



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday



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Chinese Communist party expels two ex-defence ministers for corruption

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Rohit's 57, Suryakumar's 47 help India post 171/7 against England

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Coughsyrup

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 28 :

A successful anti-narcotics operation by the Nagaon Police in Assam has led to the seizure of a significant quantity of controlled substances and the arrest of one suspect. The operation, conducted by a team from Sadar Police Station, was spearheaded by Sub-Inspector Utpal Baishya. During the raid, law enforcement officers discovered 100 bottles of Triprolidine Hydrochloride and Codeine Phosphate syrup concealed within a car. These medications, when misused, can produce narcotic-like effects and are often subject to abuse. The police have taken one individual into custody in connection with the seizure. The suspect is now facing legal proceedings as authorities continue their investigation into the incident.

Illegal sand

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 28 :

In a troubling development, illegal sand mining activities have been reported at Misa Juri in Kaliabor. The serene banks of the Misa Juri, near the southeastern boundary of Shakamutia tea estate, have become a hotspot for unauthorized extraction of sand, despite stringent regulations prohibiting such activities. Local residents and environmental activists have raised concerns over the unchecked exploitation of natural resources, highlighting the environmental degradation caused by these activities. The Misa Juri, known for its scenic beauty and ecological significance, now bears the scars of illegal sand collection, threatening its delicate ecosystem. Authorities have been alerted to the situation, with calls for immediate intervention to curb these illicit practices. Residents fear the long-term consequences on water quality, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of communities dependent on the river.

Live bullet

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 28 :

In a significant breakthrough, a joint operation by Nagaon police and Jura police led to the arrest of notorious dacoit Raisuddin in Kaladuwa village, Assam's Jura area. The operation yielded a 0.22 pistol and four live bullets, marking a crucial step in the fight against organized crime in the region. According to sources, the raid conducted at Kaladuwa village was meticulously planned, targeting Raisuddin, who has long been evading law enforcement. Upon apprehension, Raisuddin was immediately taken into custody and is currently undergoing intensive interrogation at the Jura police station.

Lok Sabha adjourned till July 1 amid Oppn's push for 'NEET' discussion

New Delhi, June 28 :

Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said that the central government is ready for discussion on the NEET paper leak issue, provided the discussions are done while maintaining the decorum of the Parliament. Read more. Parliament session 2024 live updates: Kharage visits



RML Hospital to meet Congress MP hospitalised after illness Parliament session

2024 live updates: Congress President Mallikarjun

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'Regrettable day in history'

Kharge, VP Dhankar fight as both houses of Parliament gets adjourned over NEET controversy



New Delhi, June 28 :

Today, a contentious exchange unfolded between Rajya Sabha Speaker and Vice President Jagdeep

Dhankar and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge. The heated war of words centered on Kharge entering the Well of the House.

Kharge explained to news agency ANI that his action was aimed at grabbing Dhankar's attention, but Dhankar dismissed this as "untrue". Additionally, Kharge's media representative alleged that

the microphones of both Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, the other Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, were deliberately silenced during Parliament

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CM sets October 2 deadline for full functioning of Public Services Commission



Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 28 :

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has

mandated the Assam State Commission for Right to Public Services to be fully operational by October 2. He discussed various

operational needs in a recent meeting and announced renovations for Barpeta Satra. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma chaired a meeting on June 28 to address issues concerning the Assam State Commission for Right to Public Services

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Assam's NDA MPs, led by Sonowal meet LS Speaker Om Birla

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 28 :

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal led a delegation of newly elected National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Members of Parliament from Assam to meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the Parliament House on June 28. Sonowal, a prominent figure in Assam politics and current Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, organised this meeting to introduce the new MPs from Assam to the Speaker. The visit comes shortly after Om Birla's re-election as Lok Sabha Speaker for a second

consecutive term. Birla, who represents Kota constituency in Rajasthan, was re-elected

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Inaugural conference for Assam's first-ever Autonomous Councils convened at Assam Legislative Assembly, marking a historic milestone. Members of 10 Autonomous Councils of the state participate in this two-day conference. Assam Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary, Minister Pijush Hazarika, Ranaj Pegu, UG Brahma, Nandita Garlosa inaugurated the conference on Friday.

Not PM, Jaishankar to lead India in SCO Summit

New Delhi, June 28 :

External affairs minister S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation to the

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Kazakhstan next month

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NEET-UG issue Not allowed to speak in Parliament on PM's directive : Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi, June 28 :

With the Lok Sabha being

adjourned till July 1, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of shirking from

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Rabindra Bhawan in Guwahati set for Rs 111 crore upgrade



Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 28 :

Guwahati's iconic Rabindra Bhawan is poised for a transformative makeover with a staggering Rs 111 crore plan aimed at modernizing its infrastructure to meet contemporary demands.

For decades, Rabindra Bhawan has been a revered cultural landmark in Guwahati, playing a pivotal role in hosting a diverse array of cultural and artistic programs. The project entails a new 2B+ G + 5 structure spanning approximately 1,58,786 sqft. It

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No Assamese translation of new criminal laws will cause chaos, says Assam lawyer

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 28 :

Assam's senior advocate Santanu Borthakur has raised concerns about the impact of the new criminal laws on the Assamese-speaking population. With the new criminal



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T20 World Cup 2024

India sets up final clash with South Africa today

New Delhi, June 28 :

India will face South Africa in the final of the 2024 T20 World Cup after beating England by 68 runs in the semifinal at the Providence Stadium in Guyana on Thursday. The summit clash will be played at the Kensington



Oval, Bridgetown in Barbados on Saturday. This will be India's first T20 World Cup final since 2014, the year it lost to Sri Lanka by six wickets in Mirpur, and third overall. It had beaten Pakistan in the

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ABSU demands death penalty for Dudhnoi gang rape, murder accused

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 28 :

The All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) organised a two-day massive protest dharna starting from Friday against the minor gang rape and murder incident in Dudhnoi,



Delhi Airport Terminal 1 roof collapses, 1 dead, 6 injured

New Delhi, June 28 :

At least one person was killed and six others injured after a portion of the roof of the Delhi airport's Terminal-1 (T1) collapsed on cars amid

heavy rain this morning. All flights from the terminal at the Indra Gandhi International Airport, one of the busiest airports in the world, scheduled till 2 pm

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Too much food: CM chides Nalbar DC

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 28 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on June 28 admonished the administrative head of Nalbari district for providing too much food during a Cabinet meeting on June 27. The meeting was held in Nalbari, the headquarters of the Nalbari district, about 70

km northwest of Guwahati. "This office had repeatedly instructed for a simple vegetarian meal during the Cabinet meeting at Nalbari. Unfortunately, this instruction was not adhered to, and instead, an elaborate lunch with multiple items was arranged. I express my extreme displeasure over this

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Heroin worth Rs 19 crore seized, 6 arrested

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 28 :

Heroin worth over Rs 19 crore was seized and six people were arrested in three separate operations in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said today. Acting on

specific information, the police conducted a special operation at Digharkhal Toll Gate in Cachar district and seized 1.881 kgs of heroin, the chief minister said in a post on 'X'. The police also arrested three persons in

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Heavy Rain In Delhi-NCR, Roads Flooded, Car Submerged, Traffic Crawls

New Delhi, June 28 : Parts of Delhi-NCR received heavy rain for the second consecutive day today with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting more showers during the day. Rain, which brought further respite from the scorching heat, also caused waterlogging in several parts of the national capital. Visuals shared by the news agency ANI on X showed roads inundated and long traffic in parts of Delhi. A car was also seen submerged at Minto Road. The Safdarjung Observatory, the capital's primary weather station, recorded 154 mm of rain



between yesterday and today morning, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Earlier on Thursday, rain in Delhi brought the temperature down to 35.4 degrees Celsius. Delhi had been reeling from the sweltering heat, recording nine

from Terminal 1, which has only domestic flight operations, have been temporarily suspended, the civil aviation ministry said. "Heavy rain in early morning today has resulted in the collapse of the canopy of Delhi airport Terminal 1. As a result of which, flights to and from Terminal 1 have been closed till further notice. Alternate arrangements are being made for smooth operation of the flights," the ministry said in a post on X. The monsoon is set to arrive in Delhi in the next two to three days, the IMD said

.The IMD said in a statement that conditions are likely to become favourable for the advance of the southwest monsoon in the capital during the next two to three days. Last year, the monsoon hit Delhi on June 26, according to IMD data. It arrived on June 30 in 2022, on July 13 in 2021, and June 25 in 2020. The weather agency, meanwhile, has predicted light to moderate spells of rainfall over Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Gujarat, Vidarbha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka today.

North Korea executed man for listening to K-pop, report from defectors shows

Seoul, June 28 : A 22-year-old North Korean was publicly executed for watching and sharing South Korean films and music, a new report claims, highlighting Pyongyang's desperate attempts to stem the flow of outside information and culture. The case, detailed in the 2024 Report on North Korean Human Rights released by South Korea's unification ministry on Thursday, compiles testimonies from 649 North Korean defectors. According to an unnamed defector's testimony, the young man from South Hwanghae province was publicly executed in 2022 for listening to 70 South Korean songs, watching three films, and distributing them, falling foul of a North Korean law adopted in 2020 that bans "reactionary ideology and culture". The report details extensive efforts by North Korean authorities to control outside information flow, especially targeting the youth. Other instances of crackdown include punishments for "reactionary" practices such as brides wearing white dresses, grooms carrying the bride, wearing sunglasses, or drinking alcohol from wine glasses – all seen as South Korean customs. Mobile phones are also frequently inspected for contact name spellings, expressions, and slang terms perceived to be of South Korean influence, the report claims. While both Koreas share the same language, subtle differences have emerged since the division after the Korean war of 1950-53. The ban on K-pop is part of a campaign to shield North Koreans from the "malign" influence of western culture that began under the former leader, Kim Jong-il and intensified under his son Kim Jong-un. In 2022, the US government-funded Radio Free Asia said the regime was cracking down on "capitalist" fashion and hairstyles, targeting skinny jeans and T-shirts bearing foreign words, as well as dyed or long hair, it said. Experts say that allowing South Korean popular culture to seep into North Korean society could pose a threat to the ideology that demands absolute loyalty to the "infallible" Kim dynasty that has ruled the country since it was founded in 1948. Despite such harsh measures, the influence of South Korean culture, including recent television shows, appears unstoppable, according to a recent North Korean defector. "The speed of South Korean culture influencing North Korea is seriously fast. Young people follow and copy South Korean culture, and they really love anything South Korean," a woman in her early 20s who defected from North Korea told reporters at a briefing in Seoul. Even with the border to China largely sealed off after the outbreak of Covid-19, information is still seeping through and being distributed through informal networks.

Delhi Airport Terminal 1 Canopy That Collapsed Inaugurated In 2009: Union Minister

New Delhi, June 28 : The Delhi airport roof collapse that killed one and injured six was a "very serious incident" and the aviation regulation DGCA will look into the matter thoroughly, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu told reporters today. The canopy and a huge metal beam at the pick-up and drop area outside Delhi airport's terminal 1 collapsed this morning, amid heavy rain. The airport closed flights operating from terminal 1. The Civil Aviation Minister said passengers whose flights have been cancelled will get a full refund. When reporters pointed out some of the beams appear to have gathered rust, Mr Naidu said, "It is too early to comment on it. We have told the airport administration to check. The ministry and the DGCA will also investigate separately." The terminal 1 canopy that collapsed today was built in 2008-09. The work was contracted out by GMR to private contractors, government sources told. Soon after the morning's incident, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra alleged the affected terminal was inaugurated by Prime



Minister Narendra Modi. "Corruption and criminal negligence is responsible for the collapse of shoddy infrastructure falling like a deck of cards, in the past

10 years of the Modi government," Mr Kharge alleged. The Civil Aviation Minister pointed out the "misinformation" in Mr Kharge's post - PM Modi had inaugurated another building,

Probe Agency Raids Mumbai-Based Group In Rs 975 Crore Bank Loan Fraud Case

Mumbai, June 28 : Luxury cars like Mercedes Benz and Lexus, and watch brands like Rolex and Hublot apart from more than 140 bank accounts and lockers were seized after the ED raided a Mumbai-based business group in an alleged ₹ 975 crore bank loan fraud linked money laundering case. The searches were undertaken against Mandhana Industries Limited (now GB Global Ltd.) and its promoters on Wednesday, the federal agency said in a statement. The money laundering case stems



from a CBI FIR filed against the company, its directors Purushottam Mandhana, Manish Mandhana, Biharil Mandhana and others based on a complaint filed by the Bank of Baroda for allegedly defrauding a consortium of banks to the tune of ₹ 975.08 crore, according to the statement issued. Mandhana Industries Ltd and its directors "hatched a criminal conspiracy" to cause loss to banks and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves by "diverting" loan funds through fraudulent transactions and circular trading, it said. The Enforcement Directorate

(ED) said the searches led to the unearthing of "crucial incriminating" documents including property documents. More than 140 bank accounts, five lockers and shares and securities worth ₹ 5 crore have been frozen and three high-end cars, including a Lexus and a Mercedes Benz, along with multiple watches of brands like Rolex and Hublot were seized during the raids, the ED said. "Various fictitious entities were incorporated by the directors of Mandhana Industries Ltd. in the name of employees of the company for layering funds through the bank accounts of such entities.

Canadian man makes history after receiving zero election votes: 'I am the true unity candidate'

Toronto, June 28 : A Canadian man has made history by receiving zero votes in a contested federal election, after running as part of a protest over the lack of electoral reforms in the country. "When I saw the result, I was like: 'Well, I am the true unity candidate. Everyone agrees not to vote for me,'" Félix-Antoine Hamel told. Hamel was among 84 people who listed as a candidate in a recent by-election held in Toronto. He put his name forward as a candidate after he was approached by the Longest Ballot Committee, which works on electoral reform advocacy. As a key campaign promise, Justin Trudeau promised that if his party won power, the 2015 federal election would be the last under the first-past-the-post system. After his government won a landslide majority, however, he abandoned the promise. The Longest Ballot Committee says the current system skews power into the hands of parties winning a minority of the vote. In protest, the group successfully put 77 names on the Toronto

ballot, bringing the total to 84 and slowing efforts count votes in Monday's closely-watched election. Scrutineers were forced to sift through paper ballots measuring a meter in length: the longest ever in Canadian history. "The unusual dimensions of the ballot itself meant that some steps took more time than normal," an Elections Canada spokesperson said in a statement. "Delays compounded across several steps over the course of the night." When the results had been finalized, six other candidates received two votes each, but Hamel was the candidate one not to receive a single vote. Hamel lives hundreds of miles away from the electoral district, in Montreal, and because he lives outside Toronto, he couldn't vote for himself. Previous federal elections have seen zero-vote results, but in those cases, the candidates were running unopposed and were thus acclaimed as winners. Hamel's feat marks the first time someone has won zero votes – and lost. "I'm one of the last people that would be expected to make Canadian history in any way," he said.

Astronauts take cover as defunct Russian satellite splits into nearly 200 pieces

Moscow, June 28 : A defunct Russian satellite has broken up into more than 100 pieces of debris in orbit, forcing astronauts on the International Space

Station to take shelter for about an hour and adding to the mass of space junk already in orbit, US space agencies said. There were no immediate details on what caused the breakup of the Resurs-P1 Russian Earth observation satellite, which Russia declared dead in 2022. US Space Command, tracking the debris swarm, said there was no immediate threat to other satellites. The event took place at around

10am mountain time (1600 GMT) on Wednesday, Space Command said. It occurred in an orbit near the space station, prompting US astronauts onboard to shelter in their spacecraft for roughly an hour. Nasa's Space Station office said. Russian space agency Roscosmos, which operated the satellite, did not respond to a request for comment or publicly acknowledge the event on its social media channels. US Space Command, which has a global network of space-tracking radars, said the satellite immediately created "over 100 pieces of trackable debris". By Thursday afternoon, radars from US space-tracking firm Leolabs had detected at least 180 pieces, the company said. Large debris-generating events in orbit are rare but increasing concern as space becomes crowded with satellite networks vital to everyday life on Earth, from broadband internet and communications to basic navigation services, as well as satellites no longer in use.

EU leaders back Ursula von der Leyen for second term as president

Brussels, June 28 : Ursula von der Leyen has clinched the nomination to serve a second term as president of the European Commission, despite Italian prime minister Giorgia Meloni's complaints of a "wrong" process. Estonia's prime minister, Kaja Kallas, is set to become the EU's top diplomat, representing the bloc on the world stage for the next five years. The former Portuguese prime minister António Costa has been elected to take over as president of the European Council, putting him in charge of finding common compromises between the 27 heads of state and government. At the end of an EU summit that was devoted to Europe's future and

security policy, Poland's prime minister, Donald Tusk, tweeted: "Kaja, Ursula and António accepted. Defence plans accepted. Satisfaction. For Poland and for Europe." Meloni abstained on von der Leyen's appointment and voted against the other two. Von der Leyen's path to a second five-year term is not a fait accompli: she must win over a majority of the European parliament's 720 MEPs, who are expected to vote next month. Kallas has to be confirmed by the Commission president, a formality. She will also appear before MEPs in the autumn, although they cannot reject her as the EU's high representative for foreign affairs. In 2019 von der Leyen became the first woman to lead the EU executive in its 62-year history, but only narrowly secured the support of MEPs.

While on paper the groups backing her command a comfortable majority of 55%, a sizeable number could vote against her during the secret vote. She said she would work "intensively" to broaden her support beyond the platform of the EPP, Socialists and Renew. She promised to talk to national delegations and individual MEPs "those for example who are critical, who have questions". A former German government minister, von der Leyen is deemed by EU leaders to have performed well in handling the EU's response to a once-in-a-century pandemic and the biggest war on European soil since 1945.

Chinese Communist party expels two ex-defence ministers for corruption

Beijing, June 28 : The Chinese Communist party has expelled two former defence ministers for corruption, including Li Shangfu, who disappeared from public view along with other senior figures last year. Li was sacked as defence minister in October, two months after he disappeared from public life. He served just seven months as defence minister. No explanation was given for his sudden removal, which temporarily destabilised efforts to rebuild US-China defence dialogues. On Thursday, Chinese state media said that Li and Wei Fenghe, another former defence minister, had been expelled from the CCP for "serious violation of party discipline and the law".

The accusations against the two men include accepting gifts and money and facilitating improper benefits for others. The allegations are the result of a months-long investigation by the central military commission. State media said that Li's and Wei's cases would be transferred to the prosecutorial wing of the military for criminal charges. Wei was defence minister immediately before Li, having served since 2018. He previously led the rocket force, a sensitive arm of the military responsible for China's nuclear arsenal. Wei had also largely disappeared from public events. Last year brought a series of dramatic reshuffles in China's military leadership, including in the rocket force, where two top generals were replaced with men from other parts of the armed forces. Analysts said that this



suggested an attempt to break patronage networks in the unit. In December, three senior aerospace and defence industry executives were removed from a top CCP advisory body. Qin Gang, a former foreign minister who has not been seen in public for a year, was also sacked without explanation last year after a brief stint in office. Xi Jinping, China's president and head of the

military, has made anti-corruption a cornerstone of his leadership since coming to power in 2012. But the numerous purges last year have raised questions about the efficacy of his graft-busting campaign. Some of the senior figures to be axed, such as Li, Wei and Qin, were appointed with Xi's approval. People purged from the senior ranks of the CCP may be left to live their remaining years

in political and social exile, or they may face harsher criminal penalties. Last month a court sentenced to death Bai Tianhui, a former general manager of China Huarong International Holdings, a bank, for accepting bribes of more than 1.1bn yuan (£110m). The military purge is thought to be related to an investigation announced last year into corruption in military procurement. Li was head of the equipment procurement department between 2017 and 2022. The expulsions of Li and Wei will be officially confirmed when the CCP's central committee has its long-delayed third plenum next month. On Thursday, it was announced that the meeting of top CCP leaders would take place on 15-18 July.

AFFIDAVIT
I, Bibhash Bhowmick, in resident of Harish Boruah Path, Ward no 8, Golaghat Town. I have corrected my first name from Bibhas to Bibhash on legal documents and want to update my name on my daughters educational certificates as well.
ADVT/23-24/363

EXTENSIVE CLEANING INCLUDING BUFFING OF STAINLESS STEEL COMPONENTS OF ALL COACHES
Tender No. IMF-MP-PLG-NBGS-543, Dated: 26-06-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:
Name of Work : Extensive cleaning including buffing of Stainless steel components of all coaches (LHB, ICF & DEMU) under POH at CS&SW Workshop, N. F. Railway, New Bongaigaon for 01 (One) year. Approximate cost of the work: ₹34,06,917/-; Bid Security: ₹ 68,100/-. Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 17-07-2024. For details please visit in website www.irps.gov.in.
CIVIL, New Bongaigaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile
ADVT/23-24/364

DECLARATION
I Manoj Miridha, C/O Eanush Miridha, resident of Ranu Singh Road, Tezpur, PO & PS - Tezpur, Dist- Sonitpur (Assam) do hereby declared by an affidavit before the Notary public Tezpur on 28/06/24 that I have my another name as MANU MIRIDHA. That MANOJ MIRIDHA and MANU MIRIDHA both names represent same and one person having single identity.
Manoj Miridha
Tezpur
ADVT/23-24/364

Assam Governor attends conference on Implementation of NEP 2020



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 28: Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria attended the North Eastern and Eastern zone Vice Chancellors' Conference on Implementation of NEP 2020 which was organized by Pragjyotishpur University in collaboration with the UGC at a city hotel here today. Speaking on the occasion, Kataria said, "The first education policy of the 21st century, NEP 2020 aims to comprehensively reform our nation's education system from primary to higher education levels. Aiming at value-based education, skill development, and the integration of digital technology, NEP 2020 promises to usher in a new era of educational excellence." The Governor also said that the nation's future depends on the ability to provide quality higher education to the youth. Therefore, the Government of India has introduced and subsequently implemented the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) to

sively reform our nation's education system from primary to higher education levels. Aiming at value-based education, skill development, and the integration of digital technology, NEP 2020 promises to usher in a new era of educational excellence." The Governor also said that the nation's future depends on the ability to provide quality higher education to the youth. Therefore, the Government of India has introduced and subsequently implemented the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) to

provide more inclusive, holistic and quality education. This is a policy made for the future, which will promote the human resources development and progress of the nation. Therefore, everyone needs to work with full dedication for the implementation and adaptation of this policy, Kataria exhorted. The Governor also added that the aim of education in ancient India was not only the acquisition of knowledge, but also the complete realization and liberation of the self. The world-class institutions of ancient India such as Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Vallabhi set the highest standards of teaching and research across diverse disciplines and host scholars and students from across the world. "It is important that we respect this tradition and our rich academic heritage and work towards propagating it. To bring this point home, an Indian Knowledge System Centre should be established in each university and higher educational institution with the aim of reviving India's vitality in education, the Governor added. Education Minister of Meghalaya Rakkam A. Sangma and Chairman of UGC Prof. M. Jagadeesh Kumar also spoke on the occasion. Vice Chancellor of Pragjyotishpur University, Prof. Smriti Kumar Sinha, Vice-Chancellors and representatives of the North-East and Eastern Region along with a host of other dignitaries were present in the conference.

CME on Good Laboratory Practices and Infection Control held at USTM

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 28: The Microbiology Department of the PA Sangma International Hospital at the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) has successfully organized a Continuing Medical Education (CME) workshop titled "Good Laboratory Practices and Infection Control in a Tertiary Care Hospital" here today at the Central Auditorium of the University. Apart from the distinguished speakers and the participants, the workshop was graced by Dr RC Deka, Former Director, AIIMS New Delhi; Shri Mahbul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM and Dr RK Sharma, Advisor USTM. The Chief Guest of the inaugural session was Dr Manasi Bhattacharjee, Dean Academics, Prof and Head, Department of Physiology AIIMS Guwahati. Dr Bhattacharjee highlighted the significance of good laboratory practice in healthcare. The inaugural session of the workshop was also addressed by Padma Shri Dr. Sarbeswar Saharia, Pro Vice-Chancellor USTM; Prof. Dr Biraj Kumar Das, Principal, PIMC and Dr. Swaroop Baruah, MEU Coordinator, PIMC. Welcoming the participants, Dr. Debarati Saha, Dept of Microbiology PIMC said, "The objective of the CME is to equip healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills to ensure safety and quality standards in laboratory practices and prevent infections.



The workshop aims to equip participants with knowledge of standard laboratory practices for quality and safety, skills to implement effective infection control protocols, and strategies to minimize risks and ensure patient well-being." The resource persons in the scientific sessions include Dr. (Prof) Lahari Saikia, Dept of Microbiology, GMCH who spoke on "Principles of Good Laboratory Practice". The session was chaired by Dr. Jogesh Sarma, Director Healthcare Education USTM. Dr. Moushumi Saikia, Consultant Biochemist and Quality Head, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Apollo Hospitals Guwahati spoke on "Fundamentals of Quality Control" and her session was chaired by Dr. Rajeeb Kalita. Dr. (Prof) Muktanjee Deka, Head of the Department of Oncopathology, State Cancer Institute, GMCH addressed "Quality and safety aspects in Histopathology Laboratory" and

her session was chaired by Dr. Swaroop Kr. Baruah. Dr. Debarati Saha spoke on "Overview of Quality Control and Infection Control in Microbiology Laboratory" while Dr. Deepijoti Kalita, Associate Prof Dept of Microbiology, AIIMS Guwahati spoke on "Establishment of BMW Management & Hospital Infection Control Program from Scratch: Challenges & Way Forward" and his session was chaired by Dr. Chitralekha Baruah. Dr. Rashmisnata Barman, Associate Prof Department of Microbiology, BCCI, Guwahati made a presentation on "Sterilization in Prevention of Hospital Acquired Infection" and her session was chaired by Dr. Rashna Dass Hazarika, Medical Superintendent, PIMC. Dr. Krishna Gogoi, Senior Consultant, SSDN Guwahati spoke on "Overview of Hospital Infection Control" and her session was chaired by Dr. Rajendra Kr. Baruah and Dr. Ashok Kr Das.

Day-long student felicitation held



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 28: Region's premier biodiversity conservation organisation Aaranyak in collaboration with Chandrasingh Rongpi Memorial High School (CRMHS) organised a day-long student felicitation and a career counselling at the Community Resource Center at Chandrasingh Rongpi Village in Kohora of Karbi Anglong district of Assam recently. Twenty-six students who have passed HSLC and HSSLC examinations this year from Diring and Kohora areas under the Kaziranga Kohora Landscape, participated in the event that was graced by distinguished resource persons -- Uttam Teron from Parijat Academy in Guwahati, Krishna Rongpi from JDSG College, Bokakha, and Jirsong Rongpi from Harlongbi Velongbi College, Deithor, Karbi Anglong. The guests were felicitated at the beginning of the programme by Swapna Nath. Dr Firoz Ahmed, Head of Tiger Research and Conservation Division of Aaranyak set the ball rolling for the day delivering the welcome address. Participating students who did well in the HSLC and HSSLC examinations were felicitated with a Karbi poho and a certificate of appreciation each. The felicitation was coordinated by

Joshna Terangpi, Rangsina Phangcho, Purno Singnar and Kristi Bora. The event featured three interactive sessions for the students. The first session on "Preparing for the future, path, approach, and self-initiative" was conducted by Uttam Teron, where he exhorted upon the students to try hard, be honest, thrive to learn, remain disciplined and punctual if they wanted to realise their dreams. The second session on "Career Planning - What? How? & Why?" was conducted by Krishna Rongpi and where he told the students that career planning and education during the students' days were the cornerstones for a successful career. The last session was "Career paths and scope in Arts, Science, and Commerce" was conducted by Jirsong Rongpi who shared various options in educational, professional spheres based on educational qualification and choices respectively. One of the participating students, Anikaso Englengpi said, "We are very lucky to get the opportunity to attend a career counselling event which is an eye opener for us and has broadened the scope for our career options and flagged the importance of education". Another participant Sivoram Terang lauded the career counselling event and said, "Proper career counselling and guidance are very important for the students and Aaranyak is doing a wonderful job in this regard". The event was attended by some distinguished guests including Santosh Rongpi, President of Karbi Students Association (KSA), Kaziranga District Committee, Horiam Engti, social worker of Kohora, Bishnu Upadhyay, Headmaster of CRMMES and Moina Kramsapi, an entrepreneur and three Rong Asar (village headmen) Romesh Tokbi of Englepathar village, Sivoram Terang of Sivoram Terang village and Gulapsing Engti of Baking Engti village. Several village elders and representatives were also present. The primary objective of the event was to address career-related issues and guide students in understanding various career options and educational qualifications required.

Week-long FDP on Data Analysis Using SPSS held

Assam Rising, Hojai, June 28: The One Week Faculty Development Program (FDP) on Data Analysis Using SPSS, jointly organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Rabindranath Tagore University (RTU) and Lakhimpur Commerce College, Lakhimpur, Assam, concluded successfully at RTU on Friday. The programme, held from June 24 to June 28, 2024, was inaugurated by Dr. Utpal Phukan, Director of IQAC, Rabindranath Tagore University. The event featured eminent resource persons, including Dr. Dibyojyoti Bhattacharjee, Professor of Statistics at Assam University, Silchar, and Dr. Hemanta Saikia, Assistant Professor at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam. Throughout the five-day programme, participants engaged in comprehensive sessions covering a wide range of topics essential for data analysis using SPSS. The curriculum included an introduction to SPSS, data management, data visualization, cross-tabulation, correlation, hypothesis testing, and both parametric and non-parametric tests in SPSS, including ANOVA. The sessions provided in-depth knowledge and practical insights, greatly benefiting the participants. The resource persons, Dr. Bhattacharjee and Dr. Saikia were praised for their expertise and ability to clarify complex concepts, ensuring a thorough understanding of the topics covered. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the coordinators, Dr. Mrinal Ghosh, Assistant Professor in Commerce at Rabindranath Tagore University, and Dr. Bhairab Khakhalar, Assistant Professor in Management at Lakhimpur Commerce College. They expressed gratitude to all participants, resource persons, and the organizing institutions for their contributions to the success of the event. Participants expressed their appreciation for the knowledge gained and the practical skills acquired, emphasizing the value of such programs in enhancing their research capabilities and professional development. The successful completion of this FDP marks a significant step towards fostering academic excellence and research proficiency among faculty members.

GM, NF Rly. interacted with frontline safety staff



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 28: Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of N. F. Railway interacted with frontline safety staff and officials at N. F. Railway Headquarters, Maligaon on June 27. Principal Heads of all the departments of N. F. Railways were also present during the interaction. Divisional Railway Managers of all the five divisions of N. Railways also joined the interaction through video conferencing. The interaction was aimed to ensure safer train operations as well as provide a reliable travel experience for the passengers. All safety measures and issues relating to safe train operations were discussed and action needed for ensuring the same was also deliberated. The General Manager guided all present towards ensuring a safer railway system. General Manager asked the Divisions to give emphasis on the safety front as it is on-

of the most sensitive and priority issues. He advised for better coordination with frontline staff, better motivation for them, providing proper counselling, imparting relevant training and giving importance to their mental as well as physical health. On an ending note, the General Manager advised for better coordination within the various departments. He gave directions to adhere to all safety norms and ensure safety in train operations with top priority. Issues concerning safe operations of train movements and passenger amenities related issues should be brought out and sorted out on a priority basis, the General Manager stated.

State Level Essay Competition on Deshbhakti Diwas

Assam Rising, Hojai, June 28: To commemorate Deshbhakti Diwas and honour the legacy, contribution of Desh Bhakt Tarunram Phukan in India's freedom struggle, the State government has decided to organise a state-level essay competition among students. As per information received, the competition will be organised under three categories. Category A is for classes 6 to 8 with the topic 'Tarunram Phukan: His Life and Achievements' (800 words). Category B is for students of classes 9 to 12 on the topic 'Role of Tarunram Phukan in India's Freedom Struggle' (1000 words). Category C is for students in various graduate programs with the topic 'Contribution of Tarunram Phukan to Assamese Literature' (1200 words). The essays can be written in Assamese, English, Hindi, Bengali, and Bodo. Each school/college must submit the best essays from each category to their respective Office of the District Commissioner, Hojai by June 30. Individual submissions by students at the District Commissioner's Office will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the head teacher/principal of each school/college to submit the best essays. The winners will receive cash prizes of Rs 50,000, Rs 30,000, and Rs 20,000 for first, second, and third prize respectively. A special cash prize of Rs 10,000 for entries in each language in all categories will also be given. The winners will be felicitated at the state-level programme to be held in Guwahati on July 28.

BTR govt. Signed MoU with Shishu Sarothi Centre

Assam Rising, Kokrajhar, June 28: Reiterating the Government of BTR's commitment to empowering differently abled persons, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Women & Child Development Department, Government of BTR, and Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation & Training for Multiple Disabilities. The signing took place in the presence of BTC Chief Executive Member (CEM) Pramod Boro at the BTC Secretariat in Kokrajhar, as part of the Vibrant BTR Budget for the financial year 2024-2025. Speaking on the occasion, BTC Chief Executive Member Pramod Boro stated that this initiative will facilitate



the empowerment of BTR's specially abled youth, enabling them to build productive and dignified futures for themselves. The MoU aims to establish a residential training program at ITI Dhauliguri, Kokrajhar, offering courses such as

Computer Operator and Programming Assistant (COPA), multimedia, secretarial practice, and other vocational training for disabled youth in BTR. The initiative plans to expand to all ITIs in BTR, promoting inclusive education and em-

powerment. Additionally, this collaboration will provide technical guidance to improve District Early Intervention Centres and other educational institutions, ensuring a dignified and productive future for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and Children with Special Needs (CWNs).



Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, June 28: The Balipara Foundation, in collaboration with Assam Forest Department, Government of Assam, Kaziranga National Park, and Wildlife Conservation Trust, hosted the Regional Assam Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics™ on June 27 & 28. The Forum, titled "Safeguarding The Natural Assets: Insights from Forest Rangers and Guards in Protected Areas," took place over two days at the State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development in Biswanath Chariali, Assam. The Forum provided a platform for foresters, guards, and forest rangers to share their field experiences and contributions to protecting and conserving

biodiversity amidst climate challenges. It showcased how these frontline workers transform challenges into innovative solutions and adeptly manage conflicts. They discussed practical solutions to climate-related challenges and the ways they navigate complex situations in the field. In the process, they often

find themselves captivated by the rich species diversity in Assam. Their stories underscored the deep connection they have with the environment and their unwavering commitment to safeguarding it. The forum not only celebrated their achievements but also provided valuable insights into the practical aspects of biodiversity conservation in the face of adversity.

The Assam Rising

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India's food price inflation

India is experiencing high rate of economic growth in the last two decades but the growth has been coupled with high rate of food price inflation. The growth has been very uneven across sectors with agriculture remaining very sluggish. The increase in per capita income has significantly increased the demand for food but agricultural production has failed to keep pace with the growing demand. The theoretical explanations and time series econometric results establish that increase in per capita income and shortage in supply are responsible for price rise. There is no long run relationship between money supply and agricultural price. Increasing public expenditure and unfavorable foreign exchange rate have some effects on price although the results are not robust. Like the price of any other commodity, agricultural price is also a market outcome and demand and supply in the market play an important role in the determination of price. The market imperfection can create distortion in the functioning of the market and influence price by controlling supply. A typical agricultural marketing channel is: Farmer – Local assembler – Central wholesaler – Retailer – Consumer. The retail prices are determined nearly in a perfectly competitive market situation. However, a few traders dominate in the wholesale market both as buyers and sellers. They act as both oligopolists and oligopsonists at the bottleneck of the marketing process (Nicholls, 1955; Sasmal, 2003). In the study of Osborne (2005) in the context of Ethiopia it is found that there are general forms of imperfect competition among rural wholesale traders, although there is no conclusive evidence of imperfect competition among the traders in larger and more centrally located markets. Anyway, the market imperfection can influence the price temporarily but it cannot sustain price rise for a long period if there is no actual shortage. There may be seasonal variation also in the prices of agricultural commodities. According to Sarkar (1993), prices are low in harvest season and high in lean season. Therefore, it is finally the supply and demand which are the most important determinants of agricultural price. The supply is related to agricultural production. In sluggish agriculture in a country like India, the productivity is stagnant or increasing at a declining rate due to various reasons like resource degradation, decline in public investment and technological bottlenecks (Sasmal, 2012; Bhullar & Sidhu, 2006; Mani, Bhalachandran & Pandit, 2011). But the demand for food items is increasing at a very high rate following a steady increase in per capita income. Higher disposable income has not only significantly increased the overall demand for agricultural commodities but also changed the pattern of consumption. Gulati and Saini (2013) have shown that the pressure on prices is more on protein foods like pulses, milk and milk products, egg, fish and meat and vegetables indicating the shift in consumption pattern from cereal based diets to protein based diets due to rise in income. There has been nearly threefold increase of per capita income (at constant prices) in India in the last two decades and poverty has declined from 45% in 1993-94 to 22% in 2011-12 (Source: Planning Commission Government of India, 2013). The overall demand has been further magnified by huge public expenditure of the government on a number of welfare schemes like rural employment, food security of the poor, subsidies, pension and various allowances. A lion's share of this expenditure is spent on unproductive and less productive heads. This has increased demand significantly without making much contribution to supply. Naturally, there has been a mismatch between the growing demand and the actual production. The supply response studies in agriculture explain that just increase in price cannot raise production. Adequate infrastructure, proper technology and various supporting factors are necessary for higher production (Nerlove, 1958; Schultz, 1964; Mellor, 1966; Raj Krishna, 1963; Narain, 1965; Feder, 1980). Again, many of these facilities are of public good nature and they are provided by the government. But net public investment in agriculture has declined in India in the recent past (Mani et al., 2011). The Granger causality analysis in Gilbert (2010) has established the role of demand growth, monetary expansion and exchange rate movements in explaining price movements over time. The econometric results of Saghian, Reed and Merchant (2002), however, indicate that agricultural prices adjust faster than industrial prices to shocks in the supply of money affecting short run relative prices but long run neutrality of money does not hold.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

Editor,

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,

The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

How Buddhists lost out to Brahmins in Nalanda. Even before the Turks came

Nalanda, the Buddhist mega-monastery in present-day Bihar, was perhaps the single most famous centre of higher learning in all of Asia. It attracted students from Java, Tibet, China, and possibly even Mongolia and Korea. How did it rise to such eminence? As controversies rage about entrance examinations and higher studies in India today, the past holds some lessons and surprises. Trekking across deserts, passing through glittering Central Asian cities, and braving hostile mountain passes, the 7th-century Chinese monk Xuanzang arrived at Nalanda. The site has often been described as a university, but in reality, it was a vast complex home to multiple Buddhist monastic orders—a Maha-vihara, or Great Monastery. Xuanzang spent several years studying and collecting texts at Nalanda before returning to China. He left the clearest surviving account of how Nalanda operated in its heyday, with later disciples and biographers adding many fantastical details. According to Xuanzang, entering the Great Monastery required clearing an oral examination conducted by its gatekeepers. Historian RK Mookerji, in his monumental study of ancient Indian education, described these gatekeepers as “expert religious controversialists, who were always ready with difficult problems to try the competence of the claimants for admission.” Serious applicants needed a command of Buddhist and Vedic scriptures, commentaries, and logic. Most Nalanda applicants already came from elite backgrounds, equipped

with royal or monastic connections that facilitated such knowledge. Even among this erudite pool, Nalanda's admission rate was about 20 per cent, which is considerably higher than contemporary entrance exams, at least when properly conducted. NEET, for example, has a success rate of 7–8 per cent. Getting into the Great Monastery was just the beginning. Similar to PhD programmes today, students needed a master to accept them as a disciple. Foreign students at Nalanda were generally there to refine their understanding of complex and esoteric subjects, with much learning conducted through argument and debate. Xuanzang claims there were nearly 10,000 resident disciples and 1,500 masters—about six students per teacher. (Archaeology, however,

Anirudh Kaniseti

granaries were overflowing to the point of rotting, that some monasteries did not admit strangers, and that others did not even feed their own students. Most monks who died at Nalanda gave their meagre possessions to their monastic order. However, the senior-most monks commanded vast properties, were respected by royalty, and lived well. For many centuries, Nalanda attracted the brightest minds in northern India and beyond, equipping them with knowledge and skills to work as ritual masters and preceptors in other courts and monasteries. But for all of its achievements, it was not a “university” in the modern sense. Much of its curriculum focused on sacred texts, both Buddhist and Vedic. While it conducted research in linguistics, mathematics, philosophy, astrology, and

ritual, its masters and disciples did not recognise “science” as a separate discipline. To them, developing complex rituals based on rigorous metaphysical reasoning was more likely to ensure prosperity than investigating and harnessing natural principles. What explains the success of Nalanda? It was closely allied to the ruling classes of the Gangetic Plains, developing skills and practices useful to medieval royals. Patronising Nalanda brought religious merit and ensured the development of complex ritual knowledge. Rituals, to the medieval mind, could ensure rainfall, good health, successful marriages, and even military victories. As a result, Nalanda's component monasteries received patronage from royals, ministers, and officials; they owned villages and collected rent. There is little doubt that Nalanda's wealth made it a target for Turkic raiders in the 12th century, though it survived for a few decades after. But the fact is that it was already in decline by the time. By the 11th century, Nalanda and other Buddhist monasteries were losing importance in eastern India. Indonesian and Javanese masters had become pre-eminent. Meanwhile, the rulers of present-day Bengal and Bihar found that Brahmin settlements were more useful than Buddhist monasteries. This trend wasn't unique to eastern India. Across South Asia in the 11th century, royal patronage shifted from the concentrated Buddhist centres to dispersed Brahmin settlements to control the

countryside. Buddhists and Brahmins both knew how to manage and administer properties. But Buddhists applied this knowledge to their own monasteries, while Brahmins did so for kings as well. In 1020, for example, the Chola emperor Rajendra I (1012–1044) gave land to 1,080 Brahmin families, praising them as “unequaled in courage, stability, penance, greatness and humility.” Not coincidentally, many of Rajendra's senior officials were Brahmins. One of them, Krishnan Raman, worked as a general and chief secretary. Historian Y Subbarayalu, in South India Under the Cholas, notes that three of Raman's sons and one of his grandsons also worked as senior Chola officials. Rather drily, Subbarayalu notes that “nepotism played a not insignificant role in the recruitment for Chola officialdom.” At its peak in the 11th century, the Chola state was perhaps the mightiest in the subcontinent, routinely fielding thousands of warriors, collecting tens of thousands of tonnes of rice, and building enormous temples. This situation did not last forever. By the 12th century, according to Subbarayalu, elite officials had collected enormous properties and stopped paying taxes, driving the Cholas into crisis. Medieval India's education and bureaucratic systems weren't perfect. Much depended on the whims of the state and good marketing, while the wealthiest members of the system were rarely held accountable. Paradoxically, these factors created remarkable institutions like Nalanda and the Chola officialdom, but also led to their ultimate undoing. The achievements of Nalanda are well worth striving for—but only if we do not repeat its flaws and failures.

Pakistani fundamentalists closer to controlling state. Now the battle is over baby milk bank

The judges had decided their punishment before the trial began: Like Jesus, the Persian-born mystic Abu al-Mughis al-Husayn bin Mansur al-Hallaj, known to the world as Mansur al-Hallaj, was crucified, and his body burned together with his books. From Gujarat and Kashmir, to Mecca and Medina, al-Hallaj had relentlessly campaigned against the Abbasid Caliphate's harsh oppression of the working poor, preaching the radical idea that the pursuit of kashf, or enlightenment, could unite the human soul with God. For a while, the scholar Shemeem Burney Abbas has written, al-Hallaj was defended by Shaghah, mother of the caliph al-Muqtadir—but by 922 C.E., all his protectors had been marginalised in court. The word of God belonged, after all, to the state and its servants, not heretics. Last week, newspaper headlines around the world documented the brutal lynching of Muhammad Ismail, a tourist from Punjab who was tortured and then set on fire by a cheering mob in Pakistan's idyllic Swat. The savage killing is part of a grinding campaign of violence against alleged blasphemers, spearheaded by the far-Right Tehreek Labbaik-e-Pakistan, or TLP. Even as the horror in Swat unfolded, religious fundamentalists were registering an even more significant success. Karachi's prestigious Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology shut down the country's first human milk bank after the powerful Jami'a Dar-ul-Uloom seminary withdrew theological sanction for its operations. The decision, doctors say, endangers the lives of preterm babies whose mothers are unable to breastfeed them. The battle over milk banks, part of

a bitter debate within Islam, has pitted modernisers against fundamentalists in many countries. The case of Pakistan is unique, though: Nowhere else has the decision to open, or close, a medical facility been delegated to clerics with no legal or constitutional authority. Fundamentalists have proved willing to sacrifice infants for the cause of building a theocratic dystopia, while the nation-state has demonstrated it can do nothing but stand by and watch. Ever since the mid-1980s, when milk banks began to establish themselves as a key tool of advanced neonatal care, Islamic clerics pushed back against the concept. Islamic theology, doctors Sonia Subudhi and Natasha Sriraman note, mandates the existence of rida'a, or so-called milk kinship between the non-biological infant and the woman who breastfeeds them, as well as her biological children. The shari'a, or religious law, proscribes marriages between so-called milk brothers and sisters. Islam recognised the critical importance of breastfeeding, and wet nursing was a well-established practice among the Bedouin communities where the religion first emerged. The Organisation of Islamic Countries' bioethics panel, doctors Mohammed Ali al-Bar Hassan Chamsi-Pasha wrote, proscribed milk banks in 1985, arguing that it was impossible for them to maintain the sanctity of milk kin relationships. That hasn't ended the debate though. Some theologians, like Javed Ahmad Ghamidi, argue that the milk-kinship relationship applies only when children are suckled, not by milk itself. Iran thus has several milk banks, together with Bangladesh and Kuwait, each operating under somewhat

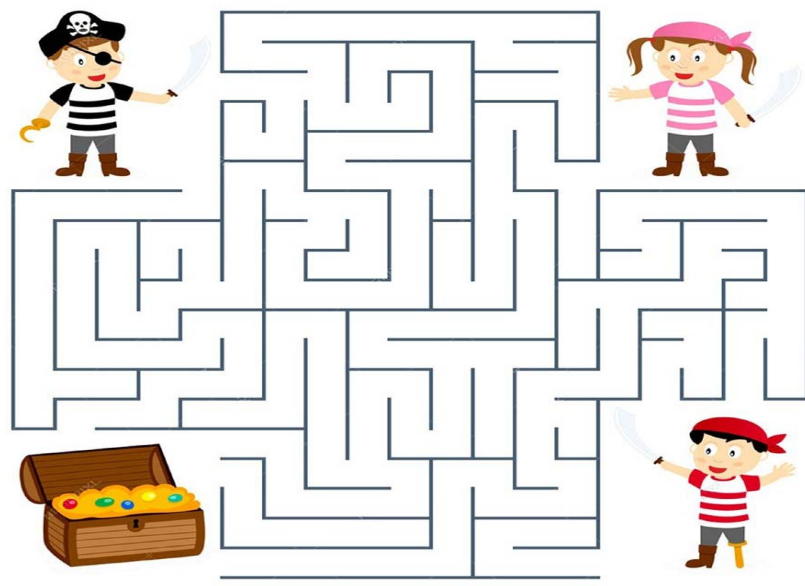
different kinds of religious compliance. In Singapore and the United States, where there are significant Muslim communities, some clerics have given theological approval to existing milk banks. Giving preterm babies pasteurised donor breast milk instead of formula, experts have said, gives significant protection against dangerous conditions like necrotising enterocolitis. Earlier this year, when the Sindh Institute of Child Health decided to open a United Nations Children's

Praveen Swami

Fund-aided breast milk facility, it reached out to clerics at the Dar-ul-Uloom, which traces its origins to the famous seminary of Deoband. The seminary responded with a Fatwa, or opinion, giving conditional permission. The Fatwa stipulates, among other things, that records be maintained of donors so milk kinship relationships could be established, and that milk only be given to Muslim mothers from Muslim children—a record-keeping provision that, interestingly, is not applied to organ transplants or blood transfusions. The facility was inaugurated by Dr. Azra Pechuho, the provincial health minister of Sindh, together with officials from UNICEF and the Pakistan Paediatric Association. For reasons that aren't entirely clear—likely tied to ideological power struggles within the institution—the Dar-ul-Uloom suddenly changed course last week, amid the renewed blasphemy mobilisation. The institution now declared, in a new Fatwa, that the terms it had laid out were impossible to observe.

There was, it argued, no way to ensure the traceability of all donors. There were also wider problems: Letting poor mothers sell milk might deprive their own babies, while elite women would shirk their religious obligation to their children. The hospital promptly shut down the milk bank; one spokesperson for the institution bitterly told media, “Our society has lost the ability to debate like educated people.” The issue has now been referred to the Council of Islamic Ideology, a body founded in 1962 to advise the state on religious issues. The body, political scientist political scientist Sarah Holz has noted, has come to be dominated by small-town clerics with reactionary views. Ever since the Lahore carpenter Ilm-ud-Din murdered the anti-Islam polemicist Mahashe Rajpal in 1927—possibly seeking to expiate guilt over homoerotic longing, documents show—this cowering-down has characterised the course of the project of Pakistan. Lacking legitimacy, elites sought to recruit the clerics and faith to their cause, with tragic consequences. In the late 1970s, General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq's military regime backed clerical demands for a theocratic state, in return for their declaring that Nizam-e-Mustafa, the order ordained by Islam, demanded the centralisation of power in a despot. Following 9/11, General Pervez Musharraf created his own clerical army, backing reactionary elements in the Barelvi sect in the hope of outmanoeuvring his jihadist opponents. Islam isn't unique in promoting antiscience. MK Gandhi

resisted life-saving smallpox vaccinations, historian Nandini Oza reminds us, arguing they involved cells harvested from cows' udders. For years, doctors in the West have been compelled to turn to courts to battle parents belonging to the Jehovah's Witness sect, who refuse to allow their children to be given blood transfusions. Ethical debates rage around issues like circumcision and abortion. The issue with the Karachi milk bank, though, isn't the conflict between medicine and faith: It is whether clerics or the state and its democratic institutions should have the power to judge issues of bioethics. In this case, a degraded state has surrendered its authority to decide. Late one afternoon in August 1948, as military doctor Major Mahmud Ahmad desperately tried to restart his stalled car on a Quetta road, someone in an angry mob of cleric-led anti-Ahmad protesters noticed he had a neatly trimmed beard. That was, to them, enough proof Ahmad was an apostate. The doctor's body was found days later, one lung pierced with a knife, and guts carved out of his body. The very first blasphemy murder in Pakistan was of a man charged with protecting its nationhood. From Surriya Shafi, charged with blasphemy for using pictures of mermaids in a college-level English textbook, to High Court judge Arif Husain Bhatti, killed for acquitting a blasphemy-accused, and Salman Taseer, the Governor of Punjab, assassinated by a fanatic: The victims of Pakistan's theocracy have not just been religious minorities, but the upholders of its state. Today, the mob in Swat, and the jihadists who murder Pakistani soldiers each day, aren't just destroying the state: They're also coming for the country's children.



Short-Story

The Pot of Wit

Once upon a time, king Akbar got so mad at Birbal that he told Birbal to leave the kingdom and go away. Heartbroken, Birbal left the kingdom and took refuge at a farmer's house in a nearby village. Birbal spent his days working at the farm. As time passed, King Akbar started missing his favourite courtier. One day, Akbar decided to send across his royal guards to find Birbal. The guards looked for Birbal in all directions, but all their efforts went to waste. Akbar thought of a trick to find Birbal – he made an announcement that whoever got him a pot full of wit would be given a pot filled with diamonds.



The news reached all the nearby villages, and to Birbal as well. The villagers held a meeting to decide how to solve the king's mystery. Birbal offered to help, stating that he needs a month's time. Birbal took a pot and put a small watermelon in it without cutting it from its vines. After a month, the watermelon grew up to the size of the pot. This pot was sent to the King, and he was told that the wit should only be removed without breaking the pot. Akbar knew that this could be no one else but Birbal, and he went to bring Birbal back to his court.

Moral : *Haste makes waste, think hard because there is a solution to every problem.*

The Foolish Thief

Once upon a time, a rich merchant was robbed in King Akbar's kingdom. The grief-stricken merchant went to the court and asked for help. Akbar asked Birbal to help the merchant find the robber. The merchant told Birbal that he was suspicious of one of his servants. On getting the hint from the merchant, Birbal summoned all the servants and told them to stand in a straight line. When asked about the robbery, everyone denied doing it, as expected. Birbal then handed over one stick of the same length, to each one of them. While dispersing, Birbal said, "By tomorrow, the robber's stick will increase by two inches". The next day when Birbal summoned everyone and inspected their sticks, one servant's stick was shorter by two inches. On being asked by the merchant about the mystery of finding the real thief, Birbal said, "It was simple: the thief had cut his stick by two inches, fearing that it would increase in size".

Moral : *Truth always prevails.*

Home work : Fill the picture with colour



Short-Story The Real Mother

One day, the royal court was going in full swing, a guard brought two women and a boy before the Emperor Akbar. Both the women were crying bitterly. They begged to Akbar the right judgement of their dispute.

One woman said that she had given her little boy to her friend for looking after as she had been seriously ill for a few days. But now her friend refused to give her child back.

The second woman shouted, "My Lord, this lady is a liar, I am the mother of this little boy." The emperor and the other people present there were at a loss. At last Akbar asked Birbal to solve the problem. Birbal said to the women, "You both are claiming this little boy as your son, but a child cannot have two mothers by birth. So, to please you both, our emperor will give each of you half share." He asked the guard to cut the little boy in to half and give each part to each woman.

On hearing this, the first woman cried out and said to Birbal, "Please stop the guard, don't hurt my dearest son. Give the boy to my friend, I withdraw my claim." She was about to leave the place with tears in her eyes.

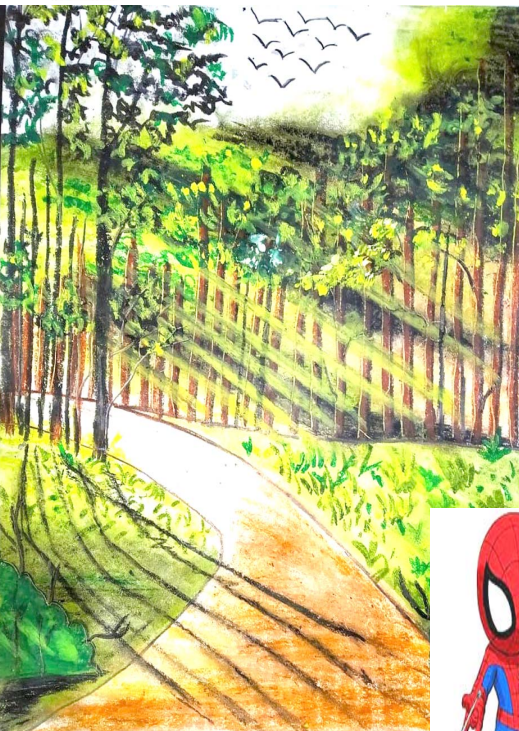
Birbal asked her to stop. "Your Highness, it is only a real mother", said Birbal, "who cannot want her child to be hurt anyhow." The emperor then handed over the child to his real mother, the first woman. Everyone praised Birbal for his



Alok Borgohain, Class VII Hahchara H.S.School, Sivsagar



Bastavika Buragohain, Class VI, Nazira



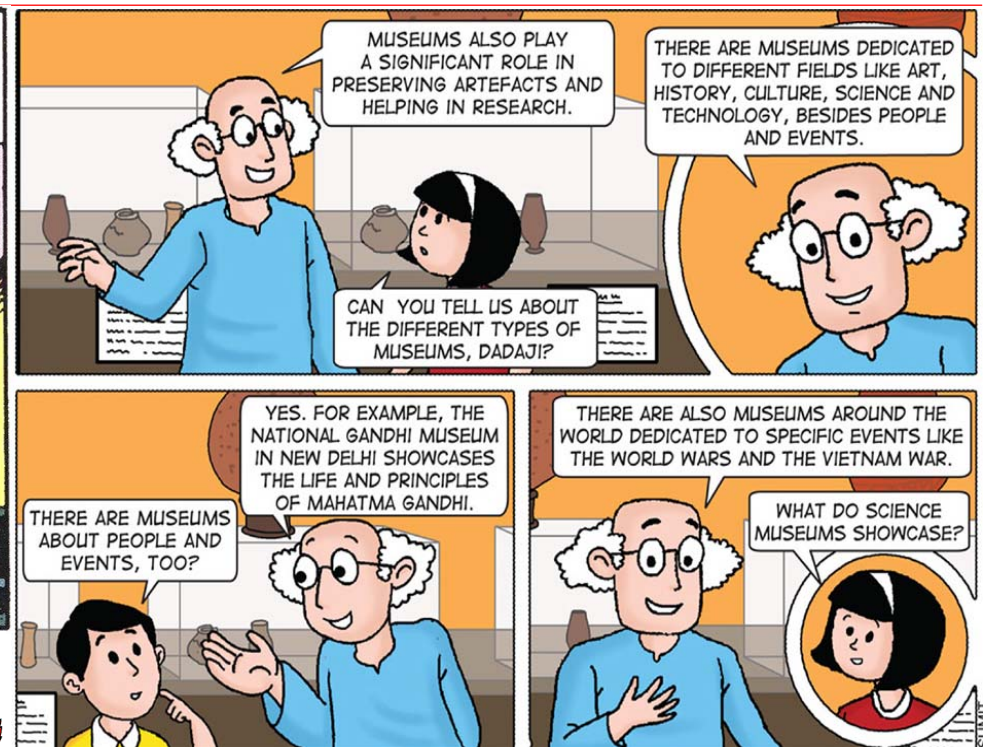
Nilutpal Gogoi, Class VII, J High School, Lakhimpur



Adhiraj Saikia, Class VII, Janata High School, Lakhimpur



Tonoya Buragohain, Class III, 910 No Longkak Primary School, Sivsagar



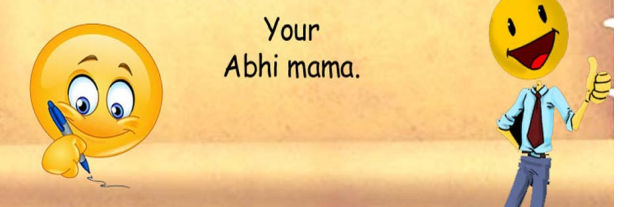
Hop a little Monsters

- Hop a little , jump a little One, two, three
 - Skip a little, Run a little Tap one knee.
 - Bend a little, stretch a little Nod your head.
 - Yawn a little, sleep a little in your bed.
- Many different creatures walk around
On a night like tonight
Not because it's Christmas
So lets all stop singing jingle bells
Tis because it is Halloween so
Everyone beware
Real monsters walk around
Saying trick or treat everywhere

Dear Bhagin,

I came across a powerful quote by Pablo Ruiz Picasso was a Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist and theatre designer who spent most of his adult life in France. He wrote – "Every child is an artist and Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate." While children build their identity, question the world around them and identify their strengths, how they talk to themselves plays a major factor when it comes to determining the life they will lead. You can contact me on : assamrising@gmail.com

Your Abhi mama.



Contd. From Page 1

Lok Sabha adjourned till July 1

Kharge arrived at RML Hospital to visit Congress Rajya Sabha MP Phulo Devi Netam, who was hospitalised after feeling dizzy and collapsing while protesting in the Well of the House over the NEET issue. Kharge stated, "Doctors will conduct a CT scan on her. They will provide updates after the examination. It is crucial for her recovery that she receives a thorough health assessment... Despite her fall, the House continued without adjournment. No one came to check on her... Members of the House should receive proper care, and I condemn the behavior displayed by the House." Parliament session 2024 live updates: Regarding Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's accusation of "corruption and criminal negligence" by the Modi government for infrastructure collapses, including Delhi airport Terminal 1, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said, "If the government had genuine intentions, the airport wouldn't have collapsed, train accidents wouldn't happen, and water wouldn't leak from the roof of the Ram temple. This indicates their motives are suspect, focusing only on money and scams." Parliament session 2024 live updates: Congress Rajya Sabha MP Phulo Devi Netam was taken away in an ambulance from Parliament after feeling dizzy and collapsing. When the incident occurred, she was protesting in the Well of the House regarding the NEET issue. Parliament session 2024 live updates: Regarding the NEET examination row, Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge stated, "Under Rule 267, we are requesting a dedicated discussion on this matter in the House, following which we will articulate our demands." Parliament session 2024 live updates: Rajya Sabha proceedings resumed after 2 pm and BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi continues to present Motion of Thanks on President's address. The Tamil Nadu Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution opposing the National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET), urging the union government to abolish NEET and allow state governments to conduct medical admissions based on class 12 marks, as was practiced before NEET's implementation. According to news agency ANI, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin introduced the resolution amid controversy over a paper leak in the NEET-UG 2024 examination and the unexpected postponement of the NEET-PG 2024 examination. The resolution received support from several regional parties, including Manithaneya Makkal Katchi, Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, and the Communist Party of India (Marxist

India sets up final clash with South
final of the inaugural edition of the tournament back in 2007. On the other hand, South Africa will be featuring in its first ever T20 World Cup final after it thrashed Afghanistan by nine wickets earlier on Thursday. Both teams will be heading into the final after remaining unbeaten in the tournament.

ABSU demands death penalty

Assam. The protest was held from June 28 at Bodofa Children Park, Kokrajhar town in Assam. ABSU activists demanded justice for the victims of the Dudnoi gang rape case, which took place on May 3. Three culprits raped two minor girls and killed one of the victims' elder brother, Hiranya Khakhlary. Since then, ABSU has been agitating, demanding the death penalty for the rapists Dhan Ali Talukdar, Bahar Ali, and Rahaman Ali, a fast-track court trial, Rs 20 lakh compensation for the family of Hiranya Khakhlary, who died protecting the victim, and one-time financial aid of Rs 5 lakh for the rape survivor. Protesters shouted slogans such as 'Shame on Assam Government' and 'Hang the Rapists and Murderers', expressing their outrage over the incident. Similar incident took place recently in Mazbat, Dhekiajuli, Sanitpur, Assam. ABSU President condemned the incident and demanded stern action against the culprits.

Kharge, VP Dhankar fight as both

proceedings today. In the Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House until Monday, July 1, at 11 am. Earlier in the day, just before the House adjourned until 2 pm, Dhankar expressed his dismay: "Today will be remembered in the annals of Indian Parliament as a regrettable day when the Leader of Opposition himself entered the Well of the House. This is unprecedented. I am deeply disappointed that parliamentary decorum has fallen to such levels, with the Leader of Opposition resorting to such actions." Yesterday, in a meeting held between the INDIA bloc leaders, it was decided that the Opposition would target the Narendra Modi-led NDA government over the ongoing issue of exam paper leaks. The decision to adjourn the House was made during a meeting of the INDIA bloc leaders at Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's residence on Thursday. While the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024) did not have a Deputy Speaker, sources from the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) indicated openness to appointing one in the current Lok Sabha term. Speculation suggests the role might be offered to an ally within the alliance, although the Telugu Desam Party, a significant BJP ally, has declared its disinterest in the position.

Too much food: CM chides Nalbar

action," the Chief Minister said in a letter to the District Commissioner, Vamali Deka. "Henceforth, such instruction should be carried out scrupulously," he added. Officials in the Chief Minister's Office said the district authorities organised more than 30 items, which included non-vegetarian items too. Among the decisions taken during the Cabinet meeting were the approval of the Assam Witness Protection Scheme, 2024 to ensure adherence to Section 398 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and the Assam Private Placement Agencies for Recruitment of Workers (Regulation) Rules, 2024 toward maintaining a database of such agencies and workers. The Cabinet also decided to conditionally eliminate fines for traffic rule violations by two-wheelers and three-wheel operators. "Two-wheel riders will henceforth be fined only for not wearing helmets but prescribed legal action will be taken for other violations," the Chief Minister said. In the case of three-wheel operators, fines will be slapped after four instances of violation of traffic rules, he added.

Delhi Airport Terminal 1 roof

today have been cancelled, Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu said after inspecting the airport. The officials said the roof sheet and the support beams collapsed, damaging four cars parked in the pick-up and drop area of the terminal. The incident was reported to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) around 5.30 am. During the rescue operations, a man was seen being taken out from a cab on which an iron beam had fallen. In a statement, Mr Kinjarapu, the newly-elected civil aviation minister, said the flights scheduled to depart after 2 pm will operate from the other two terminals, Terminal 2 and Terminal 3, of the airport.

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Not PM, Jaishankar to lead India

following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to skip the meeting. The Indian side had earlier confirmed PM Modi's visit to Astana for the SCO Summit on July 3-4 and an "advance security liaison" team had also visited Kazakhstan as part of the preparations for the visit. External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a regular media briefing on Friday that the Indian delegation to the SCO Summit will be led by Jaishankar. He didn't give any other details. While the Indian side has not officially stated the reasons for the prime minister's decision to skip the summit, it is understood that his preoccupation with the ongoing session of Parliament, which will continue till July 3, and the strained relations with China are among the factors that influenced the move. The Indian side is understood to have conveyed its position to Kazakhstan when PM Modi received a phone call from President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on Tuesday. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to work together to advance the bilateral strategic partnership, and PM Modi conveyed India's full support for the success of the SCO Summit in Astana, according to a readout from the external affairs ministry. A trip to Astana would have brought the prime minister face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan President Shehbaz Sharif. The nine member states of the SCO are India, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India was represented at the SCO Summit by its foreign minister in 2014. PM Modi attended five subsequent summits that were held before the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. He virtually attended the in-person in 2021 and travelled to Uzbekistan for the summit in 2022 when he hugged Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the war in Ukraine. India hosted last year's SCO Summit, which was converted into a virtual event following reports that the Chinese and Russian presidents were not going to travel to India for the summit.

CM sets October 2 deadline

and directed officials to ensure that Commission achieves full operational capacity by October 2. The discussions focused on crucial aspects including the requirement for a permanent office space, annual budgetary needs, manpower requirements, and logistics. During the meeting, the Assam chief minister directed officials to promptly expedite the resolution of the issues, stressing that the Commission must achieve full operational capacity by October 2. The Chief Minister's office took to the microblogging site X to share details about the recently-held meeting. "The discussion encompassed topics such as the need for permanent office space, annual budgetary requirements, manpower requirements and logistics." Earlier, Chief Minister Himanta on June 27 announced that the roofing sheets of the revered site Barpeta Satra are being replaced for the first time since 1962. During his visit, Chief Minister Sarma stated, "Barpeta Satra requested me to replace their roofing sheets, which had become old. As a representative of the Government of Assam, I approved an amount of Rs. 1 crore for the renovation of the roofing sheets at Barpeta Satra."

Assam's NDA MPs, led by

on June 26, during the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha. The current Lok Sabha session, which began on June 24, is set to continue until July 3, providing these new MPs with their first opportunity to participate in parliamentary proceedings under Speaker Birla's leadership.

Heroin worth Rs 19 cr seized

this connection. The value of the seized heroin was estimated at Rs 9.5 crore in the international market. In another incident in the same district, the police conducted a special operation and recovered 561 gms of heroin, valued at Rs 3 crore, and apprehended two persons in this connection. The police also intercepted a vehicle at Borpathar in Karbi Anglon district, recovered 1.005 kg heroin worth Rs 7 crore, and apprehended one person. Mr Sarma congratulated the police personnel for the successful operations.

Not allowed to speak in Parliament

debating on the NEET UG fiasco and alleged that he was not being allowed to speak on the issue in Parliament. In a video released on social media platform X, the senior Congress leader, said: "There has been a disaster as far as NEET is concerned and everybody knows that the paper was leaked and people made thousands and crores of money. The dreams and aspirations of all those students have been destroyed and ridiculed." La Opala, Novo Collection, Opal Glass Dinner Set 35 pcs, Coral Charm, White

No Assamese translation of new

laws set to be implemented from July 1, the Assamese translations essential for the state's police force and legal community remain unavailable, which could cause chaos in the state, especially when people file cases at police stations. Speaking to India Today NE, Borthakur said that while judges and lawyers will primarily work with the original English versions of these laws, people might face significant challenges in understanding the new criminal laws due to the lack of translation. "The lawyers and judges will not face any obstacles as they will only work on the original English versions," Borthakur said. "The difficulty will arise for the normal citizens who don't understand English or the complex jargons involved in the new criminal laws." While he is unsure whether the laws have been translated into Hindi, he confirmed that other states currently only have English versions. He also said he had no information on when the Assamese translations will be available. Speaking about the implementation of the new laws, Borthakur predicted a "chaotic" transition period. "The sections will be different, and in some cases, the language will pose a difficulty. Lawyers and judges will be bombarded with cases interpreting different statutes," he explained. He pointed out the confusion that may arise in situations such as police custody, where both the new and old laws may need to be referenced depending on when a case was initiated, which could inconvenience the people who are filing complaints. "At one point, lawyers will have to refer to both new and old criminal laws for cases before July 1 and for later cases after the new laws come into force," Borthakur further said.

Rabindra Bhawan in Guwahati

will house a 500-seated main auditorium alongside multiple smaller auditoriums to accommodate various scales of performances and events. The complex will feature art galleries, a black box theater, and a state-of-the-art recording studio. Additionally, the plan includes provisions for office spaces, guest rooms, and ample parking facilities to cater to the needs of visitors and organizers alike.

Govt approves monthly financial aid of Rs 1,250 for disabled man

Assam Rising, Guwahati June 28 : Assam government has approved financial assistance of Rs 1,250 for Rajesh Chhetri, a disabled individual, following a personal commitment made by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The Chief Minister announced this decision through his social media account, highlighting the government's commitment to supporting persons with disabilities. Chief Minister Sarma had met with Chhetri a few days ago and promised him monthly financial support. True to his word, the government has now officially sanctioned the assistance. Under this newly approved project, Chhetri will receive the amount that will be deposited directly into his bank account starting from July 10.

Never faced any political pressure from govt in 24 years as judge: CJJ

New Delhi, June 28 : Allaying apprehension of any interference of the legislature, Chief Justice DY Chandrachud has said he never faced any political pressure from any government in his 24-year stint as a judge. Responding to a question during a session organised by the Oxford Union, he said judges in India are trained to decide disputes in a manner that allows for courts to decide on the basis of settled traditions based on constitutional scheme as opposed to the passions of the moment. "Political pressure, in the sense if you ask me in the sense of pressure from the government, I would tell you that in the 24 years that I have been a judge, I have never faced a sense of political pressure from the powers that be. Some of the democratic traditions that we follow in India include that we lead lives which are isolated from the political arm of the government. If you mean 'political pressure' in a broader sense of a judge realising the impact of a decision which may have political ramifications, obviously, judges have to be conversant of the impact of their decisions on the polity at large when you are deciding constitutional cases. That is not political pressure I believe," Chandrachud said. Talking about the "social pressure", he said the judges often think about the societal impact of their judgments. "Many of the cases we decide involve intense societal impacts. As judges, I believe it is our duty to be cognizant of the impact of our decisions on the social ordering which we are ultimately going to affect," he said.



Training on safe, unsafe and confused touch held



Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 28: A two-day long district level training on safe, unsafe and confused for school teachers on the brader context of child sexual abuse, began today at Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur. Organized by Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission - Lakhimpur district, the training

programme was inaugurated by Dr. Lohit Hazarika, Principal, Lakhimpur Commerce College. The training session was conducted by Riya Kutum, Pranjal Saikia, Pabitra Biswas, Kaberi Khaund and Prabalika Phukan. The training marked a significant step towards creating a safer and inclusive educational environment for children in Assam's school. Three hundred nodal school teachers from North Lakhimpur and Nowboicha Education Block participated in the training. The nodal teachers, after their training, will conduct informative sessions with children in their respective schools, educating them on safe and unsafe touch along with various aspects of child sex abuse, its prevention and available redressal mechanisms.

GTA condoles Kalyan Gogoi's demise

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 28 : The members of the Guwahati Tennis Association (GTA) are deeply saddened by the sudden death of former state tennis player Kalyan Gogoi on June 27. On behalf of all the members of the Association, Kalyan Kumar Das, President, GTA condoled his death and recalled his enormous contribution to the game of tennis. Members pray to the almighty for his eternal peace and convey their heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family to overcome the loss.

Bodies of woman and infant found floating in pond

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 28: The bodies of a mother identified as Rashmita Hazarika along with her eleven months old girl-baby were found floating in a pond behind their house at Kampur Ghilani village last night here. Following the sensational incident, Biswanath Chariali based maternal family of the deceased woman today filed an FIR in this regard alleging that the married woman and her baby were killed due to dowry, by her husband's family members and tried to shape the entire episode just as a mere suicide case. The family of the deceased woman also alleged that the deceased was being tortured demanding dowry for a long time and when she informed her parents over telephone, her parents wanted to take her back to their home. But the family of her husband restricted them from doing so. Amidst such ongoing sequences, the bodies of the woman and her eleven months old girl-baby were found floating in a pond located at the backyard of their house, the relatives of the deceased alleged, adding that she and her baby were thrown into the pond after murder.

Hi-tech thief apprehended from Kumalia

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, June 28: Acting on a tip off, a team of Sootea police headed by Shyamal Jyoti Saikia, officer in-charge of Sootea PS managed to apprehend one Basir Ali from Kumalia in the southern part of Biswanath on Thursday evening and recovered seven theft goats from a Maruti Suzuki bearing registration number AS 32 B 6610. According to information, a patrolling team of Sootea PS had seen goats inside a new car at Sootea and gave a signal to stop the car. But instead of stopping, the car tried to escape from the area. Immediately, the police team chased the car and managed to catch it from the Kumalia area. The police team recovered a total of seven stolen goats from the car and apprehended the thief who is identified as one Basir Ali who originally hails from Kumalia. Similarly, Sootea police had arrested one Yakub Ali from Ghaigaon area to the north of Sootea on the charge of cattle head smuggling on Thursday night.



It is to be mentioned here that the cases of cattle head smuggling and s/he goat's thieving is on the rise in and out of the greater Sootea area. Two cows have been stolen from the cowsheds of two residents of Hazarimal area days back. As the police team has sped up the search operations in and around the Sootea area against the cattle smugglers, the hi-tech thieves have applied innovative techniques of thieving the cattle heads and goats and continue to thief under the nose of the police. On the night of Thursday, two cattle heads were stolen from the Sootea area. One from the Hazarimal area another and one from the house of Miraz Ali, a resident of No 2 Adabheti. The conscious people have requested the police administration to be vigilant in the night and give extra protection from the cattle head smugglers.

T20 World Cup: Rohit, Axar, Kuldeep excel as India outclass England, set up title clash with SA



Georgetown, June 28 : Captain Rohit Sharma slammed his 32nd T20I fifty through a 39-ball 57, while Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel picked three wickets each as India stormed into the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup final after outclassing defending champions England by 68 runs in the second semifinal at the Providence Stadium. On a tricky pitch with a slow pace and low bounce, Rohit adjusted well to mix risk-taking and caution to smash six fours and two sixes in his vital knock, while sharing a 73-run stand with Suryakumar Yadav, who slammed 47 off 36 balls. Handy runs from Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel at the fag end helped India post a competitive 171/7 after being inserted into bat first. In reply, brilliant spells by Axar and Kuldeep led to England falling in a heap as they were bowled out for 103. The commanding win will now see

India take on South Africa in the final at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Saturday. Moreover, for the first time in the history of the competition, the Men's T20 World Cup will have an unbeaten team as champion. After 75 minutes of rain interruption, Rohit began by getting two streaky boundaries, while Virat Kohli was convincing in his flicked six off Reece Topley. But in a bid to have Topley across the line, Kohli didn't account for the length ball shaping back in and saw his bails being rattled. Despite Rohit not getting the desired timing on his shots, he managed to pull Topley for four and then stayed leg-side to drive the pacer stylishly for another boundary. But England took out Rishabh Pant, as he flicked straight to mid-wicket off Sam Curran. Suryakumar opened his account with a straight drive past Curran

for four, as India ended the Power-play at 46/2. Rohit welcomed Rashid with a reverse sweep and the conventional sweep fetching him two boundaries, followed by Suryakumar getting down on one knee to heave a slower ball from Jordan over long-leg for six. Just before the ninth over began, rain began to pour heavily and forced everyone to get off the field for 75 minutes. After resumption, Suryakumar began by sweeping Rashid for four, followed by Rohit launching Livingstone for a massive six over long-on. Rohit brought up his fifty in 36 balls by sweeping Curran for six, while Suryakumar lofted inside-out and pulled to take two boundaries off him as 19 runs came off the 13th over. Post that, England bounced back as Rashid's googly kept low and went past Rohit's heave to castle him for 57. Archer's

return in the 16th over worked well when Suryakumar skied a back-of-the-hand slower ball to long-on. Pandya cut Archer for four, before hitting back-to-back sixes off Jordan. But the pacer had the last laugh as Pandya smashed his slower delivery to long-off, followed by Shivam Dube nicking behind for a golden duck to make a double strike in the 18th over. Jadeja's two boundaries off Archer, followed by Patel pulling Jordan for six ensured India crossed the 170-run mark. Chasing 172, Jos Buttler hit four boundaries, including three off Arshdeep, to give England a strong start with 26 runs coming in the first three overs. But Axar and Jasprit Bumrah joined forces to leave England in tatters. On Axar's first ball, Buttler looked to reverse-sweep but gave a top edge to keeper Rishabh Pant. Bumrah brought out his off-cutter to disturb Phil Salt's leg-stump,

followed by Axar getting one to stay low and hit Jonny Bairstow's off-stump to dismiss him for a duck, as England ended the Power-play at 39/3. Things went from bad to worse for England as Moeen Ali tried to flick off Axar, but the ball lobbed off his thigh pad, and as he wandered out of the crease, Pant collected the ball to stump him quickly. Kuldeep pushed England further on backfoot by trapping Sam Curran plumb lbw in front of the middle stump, ratching a reverse-sweeping Harry Brook's leg-stump and got one to spin back in to trap Chris Jordan lbw. Mix-ups resulted in runouts of Liam Livingstone and Adil Rashid, and when Bumrah trapped Jofra Archer lbw, it triggered jubilant scenes as the ghost of Adelaide 2022 was firmly laid to rest in Guyana 2024, with the dream to win the elusive trophy still on course for a dominating India. Brief scores: India 171/7 in 20 overs (Rohit Sharma 57, Suryakumar Yadav 47; Chris Jordan 3-37, Adil Rashid 1-25) beat England 103 in 16.4 overs (Harry Brook 25; Kuldeep Yadav 3-19, Axar Patel 3-23) by 68 runs.

Georgetown, June 28 : Captain Rohit Sharma slammed his 32nd T20I fifty through a 39-ball 57, while Suryakumar Yadav slammed 47 off 36 balls as the duo helped India post 171/7 against England in the second semifinal of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 at the Providence Stadium. On a tacky pitch with slow pace and low bounce, Rohit adjusted well to mix caution with aggression for smashing six fours and two sixes in his vital knock, while sharing a 73-run partnership with Suryakumar, especially after Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant fell early. Handy runs from Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel at the fag-end helped India post a competitive total after being asked to bat first. For England, Chris Jordan took 3-37, while the spin duo of Liam Livingstone and Adil Rashid had combined figures of 1-49 in eight overs. With England getting a hint of movement due to cloud cover, they managed to nail their lengths well while targeting stumps mostly. Rohit got two streaky boundaries, while Kohli was convincing in his flicked six off Reece Topley. But in a bid to have Topley across the line, Kohli didn't account for the length ball shaping back in and saw his bails being rattled. Despite Rohit not get-



ting the desired timing on his shots, he managed to pull Topley for four and then stayed leg-side to drive the pacer stylishly for another boundary. But England took out Pant, as he flicked straight to mid-wicket off Sam Curran. Suryakumar opened his account with a straight drive past Curran for four, as India ended Power-play at 46/2. Rohit welcomed Rashid with a reverse-sweep and the conventional sweep fetching him two boundaries, followed by Suryakumar getting down on one knee to heave a slower ball from Jordan over long leg for six. Just before the ninth over began, rain began to pour heavily and forced everyone to get off the field for 75 minutes. On resumption, Suryakumar began by sweeping Rashid for four, followed

by Rohit launching Livingstone for a massive six over long-on. Rohit brought up his fifty in 36 balls by sweeping Curran for six, while Suryakumar lofted inside-out and pulled to take two boundaries off him as 19 runs came off the 13th over. Post that, England bounced back as Rashid's googly kept low and went past Rohit's heave to castle him for 57. Archer's return in the 16th over worked well when Suryakumar skied a back-of-the-hand slower ball to long-on. Pandya cut Archer for four, before hitting back-to-back sixes off Jordan. But the pacer had the last laugh as Pandya smashed his slower delivery to long-off, followed by Shivam Dube nicking behind for a golden duck to make a double strike in the 18th over. Jadeja's two boundaries off Archer, followed by Patel pulling Jordan for six ensured India crossed the 170-run mark.

Euro 2024: Belgium highly motivated to engage France in last-16 clash

Berlin, June 28 : The bumpy group performance at the UEFA Euro 2024 seemed a thing of the past for the team of Belgium. After the goalless draw against Ukraine, Belgium's star midfielder De Bruyne turned his head to the upcoming Classico



duel against the neighbouring country, known as one of football Classico's, comes at the right time from the perspective of assistant coach Andreas Hinkel. The 42-year-old and 21-time capped German international, who had been a first-flight performer for Stuttgart, Sevilla, Celtic, and Freiburg, said it is positive to now face arch-rival France. "To be honest, I think it's just the right thing to play France now," Hinkel added. The difficult journey through the group is a thing of the past and everyone now is entirely focused on the upcoming duel against the 2018 World Champion and the runner-up of Qatar 2022. "We can unleash our true potential. These are the games we always want and are looking for. This is the magic of a Euro," Tedesco added.

has detected his strong will. "We face a top team, and everything is possible," the 38-year-old said before mentioning his team's latest achievements against top-class sides. "Therefore, why shouldn't we make it against France," the German-Italian coach said. De Bruyne and the Tedesco urged fans to keep on supporting the team "as we need them, especially in tight games. I think they know." The delicate

ATP approves use of in-competition wearable devices to enhance player performance, help recovery

New Delhi, June 28 : The usher in a new era of innovative data-led performance analytics and injury prevention, the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), the body responsible for men's professional tennis, has approved the use of wearable

devices during a match in all levels of competition. Players can make use of these devices across the ATP Tour and ATP Challenger Tour, starting from July 15. These wearable devices will generate cutting-edge insights for players from physical metrics

such as heart rate and high-intensity load data, enhancing their analysis of matches and training sessions. The ATP has approved both STATSports and Catapult devices and will centralise all data into ATP Tennis IQ - Wearables, an intuitive new

dashboard for players, the organisation announced on Thursday. The initiative introduces a new dimension to ATP Tennis IQ, an analytics platform launched in 2023, that democratises access to match data and insights for players, aiding preparation and recovery. It is the latest in a strategic push by the ATP to enhance the sport through tech, data and innovation, the ATP said on its website. Ross Hutchins,

ATP Chief Sporting Officer, said: "The introduction of wearables on Tour is a big step forward in our push to optimise player performance and prevent injury. Ultimately, empowering players to get the very best out of their careers. We're delighted to make cutting-edge data insights more accessible than ever and look forward to continuing our innovation in this space."

Kiran Pahal qualifies for Olympics, Gulveer improves meet record in Inter-State Athletics



Panchkula, June 28 : The Athletics Federation of India has scheduled the 63rd National Inter-state Athletics Championships 2024 just a month before the Olympic Games to help the Indian athletes qualify and the move paid on the opening day itself with Kiran Pahal punching her ticket for Paris in women's 400m. The Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula erupted in joy as Kiran dipped below the qualifying mark in the semifinal of the event while Gulveer Singh improved the meet record in men's 5000m. Asian Games medalist Gulveer of Uttar Pradesh clocks 13:34.67 sec-

onds in the men's 5,000m to improve his meet record of 13:43.23 set last year in Bhubaneswar. Kiran ran a blistering pace to clock 50.92 seconds to better the Paris Olympic Games qualification time of 50.95 on the opening day of the event. With Thursday's performance, Kiran has emerged as the second fastest Indian female 400m runner of all time. Hima Das holds the national record of 50.79 seconds clocked in 2018. Kiran is the first Indian female quarter-miler to have qualified for the Olympic Games after a gap of eight years since Nirmal Sheoran

(Haryana) qualified for the 2016 Olympic Games. Kiran was surprised to have clocked such a time in the semis on Thursday. The final scheduled for Friday will be an exciting event as Kiran plans to race faster than her semifinal time of 50.92 seconds. "I will do better in the medal round," Kiran was quoted as saying in a post-race interaction. She had clocked 52.33 seconds in her preliminary round. Kiran's flight to Paris has been a struggle and a lot of hard work. "That's all past. I'm happy to achieve a good result today in Panchkula," Kiran explained. Subha V. of Tamil Nadu topped the first semis with a time of 53.08 seconds while Deepanshi of Haryana won the third semis with a time of 52.12 seconds. The men's 400m final will also be a mouth-watering contest as all top runners made it to the medal round. Muhammed Anas of Kerala was the fastest in the semis with a time of 45.76 seconds.

South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt demands more red-ball matches in women's cricket

New Delhi, June 28 : Ahead of the one-off Test against India in Chennai, South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt has urged for more Tests in the women's cricket calendar and the inclusion of red-ball tournaments in Proteas' domestic structure. Wolvaardt cited a lack of preparations for the Test matches due to a handful of red-ball games throughout the season. South Africa faced a 3-0 clean sweep in the ODI series against India in Bengaluru. "It's obviously a challenge for most of us to have any sort of preparation in the format. Just coming straight into an international multi-day game is difficult. For example, balls that I've been covering my whole life, I now need to leave, which is difficult for me because it just happens on instinct and I have to fight the way that I've been batting for my entire

career," Wolvaardt said on the eve of the match. "I think either we need to play a lot more Test cricket and incorporate it into our domestic practice and training, or we must just leave it because playing one in three years is very hard to adapt to. But I'm on the side to have more of it," she added. Wolvaardt said the talks have been going on in Cricket South Africa for women's red-ball cricket as they only play Women's Provincial 50-over tournament and T20s as part of their domestic season. "I haven't been part of any such conversations, but I'm hoping that it is a conversation higher up. If we want to give ourselves the best chance to win these games internationally, we have to do some sort of preparation at a domestic



level. Just coming straight into an international Test match is tough with no red-ball experience in the squad," she said. This year, South Africa will be playing three Tests for the first time since 1972. They faced Australia in the one-off Test in February after a hiatus of nearly two years. After the Test against India, they are scheduled to play England at home in a multi-format series including

a one-off Test in Bloemfontein in December. That will also be their first Test at home since 2002 when they played India in Paarl. "I think getting the opportunity to play more Test cricket is awesome and something that a lot of our girls are really looking forward to is playing more Tests. Obviously having three scheduled in a calendar

year is pretty cool and something that I've wanted to see for a long time. I personally really enjoy the format and would love to see more of it. I think this Test will be a huge challenge for us. And hopefully, we're able to adapt to the conditions." Wolvaardt also noted that batting on the spin-friendly Chepauk surface, which is unfamiliar territory for South Africa, presents a big challenge for them. "Batting-wise it is going to be a big challenge for our group. I think obviously it's very different to conditions that we've been used to and exposed to at home, but thankfully we do have a few talented spinners within our squad as well. I think players like Nonkululeko Mlaba would sort of be licking their lips. Hopefully, they're able to put on a good show and be consistent and tight with their areas," she said.

Rohit Sharma Wipes Tears As India Reach T20 World Cup Final



New Delhi, June 28 : India are one win away from making history after a dominating show against T20 World Cup defending champions saw Rohit Sharma and co. set a title clash with South Africa. Spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel picked three wickets each to carry India into the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup title clash against South Africa after outclassing defending champions England by 68 runs in the second semifinal at the Providence Stadium. After captain Rohit Sharma slammed his 32nd T20I

fifty through a 39-ball 57 and along with Suryakumar Yadav, who struck 47 off 36 balls, helped India post a competitive 171/7 on a tacky pitch, brilliant spells from Axar and Kuldeep led to England falling in a heap as they were bowled out for 103. Chasing 172, Jos Buttler hit four boundaries, including three off Arshdeep, to give England a strong start with 26 runs coming in the first three overs. But Axar and Jasprit Bumrah joined forces to leave England in tatters. On Axar's first ball, Buttler looked to

reverse-sweep but gave a top edge to keeper Rishabh Pant. Bumrah brought out his off-cutter to rattle Phil Salt's leg-stump, followed by Axar getting one to stay low and hit Birstow's off-stump to dismiss him for a duck, as England ended power-play at 39/3. Things went from bad to worse for England as Moeen Ali tried to flick off Axar, but the ball lobbed off his thigh pad, and as he wandered out of the crease, Pant collected the ball to stump him quickly. Kuldeep arrived to push England further on backfoot by trapping Sam Curran plumb lbw in front of the middle stump, ratching a reverse-sweeping Harry Brook's leg-stump and got one to spin back in to trap Chris Jordan lbw. Mix-ups resulted in runouts of Liam Livingstone and Adil Rashid, and when Bumrah trapped Jofra Archer lbw, it triggered jubilant scenes as the ghost of Adelaide 2022 was firmly laid to rest in Guyana 2024, with the dream to win the elusive trophy still on course for a dominating India.

New Delhi, June 28 : Virat Kohli is going through a lean patch in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024. He has scored only 75 runs across 7 innings in this edition of the mega event. Kohli's poor form has also seen him registering two ducks. Thursday's semi-final against England was no exception for Kohli as he failed with a run-a-ball 9, losing his wicket to Reece Topley in the third over of India's innings. After the match, captain Rohit Sharma, however, continued to back the star batter, saying that form is not a matter of concern for

him. "He (Kohli) is a quality player. Any player can go through that. We understand his class and his importance. Form is never a problem. The intent is there. Absolutely (backing Kohli for the final)," said Rohit after the game. Team India advanced to the final of the T20 World Cup after 10 years. The Rohit Sharma-led side registered a commanding 68-run win over England in the second semi-final match at Providence Stadium, Guyana on Thursday. The 2007 champions thus set up a summit clash with South



Africa, who outplayed Afghanistan by 9 wickets in the first semi-final. In Guyana, Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav played

crucial knocks as India posted a total of 171 for 7 in 20 overs after being invited to bat. India were 40 for 2 in 5.2 overs be-

fore Rohit and Suryakumar stitched a solid 73-run stand to bail the side out of trouble. Rohit fell for 57 off 39 while Suryakumar hit 47 off 36. In the second innings, Axar Patel then denied England's chase with figures of 3 for 23 while Kuldeep Yadav also picked 3 for 19. "We have been very calm as a team. We understand the occasion (final). Staying composed helps you make good decisions. That'll help us making the game through. You got to play good cricket. That's what we want to do in the final," said Rohit.

Rohit Sharma's Post-Match Virat Kohli Remark Proves Why He's India Captain

T20 World Cup 2024

Tennis: Andy Murray to take last-minute call on Wimbledon participation

New Delhi, June 28 : British tennis legend Andy Murray will decide on his participation in Wimbledon "as late as possible" after undergoing back surgery last week. The two-time Wimbledon champion has returned to training but is in doubt over his chances at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament that starts next week. Murray said he will not play the singles as of now. "I'm going to wait until the last minute to see if I'm going to be able to play and I've earned that right to do that. This is not

clear-cut whether I am 100% going to be ready to play or there is a 0% chance that I can play. That is the situation," Murray said. "I would say it's probably more likely that I'm not able to play singles right now," he added. The 37-year-old, who withdrew from the Queen's Club last week because of back pain, had desired to play in the singles and doubles in his farewell appearance at Wimbledon. Murray's name is still in the running for Friday's men's singles

draw. The doubles draw is scheduled on the same day with the event beginning on Wednesday. Murray could play later in the week, which would allow him more time to recover. "Maybe it's my ego getting in the way but I feel that I deserve the opportunity to give it until the very last moment to make that decision," said Murray. "It's complicated, and it's made more complicated because I want to play at Wimbledon one more time. I want to have that opportunity to play in the tournament," he added.

Inaugural Punjab Hockey League to begin today

Mohali, June 28 : The Punjab Hockey League (PHL) will commence its inaugural season on Saturday (June 29) starting with the junior age group event. Six teams representing different teams in the state will participate in this edition of the league, which follows a home-and-away match format. Organised by Roundglass in collaboration with Hockey Punjab, the league aims to offer valuable match experience to grassroots players, fostering their professional and personal growth. Matches are scheduled to take place at prominent venues such as the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar, the Balbir Singh Sr. International Hockey Stadium in Mohali, Olympian Prithpal Singh Hockey Stadium in Ludhiana and Namdhari Hockey Stadium, Jivan Nagar, with each match hosted by one of the participating teams. The inaugural match of the league will be played at the Olympian Surjit Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar between Surjit Hockey Academy PIS,

Jalandhar and Namdhari Sports Academy which will be followed by S.G.P.C Hockey Academy, Amritsar taking on PIS Mohali. PIS Ludhiana and Roundglass Hockey Academy are the other two teams participating in the league, which follows a home-and-away match format. The matches will be played during the weekends and will run till August 25 with the final league match scheduled between Roundglass Hockey Academy and Surjit Hockey Academy PIS Jalandhar. Each team will have a pool of 25 players. The League will carry a prize pool of Rs 5.5 lakh which is one of the highest for Junior Hockey Leagues. Sharing his thoughts on the Punjab Hockey League, Dronacharya award winner, Olympic gold medalist and Technical Lead of Roundglass Hockey Academy, Rajinder Singh said, "Exposure to competitive matches is very important for the development of youth players and the Junior Punjab Hockey League aims to do that for the participants."

Formula 1: Pierre Gasly signs multi-year extension with Alpine

Enstone, June 28 : Alpine F1 Team has confirmed that Pierre Gasly has committed to a long-term contract with the team. The agreement, an extension to his current contract, will take Pierre into the 2025 season and beyond, the Formula 1 team. The Frenchman is in his second season with Alpine and, with 140 race starts in Formula 1, is a driver with vast experience to take the team to the next level long-term. In his 32 starts with the team, Pierre has amassed 67 points and brought home two pieces of silverware, which includes third place in the 2023 Belgian Grand Prix Sprint Race and then a memorable third place in the 2023 Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort. After confirming Esteban Ocon's departure at the end of the season, the team will announce Pierre's teammate for the 2025 season in due course. "I feel very much at home with this great team. I enjoy being a real part of both the Formula 1 project and the wider Alpine Cars vision," said Gasly. "I've been officially here for over 18



months and it has always been the plan to build a long-term project with the Team. While on track it's been a challenging season so far, I remain faithful to the project and I am not going anywhere. "I am happy with the changes made, the hard work, and the direction the team is taking. There is a lot of potential in this team's personnel and resources. I'm excited for what is to come in the future and right now I'm focusing on the everyday details that we are putting in to improve our performances," he added. Team Principal Bruno Famin is delighted to retain Gasly's services but would not be drawn on the identity of his prospective

teammate. "The extension of Pierre's contract with the team is very pleasing. He is a driver with huge experience in Formula 1 and continues to show huge amounts of potential on-track," he said. "For Alpine as a brand, he is a great ambassador and we therefore look forward to continuing our collaboration. While this is important for our future, we do have to keep our eyes close to what is coming and that is focusing on improving our current package. "We have high ambitions this current season and we will work tirelessly to achieve those things. We will take our time in deciding Pierre's team-mate and we are excited with the options we have on the table," Famin added.

Katie Boulter and Emma Raducanu suffer heavy defeats at Eastbourne

Washington, June 28 : Katie Boulter and Emma Raducanu were denied another all-British semi-final showdown before Wimbledon following comprehensive defeats at the Rothesay International in Eastbourne. The British No 1 Boulter, who registered a last-four win over Raducanu 11 days ago en route to retaining the Nottingham Open title, slipped to a 6-1, 7-6 (0) loss against the French Open finalist Jasmine Paolini. Former US Open champion Raducanu was then comfortably dispatched 6-2, 6-2 by Daria Kasatkina, who lost last year's Eastbourne final to Madison Keys. Harriet Dart completed a hat-trick of British quarter-final exits in the women's draw on Thursday, suffering a 6-2, 6-1 loss to Leylah Fernandez. Paolini, the world No 7, dominated the tactical battle against Boulter and adapted far better to blustery conditions at Devonshire Park. The tenacious 28-year-old Italian will face sixth seed Kasatkina in the last four today on Friday, while Canadian Fernandez—runner-up to Raducanu at Flushing Meadows in 2021—will take on reigning champion Keys. Boulter endured persistent problems with her ball toss and produced a

series of costly and, at times, embarrassing errors amid a challenging breeze. Having already been distracted by a seagull and a piece of billowing litter, she finished the fourth and sixth games with double faults—the second of which oc-

ponent in the tie-break and continue her remarkable season. Raducanu then failed to get to grips with Kasatkina in another relatively one-sided Centre Court contest. However, the 21-year-old, who missed the entire grass-court season

opponent dominated the majority of the rallies to secure progression. Meanwhile, wildcard Billy Harris is one step away from becoming the first Briton to reach the men's singles final after battling from a set down to upset Italian world

on top against long-time doubles partner Gordon Reid in the quarter-final of the men's wheelchair singles, winning 6-2 6-1. In qualifying for Wimbledon, teenager Hannah Klugman fell short of reaching the main draw but Sonay Kartal had a special reason to celebrate her progress having overcome serious health problems. Kartal, who was Emma Raducanu's main rival as a junior, has previously been held back by injuries during her career and feared she may be sidelined for the whole year. Kartal battled through the first two rounds but thumped Russian Erika Andreeva—the older sister of teenage sensation Mirra—6-3 6-1 on Thursday. Fifteen-year-old Klugman was looking to become the youngest Wimbledon qualifier since Coco Gauff but she was overpowered in a 6-3 6-3 loss to American Alycia Parks, who has shot up to 40 in the rankings after winning a title on grass in Italy last week. The teenager was not downhearted, though, saying: "I'm definitely proud of myself this week. If you'd told me at the start of the week I'd make last round qualifiers, I'd definitely take that. She's 40 in the world so to see the level was good."



curring when the ball hit the frame of her racket and flew beyond the baseline. Boulter made a similar mistake as she was broken five games into the second set but, having fallen 4-2 down, responded by winning three games on the spin to briefly raise the prospect of forcing a decider. Yet Paolini, who earlier this month lost the Roland Garros final to Iga Swiatek, was a cut above and reasserted her authority to outclass her

last year following wrist and ankle surgery, heads to the All England Club buoyed by impressive wins over Sloane Stephens and the world No 5, Jessica Pegula. Raducanu showed occasional glimpses of her class, catching the eye with a superb backhand sliced winner as she saved four set points in the opener. Yet she blew a 40-0 lead on serve early in the second set and was broken six times overall as her powerful Russian

number 49 Flavio Cobolli. The 29-year-old, a quarter-finalist at Queen's last week, won 6-7 (3) 7-6 (4) 6-2, having beaten compatriots Jacob Fearnley and Charles Broom in the previous rounds. Nottingham-born Harris, ranked 139 in the world, will meet Australian qualifier Max Purcell—a 6-3 7-6 (4) victor against Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic—in the semi-finals. Elsewhere, top seed Alfie Hewett came out