

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Daredevil motorbike rider Alex Harvill dies during world-record ...

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Sale's Curry twins could spell double trouble for Exeter in ...

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Justice for rape victims

Guwahati, June 19 : The All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) in collaboration with the Bodo Women Co-ordination Committee on Saturday staged a protest in Kokrajhar, demanding exemplary punishment for those involved in the recent in the rape and murder of two minor girls. The organizations also demanded that the case be tried at a fast track court to ensure speedy trial and justice for the victims. The two minor girls were recently found hanging from a tree at Abhiyakuthi in Kokrajhar district. They had reportedly been gang-raped and murdered. "We want the Assam government to ensure that the individuals involved in the rape and murder case of two minors should receive stringent punishment," said an ABSU member.

Two-child policy

Guwahati, June 19 : People with more than two children will not be eligible for the Assam government's schemes, said chief minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday. He said that the government has decided to implement population control norms in select schemes of the Assam government. Chief minister Sarma said the norms would not be applicable to all the government schemes. We can't implement two-child norms in free admission of children to schools or Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. But if we start a CM Awas Yojana, then this point may be applied," he said. Dr. Sarma said AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal has also welcomed the government move on women's education. In 2019, the Assam government had decided that people with more than two children will not be eligible for government jobs. "Those with more than two children would not be considered for government jobs from January 1, 2021," the state government had maintained.

Man held for raping

Guwahati, June 19 : An 11-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her maternal uncle in central Assam's Nagaon district. The minor girl was allegedly raped by her uncle when her parents were away from home. Initially, the accused man had told the parents that the girl was molested by another person but the minor later told her mother that her uncle had committed the act. Police arrested the accused on Thursday based on a complaint filed by the girl's mother, said a police official.

'Over Rs 4,000 crore MFI loans given to Assam women violating RBI norms'

Guwahati, June 19 : Banks and microfinance institutions have agreed to write off over Rs 4000 crore of Rs 12,500 crore lent to 22 lakh women of Assam, which was found to be in violation of RBI norms. Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said, "After several rounds of discussions with the MFIs, it was found that there was breach of RBI's fair code of practice parameters, which state that the



total loan given to an individual cannot exceed Rs 1.25 lakh and one individual cannot be given more than three loans. The MFIs cannot charge an interest more than 2.5%, but there were breaches here too." He added, "The banks and MFIs have now agreed to reduce the total loan amount from Rs 12,500 crore to Rs 8,250 crore because at some places there were

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Central Government allocates Rs.5,601 Crore Grant to Assam under Jal Jeevan Mission for providing tap water in every home



New Delhi, June 19 : To translate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of providing clean tap water to every household, this year Central Government has allocated Rs. 5,601.16 Crore grant to Assam under the Jal Jeevan Mission, which was Rs.1,608.51 Crore in 2020-21. National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti has also released Rs. 700 Crores to the State as first tranche. Union Minister, Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat while approving this four-fold increase in allocation has assured full assistance to the State for making provision of tap water supply in every rural home by 2024. At the start of the Mission in 2019, out of a total of 19.20 Crore rural

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India's legendary sprinter Milkha Singh has died of Covid-19 complications age 91, days after his wife

New Delhi, June 19 : Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh has died at the age of 91 after a month-long battle with Covid-19, according to a family statement obtained. Known as the "Flying Sikh," Singh was one of India's most successful track and field athletes. He won four Asian Games gold medals and became India's first Commonwealth Games champion in 1958. The following year, Singh was honored with the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honors. Singh contracted Covid-19 last month and was being treated at a hospital in India's northern city of Chandigarh. He died late Friday after developing complications including fever and dropping oxygen saturation levels. "He fought hard but God has his ways and it was perhaps true love and companionship that both our mother



Nirmal ji and now Dad have passed away in a matter of 5 days," the family statement said. Singh's wife Nirmal Kaur, a former national volleyball captain, also died of the virus last Sunday. Tributes to Singh flooded social media on Saturday, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying he was "angushed" by the news. In the passing away of Shri Milkha Singh Ji, we have lost a co-

lossal sportsperson, who captured the nation's imagination and had a special place in the hearts of countless Indians. His inspiring personality endeared himself to millions. Anguished by his passing away, pic.twitter.com/h99RNbXI28" We have lost a colossal sportsperson, who captured the nation's imagination and had a special place in the hearts of countless Indians. His inspiring personality endeared himself to millions," he wrote on Twitter. Indian President Ram Nath Kovind said the death of the country's sporting icon

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PM Modi may chair meeting with J-K political parties on June 24

New Delhi, June 19 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to chair a meeting with all political parties from Jammu and Kashmir on June 24 as



part of the Centre's initiatives to bolster political processes, including holding assembly elec-

tions, in the union territory, officials said here on Friday. The meeting -- the first such exercise since the Centre announced the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and its bifurcation into union territories in August 2019 -- is likely to be attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other central leaders. The central leadership has begun the process of inviting National Conference (NC) chief Farooq Abdullah, PDP chairperson Mehbooba Mufti, Altaf Bukhari of the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party

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Ex-Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Reaches Delhi Amid Cabinet Reshuffle Buzz

Guwahati, June 19 : Amid speculation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to expand his cabinet, word is doing the rounds that former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal may get a ministerial berth in Delhi. Mr Sonowal went to the national capital Friday. A BJP insider said he will be holding meetings with the top



leaders in the party's high command

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United Nations calls for halt of weapons to Myanmar

New York, June 19 : The United Nations General Assembly on Friday called for a stop to the flow of arms to Myanmar and urged the military to respect November election results and release political detainees, including leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The General Assem-



bly adopted a resolution with the support of 119 countries several months after the military overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government in a Feb. 1 coup. Belarus requested the text be put to a vote and was the only country to oppose it,

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CM reviews flood preparedness and COVID-19 situation of Tinsukia district

CM directs to find out vulnerable areas and expeditiously carry out flood protection activities



Guwahati, June 19 : Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma during his Upper Assam tour today visited Tinsukia and reviewed the flood preparedness and COVID-19 situation and management strategy of the Tinsukia district administration in a meeting with DC, SP and other senior

officials held at DC office conference hall in Tinsukia. After detailed review, the Chief Minister directed the district administration to immediately find out the vulnerable areas of the district affected by flood with special focus on Doom Dooma town and expeditiously

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Assam govt forms expert panels to suggest HSLC and HS exams results procedure

Guwahati, June 19 : A day after the cancellation of class 10 (HSLC) and 12



(HS) state board examinations, the Assam government on Saturday formed two panels to suggest the procedure to be adopted to prepare the results of HSLC/AHM (Class 10) and Higher Secondary (Class 12) exams for the academic year 2020-21. The committee for the Class 10 board

exam has been formed with the former vice-chancellor of Dibrugarh University Alok Buragohain as chairman. The members of the committee include Chairman, SEBA, SN Das, deputy secretary, Secondary Education, Prasanna Bora, IS Kamrup (Metro), Ranjit

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Electricity bill payment must for Assam government employees to get salary

Guwahati, June 19 : Now, the Assam government employees will have to clear their electricity bills on time to draw their monthly salaries. The state authorities are likely to issue instructions to the Assam government employees in this regard. Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has given emphasis on bringing changes in the power sector of the state. Following a direction in this regard from the Assam chief minister on June 6, 2021, the managing director of the Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) has

written a letter to the additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries and commissioner & secretary of all departments of the Assam government. The



APDCL managing director in his letter to the top officials of the Assam government has requested to instruct all drawing and disbursing

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Railways helping to bring back workers, as cities gradually unlock

Guwahati, June 19 : Railways is helping to bring back workers, as cities gradually unlock. During the past 7 days (from 11.6.21 to 17.6.21) approximately 32.56 lakh passengers including migrant workers and other passengers traveled by long distance mail express trains (with average occupancy of trains being 110.2%) from areas like Eastern UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Bengal & Odisha to various destinations including Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Surat, Ahmedabad, & Chennai areas.

To facilitate the movement of migrant labour from the states of Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh & Odisha to the Metros like Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru & Chennai etc, Indian Railways is operating Mail/Express Specials, Holiday Specials and Summer Special trains. All these trains are being operated as fully reserved trains keeping in view the Covid protocol. The booking for these trains is available



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Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma is visiting the power generation campus of Namrup Thermal Power Station (NTPS) and took stock of the status of Namrup 100 MW Combined Cycle Replacement Power Project (Phase-1) in Dibrugarh district on June 19, 2021.

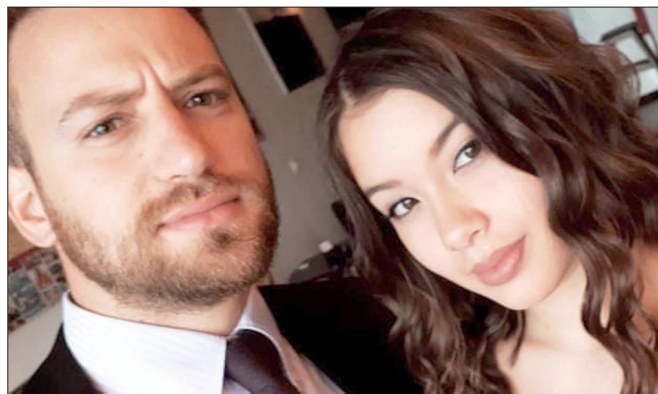
Briton tells how she beat crocodile on snout to save twin in Mexico lagoon

London, June 19 : A British woman has described beating a crocodile on its snout while it grabbed her other hand as she fought to save her twin sister from the reptile. Georgia Laurie, 28, said she feared her sister, Melissa, was dead when she saw the crocodile drag her underwater after they went for a swim in a lagoon in Mexico. "I heard her scream and I saw her being taken underneath by the crocodile. Then I realised she was really in trouble when I was calling out her name and there was no response from her," she told the BBC. Her sister continues to recover in hospital from injuries sustained in the attack at the lagoon, about 10 miles from the Mexican city of Puerto Escondido. She developed sepsis and had to be placed in a coma but has since come out of it and is recovering. "The adrenaline kicked in. I saw her body floating and I thought, at that moment, she was no longer with us," Georgia said in the BBC interview on Friday. "I grabbed her body, pulled it towards me and rested her on my chest. She was blue so I tried to revive her, but the crocodile came along so I beat it off." Asked if she felt like a hero, she said: "It's a difficult one. I don't. I think maybe that comes down to self-esteem. If someone told me the same story, I'd say, 'Wow! That's so brave of you, you're a hero!' But it's hard to believe compliments yourself when someone says these things to you." She said the attack was surreal and an "out-of-body experience" Of her sister, she added: "She fought for her own life, as well. She really fought and clung on." The twins, from Berkshire, had been volunteering with animals in Mexico when the incident took place in the first week of June.

Greek husband confesses to murder of British woman

London, June 19 : Greeks have been left reeling after the husband of a British-born student confessed and was charged with her murder, a crime he had previously blamed on a robbery. In a dramatic twist to a case that has gripped the country since Caroline Crouch was strangled next to her baby daughter, investigators announced late on Thursday that Babis Anagnostopoulos had admitted to the murder. "The culprit is her 33-year-old husband who has confessed to the act," the Greek police tweeted. Anagnostopoulos, who appeared in court on Friday handcuffed and wearing a bulletproof vest, was charged with intentional homicide and abuse of an animal, after the family dog was also found killed. Crouch, who had met the man she would go on to marry as a teenager on the Greek island of Alonissos where her parents have long lived, was 20. Initially the helicopter pilot had blamed his wife's death on

his baby was placed next to the body of the murdered mother," Rigas said. Anagnostopoulos, who was in Alonissos attending a memorial service for Crouch at which he was photographed hugging the victim's mother, was arrested after being flown to the Greek capital on a police helicopter on Thursday. When police initially picked him up he was told a suspect had been identified, but not that it was him. It was not the first time he had been called to the police headquarters to give testimony. But this time the police had evidence - in the form of data gleaned from Caroline's smartwatch and the pilot's mobile phone - that Anagnostopoulos had killed his wife. A pulse monitor on the watch showed she was dead at a time before he claimed the raid had taken place, while a fitness app on his phone proved he was moving around the house at the time he said he had been blindfolded and tied up. In both cases, the findings conflicted with the timeline of events the professional pilot had previously given. A memory card removed at 1.20am from the security camera of the couple's home, several hours before 4.30am when he claimed the thieves had broken in, provided further evidence. Presented with the new data, Anagnostopoulos admitted to the murder, telling the detectives their relationship had grown increasingly stormy and he had killed Crouch in a fit of rage



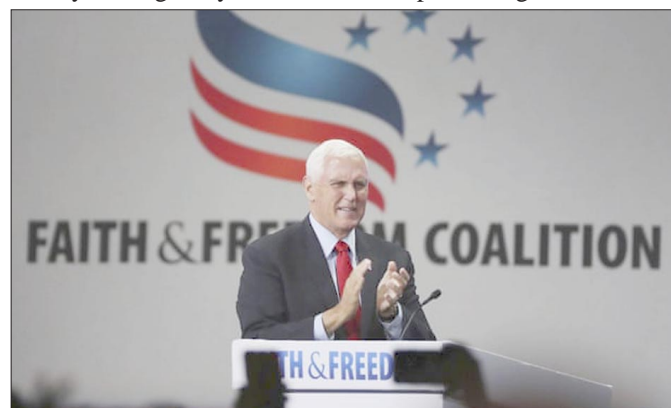
ruthless "foreign" robbers who had broken into the couple's suburban Athens home, a version of events he had maintained for more than five weeks. He claimed he had been blindfolded and tied to a bed, drifting in and out of consciousness as he watched the crime unfold. "Everything was staged for the crime scene to look like the scene of a robbery," Costas Hassiotis, the director of the greater Athens homicide division, told reporters, adding that the suspect had tied his own hands and those of his dead wife. Speaking outside court, Vassilis Spyrou, Anagnostopoulos's lawyer, confirmed that his client had confessed to the crime, adding that he had expressed remorse for his actions. "He's in a very bad psychological state," Spyrou had earlier told Alpha TV. "He knows what he has done, he has admitted to the crime." Nikos Rigas, the deputy chairman of the police officers' association of Athens, told state TV that examination of mobile devices, a smartwatch, and cameras had established a timeline that revealed inconsistencies in the pilot's account. "The suspect) tried to create a crime scene environment that looked convincing: the dog was killed, and

after she had threatened to leave him, police said. "I had to appear persuasive and so I strangled the dog too," he was reported as saying in extracts of testimony released by police to the Greek media. The seven-month-old puppy was hanged from a banister in the couple's home. Few crimes in living memory have outraged Greeks so deeply and for 37 days the pilot had appeared distraught, telling police he had "begged for their lives" as the thieves pointed a pistol at Lydia, his daughter's temple, and telling the press he hoped no family had to experience the same ordeal. "They were so happy, so in love," Alonissos' mayor Petros Vafinis told the Guardian at the time. "The shock in our little community is immense." Police workers at the home of Caroline Crouch in an Athens suburb. Athens' citizens protection minister, Michalis Chrysohoidis, said within hours of the 11 May murder being made public: "We rarely encounter such brutality in Greece, both in Greek society and in crime." In a rare step, the government declared a €300,000 reward for information that might lead to the capture of the culprits.

Conservative Christians jeer 'traitor' Pence for refusing to overturn election

Washington, June 19 : Mike Pence, the former US vice-president, has been heckled as a "traitor" for his refusal to overturn last year's election result during a speech to a gathering of religious conservatives. Pence, who is widely seen as laying the groundwork for a White House run in 2024, had entered an auditorium in Orlando, Florida to a standing ovation on Friday. But a small group began shouted abuse including "traitor!" as he began a 28-minute speech. The dissenters were quickly escorted out by police. Earlier, in a corridor outside the ballroom, an attendee named Rick Hurley, wearing a red "Make America great again" cap, also vented his frustration over Pence's role in certifying Donald Trump's defeat on 6 January amid false claims of voter fraud. "We need to start fighting!" Hurley shouted at anyone who would listen. "We need to stop being so damned nice. What the hell's going on? Why is Pence coming

today? Donald Trump has his pen in his back still." Before being taken aside by police, he also remarked: "I'm ready to fight. I'm going to boo him off stage. I'll take the bullet. I'll walk to the front of the stage and look him in the eye and and say, 'What are you doing here?' In an interview, Hurley said he had been at the US Capitol on 6 January. "I want to know why Pence is here today," he said. "He stabbed Donald Trump in the back and took the coins like Judas." But Ralph Reed, organiser of the Faith & Freedom Coalition's annual Road to Majority conference, was at pains to give Pence a warm welcome and honor him as stalwart of the Christian conservative movement. And the ex-vice president, who earlier this month admitted that he and his former boss may never "see eye to eye" on the events of 6 January, when some Trump supporters called for him to be hanged, did not dwell on that disagreement during his remarks. He instead told the gathering: "Thank you for the privilege of serving as your vice-president with Donald Trump. It was the greatest honor of my life." Pence made only a passing reference to the deadly



insurrection that implied an equivalence with racial justice protests and Joe Biden's policies: "We've all been through a lot over the past year: a global pandemic, civil unrest, a divisive election, a tragic day in our nation's Capitol,

and a new administration intent on transforming our country." Since leaving office, Pence has bought a house in Indiana, announced plans for a podcast and signed a two-book deal for his memoir. Despite the anger of some Trump supporters, he is seen as a potential candidate for the Republican nomination for president in 2024. His conference speech on Friday duly listed the Trump administration's achievements - from supreme court appointments to coronavirus vaccines - and took aim at Biden for rapidly unravelling its legacy with "a tidal wave of leftwing

policies". Pence quipped: "Democrats have been so busy advancing their liberal agenda, sometimes I feel like the left hand doesn't know what the far left hand is doing." He went on to rail against "an explosion" of

runaway spending, proposed tax increases, plans to cut military funding and the cancellation of construction on Trump's signature border wall. "Literally in five months, they turned the most secure border in the world into the worst border crisis in American history," Pence said to applause. "You know, when I was vice-president, I visited our southern border. And yes, it's past time for our current vice-president to go to the border, put our policies back into effect and end the Biden border crisis today." He also threw out false assertions to go after "culture war" targets currently in vogue in conservative media including "cancel culture" and "defund the police". Among them was critical race theory which, developed by

academics starting in the 1970s, examines how racism embedded in law and institutions creates an uneven playing field for people of color in America. Numerous Republican controlled states have moved to ban it from being taught in schools. Pence crudely misrepresented the intellectual tool by stating: "Instead of teaching all of our children to be proud of their country, critical race theory teaches children as young as kindergarten to be ashamed of their skin color. Critical race theory is racism, pure and simple - and it should be rejected by every American of every race." "The truth is it's past time for America to discard the left wing reflex to see systemic racism across our nation. As my friend Senator Tim Scott says so well, America is not a racist country - America is the most just, noble and inclusive nation ever to exist on the face of the earth." In another wildly contentious claim, Pence said: "The United States military is the greatest force for good the world has ever known." Pence closed a morning session that included Republican senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, all potential rivals for the 2024 nomination. Trump himself has not yet declared whether he will run or whether Pence would again be his running mate.

Iran presidential challenger concedes to hardliner Raisi as vote count continues

London, June 19 : The sole moderate in Iran's presidential election has conceded to the country's hardline judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi, signalling the protege of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has won a vote he dominated after the disqualification of his strongest competition. Former central bank chief Abdolnasser Hemmati offered his congratulations to Raisi early on Saturday. Counting, however, continued from Friday's vote and authorities have yet to give any official results. "I hope your government, under the leadership of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, will bring comfort and prosperity to our nation," Hemmati said in a letter, media reported. Raisi, 60, will take over from moderate Hassan Rouhani at a time the Islamic republic is seeking to salvage its tattered nuclear deal with major powers and free itself from punishing US sanctions that have driven a painful economic downturn. Raisi, the head of the judiciary whose black turban signifies direct descent from Islam's Prophet Mohammed, is seen as close to the 81-year-old supreme leader, who has ultimate political power in Iran. Voting on Friday was extended by two hours past the original midnight deadline amid fears of a low turnout of 50% or less. Many voters chose to stay away after the field of 600 hopefuls was winnowed down to seven candidates, all men, excluding an ex-president and a former parliament speaker. Three of the vetted candidates dropped out of the race two days before Friday's election, and two of them threw their support behind Raisi. Former populist president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, one of those who were disqualified by the powerful 12-member Guardian Council of clerics and jurists, joined those who said they would not cast their ballot. Raisi's only rival from the reformist camp was the low-profile former central bank chief Hemmati, 65, who had polled in the low single digits before the election. Experts said the election could mark a turning point in the country's history and a fundamental crisis of legitimacy for the regime if turnout fed by disillusionment falls below 50%. Sadegh Zibakalam, a distinguished Tehran University politics professor, said the regime had defended itself over the past few decades by pointing to turnout as an indirect sign of support and almost a referendum for the Islamic republic. "It will be a turning point because a majority do not take part in the

election and that means a majority do not support the Islamic republic any longer. That is the crucial point of this election," he told a King's College London seminar from Tehran. On election day, pictures of often flag-waving voters in the country of 83 million dominated state TV coverage, but away from the polling stations some voiced anger at what they saw as a stage-managed election. "Whether I vote or not, someone has already been elected," scoffed Tehran shopkeeper Saeed Zareie. "They organise the elections for the media." Enthusiasm has been dampened further by the economic malaise of spiralling inflation and job losses, and the pandemic that proved more deadly in Iran than anywhere else in the region, killing more than 80,000 people by the official count. Presidential election in Iran on June 19, 2021. Iranian women cast their vote at a polling station during the presidential election in Tehran, Iran, 18 June 2021. Iranians head to polls to elect a new president after eight years with Hassan Rouhani as head of state. Among those

who lined up to vote at schools, mosques and community centres, many said they supported Raisi, who has promised to fight corruption, help the poor and build millions of flats for low-income families. A nurse named Sahebiyan said she backed the frontrunner for his anti-graft credentials and on hopes he would "move the country forward... and save the people from economic, cultural and social deprivation". Raisi has been named in Iranian media as a possible successor to Khamenei. To opposition and human rights groups, his name is linked to the mass execution of political prisoners in 1988. The US government has sanctioned him over the purge, in which Raisi has denied playing a part. Ultimate power in Iran, since its 1979 revolution toppled the US-backed monarchy, rests with the supreme leader, but the president wields major influence in fields from industrial policy to foreign affairs. Rouhani, 72, leaves office in August after serving the maximum two consecutive four-year terms allowed under the constitution.



Pianist Igor Levit performs on the stage during the Summer Night Concert at the Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna, Austria

To Ensure Zero JE And Malaria Cases, Biswanath To Intensify Surveillance And Awareness Campaigns



Biswanath Chariati, 19 June: With the onset of the rainy season, Biswanath district administration has geared up to combat vector-borne diseases, particularly Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Malaria. Chairing a District Task Force Meeting on Vector Borne Diseases at his Conference Hall today, Deputy Commissioner Mr. Pranab Kumar Samrah issued instructions to the health and other concerned departments to intensify surveillance and awareness campaigns across the district to stop occurrence and spread of JE and Malaria. The Deputy Commissioner said that only strict surveillance would help detect any case of JE at the early stage and follow up treatment could be provided promptly to the patient, thus reducing chances of mortality. Previous year, Biswanath district had recorded eight cases of JE and one death. "Yes, we are in the midst of Covid pandemic and we are all focused in battling it, but we should not lose sight of other diseases that occur in the rainy season. Since the mortality rate of JE is around 30 per cent, we can't let open another war front. To make sure there are no cases of JE and Malaria this year around, we will have to intensify our surveillance across the district," said Mr. Samrah. Mr. Samrah has asked the health and concerned depart-

ments to engage grass root level workers in distributing leaflets and banners containing awareness messages from door to door, besides making mobile public announcements to generate awareness regarding preventive measures to be adopted. Since, pigs are reservoirs of JE virus, the

Deputy Commissioner asked the Veterinary department to create awareness among pig farmers to abide by all necessary guidelines and protocols. He also stressed on the immediate need to start regular malathion fogging, particularly in areas where cases were detected last year and those prone to JE and Malaria. The Deputy Commissioner also said that the district administration would soon send a proposal to higher authorities for setting up a JE testing laboratory in the district. He also asked the health department to continue with vaccination drive against JE, especially among the adult population. Doctors have also been asked to check for JE and Malaria symptoms in Covid positive patients and initiate prompt treatment if necessary. At today's meeting, Ms. Kakoli Dutta, District Malaria Office of Sonitpur, gave a power point presentation where she updated the Deputy Commissioner and other officials on the overall scenario of JE and Malaria in Biswanath district. Today's meeting was also attended by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zila Parishad Mr. Ranjit Swargiary, Additional Deputy Commissioners Mr. Miftahuddin Ahmed, Ms. Liza Talukdar, Dr. Surya Kamal Borah, Additional Joint Director, Health, and other officers from various departments.

DC Makes Whirlwind Visits to Liromoba, Yomcha to take Stock of Developmental Issues

Aalo, 19 June: The Werst Siang Deputy Commissioner Shri Moki Loyi accompanied by ZPC, ADC Yomcha, ZPM from Ubu Shri Genya Ori, Pushi ZPM Shri Bomkar Bagra, line Head of Offices visited Liromoba Circle and Yomcha subdivision to take stock of the development and interact with the people on 17th and 18th of June last. Addressing a public meeting at Liromoba, the DC said that Liromoba is one of the oldest circles of the state and asked all executing agencies to take due care of every drop of development being pumped in there and people to cooperate with the development agencies. He assured to recommend the developments needs like road end from Yomcha to Liromoba, up gradation of PHC to CHC with infrastructure back up from his side to govt. as per the genuine demands of the people. The 26 km span of katcha road from Yomcha to Liromoba is best aligned, soil

too is fine and once the all weather road comes up to connect this remote circle, agonies of the people will be mitigated in few years. He exhorted the GBs to continue the good works of justice deliver system and old Gaon Bura who are not in a position to work should retire and claim old age pension to sustain themselves. The DC also visited the Tourist Lodge constructed there and insisted on leasing it out to anyone to accommodate the visitors and generate revenue for the govt. He hailed the Medical department and people of the circle for making it a Covid-19 free Circle of the district. At Yomcha, the DC inspected the Private run by Shri Nyobom Yongam, Karka Heritage Construction site, interacted with the officers and staffs of Yomcha administration and exhorted them to inculcate work culture for the larger interest of the people of remote areas. The DC also said that there should not be any encroachment of govt. land and tussle for development works either in Yomcha or Liromoba as these are always detrimental for dawn of development in any place. The ZPC Shri Babom Romin and other Public of Liromoba reiterated on slow pace of development to a circle established in the 50s in road and medical sectors. The ADC Yomcha Shri Hento Karga stressed on to do away dependence syndrome on govt. and look out for self sustaining ways and minimize the jhum cultivation that sustains sources of water. The DMO Dr. Moli Riba gave exhaustive briefings on covid-19 and vaccination drive plans in various circles of the district. Shri Bomkar Bagra ZPM Pushi laid stress on mushrooming drug and alcoholic activities among the young people who are our future. The visiting team was overwhelmed by the rousing reception and positive vibes to take up developmental issues that concern them.



Shri Sankha Subhra Devabarm, Regional Director, India Tourism North East handed over a few PPE kits to the officials of 108 ambulance services to distribute them among the staff.

CM reviews Health Dept's preparation for enhanced vaccination campaign

Strive to achieve the target 3 lakh vaccinations daily: CM

Guwahati, June 18: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today held a meeting with Health Department at his conference hall at Janata Bhawan and reviewed the preparation for the enhanced Covid vaccination campaign to start from June 21 in the state along with the whole country. He directed to achieve the target of 3 lakh daily vaccinations from June 21 to June 30 on mission mode. He directed that all guardian ministers and secretaries must visit their respective districts to ensure increased vaccination. He directed to target the vulnerable pockets like tea garden areas to widen vaccination coverage. It is to be mentioned that the central government will provide free covid-19 vaccines to all adults from June 21.

The central government will now buy 75% of the total production of the vaccine producers and provide to the states free of cost. Under this initiative, Assam will receive 11 lakh vaccine doses in the next few days. Instructing the department to maximise publicity to bring the people to vaccination centres in large numbers, the Chief Minister said that IEC materials must be published in all major local languages of the state apart from Assamese to generate awareness. He also stressed on the importance to make the people aware about on-the-spot registration facility at the vaccine centres along with online registration. The Chief Minister also directed to engage mobile team of doctors to oversee vaccination and



said that hospitals near vaccination centres must be open to provide medical services to general patients till the close of daily vaccination. Saying that Assam must set an example in the mega vaccination campaign by performing well to achieve the target, the Chief Minister directed the department to hold Video Conferences with DCs

regularly in the next couple of days to iron out issues and fine-tune preparations. Health Minister Keshab Mahanta, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha, Principal Secretary of Health Department Anurag Goel, MD NHM Assam Lakshmanan. S were present in the meeting along with other senior officers.

Lakhimpur youth draws portrait of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika by using names of countries: makes it to Assam Book of Records

North Lakhimpur, June 19: A youth from 11 mile, Panigaon, North Lakhimpur has successfully registered his name in the Assam Book of Records by drawing a portrait of Bharatratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika by using the names of 195 countries of the world. Satyajit Borah, son of Miju Borah and Joonmoni Borah, who is studying in TDC 1st semester in Lakhimpur Telahi Kamalaboria College, Azad, North Lakhimpur and also a student of 11 mile Fine Art Academy, drew portrait by using all the names of the countries and made the record. Reportedly, he had learnt the names of 195 countries of the world and decided to draw a portrait of Bharatratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika by using these names. Later, when his artistic work was sent to Assam

Book of Records, he was given due recognition. Meanwhile, the Assam Book of Records has sent to Satyajit a certificate, a trophy, a Gamosha and a japi by post. Various organisations and institutions of North Lakhimpur, including Dakhin Telahi Sakha Sahitya Sabha, 11 mile Sankardev Sishu Niketan, 11 mile Fine Art Academy and Lakhimpur Telahi Kamalaboria College, wished the record-holder youth for bringing glory to the area.

Assam Governor condoles the sudden demise of Dr. Dhiraj Bora

Guwahati, June 19: Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi condoled the sudden and untimely death of the Vice Chancellor of Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati Prof. Dr. Dhiraj Bora who breathed his last on Saturday in Ahmedabad. In a statement here today, Prof. Mukhi said, "I am deeply saddened to know the pre-mature and untimely death of Dr. Dhiraj Bora". As an academician he was par excellent and contributed immensely to the growth of higher and technical education in

Assam. He was also a good human being and apart from taking crucial role in stimulating intellectually imbued minds of the state he helped his students to become virtuous human beings. His untimely departure is a great loss to the state and country. The Governor also said that he as a Chancellor will miss Dr. Dhiraj Bora and his prudent company. He expressed his profound condolences to the bereaved family members and prayed to the Almighty for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Nazira Gears Up for Special Vaccination Drive on CM's Order

Nazira, June 19: Acting on a directive from the Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Nazira sub-divisional administration is all set for a special vaccination drive to be started from Monday onwards for benefit of those above 18 years of age. To be operational from 8 AM onwards at the premises of Simaluguri Natya Mandir and Nazira Natya Mandir, beneficiaries will be admin-

istered either first or second dose of "Covishield" vaccine, depending upon their requirements. Arrangements have been made for on-spot registration of beneficiaries, for which they will have to provide a valid identification certificate, such as Aadhar, Pan card or voter card. Moreover, vaccines will be administered on first-come-first-serve basis. It is to be noted that only 300 vaccines - of which approximately 275 for first dose and 25 for second dose recipients - will be administered in each centre, and therefore, those interested are advised to reach the centre of their choice at the earliest, to avoid disappointment. It is worth mentioning that Sabyasachi Kashyap, the newly-appointed Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) of Nazira, is taking numerous measures to ensure a "safe-and-secure Nazira" for the inhabitants, considering the grave pandemic situation for the past one year. Measures such as sanitization of market-places, residential areas, public awareness, among others, have been his focus areas since the very first day of his taking over charge as the administrative head of the sub-division.



Bodo Women Coordination Committee protest the rape and murder of two minor girls of Kokrajhar, at Mushalpur

Forest review meeting of three districts of Barak Valley

Minister Suklabaidya asks officials to ensure no encroachment on forest land; takes stock of encroachment by Mizoram

Guwahati, June 19: Minister for Environment and Forest, Parimal Suklabaidya reviewed the status of forest schemes and projects in all the three districts of Barak Valley in Silchar on Saturday. Chairing a review meeting at Cachar Deputy Commissioner's conference hall with MLAs, Deputy Commissioner, PCCF cum HoFF, CCF, DFOs and other range officials, Minister Suklabaidya said strict vigil must be kept on forest land and no encroachment must take place. "A strict vigil has to be maintained so that there is no encroachment on forest land," he quipped. The Minister also took stock of encroachment from neighbouring Mizoram in some bordering areas of Hailakandi and Karimganj districts. Eviction of encroachers from forest land also figured in the meeting. He instructed the district administration and forest officials to keep a close watch in every village area so that 'no person comes from outside and if anyone is settled that person has to strictly follow forest rules and regulations'. Suklabaidya also underscored the need for plantation drive on priority basis, particularly during the rainy season in all the three districts of the valley. He asked the officials

to take immediate stringent action against those involved in illegal cutting or felling of trees and those operating illegal band saw mills and to book the offenders under relevant provisions of law. The Minister called for a coordinated and pragmatic approach by all the DFOs and Forest Range Officers in association with the administrations of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi districts to put a stop to all illegal activities, freeing forest land from encroachers and bringing more and more areas under plantations in order to make Assam a pollution free State. The meeting discussed about the status of sand mahals in the three districts and creation of new mahals to generate revenue. Creation of a Wildlife Division in the Barak Valley also came up in the meeting with Minister Suklabaidya directing the senior officials to expedite the process. MLAs Dipayan Chakraborty, Mihir Kanti Shome, Kaushik Rai, Deputy Commissioner, Keerthi Jalli, PCCF cum HoFF, AM Singh, CCF, Barak Valley, Jain Samra, DFO, Silchar, Sunny Deo Choudhury, DFO, Karimganj, Jainur Ali, DFO, Hailakandi, Mantaj Ali and other range officials were present in the review meeting.

Abahan Satriya Nrityanjali Kanan celebrates Birthday of Krishna Roy

'Assamese Mobile Theatre is going to an uncertain future'- Krishna Roy

Bajali, 19 June: The world is virtually in the grip of morbid fear as a disastrous consequence of COVID-19 pandemic that has taken countless human lives so far, with

more people falling into its vicious trap. Consequently, the iconic theatre groups, an embodiment of Assam's rich cultural heritage, are passing through a bleak, torrid time financially and commercially, for the first time ever, in its glorious history spanning over 60 years. Consequently, the iconic theatre groups, an embodiment of Assam's rich cultural heritage, are passing through a bleak, torrid time financially and commercially, for the first time ever, in its glorious history spanning over 60 years. It needs no reiteration that the highly professional mobile theatre groups (Bhramyaman Natok Gosthi) have always been a prolific source of entertainment to the connoisseurs of dramas in the length and breadth of Brahmaputra valley. The pandemic, needless to say, threatens to break the financial backbone of the theatre groups in addition to weakening financial stability of a wide range of passionately involved stakeholders. Further, the future appears bleak for public performance on stage, if the present dismal state continues. "The Covid-created environment

has brought down the country and the state in a way that has destroyed the economic, progress and peace environment. I am shocked to think about the future of mobile drama at this moment." -told Krishna Roy, eminent cultural worker and the owner of Abahan theatre on the occasion of his 81st birthday, on Saturday organized by Abahan Satriya Nrityanjali Kanan at Bajali. Due to Covid-19 pandemic this time the birthday function was celebrated while maintaining full Covid protocol. On the other hand, the former Deputy Commissioner of Barpeta district Munindra Sharma, cultural worker Dhan Roy, Preeti Saikia and many others attended the ceremony and greeted him. His bosom friend and associate writer Pulu Sharma also attended the function and expressed his greetings in front of the crowd. Roy also informed about his dream plan to start an acting school very soon.



NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

NIT No- 1 MB-531/2020/71

Date: 14.06.2021

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited by affixing Non-refundable Non Judicial Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & Twenty Five paise) only from the intending Suppliers/ Firms/ Companies for supply of following items under 14th FC (1st installment for the year 2018-19) and the same will be received in the Office of the undersigned on dated 28-06-2021 up to 2.00 PM and will be opened on the same day at 3.00 PM in presence of intending tenderers or their authorized representatives. Collect the tender forms with Details of Particulars, Specifications from the office of the undersigned.

SI No	Particulars	Unit (No)
1	Supply, Fitting & fixing of 8 CUM Vehicle Mounted Garbage/Refuse Compactor Machine	1
2	Supply & Delivery of Back Hoe Excavator Loader	1

Sd/-
Executive Officer,
Lanka Municipal Board

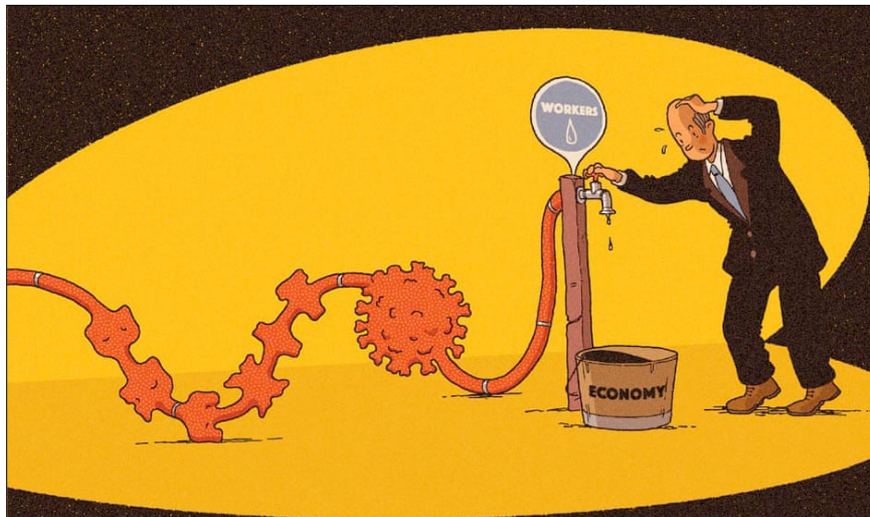
THE ASSAM RISING

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The political weather

"As the campaign has demonstrated, the Lib Dems are miles away from being able to cause such an upset." He ended with a prediction he evidently felt was beyond question: "The Lib Dems will lose on Thursday, most likely fairly badly, and they will have no one to blame but themselves." Election predictions are often a mug's game, not least in a political climate as febrile and strange as ours is currently. But while the media largely stayed away, the Liberal Democrats' unexpected success in suburban Buckinghamshire - where their vote jumped by 30 percentage points, while the Tories' dropped by 20 - went with the grain of a slowly emerging shift that some of us have been following for the past three or four years, which is much cultural as political. The English middle class and the places where it tends to congregate are changing. The way Brexit has revolutionised Conservative politics is accelerating that shift. And now, there are clear signs that the appeal of the Tories is weakening in places they once took for granted: an apparent mirror-image of Labour's travails in so-called red wall seats that is in its comparatively early stages, but might turn out to be just as fascinating. UK Covid: 10,476 new infections reported as Delta variant case rise by over 33,000 in a week - as it happened. This much we know: since the referendum of 2016, there have been signs of Conservative support starting to fall away in chunks of the south-east of England, and more affluent parts of other regions of the country. Back in 2018, the Lib Dems trounced the Conservatives at local elections in such commuter-belt places as Kingston upon Thames and Richmond. A year later, they ended Conservative rule in Bath and North East Somerset and a corner of the Cotswolds. Only a month ago, something much more striking happened, when the party made big advances in Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, St Albans, Surrey and Tunbridge Wells (as well as moving from having no seats on Amersham's town council to taking control). Woven into the same set of shifts is rising support for the Green party in comparable places - Cambridge, East Sussex, Gloucestershire, Suffolk. Labour's role in this story is arguably more marginal (which is why it may need to start thinking about what some people call a progressive alliance), but it also seems to have made inroads at the Tories' expense, as evidenced by its progress in the affluent Mancunian borough of Trafford, and such unexpected triumphs as its 2017 victory in Canterbury, repeated at the following election. I have sampled these shifts that have taken place in some old true-blue heartlands: suburban Surrey, Maidenhead, the town where I grew up in Cheshire commuter-land. Not that long ago, people who lived in such places were largely assumed to be small-c conservative, and fond of the kind of lifestyle choices that went with that kind of outlook: golf, washing one's car on a Sunday morning, keeping up with the proverbial Joneses. But an increasing share of the English middle class is not really like that any more. The suburbs are getting more ethnically diverse, leaning more to the political left - and filling up with a broad demographic that Conservatism either can't or doesn't want to speak to. Such people's formative experiences often happened in big cities, whose values and culture they happily imbibed, before they moved out. The expansion of higher education that kicked in under Tony Blair means they are likely to be graduates, who tend to have a broadly liberal view of the world. Their consumerism has an ethical tilt, and they want to do their bit for the environment. Crucially, they also voted remain, and have been repulsed by the kind of shrill, divisive stances that Toryism is always prone to, but which have become an ingrained habit since the arrival in Downing Street of Theresa May. Taking aim at "citizens of nowhere", pursuing the hardest kind of exit from the EU, and cultivating the kind of political atmosphere that favours attacks on the judiciary and today's "war on woke" might look like crafty responses to the way politics was changed by the big vote of 2016. The problem, perhaps, is that if you so zealously pitch yourself at one half of England, you inevitably run the risk of losing the other. In the years when Conservatives were led by David Cameron and George Osborne, their emphasis on Tory "modernisation" - exemplified by their embrace of equal marriage - showed that they understood some of these changes, and understood that their party had to change.

A shortage of workers is driving up wages: are we entering a new economic era?



Jamie Rogers is a former semi-finalist in the BBC's Masterchef: The Professionals, and the founder of an award-winning restaurant called Twenty Seven, located in the south Devon town of Kingsbridge. As it reopened for business after the recent lockdown, a handful of staff handed in their notice. As he told me last week, he then began to explore what was happening in his part of the economy, and was confronted with huge changes: "Jobs that were worth £10 an hour last year are suddenly paying double that." Brexit is part of the story. "A lot of international people have gone home - a lot of people are telling me that," he said. So too is a shift among British-born workers. "I bumped into someone the other day who was working in Tesco. He used to be a head chef. He said, 'I'm happy where I am now.' He's seen that he doesn't have to work a 60- or 70-hour week, and he's still probably making the same money." Rogers has now taken a bold approach to pulling in managerial staff, offering a £1,000 bonus if successful applicants can guarantee they will stick with him through the summer. He has also put up his hourly rates for middle-ranking jobs. The worst seems to be over, although he is still looking for a restaurant manager. What has happened in his corner of the south-west is a small aspect of one of the early summer's biggest stories: a global labour shortage. The US Chamber of Commerce is warning of a crisis affecting businesses "across ev-

ery industry, in every state". Angst is spreading about a lack of workers in Germany's hospitality sector, and there are comparable issues in other countries such as Norway, Australia and Singapore. Meanwhile, despite unemployment at 1.6 million, the UK is experiencing its own labour problems, partly caused by the fact that 1.3 million foreign nationals have left the country in the last year. As consumer demand surges, hospitality businesses

John Harris

don't have the staff to keep pace, and shortages are also mounting in construction, road haulage, food processing and fruit and vegetable picking. Restrictions on travel within Britain due to Covid are part of the explanation - but Brexit and the ever-more hostile approach to immigration by Priti Patel's Home Office are also factors, as suggested by what Rogers has heard in south Devon. In that context, the recent spectacle of the Brexiter founder of the Wetherspoons pub chain, Tim Martin, moaning about his sector's recruitment headaches and demanding "some sort of preferential visa system for EU workers" was grimly hilarious - though as I know from bitter experience, time spent in his pubs rarely assists one's powers of coherence and consistency. Beyond the UK, as well as Covid rules and border closures, blame for labour shortages is also being placed on wage subsidy schemes such as furlough, increased unemployment benefits and people's reluctance to go back to jobs they never

much liked in the first place. The Washington Post recently interpreted the US's labour problems as "a great reassessment of work in America", as people look "to do something different with their lives than they did before the pandemic". In that sense, what is happening might be an augury of long-lasting changes and disruptions, not all of which will be unwelcome. We all know how western economies have been run for the last couple of decades. Wages have stagnated, as exploitation and precarity have increased. This has been partly enabled by the transfer of manufacturing to countries where wages are low, such as China, keeping the price of consumer goods down; and the use of workers from overseas has also played some part in keeping a lid on costs in sectors such as retail, distribution, hospitality and construction. These are messy, difficult elements of recent history, which have mixed up questions of diversity and openness with raw economics. Woven through them are changes that coverage of the labour market too often ignores: the weakening of trade unions, and welfare states remodelled to relentlessly push people

into poorly paid work. In addition, the ultra-low interest rates that have been in place since the 2008 crash have widened access to cheap credit, and made many people's mortgage payments manageable, thus further reducing pressure for pay rises. Like the crash of 2008, the pandemic has proved that economies characterised by these features are full of weaknesses. Worse still, in the period between these two events, these defects created seething tensions that fed into the growth of a new rightwing politics, whose figureheads are now attempting to slam the door on globalisation and the movement of people, with apparently blithe disregard for both the human and economic consequences. But here is the really interesting thing. Whatever the toxic actions of modern populists, the big, long-term picture suggests that 2021's labour problems may be an early sign of inevitable economic readjustments. The size of China's workforce began to decline

nearly 10 years ago, and wages there have increased accordingly. Across the west, working-age populations are also declining. And Covid has introduced another set of changes to economies and societies, pausing globalisation, apparently squashing birthrates and planting big questions in people's minds about life and work. All these things may yet begin to restore at least some of the bargaining power that most employees have lacked for years. As British businesses plead for the government to re-think its post-Brexit approach to labour mobility, one of Patel's aides was quoted last week insisting that businesses "can't always say the answer is to hire cheap foreign labour"; the official Home Office line is that employers must now "focus on training and investing in our domestic workforce". Whether by choice or necessity, plenty of businesses are already moving in that direction. Restaurant chains are reportedly putting up pay for some positions by as much as 15%; in construction, there is talk of a 10% rise in going rates. The prospect of rising wages is one of the reasons that there are fears about the possibility of increasing inflation, a change that would tip our flimsy economic model into trouble (Martin Wolf wrote in the Financial Times that it "would raise interest rates, destabilise exchange rates, ignite unrest in labour markets [and] push the highly indebted towards default"). If you are on the left, such disruption might be a price worth paying for a long-overdue step towards fairness and equality; on the political right, the possibility of danger and havoc might be one reason why some people in Boris Johnson's government may want to restrict "levelling up" to rhetoric instead of trying to fundamentally alter economic reality. In fact, it looks like things might be changing of their own accord. Capitalism being capitalism, in the labour shortage's mixture of startling numbers and fascinating human detail, it is difficult to distinguish between progress and turmoil. But amid Covid's endless fallout, a new economic era may be messily starting, and what that will mean for our lives is something we are only just starting to understand.

The Importance Of Yoga In Wellness Tourism

The word Yoga first appeared in the oldest sacred texts, the Rig Veda, and is derived from the Sanskrit root "Yuj" which means join or unite. According to the Yogic scriptures, the practice of Yoga leads an individual to the union of consciousness with that of universal Consciousness. It eventually leads to a great harmony between the human mind and body, man & nature. Yoga is thus essentially a spiritual discipline that centralizes on subtle science that focuses on achieving harmony between an individual's mind and body. Over 5,000 years ago the practice of Yoga was started during the Indus-Sarasvati civilization in

Northern India. It was first mentioned in Rig Veda, a collection of texts that consisted of rituals, mantras, and songs which was mainly used by Brahmins, the Vedic priests. Yoga was slowly developed by Brahmins who eventually documented their practices and beliefs in the Upanishads that have over 200 scriptures. Yoga in Vedas means a yoke. In some early writings, Yoga was mainly used in describing a warrior dying and transcending into the heavens while at the back of his chariot to the gods and the higher powers of being. During the Vedic times, Vedic priests were generally self-disciplined and avoided any forms of indulgence instead;

Sankha Subhra Devbarman

they performed sacrifices which were known as yajna, and used poses that most researchers believe are the precursor of the kind of Yoga poses we use today in the modern world.

In the 3rd Century BCE, the word "yoga" became common in other religions like Jain, Hindu, and Buddhist writings. In Mahayana Buddhism, the practice of yoga for both spiritual and meditative use was known as Yogachara which consisted of eight significant steps of meditation called "insight".

In the 5th century, yoga was meant for meditation and religious use, but not as a form of workout. At around the same time, the concept became even more established among the Jains, Buddhists, and Hindus. The first versions of yoga were meant for spiritual practices and revolved around several core values. The first core value analyzed an individual's perception and cognitive state while understanding the cause of suffering and eventually using meditation to solve the issue. The second core value focused on boosting consciousness, and the third was used as a way of achieving transcendence. The fourth value was full of mystery because it used Yoga to penetrate into other people's bodies and act supernaturally.

Yoga later became widely valued because of the Indian nationalist movement as a way of building up pride and cultural identity. Surprisingly, the practice of Yoga was widely promoted by powerful families, institutions, and activities until India attained its independence in 1947. Today, Yoga is practiced



yoga postures after consulting a doctor.

Ministry of Ayush and the Tourism Ministry are promoting India as a 'Yoga Tourism' hub, where people can come to heal their bodies and calm their minds. Their catch-phrase is 'India, Land of Yoga'. It is also being linked to medical tourism in India and appeals to people to opt for holistic health solutions. The Government of India gives out a list of authentic Yoga institutes as well as the publicity material with yoga postures, which are distributed to the public through the Ministry of Tourism centers internationally. Some cities, such as Haridwar and Rishikesh, are being promoted as yoga hubs, in the same vein as Kerala has promoted itself as a state for Ayurvedic massages. In fact, Rishikesh is being promoted as the 'Yoga Capital of the World'. Some of the other cities in the 'Yoga' circuit are Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Munger, Puducherry, and Pune.

The Government of India is also giving tourist visas and e-tourist visas to foreigners who want to pursue short-term courses in Yoga in India along with short-duration medical treatment under Indian systems of medicine, recreation, sightseeing, and casual visits for business or to meet friends.

People from 150 countries can avail the benefit of e-tourist visas as many as 16 Indian airports. It means that they can travel to India with the printout of an email approval of their visa application, and get it stamped at the time of entry into the country. India also offers a visa-on-arrival facility to the Japanese - which has a validity of 30 days.

When I guarded the royal palaces I never realised there'd been a ban on black staff

In 1986, when I was a teenager, Prince Charles expressed "serious concern" about potential discrimination and the lack of black people in the monarch's military escorts. My dad, Brian, saw this and immediately encouraged me, his adopted black son, to apply to join the elite Brigade of Guards. At the time I had just finished secondary school. Given I had a long-term interest in the military and had attended the army cadets in Bristol, joining the regular army seemed a good career choice. I wasn't aware at the time that the regiment I would soon be a part of had never had a black face join its ranks. I had faced racism throughout my childhood in

Richard Stokes

many forms and my father had done his best to prepare me for the situations I might face. However, I was not prepared for what the Guards had in store for me as I entered the gates of the then Guards Depot at Pirbright, Surrey, in September 1986. On day one of my training I was greeted with putrid racial slurs, interrogations, death threats and regular visitors to my barrack room who'd stare, shout abuse and snigger at the black spectacle in front of them. The racist behaviour never stopped. I was subjected to ostracisation, cigarettes stubbed out in my food, bananas thrown at me and hate mail, including a bullet with my name etched on it. The first six months of my deployment was a living hell. But despite this, I persevered. In 1988 my first day as a Grenadier in the changing of the guards ceremony was a national news story. Eventually I spent two more years serving the Queen and the royal family - guarding residences including Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Clarence House. So, af-

ter all the racial abuse I'd endured in guarding the royal family, it saddened me to read this week that inside the palace itself there had been a ban on ethnic minority staff. We now know that in 1968 - and possibly for many years afterwards - "it was not, in fact, the practice to appoint coloured immigrants or foreigners" to clerical roles in the royal household, according to the Queen's chief financial manager at the time. The news that a colour bar policy was in place in the palace further reinforces my disillusionment at the lack of progress

being made on eliminating racism in society. Even today, the royal family could help bring about changes in attitudes by taking action, as Prince Charles did in 1986. The palace's prominent place in British society means it could lead by example on diversity and inclusion, and be transparent about its own policies. The outcome of Charles's moral leadership was that I was able to break a longstanding "whites only" tradition and inspire other minority ethnic people to join the Guards. The next generation of royals may be able to relate more closely to younger British people, and show they are in tune with the anti-racist sentiment expressed so strongly throughout 2020. I continued ceremonial duties until I resigned from the Grenadiers in 1990. My father tried to persuade me to change my mind but it was already made up. He even wrote multiple times to Prince Charles to see if he could persuade me to change my decision. I wasn't prepared to continue to have to endure more racism, especially if I intended to make my way up the ranks.

Realme X7 Max review: Up to speed with 5G, but at what cost

Mumbai, June 19 : On its official website, Realme calls buyers to experience the future with the Realme X7 Pro. With the Realme X7 Max, it promises it will get you there at full speed. It will also cost you less money. This future, presumably driven by 5G, is a long way to go but brands like Realme - especially Realme - are working overtime to ensure there is no shortage of devices when the network arrives eventually. Like the devices themselves, hardware powering them is also getting mature each day. Over the last few months, both Qualcomm and MediaTek have released a swarm of 5G-ready mobile processors,



each more capable than the other though. The big focus seems to be on making technology more and more accessible which is why we are seeing a lot of action happening in the mid-range segment lately. Qualcomm has a long list of Snapdragon 800- and 700-series system-on-chips while MediaTek is churning out equivalents under its Dimensity lineup by the dozen. Samsung galaxy Tab S7 FE, Galaxy Tab A7 Lite, Samsung new tabs, Samsung pocket friendly Galaxy Tab A7 Lite, Galaxy Tab A7 Lite features price, Samsung galaxy Tab S7 FE price features Samsung to launch Galaxy Tab S7 FE, Tab A7 Lite Android tablets in India on June 18 Realme, Realme Watch 2 Pro, Watch 2, Robot Vacuum, Realme Book, Realme Pad Realme Watch 2 Pro, Watch 2, Robot Vacuum launched; Realme Book laptop, Pad tablet set to arrive in coming months Realme 8 Pro review: Starry-eyed 108MP camera wonder This brings us to the subject of this review - the Realme X7 Max 5G - and why Realme believes it could bring you up to speed with 5G. This phone is powered by

MediaTek's most powerful current gen SoC, the Dimensity 1200. In theory, this makes it the most powerful phone in the Realme X7-series. Even more powerful than the Realme X7 Pro, which is technically, the "real" flagship. A phone that was launched barely three months ago. Something like this does not happen very often. This makes the Realme X7 Max kind of exciting (that is if you haven't invested in the Realme X7 Pro already). But on the flip side, it also makes you wonder, if there's a catch. The X7 Max is a mighty giant that's surprisingly light on its feet. On any given day, a phone like this would seem like a recipe

for disaster. Realme has tamed the beast but more than anything, the X7 Max is a home run for MediaTek. After spending years playing second fiddle to Qualcomm, it is finally starting to catch up. And if the Dimensity 1200 is any indication, the future seems promising. Dimensity 1200 is MediaTek's first 6nm chip. It is also the first MediaTek chip to use the Cortex-A78 core. It has a tri-cluster CPU with a "prime" A78 core running at 3.0GHz, three other A78 cores at 2.6GHz, and four A55 "efficiency" cores at 2.0GHz. The Snapdragon 870 that it's built to compete with - though it has a CPU that clocks higher at 3.2GHz - is based on the older A77 core(s) giving MediaTek a slight edge in benchmarks. There are of course other factors that weigh in, where Qualcomm cruises ahead, but the bottom line is, both chips are matched evenly. Realme, Realme X7 Max, Realme X7 Max 5G Realme X7 Max review, Realme X7 Max 5G review, 5G, Xiaomi, Redmi Next to the Dimensity 1000 Plus - seen inside the Realme X7 Pro - we're looking at 22 percent faster perfor-

mance. And it can do this while consuming up to 25 percent less power. Both chips pack the same Mali-G77 GPU. Realme is using fast UFS 3.1 storage (up to 256GB) in the X7 Max, an improvement over UFS 2.2 inside the X7 Pro. There is no expandable storage. There is an upgraded stainless steel vapour cooling system inside the X7 Max which is said to be an improvement over the copper-based system seen in the X7 Pro. This is one of the very few phones under 20k to include a dedicated thermal solution, or at least one that's being advertised. But even more importantly, it works. This has two immediate benefits. For the most discerning user, the X7 Max does not get very hot when stressed. For more specific use cases, like gaming, this phone can play graphically demanding games with consistently stable frame rates without any visible throttling. Except for Genshin Impact which for some reason has a chip-level cap, most games including Call of Duty: Mobile play at maxed-out settings on the X7 Max and the experience is satisfying. As a frame of reference, the Snapdragon 870-powered Xiaomi Mi 11X's gaming performance leaves a lot to be desired. It's commendable because Realme has been able to achieve all this keeping the dimensions of the phone so compact, it doesn't even feel like a performance-oriented device, the first time you see it. It has used copious amounts of plastic - while the Mi 11X is all glass - to be able to do this, sure, but regardless of the build materials, this phone weighs just 180 gram and measures only 8.4mm. At a time when most phones including the X7 Pro are 6.5-inch and above, the X7 Max takes the road less taken. This is a 6.43-inch phone. Call it a pocket rocket if you will. Despite that, the phone does not compromise on battery capacity. Like the X7 Pro, the X7 Max also comes with a sizeable 4,500mAh battery. Battery life is good. This is easily a one-day phone for even the most demanding users. Charging, even though it tops out at 50W (this is 65W in the X7 Pro), is still one of the quickest in this price range. For some context, the Mi 11X which also has more or less similar battery life supports only 33W fast charging. The same no-compromise approach extends to audio. The phone comes with dual speakers with Dolby Atmos and

Hi-Res support. Quality of these speakers isn't that great - relative to say the Mi 11X which has an "actual" stereo setup - but it gets the job done while also retaining the headphone jack. This is the first Realme phone in its class to have an official IP rating - this is IPX4. This means it is splash resistant. The Mi 11X with its IP53-rating is also resistant to dust. Rest of the package is basically Realme trying to juggle many hats. Winning at some, failing at others. Design is perhaps its weakest link. It's becoming repetitive and, in that process, it is also losing out on its premium appeal. The X7 Max seems to be a cross between the X7 Pro and the 8 Pro with a combination of matte and glossy elements. There is a sizeable holographic "Dare to Leap" slogan thrown into the mix and while it's not as massive as the one on the 8 Pro, you can't just not see it and then when you do, you can't unsee it. Realme phones have seen better days. Remember the Realme 7 Pro? Or any of the Realme X Master Editions? The 1080p Super AMOLED display on the X7 Max shows punchy colours and viewing angles are quite good. But it does not get very bright. Even by Realme's own standards, the panel is a step below the X7 Pro's with brightness topping out at 1000 nits (the X7 Pro can go all the way to 1200 nits). There is no HDR support either. The in-display fingerprint reader isn't the most accurate and there is no screen protection (X7 Pro comes with Corning Gorilla Glass 5). A silver lining is the faster response rate. The 120Hz refresh rate in the X7 Max is paired with 360Hz touch sampling (240Hz in the X7 Pro) making it ideal for competitive gaming - though the difference would be visible to only the most eagle-eyed. The most noticeable downgrade is coming in the camera department. The X7 Max has only three cameras on the rear and only one of them - the primary - is usable. Realme is using a 64MP IMX682 main sensor in the X7 Max (the X7 Pro uses the IMX686) which clicks above average photos in good light and good-enough photos in artificial and low light. Colours are often saturated and turn out looking pleasing on the phone's colourful screen though a blown-out version seen on a bigger screen, say a laptop, shows these photos usually miss out on resolved detail. Dynamic range is

average at best. Realme's night mode implementation is better than some of its rivals, so that's a plus. The other two cameras - 8MP ultra-wide-angle and 2MP macro - are barely serviceable. The 16MP front camera (this is 32MP in the X7 Pro) captures good-quality selfies across lighting conditions if at the cost of resolved detail. Realme software - this is Android 11-based Realme UI 2.0 in the X7 Max - has both positive and negative aspects. It looks better than MIUI, it's a lot cleaner too - though this can change as MIUI 12.5 becomes more broadly available - and the fact that it gives you so many customisation chops including the ability to change icons is well appreciated. Everything works cohesively. But the update rollout and long-term support is just way too messed up and uneven. My X7 Max review unit is still on the March security patch, while a much cheaper Realme phone, the 8 Pro, got the April patch on schedule (in the month of April itself). Realme is on the right track, if only it can fix this disparity, things would be even better. The X7 Max "works as advertised" and that is its main USP. Straight off the bat, this is a high-performance device. 5G may seem like an icing on the cake but make no mistake, Realme is really serious about the whole democratisation of the technology thing it keeps talking about in its marketing campaigns. As opposed to many rival phones, including those from sister brand OnePlus, 5G is not just an afterthought here. The X7 Max supports as many as seven bands (5G NR N1/N28A/N40/N41/N77/N78/N79) and while you may not be able to use them just yet, it surely helps with the peace of mind. Paired with NFC and Wi-Fi 6, this is truly a future-ready device. Hopefully, things on the software front would get better with time. As for the rest of the package, Realme doesn't really make a lot of tall claims. It is what it is. If you're looking for a bigger and brighter screen, better cameras, and faster charging, you should probably be looking at the X7 Pro. Or better yet, you should be looking at the iQOO 7. The Mi 11X is also a viable option if you're not particularly looking for class-leading cameras. Pros: Compact form factor, Fast 120Hz display, Fast performance, Does not heat up when stressed, Good battery life.

This Father's Day, Learn Financial Lessons From Your Hero



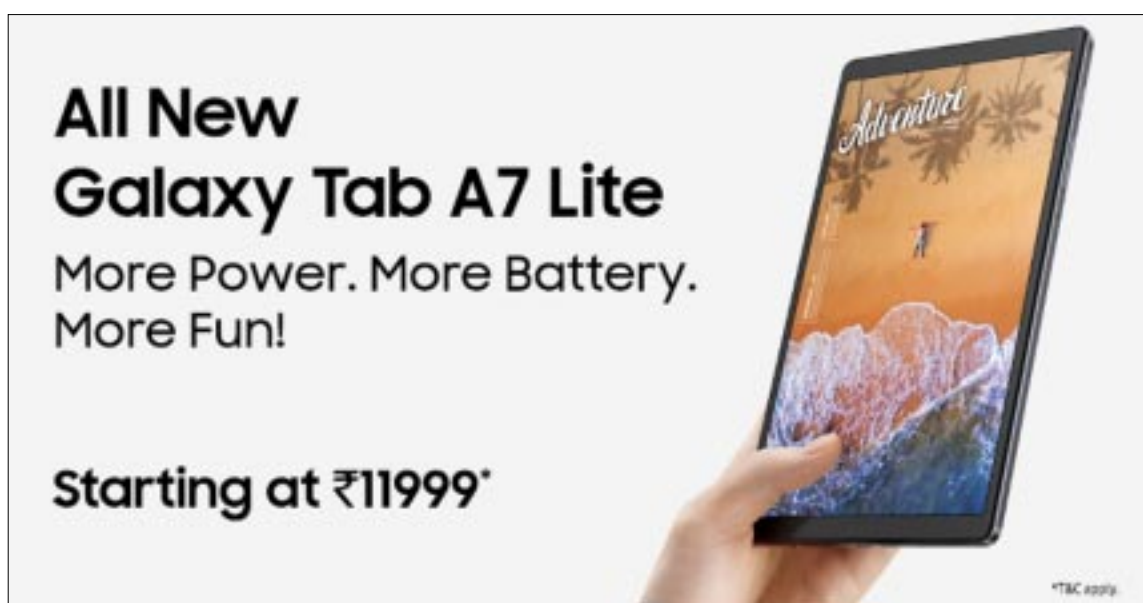
Delhi, June 19: Often, fathers are the unsung heroes; they believe in you when you do not, they guide through every hurdle of your lives. Father's Day is celebrated across the world to appreciate the wondrous selfless household heroes who we call fathers. Growing up you learn innumerable skills from your fathers be it driving, gardening or being calm in the most turbulent situations. One of the skills you miss out on is taking care of your finances, which is the ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills. Father's Day, on June 20, has come at a time when the world is going through an unprecedented crisis, economies are straining to recover, businesses are struggling to reopen, and individuals are trying to survive job losses, pay-cuts and financial hardships. One way to celebrate this day would be to recall the financial wisdom imparted by your father and use it to make the right choices and come through these difficult times. On this Father's Day, Vinit Kapahi, Head of Marketing, Aviva India suggests financial lessons to imbibe from fathers for the benefit of families' secured future. 1. Devise a Budget: No matter how hard you work or how much you earn, it is quite unlikely that you can save or invest without a proper budget. Living within means inculcates spending discipline, ensures better financial health and influences sound financial decisions. Taking stock of your income and prioritising expenses such as EMIs, rent, childcare, groceries, utilities, etc. is essential. In the COVID-19 era, especially, a fixed budget can enable us to keep tabs on our income, expenditure, and savings, and help see us through this or any crisis. 2. Learn to save: It all started with the piggy bank when fathers would give their children a coin, usually of a particular denomination, over several weeks or months. As they grew up and started working, fathers advised their children to set aside a portion of their income every month and use it for shopping, home renovation, a holiday or an emergency. The lockdown has offered most people a chance to reduce unnecessary expenses, or discretionary spending, and save for a time when it might be needed the most. Eventually, such as job medical emergency, job loss have become a reality for many in this era which should act like a lesson for all. 3. Limit debt: Unplanned debts can spoil anyone's financial health. This would have helped you assess your needs for taking a loan by making a choice between necessary expenses and the irrelevant ones. It is crucial to avoid unnecessary debts and stay away from the burden of a high EMI. Debt should be opted to accomplish a financial goal. It is important to understand the difference between a good and bad debt. Managing debt by keeping track and paying EMIs and bills on time should be a habit to avoid uncertainties. 4. Importance of a safety net: Fathers never fret in turbulent situations because they always have a plan B ready, and it is necessary to learn from them and take all actions to ensure financial security. Opting for term insurance is a great way to start in case of any unfortunate circumstances, it is the safety net for family as they provide death benefits apart from regular income to the policyholder or the nominee.

Samsung Launches Galaxy Tab S7 FE, Galaxy Tab A7 Lite in India

Delhi, June 19 : Samsung, India's most trusted smartphone brand, today launched Galaxy Tab S7 FE and Galaxy Tab A7 in India. The two devices are the latest additions to Samsung's Galaxy Tab portfolio, and together meet the productivity, creativity and entertainment needs of consumers. Galaxy Tab S7 FE brings the fan-favorite features from Galaxy Tab S7+, including a large display & S Pen in the box for work, studies, design and entertainment. Galaxy Tab A7 Lite's compact design and features make it the perfect device for on-the-go entertainment and gaming. Galaxy Tab S7 FE will be available in four stunning colours - Mystic Black, Mystic Silver, Mystic Green and Mystic Pink. Whereas, the Galaxy Tab A7 Lite will be available in two stylish colours of Gray and Silver. Galaxy Tab S7 FE is priced at INR 46999 for 4GB + 64GB variant and INR 50999 for 6GB + 128GB variant. While Galaxy Tab A7 Lite is available in 3GB + 32GB and priced at INR 14999 for LTE and INR 11999 for WIFI model. Samsung is also giving exciting introductory offers with Galaxy Tab S7 FE. You can get INR 4000 cashback on HDFC Debit Card and Credit Card transactions and INR 10000 off on the Keyboard Cover. Not only this, on Galaxy Tab A7 Lite, you can get up to 6 months of no cost EMI which means that you can now own Galaxy Tab A7 Lite starting @ INR 2499/- per month. Customers can buy Galaxy Tab S7 FE and Galaxy Tab A7 Lite at Samsung.com, Samsung Exclusive Stores and leading online and offline retail partners from June 23. "With Remote working and virtual learning becoming the new normal, we, at Samsung, have pushed ourselves creatively and technically to develop

two new landmark Tablets - Tab S7 FE & Tab A7 Lite. These exciting new Tabs help you become more productive, more creative, multi task with ease and redefine the way that you work, study and play," said Madhur Chaturvedi, Director, Mobile Business, Samsung India. GALAXY TAB S7 FE: Galaxy Tab S7 FE brings the features you love at an affordable price. It helps you be more productive, more creative and be more "you". Designed with stunning features that meet the daily needs of consumers, Galaxy Tab S7 FE is one that Galaxy fans will not want to miss. Redefining Viewing Experience Galaxy Tab S7 FE features a large 12.4-inch display supporting a 16:10 aspect ratio picture and 244 pixels per inch (PPI) resolution for vivid picture details and true-to-life visuals. Coupled with Dolby Atmos sound quality through AKG speakers, this device offers an immersive cinematic experience as you binge watch your favorite content. At 10090mAh, Galaxy Tab S7 FE comes with a mega battery so that you can go big on binge watching your favourite content even after full day of work/class. Galaxy Tab S7 FE supports 45W superfast charge that recharges the huge battery in just 90 minutes. The Tab S7 FE comes with a 15W charger in box while the 45W fast charger can be purchased separately at Samsung.com & leading retail outlets. Galaxy Tab S7 FE

comes with the powerful Qualcomm Snapdragon 750G processor that helps deliver enhanced performance and ensures smooth multitasking experience. Galaxy Tab S7 FE sports 8MP rear camera and 5MP front landscape mode camera that is optimized for video calls. Unlock Creativity : Galaxy Tab S7 FE



comes with the S Pen included in the box, which is a "magic wand" that helps you switch seamlessly between work, studies & play, helping you discover and unleashing your creativity. It doesn't need to be charged and has an extremely low latency of less than 30ms giving a real pen paper experience. In order to unleash the artist within you, Samsung has bundled many premium software subscriptions such as Clip Studio and Canva with the device. With Samsung Notes, you can easily convert your on-screen handwritten notes to text. Keep your notes organized with

automatic tags and use Intelligent Search to find the exact note you need in an instant - no matter whether it's typed or handwritten. For avid note-takers, Notes shelf is also included for free, enabling you and your S Pen to create detailed, colourful notes that accurately capture your thoughts. Multiply pro-

ductivity : Samsung Galaxy Tab S7 FE is as powerful as a PC. With Samsung DeX and Book Cover Keyboard, you can use your tablet just like a laptop, transforming the UI to a PC-like experience while you power through your to-do list. Through the second screen, you can transform your Galaxy Tab S7 FE into an additional display alongside your PC to expand your view, and get even more work done. With Multi-Active Window, you can open up to three apps at once which means you can browse the web, take notes, and stream a video all on one screen. With App Pair, you can also

save and quickly launch your favorite combination of apps together in Multi-Active Window. Galaxy TAB A7 LITE: Galaxy Tab A7 Lite is designed to be your companion throughout the day, as you run about from classroom to chat room to game room. Galaxy Tab A7 Lite is meant to fulfil the entertainment needs of young Indian consumers. Mobility : For those looking for a compact, on-the-go tablet, Galaxy Tab A7 Lite is the go-to option. With an 8.7-inch screen housed in a sleek, durable metal cover, the compact Galaxy Tab A7 Lite is ultra-portable. It is light to hold, has a compact form factor and is 8 mm thin. Galaxy Tab A7 has been designed for one-hand operation with gesture control. The Galaxy Tab A7 Lite sports 8MP rear camera and a 2MP front camera. Entertainment : Galaxy Tab A7 Lite comes with large immersive display and powerful Dual Speakers with Dolby Atmos surround sound to bring you closer to the stories when watching your favorite movies and shows. With up to 32GB of internal storage, expandable up to 1TB with a MicroSD card, there is plenty of space for all your favourite content, and the 1.8GHz octa-core MediaTek Helio P22T (MT8768T) processor helps ensure smooth and fast gaming performance. With a long-lasting battery of 5100mAh, 15W Adaptive Fast Charging, Galaxy Tab A7 Lite is great for watching that trending new

show or gaming on the go. Galaxy Ecosystem : Galaxy Tab A7 Lite works seamlessly with your ecosystem of Galaxy devices - from your phone to your wearable devices. You can take calls and send and receive text messages through your Samsung account on your tablet, even when your smartphone is out of reach. You can easily copy and paste text or images between enabled devices. Galaxy Tab A7 Lite is protected by our signature defense-grade security platform Knox that keeps all your data and transactions safe. The Galaxy Tab A7 Lite is a device that can be used by the entire family. With Samsung Kids, you can set daily playtime allowances, restrict access to certain apps and introduce your kids to the digital world safely with a range of exciting, colourful learning apps and games. Price and Availability Galaxy Tab S7 FE will be available in four stunning colours - Mystic Black, Mystic Silver, Mystic Green and Mystic Pink. Whereas, the Galaxy Tab A7 Lite will be available in two stylish colours of Gray and Silver. Galaxy Tab S7 FE is priced at INR 46999 for 4GB + 64GB variant and INR 50999 for 6GB + 128GB variant. While Galaxy Tab A7 Lite is available in 3GB + 32GB and priced at INR 14999 for LTE and INR 11999 for WIFI model. Samsung is also giving exciting introductory offers with Galaxy Tab S7 FE. You can get INR 4000 cashback on HDFC Debit Card and Credit Card transactions and INR 10000 off on the Keyboard Cover. Not only this, on Galaxy Tab A7 Lite, you can get up to 6 months of no cost EMI which means that you can now own Galaxy Tab A7 Lite starting @ INR 2499/- per month.

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CM reviews flood preparedness

carry out flood protection activities. He also stressed on early completion of embankment strengthening works to mitigate the impact of flood. The Chief Minister while reviewing COVID-19 situation and health infrastructure of the district asked the PWD to complete the ongoing extension works of Tinsukia Civil Hospital at the earliest so that number of ICU beds can be increased in the hospital. He also asked the health department to install 5 ICU beds at Digboi Civil Hospital apart from 5 numbers of dialysis machines for treatment of patients with acute nephrological problems in consultation with National Health Mission. The Chief Minister while reviewing the vaccination status of the district, directed the district administration to carry out the vaccination drive intensively in a mission mode with special focus on tea garden people and areas having high density of population. Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Rameswar Teli, Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, Tea Tribes Welfare Minister Sanjay Kishan, MLAs Suren Phukan, Bhaskar Sarma, Teros Gowala, Binod Hazarika, Chakradhar Gogoi, Punakan Baruah and Taranga Gogoi were also present in the meeting.

'Over Rs 4,000 crore MFI loans

violation of RBI norms. With this, those who have been lent more than RBI approved amount, their principal amount will automatically come down to the permitted limit of Rs 1.25 lakh and those who have been lent four loans, their fourth loan will also be automatically written off." Microfinance loan waiver was BJP's one of the top promises during the election campaign and soon after formation of the government, it found place on top of Sarma's priority list. A few weeks back, a committee set up by the state cabinet to explore the finalisation of a module for waiving off the loan stated that state government will not consider all the women borrowers for waiving off their outstanding loans from microfinance institutions, but only those who fall within a set of eligibility criteria. This announcement has created resentment among the women borrowers across the state, who have gone on protest demanding the government to lift off all conditions and grant a blanket waiver. Sarma on Friday clarified that BJP's promise was only for poor women and the government has decided to categorise the borrowers into three sections for availing the waiver in addition to the earlier announced pre-conditions. He said around five lakh borrowers, who are repaying their dues on time and are not willing to seek an waiver of their outstanding dues, will be given an one-time grant as an incentive. "Those, who have been repaying on time but stopped it after BJP's promise during the campaign, will be given the overdue amount by the government and they can repay to the banks so that their loan does not become NPA and they can continue with their timely repayment routine," Sarma said. The third category of borrowers are those who either cannot pay the outstanding or do not want to pay. "For them, their loans will be waived off but that will have a negative impact on their CIBIL score, which could be detrimental to them in future while doing business with banks," Sarma added. "From incentives to relief, we will be touching the lives of 22 lakh women of the state as far as MFI loans are concerned," Sarma said.

Assam govt forms expert panels

Dam, Principal, Kachokhana HSS Dhubri, Hakim Tarafdar, Principal, Jaraguri HSS Kokrajhar, CB Rai, Principal, Kamrup Academy, Guwahati, Mrinal Khanda, Head Master, Muhiram Hamrika High School, Golaghat. The Secretary of SEBA has been given the responsibility of Convenor of the committee. The Committee for class 12 examinations has been formed with Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit & Ancient Studies University vice-chancellor Dipak Kumar Sharma as Chairman. The members of the committee are chairman of AHSEC, Nibedita Laskar, joint secretary, Higher Education, SN Barman, Principal, B. Barooah College, S. Borkotoky, Principal, Nagaon College, Idris Ali, Principal, Dhubri Boys HSS, Ratan Pal, Narsingh HSS, Silchar and Dipika Choudhury, IS, Dibrugarh. The Secretary of AHSEC has been chosen as the Convenor of the committee. The Assam government Friday canceled class 10 and 12 board state board examinations on account of the second wave of the pandemic. The education department has asked the committees to submit their reports within 7 days. "The respective committees will have to submit the procedure to be adopted by each school to evaluate each student, subject-wise for marks assigned against theory portion of each subject," the department said in a notification. "The procedures must be based on records available in the school against each student," it added.

Electricity bill payment must

officers (DDOs) to ensure collection of "No dues payable against electricity bill of APDCL" certificate for all employees before processing of wages/salary bills on or before June 30, 2021. "In pursuance to the same, the undersigned is directed to request you to instruct all drawing and disbursing officers (DDO) under your control to ensure collection of "No dues payable against electricity bill of APDCL" certificate for all employees prior to processing of wages/salary bills i.e., on or before June 30, 2021," the APDCL MD said in the letter. "APDCL system generated payment receipt of current electricity bill may be considered as proof of payment for this purpose," the letter added. Assam chief minister Sarma recently directed the power department officials to adopt the Gujarat model in metering, billing, collection of electricity bills and to recover the unpaid power bills of government officials directly from their salaries. The chief minister had a review meeting on the functioning of the power department and its three companies Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL), Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited (AEGCL) and Assam Power Generation Corporation Ltd. After the meeting, he directed the department to prepare a plan for turning the companies into profit making entities. He stressed on the need to make all the three companies profit making ventures within the next five years similar to that of the power companies in Gujarat.

PM Modi may chair meeting

(JKAP), and People's Conference head Sajjad Lone for the discussion, the officials said. Mehbooba told PTI Friday night that she had received a call from the Centre for a meeting on June 24. "I am yet to take a decision. I will discuss with my party members and take a final call," she said. Both Abdullah and Mehbooba had served as chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Asked about the prospect of talks with the Centre, CPI(M) leader and spokesperson of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) M Y Tarigami said there has been no word from New Delhi, but added that if it happens, it would be welcomed. "We have never closed our doors for meaningful engagement with the Centre. Though I have no information about any dialogue, if it happens, it will be welcomed," Tarigami told PTI from Srinagar. The PAGD is an alliance of some parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the NC and the PDP, that was formed in the aftermath of the Centre's August 2019 decisions. JKAP president Bukhari said, "I welcome, if and when, the talks take place. This vindicates our position of March 2020 when we had made it clear that dialogue is the only mechanism to restore democracy and statehood for Jammu and Kashmir." "Better late than never as the solution to all our problems lies with New Delhi and nowhere else," he added. The Jammu and Kashmir units of the BJP and the Congress are also likely to be part of these discussions, which are being seen as part of efforts to strengthen normal political processes in the union territory. The officials said the delimitation commission under the leadership of Justice (ret'd) Ranjana Desai, which was set up immediately after the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill in Parliament, is likely to expedite its work and submit its report. The commission was set up in February 2020 and has been given an extension of one year in March this year. Barring Bukhari, other leaders have served a spell of detention following the August 2019 decision of the Centre to abrogate special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the erstwhile state into union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. In the District development Council election last year, the PAGD surged way ahead of the BJP and its allies, including the JKAP, by bagging 110 seats out of 280 with the National Conference emerging stronger with 67 seats within the alliance. The BJP was the single largest party with 75 seats. The political mainstream of the union territory, especially those having a strong base in Kashmir Valley, have been critical of successive administrations of the union territory for neglecting the demands of the people and raising questions on the development slogan raised post August 2019.

Central Government allocates

households in the country, only 3.23 Crore (17%) had tap water supply. During the last 22 months, despite Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown disruptions, Jal Jeevan Mission, has been implemented with speed and 4.32 Crore households have been provided with piped connections. With the increase in coverage by 22%, presently 7.56 Crore (39.38%) rural households across the country have tap water supply. Goa, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry have achieved 100% household connection in rural areas and has become 'Har Ghar Jal'. Following the principle of Prime Minister's vision of 'SabkaSaath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', the motto of the Mission is that 'no one is left out' and every household in a village should be provided with tap water connection. At present, in 62 districts and more than 93 thousand villages, every household has tap water supply. In Assam on 15th August 2019, at the time of launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, only 1.11 lakh (1.76%) households out of a total of 63.35 lakh households in 25,335 villages, had tap water supply. In the last 22 months, 6.88 lakh households (10.87%) in the State have been provided tap water connections, thus 7.99 lakh households (12.63%) are having tap water supply. The State has to provide tap water supply to remaining 55.35 lakh households in next three years. To achieve this task, the State has planned to provide tap water connections to 22.63 lakh households in 2021-22, 20.84 lakh households in 2022-23, and 13.20 lakh tap water connections in 2023-24. Union Minister, Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has written a letter to the Chief Minister of Assam, highlighting challenges and important aspects related to planning and implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Assam. In his letter, the Union Minister has hoped that the State government will make all out efforts to draw and utilize this enhanced allocation to achieve various planned activities under Jal Jeevan Mission to provide tap water connection to every household in rural areas. The allocation of the Central grant to Assam under JJM has been enhanced to Rs. 5,601.16 Crore. With this fourfold increase in Central allocation, unspent balance of Rs 123.78 Crore and State's matching share of Rs 636.10 Crore, Assam has an assured availability of Rs. 6,361.04 Crore under Jal Jeevan Mission for water supply work in 2021-22. In 2021-22, Rs 712 Crore has been allocated to Assam as 15th Finance Commission tied grant to Rural Local Bodies/ PRIs for water & sanitation. There is an assured funding of Rs 3,752 Crore for the next five years i.e. up to 2025-26. This huge investment in rural areas of Assam, will create new employment opportunities, accelerate economic activities and also boost rural economy. To ensure safe tap water to children in schools, ashramshalas and anganwadicentres in the country, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced 100-days campaign, which was launched by the Union Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 2nd October 2020. As a result, States/ UTs like Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands have made provision of tap water in all schools, ashramshalas and anganwadicentres. In Assam so far, only 11,076 schools (26%) and 2,257 anganwadicentres (6%) have been provided piped water supply. Central Government has asked the State Government to ensure that in few months, provision of safe tap water is made in all remaining schools, ashramshalas and anganwadicentres including provision of hand washing and piped water in toilets and urinals. This will help our children to have better health, improved sanitation and hygiene. In his letter, Union Minister, Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has reiterated the emphasis given by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to provide tap water on priority in next few months to all households in quality-affected villages, Aspirational and JE/AES affected districts, SC/ ST majority villages and Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojna (SAGY) villages. Centre has asked the State to give priority and provide tap water in these villages. Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has assured the Union Minister, Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat of speedy pace of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Assam. The State has already approved schemes for 41.9 lakh tap water connections and work orders for about 17.85 lakh tap water connections have been issued in 2021-22. The Chief Minister has further assured that he will be closely monitoring the progress of the work to ensure tap water supply in rural households. Water quality monitoring & surveillance activities are to be given top priority, for which anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, members of Self-Help Groups, PRI members, school teachers etc. are being trained so that they can test water samples for contamination by using Field test Kits (FTKs). Out of a total of 80 water testing laboratories, only 1 lab is NABL accredited. These labs to be opened to general public so that they can get their water samples tested at a nominal cost. State also needs to upgrade the water testing laboratories and ensuring their NABL accreditation on priority. Jal Jeevan Mission is a 'bottom up' approach where community plays a vital role starting from planning to implementation, management, operation and maintenance. To achieve this, State Government has to undertake support activities like strengthening the Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ Pani Samiti, developing of Village Action Plan for the next five years, engaging Implementing State Agencies (ISAs) to handhold and support village communities, carry out awareness among people. So far Assam has 4,732 VWSCs or Pani Samitis and 13,233 Village Action Plan (VAPs) have been prepared. In the year 2021-22, the State has engaged 30 NGOs as Implementing State Agencies (ISAs). Assam needs to build the capacity of more than 1.5 lakh people in rural areas. Such handholding and capacity building plays a critical role in ensuring long-term sustainability and operation & maintenance of the water supply infrastructure for assured water supply to every home. Announced by the Prime Minister on 15th August 2019, Jal Jeevan Mission is under implementation in partnership with States/ UTs to provide tap water connection to every rural household of the country by 2024. Total budget for Jal Jeevan Mission in 2021-22 is Rs. 50,011 Crore. With State's own resources and Rs. 26,940 Crore as 15th Finance Commission tied grant for water and sanitation to RLBs/ PRIs, this year, more than Rs 1 lakh Crore are being invested in rural drinking water supply sector. This is creating new employment opportunities in villages and boosting the rural economy.

Ex-Assam Chief Minister

during his visit. Mr Sonowal had served as a Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs from 2014 to 2016 during the first term of the Narendra Modi government. He took over as Chief Minister of Assam after the BJP's Assembly poll victory in 2016. In the state polls held earlier this year, the BJP-led alliance returned to power in Assam. But Himanta Biswa Sarma, and not Mr Sonowal, took over as Chief Minister. Ahead of his visit to Delhi, Mr Sonowal met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at a reception hosted by Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi at Raj Bhavan. The meeting was "formal and politics was not discussed", said a close aide of the former Chief Minister. Mr Sarma was also present at the reception. There has been speculation that Mr Sonowal, who belongs to Assam's indigenous Sonowal-Kachari tribe, was called by the party leadership to the national capital for consultations ahead of a possible reshuffle in the Union cabinet. Mr Sarma recently said that before he was given the Chief Minister post, BJP president J P Nadda had said Mr Sonowal would be given a new responsibility. A source said Mr Sonowal had run the government in Assam "successfully for five years and helped the party return to power so there is a possibility of him being suitably rehabilitated". The day Mr Sarma was sworn in as the Chief Minister, Prime Minister Modi had appreciated Mr Sonowal's tenure. "My valued colleague @sarbanandsonwal Ji was at the helm of a pro-people and pro-development administration over the last five years. His contribution towards Assam's progress and strengthening the party in the state is immense," the Prime Minister had tweeted.

United Nations calls for halt

while 36 abstained, including China and Russia. "The risk of a large-scale civil war is real," U.N. special envoy on Myanmar Christine Schraner Burgener told the General Assembly after the vote. "Time is of the essence. The opportunity to reverse the military takeover is narrowing. "Some countries which abstained said the crisis was an internal issue for Myanmar, others did not think the resolution would be helpful, while some states complained it did not adequately address the plight of Rohingya Muslims some four years after a military crackdown forced nearly a million to flee Myanmar. European Union U.N. Ambassador Olof Skoog said the U.N. resolution sends a powerful message: "It delegitimizes the military junta, condemns its abuse and violence against its own people and demonstrates its isolation in the eyes of the world." U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had earlier on Friday pushed the General Assembly to act, telling reporters: "We cannot live in a world where military coups become a norm. It is totally unacceptable." The military cited the government's refusal to address what it said was fraud in a November election as the reason for the coup. International observers have said the ballot was fair. An initial draft U.N. resolution included stronger language calling for an arms embargo on Myanmar. According to a proposal seen by Reuters last month, nine Southeast Asian countries wanted that language removed. The compromise text "calls on all member states to prevent the flow of arms into Myanmar." General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding but carry political weight. Unlike the 15-member Security Council, no country has veto power in the General Assembly. The junta's forces have killed more than 860 people since the coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. The junta says the number is much lower. The U.N. resolution calls on the Myanmar military to "immediately stop all violence against peaceful protesters" and end restrictions on the internet and social media. The General Assembly also called on Myanmar to swiftly implement a five-point consensus the junta forged with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in April to halt violence and start dialogue with its opponents. ASEAN has led the main diplomatic effort to find a way out of the crisis, but was split on Friday over the U.N. action. Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam and Myanmar's U.N. Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun, who speaks for the country's elected civilian government, voted yes, while Brunei, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand abstained. Kyaw Moe Tun said he was disappointed it took so long for the General Assembly to adopt a "watered down" resolution, adding: "It is critically important that no country should support the military."

India's legendary sprinter Milkha

filled his heart with grief. "The story of his struggles and strength of character will continue to inspire generations of Indians," he tweeted. Singh represented India in the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympics. At the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Singh famously lost the 400 meters race in a photo finish. He came fourth with a time of 45.73 seconds -- an Indian national record which stood for 40 years. But the regret of not winning an Olympic medal always haunted him. "That race in which I made a mistake, I can never forget or let go for the rest of my life. I have run 80 international races in my life and won 77, but the Rome Olympics, it was one race I will never forget until I die," he told CNN in 2011. Born in 1929 in Govindpura, a small village in what is now Pakistan, Singh grew up in what was then British-ruled India. As a teenager, he lost his parents in 1947 to a tumultuous partition that created the two neighboring sovereign countries. "The kind of hardship I've seen during partition, you'll never understand that," he told CNN previously. "My parents were killed right in front of my eyes. They were murdered, right there." He fled to India by train, hiding under the seats in the ladies' carriage. In New Delhi, he joined the Indian Army, where he started his running career. His life story inspired a 2013 Bollywood film called "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag," which means "Run Milkha Run" in English.

Railways helping to bring back

to the traveling public through Passenger Reservation System (PRS) at the Reservation Counters and also through online mode by using e-ticketing system. As on 18.06.2021, 983 Mail/Express and Holiday Specials (56% of the pre-Covid level) are being operated by Indian Railways. In addition, about 1309 Summer Specials have also been operated to facilitate the movement of the people wanting to return to the place of work. These Summer Specials provide connectivity primarily from states like Bihar, UP, West Bengal, Odisha & Assam to major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Bengaluru etc. For the next 10 days (from 19.6.21 to 28.6.21) approximately 29.15 lakh passengers including migrant workers and other passengers have been booked by long distance mail express trains from areas like Eastern UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Bengal & Odisha to various destinations including Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Surat, Ahmedabad, & Chennai areas. The Zonal Railways are actively coordinating with various industry associations and business houses to ascertain the demand and facilitate the movement of the workers accordingly. The Summer Special trains are operating between different Origin Destination pairs like Gorakhpur-Mumbai, Bhagalpur-Mumbai, Bhubaneswar-Pune, Danapur-Pune, Barauni-Ahmedabad, Patna-Delhi, Samastipur-Mumbai, Sealdah-Delhi, Raxaul-Delhi, Saharsa-Delhi, Danapur-Secunderabad, Raxaul-Secunderabad, Patliputra-Bengaluru, Chapra-Mumbai, Guwahati-Bengaluru, Gorakhpur-Hyderabad, etc.

IAMA India signs MoU with the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE), Liberia

New Delhi, June 19 : International Academic and Management Association (IAMA), an education focused organization based in India further consolidated its footprints in the international education arena by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE), Liberia,



an autonomous higher education regulatory body chaired by the Education Minister of Liberia Prof. Dao Ansu Sonii. The MoU which was signed at an online event organized on Friday, June 18, 2021 aims at improving the quality of higher education and research in Liberia along with internationalization of education in the country. The event besides being attended by the officers of both IAMA and NCHE, was also graced by noted academicians and diplomats from across the globe. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Bikash Sharma, the President of IAMA expressed his happiness in working with the Liberian Education Authorities. Dr. Sharma also shared with the Education Minister that he and his organization has been working with the student community of Liberia for over 6 years now, providing them with scholarships and subsidized international education. He also shared that the love and affection shown to him by the student community of Liberia over the years has been nothing short of overwhelming. Also speaking at the signing ceremony from Monrovia, the Education Minister, Prof. Dao Ansu Sonii, thanked IAMA for its expression of interest in working with the education sector of Liberia, providing the much needed support and quality services. He was hopeful that Liberia would soon boast of quality educational institutions, becoming the preferred destination for the students of the entire West Africa. International Academic and Management Association is a not-for-profit organization, registered as a Trust in India. Since its inception in the year 2013, the organization has been working in the higher education space with the objective of ensuring quality, dynamic, affordable boundary-less education for all without any discrimination on the basis of color, religion, caste or creed. IAMA and it's President, Prof. (Dr.) Bikash Sharma have been the recipient of several National and International Awards for their relentless work in the field of education. The National Commission on Higher Education was created in the year 1989 via a law passed by the National Legislature of Liberia. The Commission since its inception has been in the business of regulating, creating access to higher education and ensuring that the programs offered by the universities are relevant to the needs of the Liberian society.

Jack Grealish may not have all the answers but England need to find out

London, June 19 : With four minutes to play at Wembley, with a feeling of the air shooting up out of the stadium, possibilities folding in on themselves, with the killed men in the stands already on their feet, arms spread in a swell of fond, goalless-draw triumphalism, Jack Grealish took a pass and was followed right the way back into his own half by Stephen O'Donnell. Grealish turned and twisted and feinted, like a seahorse twirling across the coral, and eventually drew a knee to the thigh from an exasperated O'Donnell, who was booked as he sprinted back. It is always tempting to see signs and flags. It will be tempting for England fans, Jack fans, those who identify as pro-Grealo and anti-Gareth - because these are binary times and even here we find our oppositions - to imagine that same sequence taking place an hour and a half earlier, when the game was still fluid, and England's attacking patterns not yet congealed into something damp and soggy and unhappy. By now, though, the game was set, that moment gone. It might still be there for England in this tournament. But there will now be pressure to resist, and choices to be made. And they will, as ever, coalesce around Grealish. It is tempting to conclude that England's patterns were disrupted at Wembley as an unchanged attack and midfield dished up a performance of gathering entropy against an excellent Scottish team. It would be tempting to say that Scotland found a way to interrupt the flow, that this was an act of will from an opponent driven by woad-smeared folk memories, McAllister's revenge, the sacking of Hendry. But that wouldn't really be true. England's attacking patterns came pre-disrupted, something that was evident from the opening exchanges when suddenly it

became clear what kind of night this was. There are many strands to this, a sense of choices made further back, options reviewed and discarded. Southgate is a defensive coach. His attack is his strength. This sense of unease goes much further back than an awkward night when England chased and passed in a gathering daze. But Southgate undoubtedly made a



mistake by not picking Grealish from the start for an occasion that seemed to be crying out for a little brio and ballsiness in the middle of all the mannered and diligent running. And of course, the mood now will turn. To pick Jack or not to pick Jack? An hour before kick-off the absence of Jack of the People from the starting XI had already generated its own electricity, with the words "Grealish", "Jack Grealish" and #Southgateout instant trends on social media. But then Grealish sits on a faultline in Southgate's own public image, his roundhead persona, his defensive bent, his lack of popular appeal, his boyish deputy headmaster shtick. Grealish is loose and fun and obviously, cinematically brilliant. Grealish is a scallywag, a charisma merchant, and here England struggled on exactly the kind of night - wet, messy, jumpy - when he might have flourished. At kick-

off the sky above this vast echoey concrete bowl had turned a sallow deep grey. The skies opened, drenching the players in a thrilling sheen of floodlit drizzle. And England were flat. It took 10 minutes to string anything even resembling a moment of cohesion. Deprived of any fluency, scratching around for some standing start inspiration, England looked insipid, nice, a little

passive. There has always been a caveat with this group. But you do look at them, in their weaker period and wonder about things like leadership and dominant personalities when the game turns rough and the night gets away from them. Sometimes you need another kind of presence. Instead England shrunk. They puzzled and fretted. Gareth Southgate gives instructions to Jack Grealish before bringing the playmaker on against Scotland. There was simply no flow, no feeling of any grown-ups on the pitch. Something desperate has happened to the basic vigour, pep, zip and simple attacking movement of Harry Kane, who was a semi interested observer at Wembley, puzzled to find a football match taking place around him. England were booed off at half time, and walked off dutifully. And with 28 minutes still to play Grealish, who isn't the answer to everything, who

is simply one answer, a good answer, was dealt the task of coming on to change all this. Kane had touched the ball 14 times at that point. Phil Foden had once again spent the night spinning around on his wrong foot, twirling himself into the ground. If England had no flow that this is a flaw that stretches back up the arm and into choices, omission, preferences set much earlier in the piece. England have three goals in four matches now. Something has been lost here. Declan Rice and Calvin Phillips to roam the midfield, a little aimlessly, and right to the final whistle, as Grealish and Luke Shaw bumped around in the same space. What you wondered was the attacking plan here? There will be trial by Grealish in the days before the final group game against the Czechs. There will be a call to regear this team., to reconfigure the attack around the maverick element in it is ranks. Southgate will surely resist it, and England will progress from here all the same, because this is a resilient group. But the sense of something being missed, of possibilities passed up will remain. This England team found their edges, the end of their reach at Wembley. If there is sadness it is in the fact they seem to have become grey and a little deathly at just the wrong moment.

England frustrated by steely Scotland in Euro 2020 stalemate at Wembley



London, June 19 : England had the points on the board, they had the star quality and the theory was that they would drive home their favouritism, making a statement en route to the last 16 of this European Championship. So much for theories. Instead, it turned into a night of frustration, when the flaws in Gareth Southgate's attacking gameplan were etched across Wembley and Scotland revelled in showing their old rivals that it is a perilous business to write them off. On an occasion that will live long in the memories of the few thousand visiting fans in attendance, who included Sir Alex Ferguson, their team defied England, holding them at arm's length with a performance of spirit and no little quality. From an England point of view, it was disconcerting to witness the relative ease with which they did so. Scotland even had the chances to earn more than the draw, most notably a Stephen O'Donnell volley that extended Jordan Pickford in the first half, and they will now believe that a first ever qualification for the knockout stage of a major finals is on. They are alive and kicking, and glory will beckon if they can beat Croatia in their final group game at Hampden Park on Tuesday. The smiles at full time belonged to them, the on-pitch celebrations were theirs and so were the heroes - from O'Donnell at right wing-back to the fit-again Kieran Tierney on the left of the back three to

Billy Gilmour and John McGinn in midfield. Gilmour, at 20 years of age and on the occasion of his third cap, gave a nerveless and highly polished display. The draw was not a disaster for England - far from it - but the performance left much to be desired and the loud boos that greeted the team at half-time and full time told their own story. So much for home advantage. England suffered under the weight of expectation. The biggest worry for Southgate will be Harry Kane. He was starved of service, despite the manager bringing in Reece James and Luke Shaw in the full-back positions, and that was down to the team. As the captain did in the win over Croatia, he dropped wide and deep in search of involvement, which did not pay off. But at the same time, there is no escaping the impression that Kane is lacking sharpness. Is he fatigued at the end of a long season? As against Croatia, he was substituted before the end. Southgate was left with plenty more to ponder, not least how, with the attacking riches at his disposal, his team were so blunt in the final third. He introduced Jack Grealish just after the hour, as many among the home crowd had begged him to do, and there were flashes from the midfielder, his composure on the ball pronounced. On 74 minutes Grealish combined with Mason Mount, who released Shaw only for the left-back to miscue from a tight angle, and, if that gets a prominent

mention, it is because England found space in dangerous areas so infrequently. England's passing lacked urgency and penetration and the closest that they came to a goal was from a Mount corner in the 12th minute, which an unmarked John Stones headed against a post. It would prove to be a rare Scottish lapse at the back. Stones had to score. James struggled to offer much going forward and the same could be said of Southgate's wide attackers - Phil Foden and Raheem Sterling. Mount's drive and energy stood out but it was Scotland that created the better chances in open play before the break. Che Adams, a willing runner from start to finish, saw an early shot blocked by Stones after he had dropped off into space but the big opportunity came in the 32nd minute, when Tierney took a pass from Andy Robertson, beat James to cross and O'Donnell caught his volley sweetly. Pickford's save, low to his right, was excellent and Adams narrowly failed to get over the rebound. Scotland's burgeoning confidence was reflected when they dragged England about with a lengthy passing sequence on 44 minutes, the move finishing when Adams again dropped off and shot for goal, winning a corner via a deflection. Pickford raged. England had to be better. Scotland were well drilled in their 5-3-2 formation, running hard for each other and England struggled to get in behind them. Steve Clarke's team grew in assurance as the minutes ticked down and they carried a threat on the counter in the second half, making their rivals a little fretful. It was the kind of night when England could not assert the levels of control they would have liked. Lyndon Dykes almost hooked home following a corner only for James to head clear. The shot did look to be fractionally off target. What did England create? There were flickers from Mount in the first half and a brief flurry of pressure at the beginning of the second period, the high point of which was a James drive that flew high. But it was a long way from being enough to trouble Scotland. England's momentum has been checked.



Klinsmann declares interest in Spurs job after Gattuso talks called off

London, June 19 : Jürgen Klinsmann has declared his interest in becoming Tottenham manager after the club broke off talks with Gennaro Gattuso. The protracted search for a permanent successor to José Mourinho took its latest turn when Gattuso was ruled out. He left Fiorentina on Thursday after a disagreement over transfer policy, having been in charge there for just over three weeks, and entered discussions with Spurs. There had been a feeling at Tottenham that a deal with the free agent would be swiftly agreed but the club, now working with Fabio Paratici as the managing director of football, have moved away from Gattuso and will focus on other targets. Klinsmann would welcome a return to the club where he had two spells as a player. The former Germany, USA, Bayern Munich and Hertha Berlin manager said he had contacted Tottenham's chairman, Daniel Levy, after Mourinho was sacked in April. "I called him after he let Mourinho go and said: 'Daniel, what's the case now?'" he told the BBC. "And he said to me: 'I have so much to do right now to sort things out at the club, let's talk a little later on.' Then I saw all the different names walking in, talking and walking out. The same still today. Spurs are in my heart, I would consider that - but if he doesn't want to, I am not going to force him." Gattuso, the former Italy midfielder who has most notably managed Napoli and Milan, is the latest in an increasingly long line of candidates sounded out, only for negotiations to falter. It is unclear whether an online backlash by Spurs fans against his potential appointment was a factor. A statement posted on Twitter by the Tottenham Hotspur Supporters' Trust on Friday morning indicated that it had "very clearly" communicated with "the decision-makers at the club" over Gattuso's potential appointment. "We are aware of and acting on your concerns around potential managerial candidates," the statement added. Earlier this week Tottenham were close to appointing Paulo Fonseca after a contract had been verbally agreed with the former Roma and Shakhtar Donetsk manager, only for the deal to collapse, according to sources close to him, because of issues relating to tax. Fonseca was unhappy that tax breaks he had enjoyed in Italy would not apply in the UK. Spurs have said that finance was not an issue. Spurs, who dismissed Mourinho on 19 April and finished the season under the rookie interim Ryan Mason, have failed to land a number of targets. They called off talks with Antonio Conte after thinking they were close to a deal and interest in candidates including Hansi Flick and Mauricio Pochettino has come to nothing. Ajax's Erik ten Hag, Leicester's Brendan Rodgers and Julian Nagelsmann, who joined Bayern Munich, have also been on the list.

Oisin Murphy demoted then wins but is unseated on eventful Royal Ascot day

London, June 19 : There are ups and downs in any jockey's life, but few have squeezed as many into one hour as Oisin Murphy at Royal Ascot on Friday. He was first across the line in the Commonwealth Cup only to have the Group One win snatched away in the stewards' room, then bounced back to win the Coronation Stakes, another Group One, on Alcohol Free. Moments later, though, he went head-first into the Ascot turf, after being

Stakes last year. The two horses drew five lengths clear of the remaining runners as Murphy and Dettori battled for the line, but Dragon Symbol carried Campanelle a long way across the track while also getting himself a head in front at the post. If an inquiry was inevitable, the outcome was not, and there was brisk two-way trade in the Betfair market before the announcement that the placings had been reversed,



which came 15 minutes after the two horses had flashed across the line. Murphy seemed to suggest to ITV Racing shortly after his win on Alcohol Free that he "was on the best horse [in the Commonwealth Cup], even Frankie said that to me, but the stewards gave it to her". Later, he added: "I'm disappointed for the connections of Dragon Symbol. There was a massive Japanese interest [in Yoshiro Kubota's colt], he finished the race in front, but it wasn't meant to be. I didn't give it much thought, I went into the stewards' room, I told them I was on the best horse, Frankie said I was on the best horse, but it didn't go my way. Sorry to the Japanese fans and to Archie Watson's team and well done to Wesley Ward." Dettori, though,

declined to confirm that he had made any comment about the outcome to his opponent, and paid tribute to Ward and above all Campanelle. "It's never nice to win it in the stewards' room," Dettori said, "But it was plain obvious that I was carried off my line for quite a long way and the margin in the end was a head." "I felt like I was the unlucky loser and the stewards saw it the same way. I'm good friends with Oisin, so I know what he feels like and I'm pleased he bounced back and won a Group One." "It's one of those things. I'm very pleased with the way my filly ran, it's unfortunate that I got it in the stewards' room, but it was a good run and well done to the connections." Campanelle won the Queen Mary, she won the Prix Morny, now she's won the Commonwealth. They keep on bringing horses here and I'm always delighted to ride winners for Wesley. It leaves a little bit of a sour taste in the mouth because we didn't win it outright, but we were interfered with, and the stewards saw it the same way." The demotion was the first time a first-placed finisher in a Group One race at Royal Ascot had been denied victory since Royal Gait's hugely controversial disqualification in the Gold Cup in 1988, after crossing the line five lengths in front of Sadeem. Kooyonga was also dropped to third in the Prince of Wales's Stakes in 1992, before the race was promoted to its current Group One status.

Sale's Curry twins could spell double trouble for Exeter in semi-final

London, June 19 : It sounds like a plot line straight out of a science fiction novel. Imagine if you could clone a world-class player and end up with two athletes equally as fit, strong and potentially influential as each other. Now imagine the future is already here. No wonder Sale's director of rugby, Alex Sanderson, sounds like a man who cannot quite believe his good fortune. And why not? Exeter Chiefs tend to reserve their best for Premiership semi-finals at Sandy Park - played five, won five - but this time they will be confronted by a unique double Shark attack. Never before have the identical Curry twins, Tom and Ben, started such a high-

profile domestic game in tandem, having already celebrated their 23rd birthdays with a family barbecue this week, a Twickenham final would be the ideal shared present. The world may currently be more familiar with Tom, a summer Lion in waiting, but that could shortly change. Ben is within touching distance of featuring in England's summer Test squad and even if the Sharks fail to reach a first Premiership final for 15 years, Sanderson believes a spicy Curry era is only just beginning. "They're two of the best defensive players in the country, if not the world," he says, flatly. "Who knows the mind of Eddie Jones but I think they're good, I really

do." Jones has already confirmed that, but for injury, Ben would have started ahead of Tom when the latter won his first cap in Argentina four years ago. Injury - most recently shoulder and hamstring trouble - has subsequently held the former back but Sanderson sees no reason why the duo cannot dovetail for club and country. "With great players they always speak about two things: nurture and nature. In Ben's case nature is identical to Tom. So what's the difference? It's just the international environment Tom's been in, the players he's been around, the tuition he's had." If Ben had those same things any scientist in the world would say he should be able to get to

the same level. He's turned 23 today and he's getting better and better. What's he going to be like at 26 or 27? Or at 30? He's got years ahead of him. To have him on one side of the field and Tom on the other, which is what we want to do, means we've got a breakdown shark or apex predator in every other ruck. Last week the pair of them made about 40 defensive contributions; they topped the stats all over. Ben's rated himself as a 7/10 right now. That's exciting and I agree with him. Equally instructive is to hear Ben discussing the

special on-field understanding the brothers have always had. "It's hard to describe because it's happened all our lives but there's almost an instinctive communication. It feels very natural. You don't really have to talk, it just kind of happens. I really



enjoy playing with Tom and I presume he feels the same. It's good to have someone else who thinks the same way so you can be a constant threat for the attacking team. At every breakdown they have to be on it. "Sharing everything can be fun - for a previous birthday the club produced a single cake with white chocolate on one side and dark chocolate on the other - but, as Ben explains, the assumption that Tom's rise to prominence has galvanised him even more is not entirely correct. "His success is his success and that's great. I'm very happy for him but beating Tom is not my only motivation. I have my own goals that drive me.

Sophie Ecclestone's touch of class gives England the upper hand against India

Bristol, June 19 : On day three at Bristol, Sophie Ecclestone proved why she is considered the No 1 bowler in the world, taking three for 27 in a 10-over spell that included four maidens and helped bowl India out for 231, 165 runs behind on first innings - enabling Heather Knight to enforce the follow-on. "I've not

sure we stayed one up on India. It was about being patient, and bowling my best ball over and over again." Though 17-year-old Shafali Verma (55 not out) battled her way to a second half-century in the match, becoming the first Indian woman to score two fifties on Test debut, India finished the day on 83 for one, still



played a Test match for a while, so it was just about getting back into it," Ecclestone said at the close. "It's a weird situation that I'm not used to. It helped this morning getting that first wicket with my first ball, made me a bit more relaxed." After a mad hour last night, it was just about getting into the battle again and making

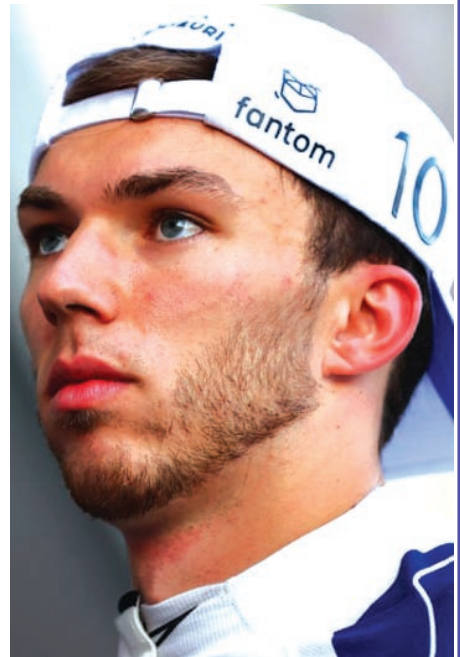
82 in arrears. A frustrating afternoon interspersed with rain breaks, and an evening session entirely wiped out by rain, prevented England from making further inroads. "We were really positive going back out onto the field," Ecclestone said. "We needed to stay calm and stay patient when out there - we knew they were

going to play the long game when they came back out to bat. We need to keep fighting tomorrow." The morning session could scarcely have gone better for England had Heather Knight written the script in advance. Resuming on 187 for five, India lost two wickets in the blink of an eye without adding to their overnight score. Ecclestone picked up where she had left off on Thursday evening, drifting the ball in to Harmanpreet Kaur to trap her leg-before, after England appealed the on-field not-out decision via DRS. Shafali Verma made 96 in India's first innings and was then 55 not out in their second as they followed on. Twelve balls later, Taniya Bhatia became Ecclestone's second victim of the day, dismissed in almost identical fashion. Not long after, debutant Sneha Rana felt the difficult end of Test cricket, edging one that turned to Amy Jones behind the stumps. You wait ages for new balls, and then two come along at once: with conditions overcast and ideal for swing, Knight took the first as soon as it was available, 21 overs into the morning session. Her two experienced workhorses, Katherine Brunt and Anya Shrubsole, needed use of it just eight times to finish the job: Shrubsole cleaned up Jhulan Goswami with her trademark inswinger, after a jaffa

from Brunt that swung in the air and seamed away off the pitch saw off Pooja Vastrakar. All in all, five Indian wickets fell for 44 runs across the session, while the tourists sunk from 167 without loss at 5.15pm on day two to 231 all out at 12.30pm on day three - their worst collapse since their first Test series against West Indies in 1976. Only Deepti Sharma failed to succumb, left stranded on 29. And so to the second new ball. The follow-on may have become unfashionable in men's cricket in recent years, but there seemed little doubt in Knight's mind as to the correct course of action: Brunt raced back up to the England balcony to pick out a brand new Kookaburra. It initially appeared she had chosen well: on the stroke of lunch, Smriti Mandhana drove into the hands of second slip. India fought back well: by the time the players trudged off for an early tea courtesy of the rain, Sharma (18 not out) - promoted up the order after her impeccable defence in the first innings - had brought up a 50 partnership with Verma. She may have remained on one for 45 balls, in stark contrast with her normally effortless approach to accumulating runs, but with better weather forecast on Saturday, India's ability to stave off defeat may well rely heavily on her ability to continue occupying the crease.

'We are not lions in a cage for people going to the zoo'

London, June 19 : For Pierre Gasly seizing the moment is more than a mantra; it informs his every move, embraced as philosophy and lifestyle come what may. There is a palpable joie de vivre to this singular, intriguing French driver whose Formula One career has been informed by dreadful tragedy and professional travails that would have floored lesser men. And on the eve of his home grand prix this weekend Gasly is in his best form yet, exhibiting a passion that enriches the sport. The 25-year-old AlphaTauri driver is pleasingly honest in a sport where spin and secrecy are ubiquitous and where the art of the anodyne response is part of a driver's training. Gasly has endured enough to feel he need not be anything but himself. In 2019 he was dropped unceremoniously by Red Bull mid-season and then at his first meeting afterwards lost his close friend Anthoine Hubert, whom he had known since he was seven, after a crash in an F2 race at Spa. The pair trained and lived together at the French racing federation in Le Mans as teenagers with Gasly having left the family home in Rouen, Normandy, at 13. Growing up in public and without family money backing him, he wears his heart on his sleeve in a way similar to Lewis Hamilton and just as with the world champion, events have shaped him. Hence, while Gasly wants to claim the F1 title, he refuses to be defined by ambition alone and has joined the recent clamour for sportspeople to be recognised as more than one-dimensional figures. "I am someone that is never going to give up on my target - winning the world championship - but sometimes it is important to understand we are not lions in a cage for people going to the zoo," he says. "There is us as athletes and the person behind it." People struggle to understand that we also feel emotions, we also have our ups and downs. It doesn't matter if you are successful or not, we saw it with Naomi [Osaka] in the tennis with the mental health issues. People outside see you as a driver and assume that is the only thing that goes through your head but you have a personal life, feelings and emotions. "Gasly's words carry weight by dint of the veritable rollercoaster his F1 career has been. He made his debut with Toro Rosso (as AlphaTauri were then named) in 2017 and was promoted to the senior squad with great expectations in 2019. Unable to match Max Verstappen's form and given little time to acclimatise to the team and car, he felt he was not supported, that his opinions went unheard as he tried to adapt to a scenario geared toward Verstappen. The decision to drop him back to Toro Rosso after only 12 races was an almighty blow and one he does not play down. "It could have destroyed some people," he says. "But it didn't destroy me because I do not give up. If anything it made me stronger. You have to go through rough times to get better and understand what you can improve about yourself." Pierre Gasly leaves flowers at the side of the track at Spa-Francorchamps in memory of the late Formula 2 driver Anthoine Hubert. And then, Hubert died. It was an event so harrowing Gasly wrote an intensely personal open letter about it this year, in which he described how close they were growing up and the impact of his friend's death on his mindset. "Anthoine and I had been through so much together," he wrote. "We had shared this path, this journey. And when he left us, a part of me left, too." It is indicative of his thoughtful character that



he chose an exceptionally moving way of expressing his feelings. Here was the man beyond the driver writ large. He was, in time, able to take some inspiration from the loss. "It made me realise that we have a lot of things that are unpredictable, that we can't control," he says. "I am kind of a control freak, I want to control everything about my life, my car, my performance but there are external things which make it unpredictable and that is the beauty of life, you can't know everything that is going to happen. It changes my approach in enjoying every single moment, every opportunity. It's a way of perceiving life." Seven races after Spa he held off a charging Hamilton to claim second at the Brazilian GP. Last season he similarly saw off Carlos Sainz to take his maiden F1 victory at Monza. This season has been his best opening yet. He has qualified in the top six in four of the six races and scored points at every round except Bahrain. On track the highlights included once more denying Hamilton for sixth in Monaco and an absolutely magnificent final-lap battle with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc to claim third at the last round in Baku. As Leclerc slipped and passed, so Gasly repeatedly switched back to dive up the inside to regain his place in a gripping piece of sparring on track. After the Monza win in 2020, Gasly was congratulated by the French president, Emmanuel Macron, but perhaps was most moved when Hamilton praised his resilience. "I've seen what he had to go through after being sidelined by a top team," Hamilton said. "Now he's beaten the top teams, it's just great to see him fight back." Gasly was touched, having long admired Hamilton and sought advice from the world champion who is well placed to recognise the strength of character he displayed. Hamilton acknowledged that Gasly is a driver who demands attention and has proved definitively that given a competitive car with which he is comfortable he can readily mix it with the sharp end of the grid. The AlphaTauri team principal, Franz Tost, has been unequivocal in his assessment that his man must be considered among the best. "He belongs with the absolutely top drivers, because he gets everything out of the car, doesn't make mistakes and brings home points," he said. Tost wants to keep Gasly at his team while the Frenchman of course has ambitions to join one of the front-runners. Despite his painful time at Red Bull he does not rule out a return but it seems highly unlikely, especially with Sergio Pérez looking to cement his place as Verstappen's partner.

Extra time in prospect as rain washes out day one of India v New Zealand final

London, June 19 : The decision to factor in a reserve day at the end of the World Test Championship final is already looking prudent after persistent rain in Southampton pushed the start of the match back by 24 hours. This was a bleak opening to what is supposed to be a historic encounter between the two top-ranked Test sides, India and New Zealand, with both sets of players confined to the on-site hotel on the opening day at the Ageas Bowl and the covers never once shifting. A band of dhol drummers among a predominantly India-supporting crowd of about 1,000 had tried to inject some life into proceedings but it was only a matter of time before umpires Michael

Gough and Richard Illingworth abandoned play, their decision finally arriving at 2.48pm. The absence of a toss means neither side is committed to its final XI going into the second day, although India's fielding coach, Ramakrishnan Sridhar, suggested theirs was unlikely to change from the two-spinner, three-seamer approach stated a day out from the start. "I think it's an XI which can play and perform on any given surface and any given weather conditions," he said. New Zealand appear to be deciding between all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme in an all-seam attack or the slow left arm of Ajaz Patel. "We'll have to wait and see when we get the chance to have a look at the wicket,"

said opener Tom Latham, who is back in the ranks after deputising for captain Kane Williamson during the recent second Test against England. As it stands, the remaining four days will swell to 98 overs each and the hope is that, despite further rain forecast on Monday and Tuesday, a result can be achieved in the available time. A decision on whether to trigger the reserve day on Wednesday will be made on the fifth day. A draw would see the title shared. Latham said: "Looking at the



weather that we've got out there at the moment, [the reserve day] is obviously a great decision. We've been in this situation many times before as cricketers. It's important that we aren't caught on the hop, that we're ready to go when called upon.

Teetering Philadelphia 76ers clip Hawks to ward off elimination and force Game 7

London, June 19 : Seth Curry hit six three-pointers and scored 24 points and the top-seeded Philadelphia 76ers avoided elimination in the Eastern Conference semi-final series by beating the Atlanta Hawks 104-99 in Game 6 on Friday night. The 76ers overcame Trae Young's 34-point effort to force Game 7 on Sunday night in Philadelphia. Tobias Harris also had 24 points, making four free throws in the final 13 seconds to protect the lead. Joel Embiid added 22 points and 13 rebounds. Young's long three, just before the shot clock expired, cut Philadelphia's lead to 24-93. Embiid answered with a basket. Free throws by Embiid and Tyrese Maxey, who

scored 16 points off the bench, pushed the advantage to 98-93. Danilo Gallinari's jam with 20 seconds remaining cut the lead to three points. After rallying from deficits of 18 and 26 points in their last two wins, the Hawks finally started strong. At-



lanta led by 12 points in the first period, and never trailed in the first half. Atlanta led 51-47 at halftime. The 76ers opened the second half with a flurry of four threes, including three by Curry, for a 12-0 run to open the second half that gave Philadelphia a 59-51 lead. The 76ers led by 11 at 68-57, following a jumper by Embiid. Atlanta cut the lead to 80-76 entering the final period. With Atlanta leading 92-84 with 4:03 remaining, Embiid was called for an offensive foul when guarded by John Collins. Embiid fell on top of Collins on the court and Collins then shoved the 76ers center before both rose to their feet. Embiid had his arms stretched out wide with Collins' hands around his

neck as both walked off the court under the basket. Officials reviewed the altercation and called technical fouls on each player with no free throws rewarded. After outscoring Philadelphia 40-19 in the fourth quarter of their 109-106 comeback win in Game 5, the Hawks took the momentum into the opening period of Game 6. Collins' jumper to open the game helped Atlanta score 10 of the game's first 12 points. A steal and free throw by Kevin Huerter, who had 17 points, stretched the advantage to 12 points for the first time at 20-8. A long three-pointer by Young again extended the lead to 12 at 25-13. Maxey's strong play off the bench helped the 76ers recover.

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