish farming & employment opportunities



Fish farming is a form of aquaculture in which fish are raised in enclosures to be sold as food. It is the fastest growing area of animal food production. Today, about half the fish consumed globally are raised in these artificial environments. Commonly farmed species include salmon, tuna, cod, trout and halibut. These "aquafarms" can take the form of mesh cages submerged in natural bodies of water, or concrete enclosures on land. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, roughly 32% of world fish stocks are overexploited, depleted or recovering and need of being urgently rebuilt. Fish farming is hailed by some as a solution to the overfishing problem. However, these farms are far from benign and can severely damage ecosystems by introducing diseases, pollutants and invasive species. The damage caused by fish farms varies, depending on the type of fish, how it is raised and fed, the size of the production, and where the farm is located. One significant issue is that rather than easing the impact on wild populations the farms often depend on wild fish species lower on the food chain, like anchovies, in order to feed the larger, carnivorous farmed species. It

can take up to five pounds of smaller fish to produce one pound of a fish like salmon or sea bass. Overfishing of these smaller "forage" fish has repercussions

species. High stocking densities result in a significant amount of pollution from fish excrement and uneaten food, which in turn lead to poor water quality high in ammonia and low in oxygen. Outdoor fish farms can also attract predatory marine animals, such as sea birds and sea lions, who are sometimes poisoned or shot by aquafarmers for eating the fish. Despite evidence to the contrary, it is still a common misconception that fish do not feel pain. Slaughter methods in

species, such as salmon in the United States, are also starved for many days to empty the gut before they are sent to slaughter. Fish are most often not stunned and are killed by bleeding out, being hit on the head repeatedly, suffocating or freezing. In the US, as with many other countries, there are no regulations to ensure the humane treatment of fish. Years of unregulated and underreported catches of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean are threatening the existence of this severely overfished species. To meet the high and growing demand for sushi in Japan and elsewhere, ranching of bluefin tuna is becoming a popular industry and is exacerbating the problem. Fishermen use longlines and purse seines to catch the tuna before they reach breeding age and have time to reproduce. They are then kept in sea farms for 3-6 months and fattened with thousands of pounds of smaller wild-caught fish before being killed and exported.



throughout the ocean ecosystem. As is the case with industrial animal farms on land, the fish are often housed in unnaturally crowded and cramped conditions with little room to move. Fish may suffer from lesions, fin damage and other debilitating injuries. The overcrowded and stressful conditions promote disease and parasite outbreaks such as sea lice that farmers treat with pesticides and antibiotics. The use of antibiotics can create drug-resistant strains of diseases that can harm wildlife populations and even humans that eat the farmed fish. Escaped fish introduce yet another threat into the environment. Each year, hundreds of thousands of fish escape farms and threaten the genetic diversity and survival of native

the aquaculture industry are appalling. Little to no attention is given to the suffering of the animals and most are fully conscious during slaughter, which can take many minutes. Some

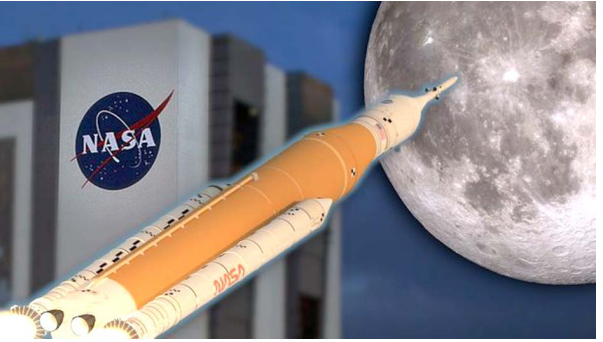
HOWTIAN claims highest Reb a yield in industry history

HOWTIAN says it has achieved the highest RebA yield in industry history with average yields reaching up to 12 percent this season. This marks a significant turning point, with the cost of stevia approaching parity with artificial sweeteners. HOWTIAN has been working to produce more affordable stevia for a long time now under a project known as 'Project Shennong'. This was initiated at the same time different steviol glycoside (the sweet component of stevia) processing technologies began to emerge worldwide. The project is geared towards lowering the price of stevia but with the significant resolve of not compromising on naturalness. "The cost of stevia has always been a challenge for the food and beverage manufacturing industry, especially when compared to the cost of artificial sugar substitutes like aspartame," elaborated the company's VP of Market Strategy Project, Tom Fuzer. "A key driver of the higher cost is that the typical steviol glycoside yield from stevia plants is rather low. When producing stevia using traditional and natural extraction methods, large quantities of leaf are required to yield a small amount of purified sweetener." To overcome this, many producers started to explore other methods like enzymatic modification, bioconversion and fermentation. Although these have helped to reduce costs, Fuzer explained that this has also comprised on the naturalness of stevia to varying degrees.

Artemis Moon rocket to make third launch attempt

NASA was thwarted by a mix of technical and weather woes when it tried to get the Artemis I Moon mission off Earth back in August and September. But the mood remains positive at Florida's Kennedy Space Center for a third attempt. "We're going to do our best," Mike Sarafin, NASA's Artemis mission manager, told reporters. "That said, if we have an issue that

occurs that would cause us to meet one of our no-go criteria - it may not be our day." Wednesday's bid to dispatch the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket is scheduled to occur at some point in a hour window that opened at 01:04 local time (06:04 GMT). Meteorologists are forecasting an 80% probability of favourable weather conditions. The 100m-tall rocket's objective will be to

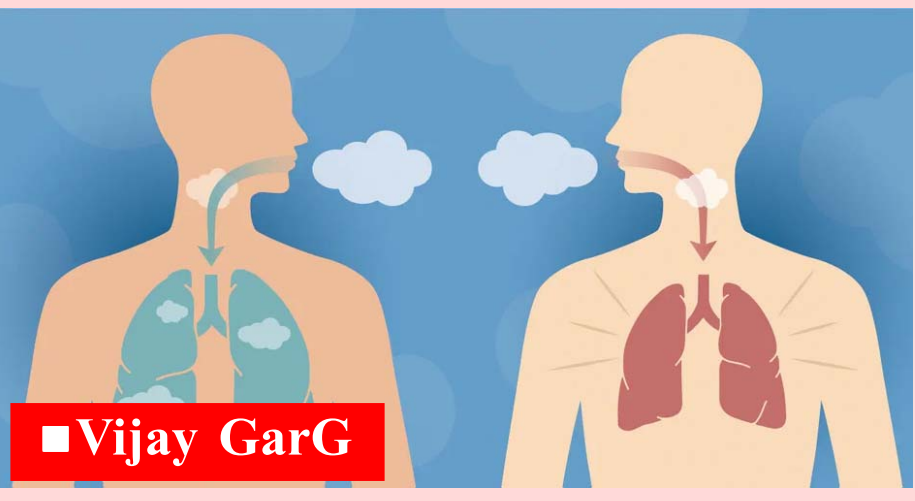


hurl a human-rated capsule in the direction of the Moon, something that hasn't happened since Project Apollo ended in 1972. Artemis I is a technology demonstration, so there will be no crew aboard on this occasion, but should everything go to plan then Artemis II, expected to fly in 2024, very definitely will be carrying people. Artemis III, in perhaps 2025 or 2026, is the flight that will try to get astronauts down to the lunar surface. The SLS has had a tricky time getting ready to launch, even having to ride out a passing hurricane in recent days while standing on Kennedy's famous Pad 39B. And as a new vehicle, engineers are having to learn its quirks, especially during the process of filling the rocket with the 2.7 million litres of

cryogenic fuel needed to power the four main engines under its core stage. The previous launch attempts were plagued by leaks of the super-cold liquid propellants when they were being pumped into the vehicle's tanks. Wednesday's fuelling process is using a slower approach than in the past, said launch director Charlie Blackwell Thompson: "What we refer to as a kinder, gentler method." If the SLS does get away this time, it is sure to be a spectacular sight. The vehicle will be pulling 39.1 meganewtons (8.8 million pounds) of thrust off the pad. That's close to 15% more than the Saturn V rockets that sent the Apollo astronauts on their way to the Moon in the 1960s and 70s.

Difficulty in Breathing

Delhi is going through its customary, year-end haze of air pollution, when air quality turns toxic. Even after years of enduring this problem, little or nothing has been done to mitigate this annual calamity. Spike in Delhi pollution as winter spiral begins. Last week, the air quality in Delhi plummeted to its worst levels since January as smoke from smoldering paddy fields in Punjab and Haryana drifted in, marking the beginning of what has been an annual environmental blight that is only predicted to worsen, with more farm fires likely and unhelpful meteorological conditions predicted to persist. The air quality index (AQI)



slumped from an uncharacteristically clean 271 on Wednesday to 354 on Thursday, according to the 4pm bulletins

released on both days by the Central Pollution Control Board. An AQI above 300 is considered "very poor" - the second worst band on the AQI scale. At least two regions in the city, Anand Vihar and Ashok Vihar, had an AQI above 400, which lies in the worst "severe" band. Wind speeds have dropped significantly from October 26 onwards and we are seeing calm wind conditions at night time. Delhi saw calm wind conditions for nearly seven hours between 4.30 am to 11.30 am on Thursday, with this spell playing a significant role in accumulation of pollutants. This was Delhi's highest AQI in over 10 months; on January 21, it was 365. Forecasts

show similar calm conditions are expected to prevail until the end of the month now, largely keeping Delhi's air quality in the "very poor" category. Behind the deterioration in Delhi's air quality was the perfect storm of conditions: the direction of winds changed to northwesterly that fed in a stream of smoke from fires, the number of fires itself spiked in recent days, local winds weakened that help blow away dust and tailpipe gasses died down, and the temperature dipped, creating an "inversion" effect that causes pollutants to settle closer to the ground, instead of being dispersed higher into the sky.

Contd. From Page 1

Border Row: Minister-level Talks

Home Department H Lalengmawia and two other senior officials of the Home department, he said. The Assam delegation is likely to be headed by border area protection and development minister Atul Bora, highly placed sources said. Mizoram and Assam, which share a 164.6-km-long inter-state boundary, have a long-standing border dispute, which mainly stemmed from two colonial demarcations in 1875 and 1933. While Mizoram claimed that 509 square miles stretch of the inner line reserve forest notified by the British in 1875 as its actual boundary, Assam accepted the map prepared by survey of India in 1933 as its constitutional boundary. However, there is no ground demarcation of the boundary between the two states, according to officials. After sporadic skirmishes since 2018, the border dispute had taken an ugly turn in July last year when police forces of the two states exchanged fire leading to the death of six policemen and a civilian from Aizawl. More than 60 people were also injured in the violent clash that took place in the disputed area near Mizoram's Vairengte village on the National Highway-306. The violent clash was followed by an economic blockade imposed on the lifeline of Mizoram (NH-306) by locals of Lailapur village in Assam. The two states began talks from August last year and agreed to resolve the dispute through dialogue besides maintaining peace along the inter-state border. Since then both the delegations have held two rounds of talks and five virtual meetings over the border issue. Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma have also met twice in New Delhi in November last year and September this year to find an amicable solution to the vexed border dispute.

India to host G20 summit in 2023

hold over 200 G20-related meetings across the country during its presidency of the grouping, which will begin on December 1, 2022, and continue until November 30, 2023. The G20 Leaders' Summit will be held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10 of 2023 and Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain, and the UAE will be the "guest countries" at the event, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on September 13. "India is currently part of the G20 Troika [the current, previous, and incoming G20 presidencies] comprising Indonesia, Italy, and India." During our presidency, India, Indonesia, and Brazil would form the troika. This would be the first time that the troika would consist of three developing countries and emerging economies. "This would provide them with a more powerful voice," said the Ministry of External Affairs in an official statement. The announcement said the priorities of the upcoming summit are being "firmed up" and said discussion among all member countries will include issues related to "women's empowerment, digital public infrastructure, health, agriculture, education, culture, tourism, climate financing, the circular economy, global food security, energy security, green hydrogen, disaster risk reduction and resilience, the fight against economic crime, and multilateral reforms." A major challenge of the G20 session in India will involve the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. This has vitiated relations between Russia and the industrialised nations of the West, most of which are members of the G20, which represents 85% of global GDP and 75% of international trade. The history of the G20 countries spans twenty-three years. The G20 will promote discussion and will study and review policy issues among industrialized countries and emerging markets with a view to promoting international financial stability. Member countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union. The Managing Director of the IMF and the President of the World Bank, as well as the Chairpersons of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Development Committee of the IMF and World Bank, will fully participate in the discussions. The creation of the G20 represents the next stage in the evolution of informal consultation among industrialized countries and emerging markets. The year 2023 will be India's prerogative to show the world what they mean by their theme, "One Earth, One Family, and One Future." That would create better opportunities for the global population to overcome their perennial issues.

NASA's Artemis rocket lifts

sequel to Project Apollo, when 12 astronauts walked on the moon from 1969 and 1972. Crowds also gathered outside NASA centres in Houston and Huntsville, Alabama, to watch the spectacle on giant screens. "For the Artemis generation, this is for you," launch director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson said shortly before liftoff, referring to young people who were not alive for Apollo. The liftoff marked the start of NASA's Artemis lunar-exploration programme, named after Apollo's mythological twin sister. The space agency is aiming to send four astronauts around the moon on the next flight, in 2024, and land humans there as early as 2025. The 98-metre SLS is the most powerful rocket ever built by NASA, with more thrust than either the space shuttle or the mighty Saturn V that carried men to the moon. A series of hydrogen fuel leaks plagued the summertime launch attempts as well as countdown tests. A fresh leak erupted at a new location during Tuesday night's fuelling, but an emergency team managed to tighten the faulty valve on the pad. Then a U.S. Space Force radar station went down, resulting in another scramble, this time to replace an ethernet switch. Orion should reach the moon by Monday, more than 370,000 kilometers from Earth. After coming within 130 kilometers of the moon, the capsule will enter a far-flung orbit stretching about 64,000 kilometers beyond. The \$4.1 billion test flight is set to last 25 days, roughly the same as when crews will be aboard. The space agency intends to push the spacecraft to its limits and uncover any problems before astronauts strap in. The mannequins - NASA calls them moonquins - are fitted with sensors to measure such things as vibration, acceleration and cosmic radiation. "There's a fair amount of risk with this particular initial flight test," said mission manager Mike Sarafin. The rocket was supposed to have made its dry run by 2017. Government watchdogs estimate NASA will have spent \$93 billion on the project by 2025. Ultimately, NASA hopes to establish a base on the moon and send astronauts to Mars by the late 2030s or early 2040s. But many hurdles still need to be cleared. The Orion capsule will take astronauts only to lunar orbit, not the surface. NASA has hired Elon Musk's SpaceX to develop Starship, the 21st-century answer to Apollo's lunar lander. Starship will carry astronauts back and forth between Orion and the lunar surface, at least on the first trip in 2025. The plan is to station Starship and eventually other companies' landers in orbit around the moon, ready for use whenever new Orion crews pull up. Reprising an argument that was made during the 1960s, Duke University historian Alex Roland questions the value of human spaceflight, saying robots and remote-controlled spacecraft could get the job done more cheaply, efficiently and safely. "In all these years, no evidence has emerged to justify the investment we have made in human spaceflight? save the prestige involved in this conspicuous consumption," he said. NASA is waiting until this test flight is over before introducing the astronauts who will be on the next one and those who will follow in the footsteps of Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Most of NASA's corps of 42 active astronauts and 10 trainees were not even born yet when Apollo 17 moonwalkers Gene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt closed out the era, 50 years ago next month. "We are jumping out of our spacesuits with excitement," astronaut Christina Koch, 43, said just hours before liftoff. After a nearly yearlong space station mission and all-female spacewalk, she's on NASA's short list for a lunar flight.

Army Colonel killed by a speeding

last rites at Ghanau Sadulpur, dist Churu, a native village on 18 Nov. Second Generation off. His son has just joined NDA. May God bless his soul and give strength to the family to bear this irreplaceable loss," it said.

Seven exotic primates, drugs

to get past the check post. But the personnel of the next police station at Ramnathpur intercepted the vehicle. Hours before the primates were rescued, the Cachar police seized 54,000 tablets of Yaba, a narcotic drug, from the residence of one Abdul Razzak in Chandipur village under Lakhimpur police station. The man was arrested along with Nazim Uddin of Manipur's Thoubal, who delivered the tablets. "We were tracking the drug supply chain for a long time. We are now tracking the backward and forward links of the arrested duo and the confiscated drugs," Cachar's Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta said, adding the market value of the seized narcotic substance was about ₹10 crore. On Monday, the police in Cachar district's Lailapur also seized two trucks and seized a total of 3,505 kg of Burmese areca nuts. Two people carrying the consignment in secret chambers of the truck were arrested. Another truck intercepted at the same spot yielded 25 cartons of foreign-made cigarettes, each carton containing 50 packets. One person was arrested in this connection.

Sunak greenlights 3,000 UK visas

@RishiSunak in conversation during the first day of the @g20org Summit in Bali," PM Modi's Office said in a tweet. Under the new UK-India Young Professionals Scheme, the UK will offer 3,000 places annually to 18-30-year-old degree-educated Indian nationals to come to the UK to live and work in UK for up to two years. The scheme will be reciprocal. "The launch of the scheme is a significant moment both for our bilateral relationship with India and the UK's wider commitment to forging stronger links with the Indo-Pacific region to strengthen both our economies," Downing Street said in a statement. It said the UK has more links with India than almost any country in the Indo-Pacific region. Nearly a quarter of all international students in the UK are from India, and Indian investment into the UK supports 95,000 jobs across the UK. The UK is currently negotiating a trade deal with India - if agreed it will be the first deal of its kind India has made with a European country. The trade deal would build on the UK-India trading relationship, already worth 24 billion pounds, and allow the UK to seize the opportunities presented by India's growing economy. In parallel to the mobility partnership with India, the British government said it is also strengthening its ability to remove immigration offenders. "A landmark Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the UK and India in May 2021 aimed at increasing mobility between our countries, returning those with no right to be in the UK and India respectively and sharing best practice on organised immigration crime," the UK PMO added.

Army to construct next-gen 3D

withstand a direct hit by a tank shell, said one of the officials cited above who tracks infrastructure development in forward areas. Their name comes from the fact that they are made using 3D printers; the material used is a proprietary form of quick drying concrete and admixture. For at least a few years now, the US army, for instance, has been using 3D printers to create bunkers. "These defences are very strong and can withstand a direct hit from a T-90 tank," the official said. "Trials have already been conducted in the western sector (Rajasthan) and eastern Ladakh. Construction of permanent defences along LAC will begin next year." This project (3D permanent defences) is being implemented by the Corps of Engineers. These defences can be easily moved by two soldiers if needed as the heaviest component in the structure weighs only 40kg, he said. Durability and lightness are the benefits of the bunkers. The modules are being built by the army in partnership with the IITs at Gandhinagar and Madras. The technology startups that are part of the incubation cells of the two IITs have the printers required for this. The 3D printers will be moved to Ladakh for making the bunkers there as it will save time and transportation costs. The other benefit is speed - a bunker can be printed in a matter of hours. "That's the real advantage. The bunkers can be churned out very quickly depending on the army's requirements," the official cited above said. While 20-odd 3D-printed bunkers have already been made, the army will construct hundreds of such bunkers in Ladakh and the numbers will gradually increase, he said. To be sure, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has also ramped up infrastructure across LAC after the border standoff erupted in May 2020. The border standoff between India and China is now in its third year, with a full resolution still not in sight even though the two sides have had partial success in disengaging rival soldiers from some friction areas on LAC and talks are on to end the deadlock that has cast a shadow over the bilateral relationship. The Indian Army has been scaling up infrastructure in eastern Ladakh in a phased manner. "Habitat (including modular shelters) and technical storage for 22,000 troops and approximately 450 tanks/artillery guns have been constructed after the Galwan Valley skirmish in June 2020. Focus is now on construction of permanent defences and other infrastructure to improve defence preparedness," said a second official. Despite four rounds of disengagement from Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, Gogra (PP-17A) and Hot Springs (PP-15), the Indian and Chinese armies still have more than 60,000 troops each and advanced weaponry deployed in the Ladakh theatre. The Indian Army's infrastructure push is, however, not limited to the Ladakh sector, and encompasses the border with China in the central (Uttarakhand) and eastern sectors (Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh) where several road, tunnel and habitat projects are underway, the second official said. Modular shelters, which are temperature controlled and movable, similar to the ones set up in Ladakh at heights of almost 18,000 feet are also planned in forward locations in the central and eastern sectors. Major projects being pursued to improve connectivity in the eastern sector include the 2,000-km Arunachal frontier highway, also known as the Mago-Thingbu-Vijaynagar border highway, the officials said. The project is likely to cost ₹40,000 crore. The Indian and Chinese armies have held 16 rounds of military talks so far, but problems at Depsang in Daulat Beg Oldi sector and Charding Nullah Junction (CNJ) in Demchok sector are still on the negotiating table. The infrastructure development in eastern Ladakh covers Demchok and areas near the Hot Springs sector too, the officials said. Newly inducted equipment such as heavy excavators, spider excavators and light-weight crawler rock drills have helped in speeding up crucial projects, they added. The ongoing projects in Ladakh including upgrading bridges on the strategic Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DS-DBO) road that provides connectivity to the country's northern-most outpost, Daulat Beg Oldi. "We have achieved more in terms of infrastructure development during the last two years than we did in the two decades preceding the border standoff. It is important to keep our focus on infrastructure development to mitigate the Chinese challenge," said former director general of military operations Lieutenant General Vinod Bhatia (retd). The army is using the same 3D printing method for building living shelters for soldiers, the officials said. Four such double-storey shelters have come up in the eastern sector, with each capable of accommodating 64 soldiers, they said.

Gujarat Assembly Elections 2022: Shashi

has been sidelined in the party ever since he contested the party presidential polls against Congress veteran Mallikarjun Kharge. However, Congress party has denied sidelining Tharoor. It may be noted that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are among the 40 star campaigners the party announced for the Gujarat assembly elections. Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra, has not campaigned so far in the poll-bound states of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel, the chief ministers of Congress-ruled Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, are also among the star campaigners for the December 1 and 5 polls in Gujarat, the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Congress is seeking to oust the BJP from power in the state and had put up a good fight in 2017 assembly elections. The BJP has been in power in the state for over 27 years now. Among the other star campaigners listed by the party are AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, CLP leader in Kerala Ramesh Chennithala, former chief ministers Digvijaya Singh, Kamal Nath, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ashok Chavan. Besides, AICC general secretary Tariq Anwar, CLP leader in Karnataka assembly B K Hariprasad, senior party leaders Mohan Prakash, Shaktisinh Gohil and AICC in-charge for party affairs in Gujarat Raghu Sharma are also listed by the Congress as its star campaigners. Former Rajasthan deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot and local Gukarat Congress leaders Jagdish Thakor, Sukhram Rathva, Bharatsinh Solanki, Arjun Mothvadia and Jignesh Mevani will also campaign for the party as star campaigners. Party's Rajya Sabha MP Imran Pratapgarhi and former student leader Kanhaiya Kumar are also among the star campaigners besides Pawan Khara and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. Expenditure on electioneering by a star campaigner is not added to the candidate's poll expenses, giving him or her more room to campaign. According to election laws, these expenses are borne by their parties.

Citroën India Enters Northeast Market With Its First Phygital Showroom In Guwahati

■ *La Maison Citroën Promises Customers A Seamless Digital Sales Experience As Well As L'ateliercitroën's Best-In-Class After Sales Services,* ■ *Showroom To Retail New C5 Aircross Suv & New C3*



The Assam Rising, Guwahati, November 16 : Citroën India is Expanding Its Network To Cover Assam And North-East Region With The Launch Of 'La Maison Citroën' Phygital Showroom In Guwahati. The Showroom Was Inaugurated By Saurabh Vatsa, Brand Head, Citroën India In The Presence Of Rishabh Himatsingka, Dealer Principal, La Maison Citroën Guwahati. The New Dealership Is Located In The Commercial Region Of The City, Making It Easily Accessible For People Looking To Buy Their Next New Car. Besides Retailing The New C5 Aircross Suv And The New C3, The Phygitalshowroom Will Also Offer Seamless Digital Buying Experience Along With Access To A Whole Suite Of After-Sales Services. Saurabh Vatsa, Brand Head, Citroën India said, "We Are Looking Forward To Welcoming Customers In Assam & North-East Market And Introducing Them To Our Exciting Products The New C3 And The New C5 Aircross Suv. The La Maison Citroën phygital retail Concept Allows Customers To Explore And Sample The Citroën Brand, Products And Services Seamlessly. This Includes Not Just The Cars But Also Merchandise As Well As Vehicle Customisation. Citroën Will Continue To Grow Its La Maison Phygital network By The End Of The Year From 21 To 30 Cities." Rishabh Himatsingka, Dealer Principal, La Maison Citroën Guwahati Says, "Citroën Is All About Comfort And Digital Innovation, And Through This La Maison Citroën Phygital Showroom, We Are Confident That We Will Be Able To Bring A Revolution In The Way An Indian Car Consumer Looks At His Car Purchasing Journey. The Guwahati Showroom Will Have Numerous Screens, Debuting The Atawadac Experience (Anytime anywhere any device any content) And A Unique High-Definition 3d Configurator Allowing Customers To Experience And Personalise Their Product And Services." L'atelier Citroën, The Brand's After-Sales Workshop, Offers Innovative Care And Maintenance Services For Citroën Cars In India At Customers' Doorsteps. Among Other Things, Citroën Car Owners In Guwahati Will Have Access To Services Such As Virtual Remote Diagnostics, Genuine Spare Parts Availability Within 24 Hours, 180 Minute Rsa Guarantee, Etc. L'atelier Citroën Also Assures Anytime Anywhere Access And Pickup And Drop Services To Further Ease The Ownership Experience.

Janajati Gaurav Diwas observed at Gumin Kiin Aalo



Assam Rising, Aalo, November 15: Arunachal Vikas Parishad (AVP), Indigenous Faith and Cultural Society of Arunachal Pradesh (IFCSAP) and Donyi Polo Kargu Gamgi (DPKG) Jointly celebrated the Janjati Gaurav Diwas and Birth day of Bhagwan Birsu Munda on November 15 at Gumin Kiin Aalo. Gadam Ete, Ex MLA and attended the celebration as chief Guest and public gathering was chaired by Doi Ado Ex-minister and Chief Advisor, AVP, West Siang District Unit. The Arunachal Vikas Parishad put up a photo exhibition of tribal freedom fighters of the independence Movement. In his speech Shri Gadam Ete emphasized preservation and protection of tribal identity and its own traditional rich culture. Doi Ado also expressed his gratitude to the Govt of India for providing a day of pride for identity and hope for wider publicity and coverage in observing Janajati Gaurav Diwas in future. Kirmin Kamki highlighted the life of Bhagwan Bisa Munda. Mogi Ori covered preservation and protection of Donyi Poloism. Yayum Gangkak Advisor AVP spoke on loss of faith and loss of identity and Smti Jumde Gamlin spoke on the evil effect of drug addiction in the society. Earlier, Tado Ado President AVP extended warm welcome to the Chief Guest and other resource persons and all participants and the meeting ended with vote of thanks from Shri Lojen Kamcham, Secretary AVP.

Two drug peddlers arrested in Margherita

Assam Rising, Margherita, November 16: In Margherita, even as police continue to launch intensified operation against narcotics, the circulation of drugs has not stopped. There have been allegations that there is a widespread circulation of intoxicating substances in all the city villages of Margherita. Instead of stopping the circulation of intoxicants, the prevalence of drugs is increasing day by day. Two drug peddlers were arrested with drugs in Margherita today in a drive led by Margherita police station officer Pratap Gogoi. Police managed to seize drugs, stuffed in two plastic cans, from the custody of two drug peddlers arrested. Police arrested the two drugs peddler from Bargolai Pandu Ghat under Margherita police station on the basis of a secret source. The two arrested drugs peddler were Debasish Mandal (19) and Sikandar Mohamad (18). Debasish's home is in Margherita Old Colony and Sikanda's house is reportedly in Bokajan



Carlos Alcaraz to end year as youngest No 1 after Rafael Nadal exits ATP Finals



London, November 16 : Rafael Nadal was eliminated from the ATP Finals after Casper Ruud took the first set off Taylor Fritz in their round-robin match in Turin, which also guaranteed that Carlos Alcaraz would end the year as world No 1. Spaniard Nadal needed to win the tournament to take the rankings top spot from compatriot Alcaraz, but straight-set losses to Fritz on Sunday and Felix Auger-Aliassime earlier on Tuesday left him needing Ruud to lose

in straight sets to keep his hopes alive. The Norwegian, however, won the first set 6-3 against Fritz before securing victory over the American. The 19-year-old Alcaraz, who is not competing at the tournament due to injury, will be confirmed as the youngest year-end No 1 since the ATP rankings began in 1973. With his 6-3 6-4 loss to Canada's Auger-Aliassime, the record 22-times grand slam champion Nadal has now lost four successive ATP Tour matches for the first time since 2009. Auger-Aliassime, now coached by Nadal's uncle and long-time mentor Toni who sat in his box, will face Fritz in his final group match with a chance of making the last four. "I had one match to get used to the conditions and I felt my game was better today, I was hitting it with precision and consistency," Auger-Aliassime said. It was a disappointing display by Nadal who looked rusty hav-

ing played only one tournament since the US Open. "There are a couple of positive things. I was able to play two tournaments in the past three weeks. That's a positive, something that I was not able to do for a while," Nadal said. "I don't think I forgot how to play tennis, how to be strong enough mentally," he continued. "I just need to recover all these positive feelings and all this confidence and all this strong mentality that I need to be at the level that I want to be. I don't know if I going to reach that level again. But what I don't have any doubt is that I (am) going to die for it." Serving at 3-4 Nadal led 40-0 but a couple of double faults and baseline errors allowed Auger-Aliassime to break. Auger-Aliassime, who has won four titles this season, sealed the first set with a solid hold and moved a break ahead early in the second when Nadal stumbled trying to serve and volley. Nadal showed the odd flash of brilliance but could make no impression as he slumped to a defeat.

Novak Djokovic faces battle to win over Australian fans after permission to return

Melbourne, November 16 : During the early days of January this year, in the heat of the Australian summer, the streets of Melbourne's central business district had descended into brief, surreal chaos. People sat across the pavement, groaning as they furiously rubbed their faces. Puddles of milk were scattered across the street after people had rushed through the adjacent 7/11 on Collins Street, emptying the contents of whole cartons on burning eyes. After spending their days dancing and protesting outside the immigration detention facility where Novak Djokovic had been held because of his unvaccinated status upon his arrival in Australia, a group of his supporters descended on his lawyer's office. When they surrounded a car that they thought contained Djokovic, bringing it to a

halt as some even stood on top of it, the police fired teargas. Those who did not turn away quickly enough soon hit the ground. One year on from the pandemonium, there will be no repeat of those chaotic scenes, no further sightings of Nigel Farage embraced by Djokovic's family in Belgrade. Djokovic will soon be able to walk the streets of Melbourne again of his own volition. After being deported from Australia in January, which led to an automatic three-year ban from applying for a visa, on Tuesday Guardian Australia reported that the immigration minister, Andrew Giles, will overturn the ban and allow him to compete at the 2023 Australian Open. It may mark the beginning of the end to one of the most bizarre periods in the career of any top player. In addition to his deportation, Djokovic's steadfast refusal to be vaccinated against Covid also meant he was



not allowed to enter the United States for the US Open and other tournaments there. Djokovic spent the early part of this year in poor form as he digested the events in Melbourne and he has missed large chunks of the season, but he has also won Wimbledon and three other tournaments this year, qualifying for the ATP Finals despite his limited schedule. He began his ATP Finals campaign in Turin on Monday with a straight-sets win over Stefanos Tsitsipas, the second seed, and he is the clear favourite. At 35, he is still considered by many to be the best player in the world. The deportation from Australia was particularly symbolic because of what the city has meant to his career. The Australian Open was the site of Djokovic's first grand slam title in 2008 and where he

has won nine titles, his most successful major tournament. He will return to Melbourne uncertain of how the crowds and public will receive him in a country that looks to rule-abiding as a national sport. Given it was his lack of tact when he announced on Instagram that he was travelling to Australia that initiated this episode, it will be fascinating to see how Djokovic handles his return. This could potentially also lead to a significant moment in tennis history. Last year, Djokovic arrived at the Australian border seeking his record 21st grand slam title, yet the event ended, incredibly, with Nadal snatching the men's all-time record for himself. Djokovic will likely return as the favourite in 2023 as he seeks to equal Nadal's men's record of 22. Many things have

changed this year, including the election of a new Australian government. Anthony Albanese's party inherited a situation it had no hand in creating. In such a divisive issue, any decision it came to about Djokovic's visa was likely to lead to criticism. But the choice to reverse Djokovic's visa should provoke further, far more important questions. He was not the only person being held in the Melbourne immigration detention facility. When his supporters went home, human rights activists remained for the refugees who had not moved an inch. Djokovic's presence there inadvertently underlined the cruelty of the Australian immigration system and its treatment of refugees who were held there, subjected to dire conditions and unable to leave, sometimes for many years.

Rory McIlroy says Greg Norman should 'exit stage left' and quit as LIV Golf chief

London, November 16 : Rory McIlroy believes Greg Norman should quit as LIV Golf chief executive to allow the "adults" to negotiate a peace settlement in golf's civil war. McIlroy has been the biggest supporter of the established tours in their battle with the Saudi-funded breakaway circuit, but recently called for a compromise to be reached between the rival factions. However, McIlroy believes that will be impossible if Norman remains at the helm of LIV Golf, which is expanding to a 14-event league schedule in 2023. Majed Al Sorour, CEO of Saudi Golf Federation, and Greg Norman, CEO and commissioner of LIV Golf, clapped during the trophy ceremony during day three of the LIV Golf Invitational - Portland at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club on July 02, 2022 in North Plains, Oregon. "I think Greg needs to go. I think he just needs to exit stage left," McIlroy told a pre-tournament press conference before the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai. "He's made his mark but I think now is the right time to say you've got this thing off the ground but no one's going to talk unless there's an adult in the room that can actually try to mend fences. "LIV Golf last week denied reports that Norman would be replaced by the former TaylorMade executive Mark King, while there is also the



small matter of various lawsuits to be resolved before any compromise can be reached. "There are obviously two lawsuits going on at the minute," McIlroy said. "There's the PGA Tour versus LIV and there's obviously this one that's coming up with the DP World Tour in February. Nothing can happen if those two things are going on. Right now it is a bit of a stalemate." The legal hearing in February will determine whether LIV players such as Ian Poulter and Lee Westwood can be banned from the DP World Tour and therefore ineligible to qualify for the Ryder Cup. McIlroy admits his relationship with a number of Ryder Cup teammates has been significantly damaged by their defection to LIV Golf and feels they should not be on Luke Donald's side in Rome next year. But asked if

"forgiveness" was possible in an increasingly polarised environment, McIlroy said: "Yeah, I think in time, that can happen. It's obviously been a very contentious year in golf. The best thing in golf is

to have all the best players playing together, and [with] what's happening right now that's not happening." So I fear for the game when that's going on. It's contentious

because there's lawsuits going on and people suing people; it's very, very messy. If all that stuff can be sorted out one way or the other, then you can get to the stage where there's forgiveness and people can have dialogue and come to some sort of common ground or compromise. "I don't think [golf] will have another year like this one because all of the noise has been about who is jumping ship, who is going where, who is staying, who is going. Very little of the storyline has actually been about the golf. So I think next year, if we can get the storylines to be about the golf and what's happening on the course, that's a good thing."

Joel Glazer to 'make final decision' on Cristiano Ronaldo's Manchester United future

London, November 16 : Joel Glazer will make the final decision about Cristiano Ronaldo's future at the club after the forward's incendiary TV interview, according to sources close to the Manchester United co-owner. Ronaldo's position at United is considered untenable after saying in an interview that he felt "betrayed" and that the Glazer family do not care about the club. The 37-year-old forward also said he has no respect for the manager, Erik ten Hag, and singled out two former United teammates, Wayne

Rooney and Gary Neville, after they criticised him. But a person with knowledge of the situation told the Associated Press on Tuesday that Glazer will have the final say on any decision to sell the forward and it will be up to Ronaldo's agent Jorge Mendes to present potential clubs willing to buy him. The source also said United's hierarchy has backed Ten Hag's handling of the player and were fully supportive of his decision to

drop Ronaldo from the squad and order him to train away from the first team after the Portuguese star refused to come on as a substitute against Tottenham last month. For the Premier League match against Fulham on Sunday, Ronaldo was left out of United's squad for a second game in a row after the club said he had an unspecified illness. But he trained with Portugal's national team on Tuesday as they began preparations for the World Cup in Qatar.

'It's coming home': Indian expats welcome England to team hotel in Qatar

Doha, November 16 : England's footballers were greeted by the bizarre but joyous sight of hundreds of Indian expats serenading them with "It's coming home" as they arrived at their hotel in Qatar on Tuesday evening. As the England coach pulled into the five-star Souq Al Wakra hotel just south of Doha, the fans banged drums, blew trumpets and even crashed through a police barrier to get a better view. There were loud cheers for the captain, Harry Kane, and an even bigger one for Gareth Southgate, especially when the manager turned to wave. There were also familiar chants of "England! England!" as well as the rather unusual "Southgate is our super coach! Sterling is our super star! Pickford is our super keeper". It was another sign that this World Cup, the first in the Middle East and the first to be held in winter, will be very different to the 21 tournaments that have come before it. There have been suggestions on social media that some locals are being paid by



the Qataris to add a dash of spice, but the half a dozen or so fans the Guardian spoke to promised they were the real deal. They insisted they made their own jerseys, bought their own tickets to the games and supported England having grown up watching players such as David Beckham. They were also happy to talk about the latest developments in the Premier League - and were clearly unhappy that a Scandinavian newspaper at the weekend had questioned their authenticity. Sajidh, a 29-year-old mechanical engineer who did not want to give his full name, described suggestions that he and the others were receiving cash to be cheerlead-

ers as "fake news". He said: "None of us is getting paid. We are diehard England fans. My favourite player was Beckham but now it is [Bukayo] Saka. If someone offered to pay us to support England we would turn them down. We are genuine supporters. Many of us grew up watching Beckham and Michael Owen. Our love is to this team." Another fan, Niyas, from Kerala, estimated that there were 700,000 fans in his region back home and he showed the Guardian an 80ft cardboard cut-out of Kane and a mural of the England team in his home state. He also showed a WhatsApp group of supporters with nearly 1,000 members.





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T20 World Cup awards The Best and Worst Bits of the Tournament



London, November 16 : Netherlands v South Africa. The fact there is one very obvious answer - which we'll come to - means selecting anything else is a shock, which given that it was itself a shock, in a tournament full of shocks, seems appropriate. Highlights included probably the catch of the competition from Roelof van der Merwe, and the extraordinary conclusion to South Africa's doomed run chase, with Keshav Maharaj hopping slowly down the pitch on his only functioning leg, turning potential twos and threes into singles, while Pakistan and Bangladesh, who would both have been eliminated had South Africa won, sat in the same venue watching what had seemed a faint and distant hope be-

come ever clearer and nearer. Suryakumar Yadav, aka SKY, India's coming man at the age of 32 - incredibly, he made his international debut only last year - and a batter of mind-boggling brilliance. His innings in India's final game of the Super 12s, 61 off 25 balls against Zimbabwe, included the shot of the tournament: Richard Ngarava bowled a perfectly decent wide yorker and Yadav stretched, down on one knee, to not just reach it but somehow flick it over both his left shoulder and the square leg boundary for six. The sound of the crowd in Adelaide while Rashid Khan took down Australia's death bowling, audibly undecided about whether to acclaim the performance of a great player, lovely bloke and adopted

son of the city - Khan has played five Big Bash League seasons for the Adelaide Strikers - or to howl with anguish at what he was doing to their own team's crucial net run rate. To their great credit, most seemed to go with option one. Afghanistan's efforts to restrict Australia's NRR were such that Khan and Ireland's Lorcan Tucker both did more to help England to win the World Cup than several members of the actual England team. During the group stages news leaked that India's players were fuming about the falafel and sandwiches laid on for them at training, with some said to have got takeaways delivered to the Sydney Cricket Ground to avoid having to eat it. "I know all the teams are getting the same

thing," a source told AFP, "but they are not speaking out because most of them are not in a position to raise a voice." I asked someone in the Ireland camp if their experience was similar and it turned out the AFP's source was half-right - they were getting the same thing, but the reason they were not speaking out was because they like sandwiches. The game between India and Pakistan was not just a compelling contest with incredible individual performances and a frankly ludicrous conclusion, it was one of the great sporting occasions - and it was only a group game. It wasn't even a decisive or, as it turned out, particularly important group game - both teams ended up in the last four, and the losers made the final - but for spectacle, intensity and atmosphere not even the final itself could match it, as 90,000 people combined to turn the city of Melbourne, and eventually the MCG, into a cauldron of noise, colour and joy. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology, whose forecast for final day in Melbourne was consistent for the entire preceding week: thunder, lightning, and rain from dawn to dusk. It was the only topic of conversation for days, as organisers were forced to schedule extra time on the reserve day and fears rose that the tro-

phy would end up being shared. It rained for about 10 minutes. I can only assume it was a deliberate wind-up. At the England team hotel on the morning after the final I had the opportunity to hold and indeed lift the trophy. It's not very good. You would have thought a cricket World Cup would attempt to represent either cricket or the world, or perhaps even both, and to add insult to previous insult this one isn't even a cup. To be acceptable a sporting trophy must answer in the affirmative at least one of four key questions: Does it have particular historic importance? Is it incredibly pretty? Can you drink out of it? And can you put it on your head? Four blanks - get a new one.

London, November 16 : The Lionesses signed off on a successful year, ending 2022 unbeaten with a 1-1 draw against 10-player Norway. Rachel Daly's first-half goal was cancelled out by Frida Maanum late on as the final international break came to a close. It had been 127 days since these two last met on that memorable summer's evening in Brighton. That day, Sarina Wiegman's side subjected Norway to an 8-0 drubbing on their way to winning the European Championship. This was a much closer affair as Norway, now under the management of Hege Riise, presented more solidity and defensive nous. Wiegman was slightly disappointed as a goalkeeping error from Ellie Roebuck and her side's inability to find a second goal cost them a 17th win of the year. However, she was also keen to emphasise the positives. "I think I found the Czech game [last month] a little more frustrating, because we did a couple of things we could have done better," the England manager said. "I think today we could have done better too but we can take a lot of pluses out of the last game. So, it was disappointing [rather than] frustrating." Her side was much changed due to both injury and taking the opportunity to bed in new



faces. Five changes saw a much-awaited senior debut for Maya Le Tissier while Lauren James started in midfield and Daly was given a rare opportunity up front. Norway had won three of their last five under Riise, most recently losing narrowly to France on Friday evening. The manager made three changes from that match with Aurora Mikalsen given a start in goal while Emilie Haavi and Lisa Naalsund provided fresh legs up the field. It was the Norwegians who started the brighter, finding their feet quickly. Haavi made an impression straightaway, exploiting the space afforded to her down the left. She forced a smart save from Roebuck early on before setting up Naalsund who fired over. England, on the other hand, were dominating possession but struggling to make an impact. They truly settled after one of James's trademark runs saw them register their first shot on target. The Chelsea midfielder has a habit of making football look easy and she glided past her marker with effortless skill before firing a shot into Mikalsen's gloves.

Gay Qataris physically abused then recruited as agents, campaigner says



Doha, November 16 : Gay Qataris have been promised safety from physical torture in exchange for helping the authorities to track down other LGBTQ+ people in the country, a prominent Qatari doctor and gay rights campaigner has told. Dr Nasser Mohamed, who lives in the US but retains contact with hundreds of gay Qataris, said that some secret networks had been compromised after arrests by Qatar's preventive security department. "A lot [of gay Qataris] don't know about each other," Mohamed said. "And it's safer that way because when the law enforcement finds one person, they actively try to find their entire network. But some of the people who were captured and physically abused were then recruited as agents." Now there are agents in the gay community that were promised safety from physical torture in exchange for working for the preventive security department and helping them find groups of LGBTQ+ people. "Mohamed told the Guardian that foreign gay fans in Qatar would not be persecuted while at the World Cup finals tournament. However, he warned that local LGBTQ+ supporters faced a very different reality. "What is it like to be an LGBTQ+ Qatari? You live in fear, you live in the shadows, you're actively persecuted. You're subjected to state-sponsored physical and

mental abuse. It's dangerous to be an LGBTQ+ person in Qatar." Last month Human Rights Watch reported that Qatar's preventive security department forces had arbitrarily arrested lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and subjected them to ill treatment in detention. HRW also documented six cases of severe and repeated beatings and five cases of sexual harassment in police custody between 2019 and 2022. Rasha Younes, a senior researcher with HRW, told the Guardian that some cases were more striking than most. "There was one story of a transgender woman who was detained in solitary confinement for two months underground, lost her job as a result of being detained and was not able to give notice to her employer that she was gone," she said. "They shaved her 17-inch long hair in detention, severely beat her until she bled, and denied her medical care." HRW is calling for the Qatari authorities to repeal article 285 and all other laws that criminalise consensual sexual relations outside of marriage and introduce legislation that protects against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, online and offline. It also wants freedom of expression and nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to be guaranteed, permanently, for all residents of

Qatar. Younes also criticised Fifa for failing to do more. "We've been engaging with Fifa with other sports organisations and LGBT rights activists for years and they have not been paying attention," she said. "They have not been at all responsive or listen to the accounts that we have shared. Now that we have all this evidence, it's really time for Fifa to stop having its fingers in its ears and actually listen." Fifa said it was committed to inclusivity and that it was "confident that all necessary measures will be in place for LGBTQ+ fans and allies to enjoy the tournament in a welcoming and safe environment, just as for everyone else". In a statement, Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy promised the World Cup would be free of any discrimination. "The SC is committed to delivering an inclusive and discrimination-free Fifa World Cup experience that is welcoming, safe and

accessible to all participants, attendees and communities in Qatar and around the world," it said. "Everyone is welcome in Qatar, but we are a conservative country and any public display of affection, regardless of orientation, is frowned upon. We simply ask for people to respect our culture." More than 600 international and regional sporting events have been held in Qatar since we were awarded the rights to host the tournament, welcoming thousands of fans from every corner of the world. While the tournament is the biggest event yet, there has never been an issue and every event has been delivered safely. "Qatar's government has also been invited to comment on the claims made by Mohammed and HRW. A Qatari official has said previously that HRW's allegations "contain information that is categorically and unequivocally false", without specifying.

Olympic gymnastics hero Suni Lee to end Auburn career for run at Paris 2024

London, November 16 : The 2020 women's all-around gymnastics champion announced Tuesday that she will return to training at the elite level following the end of her sophomore season at Auburn next spring. "I've been able to experience that once-in-a-lifetime feeling and the indescribable emotion when a gold medal is draped around your neck," Lee said in a social media post. "But I don't want it to be just once in a lifetime." Lee, 19, became the fifth straight American woman to earn the Olympic title when she edged Rebeca Andrade of Brazil in a taut final at Ariake Gymnastics Centre, a victory Lee never envisioned until US teammate and 2016 Olympic champion Simone Biles took herself out of the competition to focus on her mental health. The victory made Lee, who is Hmong-American, an instant celebrity. It also, however, did not keep her from fulfilling her commitment to compete for Auburn. The Tigers are coached by Jeff Graba, the twin brother of Lee's personal coach, Jess Graba. Lee became the first reigning Olympic champion to compete at the NCAA level, with attendance at meets spiking wherever she and the Tigers went.

"India's 'Favourites Tag' For 2023 World Cup 'Utter Nonsense'": Michael Vaughan

New Delhi, November 16 : With the T20 World Cup 2022 now over, the focus shifts to the 2023 ODI World Cup which takes place in India next year. These are still early days but there are a few who suggest the Indian cricket team will be the favourites to go all the way as they will be playing at home in familiar conditions. Former England captain Michael Vaughan, however, isn't happy with this perception. Having seen England do wonders in Australia at the T20 World Cup, he feels Jos Buttler's men will head into

the 50-over World Cup as the favourites. The Indian team was considered among the favourites to go the distance in the T20 World Cup as well but they were hammered by England in the semi-finals. India's 10-wicket defeat was an eye-opener for many. Vaughan, in his column for the Telegraph, wrote that England will be the team to beat next year in the ODI World Cup. "The next big ticket is to win the 50 over World Cup in India next year. They have good spin options and you have to put

them down as favourites for that tournament as well. When the tournament starts people will have India as favourites on home soil. Utter nonsense. England will be the team to beat without any question and that is going to be the case for a few more years to come," he wrote in the column. Vaughan also argued that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) should be looking at the England model if they want to succeed as a cricketing nation and win major titles again.

World Cup 2022 team guides : Brazil

London, November 16 : The term Neymar dependência (Neymar dependency) has been used a lot by the Brazilian press in the past decade, in particular after the exits from the past two World Cups. But the emergence of a talented new generation of strikers means that the expression has been largely forgotten. These days the head coach, Tite, can call on a wealth of young attacking talent. "At the time of the 2019 Copa América, we didn't have Antony and Raphinha, Viní [Vinicius Júnior] was still adapting at Real Madrid and Gabriel Martinelli was just training with us," Tite said in October. "Now this generation has really arrived and wow! It was the progress of these players that has enabled us to play with five attack-minded players at the same time." At the start of last year, for example, Tite was not aware of Raphinha but his scouting team alerted him to the then Leeds forward and he is set to be a starter in Qatar. Add to that players such as Richarlison (Tottenham) and Lucas Paquetá (West Ham), who are well at their first World Cups, and it is clear that Tite is spoilt for choice. While there is a youthful air to the attack, the defence brings experience and reassurance. In goal, Alisson will be playing his second World Cup as a starter and in defence 38-year-old Thiago Silva could become the oldest outfield player to feature for Brazil at a World Cup.

The midfield anchor is Casemiro, a relative spring chicken at the age of 30 but the holder of more than 60 international caps already. His importance to the Canarinho cannot be understated and it was telling that he was suspended as they were eliminated by Belgium at the quarter-final stage of the 2018 World Cup. Neymar is still there and the undisputed star of the team but the difference this time is that he won't have all the spotlight on him. A division of responsibilities may well help Brazil as they go looking for a sixth World Cup triumph. Tite was hired as a firefighter in 2016 when Brazil were an unthinkable sixth in the South American qualifying group for the World Cup in Russia. Seven consecutive wins later they were the first country to qualify for the tournament. "My whole career hung on that opportunity," he said in a recent interview. The 61-year-old had waited a long time for this chance, having been a manager since the early 1990s for many, many clubs in Brazil (including Corinthians three times). This time the calm and professorial coach enters a World Cup more experienced and having had more time to work with the players. He expects to go further than in 2018. "The process gives us security and confidence," he said. "But whether that is going to make us champions or not is another story." This will be Neymar's



third World Cup and he has unfinished business on the biggest stage of all. At the home World Cup he was injured against Colombia in the quarter-final and missed the humiliating 7-1 defeat by Germany in the last four, while in Russia four years ago he played well but his performances were overshadowed by videos and memes of him rolling around on the pitch after fouls. It made him into a bit of a joke. It feels as if the Paris Saint-Germain forward has matured since then and will be eager to show he can be a leader for his generation on the pitch. Unless he changes his mind, this will be his last World Cup. Playing as the No 9 for Brazil at a World Cup always comes with great expectations. Twenty years ago in Japan and South Korea, Ronaldo was top scorer at the World Cup, including two goals in the final against Germany.

Brazil have not won the World Cup since. For the past two World Cups the designated No 9 has failed to live up to performance. (Fred in 2014 and Gabriel Jesus four years later) but this time there are hopes that Richarlison can excel in the role. The signs are good with the Tottenham player they call The Pomba (The Pigeon) scoring 17 goals in his first 38 games for Brazil. It is rare for Brazilian players to talk about issues off the pitch and political ones in particular. They have not yet commented on the human rights situation in Qatar or the issues concerning workers' rights. The Brazilian Football Confederation organises campaigns to combat racism and homophobia in domestic football but it has not made any official statements regarding the World Cup host country.