

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Ramdas Athawale seeks BJP-RPI alliance in Uttar

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Now, I get to bat regularly in the nets, which shows the team trusts me...

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NOTICE

Due to Viswakarma Pujā celebration, the office of "The Assam Rising" will remain close on 17th September, 2021. Hence the issue of 18th September will not be published. Next issue will be published on 19th September. "The Assam Rising" wishes happy Viswakarma Pujā to all of our valued readers, hawkers, distributors, agencies, advertisers and well wishers.

Management
The Assam Rising

NEWS IN BRIEF

By-polls candidate

GUWAHATI, September 16 : Political parties in Assam are revving up for the soon to be held by-polls. On Thursday, Akhil Gogoi-led Rajgor Dal announced its candidate for the Thowra seat. The regional party nominated Dhajija Konwar, former General Secretary, Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti to contest from Thowra. "For the 107 Thowra Vidhan Sabha seat I am announcing the name of Dhajija Konwar as Rajgor Dal candidate," stated Rajgor Dal president and Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi. The Thowra seat was vacated after the resignation of Congress MLA Sushanta Borgohain who left the grand old party to join the Bharatiya Janata Party. Sushanta joined BJP on 1 August, citing the existing political crisis in the state unit APCC.

5 lakh looted

GUWAHATI, September 16 : An incident of daylight robbery has been reported from Beltola area of the city. Robbers broke the windshield of a Renault Duster and took away cash Rs. 5 lakh. Pranjal Das and Pranjit Saikia had taken out the money from a nearby HDFC bank branch. The police have reached the crime scene and have started the investigation. Nobody has been identified or held till now.

Man arrested

Guwahati, September 16 : The man, identified as one Ritu Nondeswar Sensua (38), was nabbed from a bus stand in Sivsagar when he was about to flee to Guwahati via a night super. As per reports, the incident took place on September 13 when the accused was seen pressing his lower body against a woman while standing in a queue in the State Bank of India (SBI) Thana Chariali Branch. A video of the same surfaced on social media, enraging netizens and called for his immediate arrest.

Assam cabinet approves re-opening of physical classes for class X from September 20



AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 16 :

State education minister Dr Ranaj Pegu said that after a review of the Covid-19 situation in the next 10 days, the government will take a decision on the re-opening of

other classes. Guwahati: Assam cabinet on Thursday approved re-opening of physical classes for class X in the state from September 20. Physical classes for class XII and final year classes for graduate and post-graduate courses

have already started from September 6. State education minister Dr Ranaj Pegu said, "We have not received reports of any unusual situation after re-opening of offline final year classes and so the cabinet has decided

to allow re-opening of physical classes for class X from September 20." Pegu said that after a review of the Covid-19 situation in the next 10 days, the government will take a decision on the re-opening of other classes. "I want to appeal to parents and students to be ready for physical classes soon. If the situation continues to improve after a week or 10 days, we will make a decision on graded re-opening of physical classes for other classes," Pegu said. In Assam, schools will reopen for class 10 students in high schools, high madrasahs, residential schools, government and private day boarding schools on September 20,

Monday, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday. He has asked the authorities of all the schools which have been ordered to reopen to ensure that all employees and workers are fully vaccinated. This decision has been taken in the weekly cabinet meeting of the state. In a tweet, the chief minister has said, "In the weekly #AssamCabinet, we took several major decisions regarding rhino protection, reopening of Class X, premium for crop insurance, developing seed farms, State holiday on Karam Puja, ending license system for rickshaws, funds for infrastructure work, among others."

Assam to destroy nearly 2,500 rhino horns; to preserve few as exhibits



AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 16 :

The Assam cabinet on Thursday decided to destroy over 2,000 rhino horns which have been preserved in government treasuries across the state during the past four decades. The horns, which were seized from poachers and traders of

animal parts or recovered from dead rhinos in the state's national parks and wildlife sanctuaries from 1979 till now, are stored in 12 district treasuries at present. "At present, we have 2,623 such horns. Of these, 50 are associated with pending court cases (and can't be destroyed). Of the rest, 94 others will

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Union AYUSH Minister attends various programmes

Baramulla, Sept 16: As part of the Union Government's special public outreach programme, Union Minister of AYUSH and Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal today paid a visit to Baramulla district where he carried out multiple activities having wider public significance. At the outset, the Minister inaugurated Yoga Demonstration cum AYUSH Exhibition wherein young athletes showcased their yoga skills. He also inspected the stalls that were



installed by the department of AYUSH and were depicting different practices and medical procedures. The stalls inspected by the Minister include NCD Screening Clinic, Hijama/Cupping, AYUSH Intervention in COVID-19, Prakriti Mizaj Determination Clinic among others. After inspection, Sarbananda Sonowal presided over a seminar titled & AYUSH Intervention with Special Focus on AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres for Development of Modern Kashmir. Special Secretary

to the Minister Pramod Kumar Pathak, Additional Chief Secretary Health and Medical Education J&K Vivek Bardwaj, DDC Chairperson Baramulla Safeena Beigh, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Bhopinder Kumar, Director AYUSH Dr Mohan Singh, Director General Council for Research of Unani Medicine Dr Asim Ali, medical practitioners among other senior functionaries attended the seminar. Deputy commissioner Baramulla presented the valedictory address and gave a brief sketch of

efforts and initiatives taken to upgrade the healthcare system in the district. Additional Chief Secretary, Vivek Bardwaj presented the keynote address wherein he highlighted several aspects associated with health service delivery by virtue of AYUSH services. He informed the gathering that 164 health and wellness centres have been established throughout J&K in phase I and Phase II whereas 123 more centres shall be developed in the next phase. DDC Chairperson, in her address presented the significance of Baramulla district from historical as well as strategic perspective and added that special focus should be given towards such sectors having immense potential. She highlighted several issues more especially

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More than 90 crore deposited in two Bihar kids' bank accounts

Patna, September 16 : In a surprising incident, over crores of rupees was credited in the bank accounts of two children. The incident took place in Katihar district where two class 6 students, Ashish Kumar and Gurucharan Biswas received Rs 6,20,11,100 and Rs 90,52,21,223 in their bank

accounts on September 15 respectively. The children, native of Pastia village in Bagahura Panchayat, have bank accounts in Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank. Udayan Mishra, the district magistrate of Katihar also confirmed that the children have received hefty amount. "Big amounts were

credited in the accounts of two children. The amount can be seen in the mini statements. The senior officials of the bank are being informed," Mishra was quoted. "As soon as we learnt about the money being credited in the accounts of two children, we have put

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Modi's 71st birthday will see Assam getting a major thrust in the Covid-19 vaccination drive

Guwahati September 16 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday on Friday will see Assam getting a major thrust in the Covid-19 vaccination drive with 8 lakh shots being targeted to be administered on a single day. Considering the huge demand for the second dose and also the pending first dose, the state health department has proposed to observe the mega vaccination day on September 17, which the government said is 'incidentally the birthday of the Prime Minister. The government has set the target to vaccinate 40,000 people. Immunisation centres have already been set up for the drive by the Dis-



trict Health Department in coordination with the district administration. In order to achieve the target of 8 lakh (2 Lakhs first dose and 6 lakhs second dose) vaccination in a day on 17th Sep-



tember 2021, the following steps are to be taken immediately by DHS FW, NHM, All-District Administrations, ADC Vaccination, Jt. DHS of all districts, District Immunisation Officers, Block Medical Officers & Vaccination teams. Taking to Twitter Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma wrote, "Our finest gift to Hon PM Sri @narendramodi on his

71st birthday would be to ensure the huge success of mega vaccination drive on September 17. In a meet with all Ministers, DCs & top officials today, we issued a slew of guidelines towards this. I urge everyone to take your doses." Setting up of minimum 4000 CVCs across the state, district-wise, each with a daily target of 200

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Bangladeshi nationals entered India illegally : Two arrested

Abhijit Chaliha

Guwahati, Sept 16: Dhubri police on the early hours of Thursday apprehended two Bangladeshi nationals for entering India illegally and staying here without any

proper documents. Police informed that a police team led by Trilochan Das, Sub-inspector Dhubri PS raided the house of one Siddique Sheikh at Ironjonga area under Dhubri PS and

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Assam TET 2021: Application form released at ssa.assam.gov.in

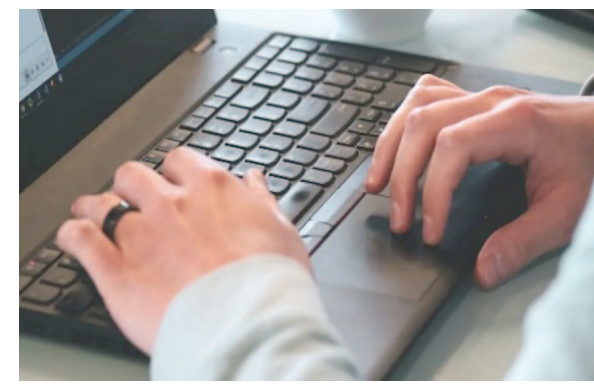
AR Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 16 :

The Government of Assam has released a notification regarding the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) 2021 for aspiring educators inviting applications from aspirants having permanent residence in the state. Interested candidates can visit

the official website, <http://ssa.assam.gov.in/>, to register themselves for the exam. The qualified applicants will be eligible to be Lower Primary or Upper Primary teachers. Along with the official website, applicants can also register for the test at <https://sebaonline.org/>. The announcement regarding the same was made by Assam Education Minister

Ranaj Pegu earlier today on social media. "The official notification for Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) of Upper and Lower Primary Level has been issued. I request the intending candidates to go through the advertisement," the tweet from the minister reads. As per the advertisement shared on social media, the last date to

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The Chinese national flag is carried to the stadium during the opening ceremony for China's 14th National Games in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province

Afghanistan: Ashraf Ghani's exit scuttled Taliban power sharing chance - US envoy

London, September 16 : Zalmay Khalilzad says that 'even at the end', the Taliban had agreed not to enter Kabul but went in to maintain security when Ashraf Ghani left on 15 August. The US negotiator on Afghanistan has said that President Ashraf Ghani's abrupt exit scuttled a deal for the Taliban to hold off entering Kabul and negotiate a political

transition. In his first interview since the collapse of the 20-year western-backed government, Zalmay Khalilzad, who brokered a 2020 deal with the Taliban to withdraw US troops, told the Financial Times that the insurgents had agreed to stay outside the capital for two weeks and shape a future government. "Even at the end we had an agreement

with the Talibs for [them] not to enter Kabul," he said. But Ghani fled on 15 August and the Taliban, in a previously arranged meeting that day with US Gen Frank McKenzie, chief of central command, asked if US troops would ensure security for Kabul as government authority crumbled. "And then you know what happened, we weren't going to take responsibility," Khalilzad said. President Joe Biden had insisted that US troops would only work to evacuate Americans and Afghan allies, and not extend America's longest war. Asked about Khalilzad's remarks, state department spokesman Ned Price said it was not an option to stay "a moment longer" in Kabul. "There was never a realistic, there was never a viable, there was never a practical option for the United States to stay. We were

left with a very clear and stark impression that if the United States sought to prolong our presence on the ground, our service members ... would again be targets of Taliban violence not to mention terrorist

government. Ultimately the Islamists named a caretaker government with no non-Taliban nor women and that includes US-designated terrorists. The US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, testifying before Congress



attacks by groups like Isis. "Ghani, who sought safety in the United Arab Emirates, has apologised for how the government ended but said he left on the advice of palace security to avoid bloody street fighting. The Taliban had been demanding the resignation of Ghani as part of any transitional

this week, also said he spoke to Ghani on 14 August and that the Afghan leader agreed both to work on a transitional government and, if the Taliban reneged, to "fight to the death". Blinken said Ghani gave no warning he would leave the next day.

Ramdas Athawale seeks BJP-RPI alliance in Uttar Pradesh to fight upcoming Assembly polls



New Delhi, September 16 : RPI chief Ramdas Athawale said that his party may field candidates on 10-12 seats dominated by Muslims, Scheduled Castes and backward classes in alliance with the BJP. Ramdas Athawale said that BJP should fight the next UP Assembly polls in alliance with RPI. He said that his party will start its poll campaign by taking out a "Bahujan Kalyan Yatra" from Saharanpur on Sept 26. The yatra will culminate at Lucknow's Rama Bai Ambedkar Park on December 18, he added. New

Delhi: Republican Party of India president and Union minister Ramdas Athawale has said that BJP should fight the next Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls in alliance with RPI (Athawale) and allocate 10-12 seats to us. Talking to reporters in Gorakhpur on Wednesday, Ramdas Athawale said, "I've told BJP chief JP Nadra and Union Home Min Amit Shah that if BJP fights polls with us, it can be a major setback to BSP." The RPI chief said that his party may field candidates on 10-12 seats dominated by Muslims, Scheduled Castes and backward classes in alliance with the BJP. Union Minister Ramdas Athawale further said that his party will start its poll campaign by taking out a "Bahujan Kalyan Yatra" from Saharanpur on September 26. The yatra will culminate at Lucknow's Rama Bai Ambedkar Park on December 18. Responding to

BJP-RPI jointly fight polls

a question, Athawale said that neither the BJP nor PM Modi is against the Muslim community as they believe in "sabka saath, sabka vikas". In response to a question on farmers' agitation over the farm laws, the RPI chief said those protesting do not come from the farming community and claimed that 80 per cent of farmers are still with Modi and the BJP. Athawale stressed the need for inter-caste marriage and said this is an effective way to bring social harmony in today's scenario. When questioned on the caste-based census, Athawale, whose party is a constituent of the NDA at the national level, told ANI, "We are of the opinion that caste-based census should be conducted in the country."

Indian private operators can transport Nepal-bound cargo from Visakhapatnam and Kolkata ports as well as more ports allowing Nepal to use Indian sea ports closer to major customs points of western and far-western Nepal for third-country trade, as per the Transit Treaty between Nepal and India. At present, rail cargo can be transported only on the Kolkata-Raxaul/Birgunj route. Another major takeaway of the revised railway service agreement is that all kinds of wagons that can carry freight on Indian Railways network within India can also carry freight to and from Nepal. Earlier this facility was limited to only certain kinds of wagons.

shared that the Hind Terminal Pvt Ltd would import cargo twice a week while other four companies have also shown their interest in cargo transportation. The number of cargo companies for transportation might be increased as the private sector managed cargo trains are allowed for the same. The railway service agreement signed between Nepal and India in 2004 had established the monopoly of the Container Corporation of India, a sister organisation of Indian Railways. As Nepal and India are planning to extend more cross-border railway networks, experts and officials said this agreement has opened new vistas of cooperation in Nepal-India trade and transit sectors. With this agreement,

to the revised text of the Letter of Exchange, all authorised private container train operators (Indian as well as Nepali) will be able to utilise the Indian Railways network to carry freight containers for Nepal's imports or exports, ending the monopoly of the Indian government-owned Container Corporation of India (CONCOR). The agreement allows India's Railways freight services to bring goods to and take goods from other border points besides Raxaul/Birgunj. The Executive Director of the Committee, Ashish Gajurel, said that the train carrying 90 containers of food products from Haldiya arrived at the dry port on Wednesday. Gajurel



Kathmandu, September 16 : Two months after the revision of the Nepal-India Railway Service Agreement, a private sector cargo train arrived in Nepal from India on Wednesday for the first time. This was possible after the revision of the railway service agreement between Nepal and India on July 9, breaking the monopoly of Indian containers after a hiatus of 17 years. The cargo train arrived in Birgunj, a bordering town in Nepal, on

Wednesday morning. The one-rack cargo train of Hind Terminal Pvt Ltd arrived at the Birgunj-based dry port at 10:00 am, according to the Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Committee. The revision of the 17-year-old railway service agreement has removed the bottlenecks that Nepal has been facing for long, particularly in the import and export of goods through the Indian Railways freight services. According

SpaceX launches world's first 'amateur astronaut' crew to orbit Earth

London, September 16 : SpaceX has launched the world's first crew of "amateur astronauts" on a private flight to circle Earth for three days. Wednesday night's successful launch marked the most ambitious leap yet in space tourism. It's the first chartered passenger flight for Elon Musk's space company and the first time a rocket streaked toward orbit with a crew that contained no

professional astronauts." It blows me away, honestly," the SpaceX director, Benji Reed, said on the eve of launch from Nasa's Kennedy Space Center. "It gives me goosebumps even right now to talk about it." Leading the flight is Jared Isaacman, 38, who made his fortune with a payment-processing company he started in his teens. Isaacman is the third billionaire to launch this summer, following flights by Virgin Galactic's Richard Branson and Blue Origin's Jeff Bezos in July. Isaacman is joined by Hayley Arceneaux, 29, a childhood cancer survivor who works as a physician assistant at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Isaacman has pledged \$100m of his own money to the hospital and is seeking another \$100m in donations. Also along for the ride are the sweepstakes winners Chris Sembroski, 42, a data engineer in Everett, Washington, and Sian Proctor, 51, a community college educator in Tempe, Arizona. Arceneaux is set to become the youngest American in space and the first person in space with a prosthesis, a titanium rod in her left leg. From left to right, Christopher Sembroski, Dr Sian Proctor, Jared Isaacman and



Hayley Arceneaux. The passengers will spend three days orbiting Earth at an unusually high altitude of 357 miles (575km)-100 miles (160km) higher than the International Space Station - before splashing down off the Florida coast this weekend. While Nasa has no role in the process, its managers and astronauts are rooting for the flight, dubbed Inspiration4. "To me, the more people involved in it, whether private or government, the better," said the Nasa astronaut Shane Kimbrough, who is nearing the end of his six-month space station stay. Isaacman, an accomplished pilot, persuaded SpaceX to take the Dragon capsule higher than it's ever been. Initially reluctant because of the increased radiation exposure and other risks, SpaceX

agreed after a safety review. Colorado Springs, USA. 05th Apr. 2017. Amazon and Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos announces in Colorado Springs, Colorado that he will sell \$1 billion dollars of Amazon stock each year to fund his space rocket venture. Credit: Chuck Bigger/Alamy Live News
 H Y N T D 2 Colorado Springs, USA. 05th Apr. 2017. Amazon and Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos announces in Colorado Springs, Colorado that he will sell \$1 billion dollars of Amazon stock each year to fund his space rocket venture. "Now I just wish we pushed them to go higher," Isaacman told reporters on the eve of the flight. "If we're going to go to the moon again and we're going to go to Mars and beyond, then we've got to get a little outside of our comfort zone and take the next step in that direction."

Joe Biden has 'great confidence' in top general Milley after Trump revelation



Washington, September 16 : Joe Biden threw his weight behind the top US military officer on Wednesday, saying he had "great confidence" in the general who, according to a new book, took steps to prevent the outgoing Republican president Donald Trump from "going rogue" and launching a nuclear war or an attack on China. Mark Milley, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, also defended phone calls he made to his Chinese military counterpart in the tumultuous final months of Trump's presidency, signaling that the hitherto secret conversations were in keeping with his duties. "I have great confidence in General Milley," Biden said at the White House, when asked if the military leader had done the right thing by intervening. Reporter: "Did General Milley do the right thing, sir?" Moments earlier, White House press secretary Jen Psaki had told reporters that Biden, the Democratic president who beat Trump last November, backs Milley's "leadership, his patriotism, and his fidelity to our constitution." Then, in a written statement, Milley's spokesman, Col Dave Butler, said the top

general acted within his authority as the most senior uniformed adviser to the president and to the secretary of defense. "His calls with the Chinese and others in October and January were in keeping with these duties and responsibilities conveying reassurance in order to maintain strategic stability," Butler said, adding that "all calls from the chairman to his counterparts, including those reported, are staffed, coordinated and communicated with the Department of Defense and the interagency." The Milley phone calls were described in excerpts that emerged on Tuesday from the forthcoming book Peril by the Washington Post journalists Bob Woodward and Robert Costa. The book said Milley told General Li Zuoqiang of the People's Liberation Army in China that he would warn his counterpart in the event of a US attack. "General Li, I want to assure you that the American government

is stable and everything is going to be OK... we are not going to attack," Milley told Li four days before the November 2020 election, according to the book. The idea that a general would unilaterally intervene to secretly prevent or halt the actions of the president of the United States, who is commander-in-chief of the US military, is extraordinary. Milley served Trump as chairman of the joint chiefs and then continued in the role after Biden entered the White House. Psaki on Wednesday urged Americans to consider the "key context" in which Milley allegedly took these steps, referring to Trump's efforts to overturn Biden's victory in an election called the most secure in US history by officials at local and national level. "The president has worked side by side with Chairman Milley for almost eight months," Psaki said. "His experience with him has been that he is a patriot." The revelations have led some Republicans to call for Milley's resignation, accusing him of undermining the constitution by trying to put guardrails on Trump's behavior during his final days in office. Woodward, who broke the Watergate stories that ultimately led to Richard Nixon's resignation as president in 1974, and Costa portray Milley as "certain that Trump had gone into a serious mental decline in the aftermath of the election".



shows lanterns at an event to greet the coming Mid-Autumn Festival at Singapore's Gardens by the Bay

Alumni solves water crisis in School

STAFFREPORTER

Aalo, Sept 16: The premier institution of West Siang, Govt. H.S. School Aalo was running without a drinking water facility for many years. The Principal of the school Shri Hormo Ete approached the alumni of the school who are in West Siang. Three alumni of the school, Er. Mojom Ete, Er. Reli Kato and Paras Jain turned up to donate a Filter cum Cooler for the school and it was installed on September 16. Paras Jain, alumnus of the school inaugurated the drinking water facility. The teachers and students of the school expressed their deep gratitude to the alumni for installing such a facility free of cost to ensure drinking water for teachers and students. The Govt H.S.S School Alumni Association has also been doing something like erection of School Gate, Water



Supply connection etc for the school that produced many luminarie from West Siang in the past.

Foundation day of Rural Museum celebrated at Doulguri

CORRESPONDENT

Sipajhar, Sept 16 : The 29th annual foundation day of Purnananda Memorial Rural Museum was celebrated at Doulguri in Darrang district following the guidelines of Covid19. The annual lecture programme organised on the occasion was addressed by Akhil Ranjan Bharata, leading writer and literary organiser of Darrang district. Delivering the lecture he has high-

lighted the remarkable contributions of the Koch Royal family of Darrang towards literature, culture and social life in details. In his thought provoking lecture he has stressed on the need of proper conservation of historical resources of the royal family without delay. The meeting organised on the occasion was presided over by prominent scholar and writer Dr Nagendra Nath Sharma. Paban Kumar Kalita, president, Doulguri Jnan Uday Puthibharal,

pioneer non government public library in Darrang district in his brief speech appreciated the efforts of the museum. Earlier Sunil Kumar Goswami, secretary of the museum management committee explained the objective of the museum in detail. Damodar Dev Goswami, vice President, Museum management committee offered floral tribute in memory of late Purnananda Goswami. Binodini Garg recited mangala charanam.

BDU initiatives of NFR to boost freight transportation

STAFFREPORTER

Maligaon, Sept 16: As a part of the Business Development Units (BDUs) initiatives by Northeast Frontier Railway, meetings with various stakeholders are being held regularly. During discussion, they were informed that they can easily transport their commodities from their nearest convenient railway station at a much cheaper rate in comparison to the road sector. These discussions by the BDUs within their respective areas are also helping to find a new segment of traffic for movement by train. In a recent such initiative, the BDUs of divisions under Northeast Frontier Railway organised various meetings with different traders and merchants during 4 - 8 September. During such a meeting organized under BDU initiative of Katihar division at New Jalpaiguri on 4th September, 2021 different traders were informed about transportation of fertilizer, tea, jute, fruits and vegetables through train with lesser cost. The BDU of Katihar division also organized a meeting with several merchants on 8th September regarding loading of parcel traffic. The BDU of Alipurduar division on 6th September held discussion with traders for loading of piecemeal edible oil from different stations of Alipurduar division. The Business Development Units (BDUs) of

Lumding division organised a meeting with exporters to Bangladesh on 4th September and discussed how to improve logistics at Jirania station. The BDU of Lumding division also discussed with traders on 7th September regarding coal loading from Digaru and Kamalajari stations, subject to opening of the siding for coal loading. A fruitful discussion was also held with traders at Rangapahar for loading of stone. In the Tinsukia division, such discussions were held on 5th September with merchants regarding transportation of edible oil through trains in a cost effective way. The Divisional Railway Manager of Tinsukia division on 7th September held a meeting with merchants of New Tinsukia and discussed how to improve unloading operations at New Tinsukia yard and to encourage business development. It may be noted that N.F. Railway has set up Business Development Units (BDUs) at all the Divisions i.e. Katihar, Alipurduar, Rangiya, Lumding and Tinsukia and also at Zonal HQs level to increase the freight transportation volume. The initiatives by the BDUs of various divisions have been successful in bringing in a new mode of traffic to railways from the road sector. Interested traders and merchants can contact Divisional and Headquarter level BDU

teams going through N. F. Railway website (<https://nfr.indianrailways.gov.in/>) for further Details.

Employee of Nagaon treasury office held on charge of graft



CORRESPONDENT

Nagaon, Sept 16: Based on the statement of Khusbu Harlalka, the arrested junior assistant of Nagaon treasury office, Nagaon police arrested one more employee of the same office today. Sanjib Mishra, the accountant of Nagaon treasury office was nabbed on the basis of the statement of Khusbu Harlalka who was arrested on charges of graft yesterday by police. The arrest of the accountant of the office has jolted the entire district as well as other staff employees of Nagaon treasury office, sources added. Sources claimed that both the arrested employees were produced before the

special court in Guwahati this afternoon by Dipti Mali, the investigating officer of the case. Significantly, a woman police team in civil dress caught Khusbu Harlalka red handed on Wednesday last while she took Rs 1000 as a bribe from the police constable - Nabin Bora.

COVID 19 claims one more life in Nagaon district

CORRESPONDENT

Nagaon, Sept 16 : COVID 19 has claimed one more life in the district today, taking the total death toll in Nagaon to 105 while 9 more fresh COVID cases were recorded today in the district too. Pankhi Sarma (35) of Nagaon Majpathori was tested positive for COVID 19 on Monday last and being deteriorated with the infection of the virus, she was admitted in Nagaon

operation started from 1000 hrs in the morning and continued upto 1230 hrs under Bhuynapara forest Range on September 16 in Manas Reserve Forest. The place where operation took place is 6 kilometers away from Indo - Bhutan Border under district Baksa. Tokay Gecko was listed in Schedule 4 of

India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The trade of the threatened species viz Tokay Gecko which is prevalent in the forest of North East Regions basically Indo - Bhutan Border is illegal in India. Two residents of Police Station Simla under Baksa were apprehended red handed

Call for Submission of Manuscripts for Bulletin of Scientific Research

STAFFREPORTER

Guwahati, Sept 16: Bulletin of Scientific Research is a refereed and peer-reviewed journal with focus on all areas of science and technology. Bulletin of Scientific Research invites high-quality original submissions, theory-based empirical papers, review papers, case reports, conference reports/ papers, technology reports, book reviews, commentaries, events and news, short communication etc for its upcoming volume. Submissions of manuscripts from both academicians and practitioners of all ar-

reas of Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics, Engineering Sciences, Earth Science etc are invited. Submitted manuscripts should not have been previously published or currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Conference papers may also be submitted if the paper has been completely re-written. Papers unpublished but presented in any of Assam Science Society's annual technical sessions held during the last few years are also open for

submission. All the articles shall go through plagiarism check and a double peer review process. Maximum length- 10 pages as per suggested template. Art work figure work- JPEG format, 200 to 300 dpi resolution, Mathematical formulae- Microsoft equation editor should be used. Last date of submission- November, 10 this year. Acceptance notification- December, 10. Manuscripts not as per suggested template shall not be reviewed and will be returned back. All submissions in Word format only to emails-editor.jass19@gmail.com.

Hindu Girl Marries Muslim Youth, Bride Refuses to Return Home After Family Files Case

STAFFREPORTER

Guwahati, Sept 16: True love is blind! This can be true in the love affair between a Hindu girl and Muslim youth. The couple is from Nalbari, Assam. As per reports the girl recently eloped with her beau following which her family filed a kidnapping case against the boy. Based on the complaint, the police

reached the home of the boy to arrest the accused and rescue the abductee. But when the police arrived, they faced an unexpected situation. The new bride candidly said that she eloped with the boy as per her wish. She claimed that they developed the relationship around eight years ago. She also clarified that she would not return home under any circumstances. Due to her stance, the police returned to their place without taking any action as per the

complaint. On the other hand, the boy, who said his name is Majnur, claimed that the girl and he were classmates in high school. "We fell in love with each other in 2013. We know each other very well. She knows that I am a Muslim," he added, claiming that his wife's family filed a false case against him. "She came in front of the District court. I did not kidnap her. She is an educated girl. She is a graduate," he further said.

Mega Vaccination Drive : Barpeta district set target 40,600

STAFFREPORTER

Barpeta, Sept 16: Barpeta district has completed its preparation for a mega vaccination drive to be held state-wide on September 17 to further intensify the vaccination of COVID-19 in Assam. Immunization centres have already been set up for the drive by the District Health Department in coordination with District Administration. It may be mentioned that a total of 8 lakh vaccines have been targeted across the state on that day. To achieve this goal, a target of 35,000 vaccines has

been set for the district. However, the district health department has planned to vaccinate 40,600 people and to achieve this target 203 vaccination centres have already been set up in the district. The schools of the area under Block Primary Health Centres are utilized for vaccination centres. Bikash Sarma, DIPRO, Barpeta informed that special emphasis for vaccination will be given in char areas under the district. Accordingly, 18 teams have been constituted to cover the chart

area under Chenga, Mandia, Kalgachia and Nagaon BPHC and they have already moved to their destination today. On the other hand, two mobile vaccination teams are also prepared for the purpose. The second dose of Covaxin and both doses of Covishield will be available for the eligible persons on that day. A meeting was held yesterday to chalk out the details programme at the DC Office conference hall under the chairmanship of DC, Barpeta. The Deputy Commissioner

Tej Prasad Bhusal urges all to work diligently in coordination with all concerned officials to carry out this mission of Mega COVID-19 Vaccination Drive smoothly and successfully, in the meeting. Dr. Rajib Barbora, District Immunization Officer, informed the house that 10,66,324 COVID vaccines are given till date in Barpeta district. Out of these 8,57,119 are of the first dose and 2,09,205 of the second dose. There are 11,94,636 estimated population above 18 years in the district, as informed by the DIPRO Bikash Sarma.

Technician of Nagaon DIPRO Sanjay Dhar passes away

CORRESPONDENT

Nagaon, Sept 16: Sanjay Dhar, an assistant technician at Nagaon district information and public relations office breathed his last at a private hospital in Guwahati last night due to stomach related disease for quite some time. He was only 42. Born in 1979 at Bihara in Cachar district, Dhar joined as an assistant technician in Diphu district information and public relations office in 2005 and was trans-

ferred to Nagaon DIPRO in 2020 last. Due to his frequent stomach related disease he was admitted in a private hospital in Guwahati a couple of days back. But he finally succumbed to the disease in the hospital when he was undergoing treatment. He left behind his wife, his old parents and a host of relatives. The staff of Nagaon district information and public relations office and scribes of the district condoled his demise.



CORRIGENDUM

In the notice published by the Liquidator of Amrit Feeds Limited in this newspaper dt. 16.09.2021, the land measurement for Lot No 3 is corrected to (1,390 sq mt + 4,180 sq mt).
Date: 16.09.2021
Place : Kolkata

NIT O.O. No. 145

SHORT SALE NOTICE

Under the provision of rule 32,33,34,35,36 and 37 of Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2013 bids are invited online by the undersigned from registered Companies/ Firms/Societies/Individuals etc. for award of contract/permit for the following Minor Mineral Concession Ares (Mahal).

Name of Range	Sl. No	Name of Mahal	Quantity	Area	Period
Golaghat Range	1	Kanaighat Sand Mahal No.2/2	20000 m3 sand	4.00 Ha	2 Yrs

Details of E-Auction will be available on <https://www.assamforestonline.in> portal from 23/09/2021 onwards.

Divisional Forest Officer
Golaghat Division
Golaghat

Janasanyog/C/5632/21

THE ASSAM RISING

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The real crisis

Unsurprisingly, both have similar - and similarly poor - credit standings. A default by CCC-rated borrowers is a "real possibility" on Fitch Ratings' scale. And yet, the Maldives seems to be turning the corner on visitor arrivals, with numbers last month exceeding the figure for August 2019. Sri Lanka, where a deadly Easter Sunday suicide bomb attack two years ago hit tourism even before the pandemic, is falling behind. With a population of just half a million, the Maldives was hit hard by the delta variant. In May, the virus infected almost three out of a 1,000 people in just one day. Sri Lanka, which is home to 21 million, has seen a more manageable spike by comparison, with the surge peaking at a 7-day average of just under 6,000 new cases late August. That's 0.28 new infections for a thousand people. Since then, Covid-19 is in retreat, and the country is on track to cover 60% of its population with the required two vaccine doses by the end of the month. Among other popular beach destinations, Mauritius, which reached that milestone late last month, is optimistic about a revival in its leisure industry. With some luck, and restoration of international flight links, the winter might bring more holidaymakers to Sri Lanka's sandy beaches, too. Will it be enough, though, to make up for a 99.6% drop in tourism earnings from the pre-pandemic level? Clearly not. But that's not the only problem. It doesn't help that the 9% decline in the Sri Lankan rupee since the start of the pandemic - a depreciation that could make tourist towns like Galle and Kandy cheaper for vaccinated travellers from India - has also stoked a food crisis. Amid an acute shortage of imported rice, sugar, milk, pulses and cereals, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa announced a state of economic emergency from Aug. 31, and named an army officer as the commissioner general of essential services, a telltale sign that the food queues are turning serious. At least they're serious enough for Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa, one of the president's several brothers in the cabinet, to replace the central bank chief. Ajith Nivard Cabraal, who was the governor between 2006 and early 2015, is returning to his old job to find money. After meeting a \$1 billion debt repayment out of foreign-exchange reserves in July, the \$3.55 billion kitty can barely cover two months of imports. Additionally, \$3.65 billion in repayments are coming due next year on hard-currency borrowings. If Cabraal has a magic wand, he has to wave it now - or Sri Lanka will have to seek a rescue from the International Monetary Fund. Tea, the country's most famous export, could have helped soften the blow. But the commodity that pulled in \$1.2 billion last year is facing its own crisis because of the government's sudden decision to do away with chemical fertilizers. The industry can't possibly find enough new buyers of niche, organic tea to offset a three-fold jump in the cost of production. Experts warn that crop diseases could lead to unmitigated disasters like in 1869, when the island's ten significant coffee plantations were wiped out by a fungal infection. Colombo couldn't have found a worse time to go back to the 19th century. The country's share among top global sellers of the beverage has been declining for some time. Rivals who manage to lure more customers away from Ceylon tea won't let go of them in a hurry. That isn't all. With even vegetable crops sputtering, the ban on fertilizer imports is untenable. Still, a decision to reverse it was dropped. The Rajapaksa administration doesn't want to appear weak politically by changing its mind. Or maybe it knows that Sri Lanka won't need to go to the IMF. Since the onset of the pandemic, a cozy relationship with China has helped the president secure a \$1 billion loan, in addition to a \$1.5 billion dollar swap facility with the Chinese central bank and a gift of 600,000 vaccine shots. Colombo could approach Beijing again for help, automatically putting some pressure on its next-door neighbor. At a public debt-to-GDP ratio of about 90%, India's own finances aren't a whole lot better than that of the Maldives and Sri Lanka, though a large, diversified economy gives it a much bigger sway with investors - and a (barely) investment-grade credit rating. While aware of the economic trouble brewing at its southeastern tip, India has long delayed a decision on Colombo's request for a loan-repayment moratorium. Having just seen its \$3 billion investment in Afghanistan go up in smoke, New Delhi's appetite for economic diplomacy may even be lower than usual. Still, caught in a debt trap, a previous Sri Lankan government sold the port of Hambantota to China Merchants Port Holdings Co. To stall further Beijing-backed enclaves at its doorstep, New Delhi may be compelled to bring out its checkbook.

Taliban will face same economic challenges as previous regime but under sanctions

There are optimistic suggestions that the hard-won integration of Afghanistan into the global economy will remain despite the ascendancy of the Taliban and the withdrawal of the U.S. A number of commentators have suggested that China - which the Taliban have declared their strongest ally - could become Afghanistan's primary economic supporter and help the country stay part of the global system. That analysis is unrealistic. For one, it ignores the sanctions regime imposed by the international community on the Taliban. Those restrictions apply not only to financial transactions but to business ones as well. All companies - not only banks - must comply with the framework against financing terrorism and money laundering. The central bank of Afghanistan (DAB) - which I presided over until the fall of Kabul in August - worked with its international partners to prohibit such transactions. Now, Afghanistan and DAB under the Taliban are likely to be treated as sanctioned entities by the rest of the world. In addition to the financial implications, there will be three additional consequences to this situation. First, Afghanistan's physical money supply will be impaired. This is because the central bank does not print its own currency: DAB typically receives afghanis produced by specialist firms overseas. The bank expected 2 billion afghanis in small-denominated notes from a Polish currency company in August. It had also signed a contract with a French firm for the supply of another 100 billion afghanis for the follow-

ing year. I am relatively certain that these deliveries cannot be made. Second, the \$7 billion Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India natural gas pipeline project (TAPI) will likely not proceed. This pipeline would have brought 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually from the Turkmen Galkynysh field - the world's second-largest - to Pakistan and India. It would have generated a few hundred million dollars in transit revenues for the Government of Afghanistan. I know this issue well because for five years I was Afghanistan's representative on the project's board. I helped move the pipeline from just a vague goal conceived during the previous Taliban

Ajmal Ahmady

regime to a realistic project. Engineering work had been completed, bilateral agreements signed and the land acquisition process begun. The project company had short-listed a number of European firms to supply the steel piping, valves, and construction work. We had even identified financing from various export credit agencies and insurance companies. A Taliban delegation visited Turkmenistan earlier this year to assure the government there that a Taliban regime would provide security for the pipeline. I remember the visit because a car bomb exploded under the TAPI project manager in Kabul that same day. (Fortunately, he survived.) In any case, whatever assurances the delegation provided to Turkmenistan, the Taliban do not fully understand the complexities of the project. As a result of the

NSS survey on farmers is a mid-term report card of Modi's promise, with 'fail' written over it

One of the most popular slogans of the current farmers' movement is that we are fighting for our "nasal aur fasal" - our progenies and produce. The latest official survey on the condition of farmers shows how true this is. The findings of this major government report released on 10 September 2021 should be a wake-up call, not just for policymakers and politicians, but for farmers and farmers' movements as well. So far, the response to this much-awaited NSS 77th Round on "Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households and Land and Livestock Holdings of Households in Rural India, 2019", has focused on the news-y finding of an increase in the amount of loan due for an average farming family - a jump from Rs 47,000 to over Rs 74,000. This is worrisome, especially because of the underlying trend - the 'better off' state or the farmer, the higher the pending loan. Yet, it is a symptom, not the disease. The real issue is farmers' income or lack of it. Some reports have noticed what this survey says about farmers' income. An average farm family makes about Rs 10,000 per month, less than what a domestic worker would earn in big cities. They also mention that in the six years since a similar survey in 2013, this figure has crawled up from Rs 6,442 to Rs 10,218. Shocking as these figures are, they still conceal more than they reveal. They leave you with the impression that farming gives more than Rs 10,000 a month, and while the base is rather low, it is growing at a reasonable pace. Nothing can be more misleading than this. Here is why. First, the income is misleading because it is an average. This average includes big farmers with more than 10 acres of land who earn nearly Rs 30,000 a month (not more than a class IV employee of the government). The average family income of a median farmer who cultivates between 1 and 2.5 acres of land, is much lower at Rs 8,571 per month. Second, this amount is not farming income; it is the income of a farming family. This is not hairsplitting - understanding this difference is at the heart of the matter. Not everyone in a farming family is a farmer. And not everything that a farmer earns is through farming. This survey operates with a broad definition of what it calls an "ag-



ricultural household": any rural family that earns some minimal amount from the cultivation of crops or from animal husbandry. So, a family where the father looks after the fields, the mother tends to buffalos, the daughter teaches in a local school and the son runs a shop in an agricultural household. All these four forms of income will be added up and counted as the income of a farming family. The income from crop cultivation could be a small part of the family income. This is not a hypothetical example. The latest survey shows that the income from agriculture is a little above one-third of the income of an agrarian family. In a month, this average family makes just Rs 3,798 from growing crops of various kinds, Rs 1,582 from rearing animals, Rs 641 from business and Rs 4,063 from wages and salaries. In other words, a farmer's family earns more from selling its labour elsewhere than by working in its own fields. So, the figure to remember is Rs 3,798, per month income of a farmer from farming. That tells you why there is such a rush towards the cities, why everyone clamours for a government job. Third, even this meagre figure is bloated, as it takes an overgenerous view of what is a farmer's income. This calculation looks at all the money received by the farmer from selling all the agricultural produce, minus all the costs directly paid out by the farmer towards growing the crops. The gap is assumed to be the farmer's profit. The family's own labour and other inputs are not counted towards the cost and thus in-

Yogendra Yadav

flate the profit. If you impute the value of these inputs, not paid out in cash, then the overall cost of crop and animal farming goes up and profit comes down. If you follow this correct method, then the average monthly income from crop cultivation comes down to just Rs 3,058 and from animal farming to just Rs 441. The overall income of a farmer family in that case is just Rs 8,337 per month. Four, the impression of healthy growth in farmer's income is false because it is based on nominal figures that do not take inflation into account. Between 2013 and 2019, the period between the last and the current survey, farmers' nominal income increased by 59 per cent. But if you adjust these figures for inflation (Consumer Price Index for rural India for June 2019, the base year 2012), the increase is just 22 per cent. That, as we noted, includes all forms of income for the entire family. If we focus only on income from crop production, a farmer's income has actually shrunk in these six years. In 2013, a farmer earned Rs 3,081 from farming. That was equivalent to Rs 2,770 on the price of 2012, the base year. If we retain the same base year, the latest monthly income of farmers from farming (Rs 3,798) is equivalent to Rs 2,645. This amounts to a 5 per cent decline in six years. So, the real headline for the survey should have been: 'The historic doubling of farmers' income mission leads to a historic slide back.' This NSS survey is the first report card on the famous six-year project on Doubling of Farmers' Income (DFI), announced with much fanfare in

February 2016. The six years covered by this report (2013-19) are different from the six years of the DFI (2016-22). But it is fair to conclude that the outcome is unlikely to be different, since the years following 2019 saw the pandemic and lockdowns. The increase in the real, inflation-accounted income of farming households would not be much higher than the 22 per cent, this survey shows. As I have argued earlier, this is not just a far cry from the boast of a 100 per cent increase, this increase would be lower than that achieved in the previous 10 years of normal agricultural growth. A real historic feat indeed! Even if we see this survey as a mid-term report card, as it covers the first three years of DFI, the performance is nowhere close to the 35 per cent increase in real income projected by the Narendra Modi government's committee on DFI for this period. The contribution of farm income to the farmers' overall household income is decreasing, and not increasing as projected by the DFI Committee. The mid-term report card has 'fail' written all over it. It would be a pity, however, if we use this survey for merely busting the patently fake claims of the Narendra Modi government. The deeper trends and patterns revealed by this survey point to a structural crisis of modern agriculture: smaller farm size, a greater proportion of landless labourers, failure of farm insurance, non-functioning of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system and disconnect of the sarkari farming promotion from the farmers. The much-celebrated "green revolution" farming model has reached a dead-end. Indian agriculture needs subsidies and massive public sector investment. And it needs much more. If we are serious about saving nasal aur fasal, we need to rethink the present model of agriculture: how do we stem the tide of farmers turning into agricultural labourers? How do we make small farmers remunerative? That is what the farmers' historic movement must turn its attention to, once it is done with the immediate task of getting rid of unwanted farm laws and securing better prices. This survey of the farmers' conditions reminds us that the farmers' movement has not arrived a day too soon.

AAP's 'Tiranga Yatra' in Ayodhya is desperate. It lacks the imagination to move beyond Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party's 'Tiranga Yatra' in Ayodhya highlights two facts - Arvind Kejriwal's desperation to expand beyond New Delhi, and in equal measure, his lack of imagination on how to do it. Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, along with Sanjay Singh, Rajya Sabha MP and AAP Uttar Pradesh in-charge, took out the 'Tiranga Yatra' on Tuesday, with Sisodia declaring that "Ram Rajya was the best form of governance". "We will form a government that will govern on ideals given by Lord Ram," the deputy CM said. "We take the blessings of Shri Ramchandra-ji, will raise the tricolour

(and) will teach real nationalism," he added. With less than three years to go until the next Lok Sabha election and several Opposition parties seeking to lead the brigade against Narendra Modi and team, Kejriwal knows time is fast running out to expand his presence and establish himself as a leader who is not just confined to one state, especially one that is more symbolic than influential in national politics at that. The high-voltage nationalism plus Hindutva-led pitch, therefore, is a step in that direction. What it also shows is the AAP's inability to imagine a conversa-

Ruhi Tewari

tion that can help it take Modi on and establish its footprint beyond Delhi. Resorting to BJP's favourite trope - the potent religion-nationalism cocktail - and trying to counter the party with exactly its modus operandi, can hardly be prudent, creative or beneficial. For a party that captured the imagination of voters and stormed to power in the national capital by developing its unique selling point, the Aam Aadmi Party is showing a disappointing lack of imagination in its forays outside its turf. I've argued before how Arvind Kejriwal and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee are the most vocal Opposition leaders, taking the Modi government head-on at every step. As Lok Sabha polls draw closer, every ambitious regional leader is hoping to be at the forefront of leading the Opposition's charge against the Modi-Shah duo. The disadvantage for Kejriwal, however, is his limited political presence. While leaders like Mamata Banerjee, Andhra Pradesh CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav and Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav are all one-state wonders, the difference is that their respective states hold far more heft than Delhi with its mere seven Lok Sabha seats. Arvind Kejriwal's earlier attempts to expand - in Haryana and Goa - bore no fruit, while his party's Punjab foray didn't bring as much national political attention as he would have hoped. The next few years are crucial. AAP fancies itself as a player in several poll-bound states - Goa, Punjab, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. Arvind Kejriwal is sharp enough to know he needn't be over-ambitious in terms of winning sizable seats in all states. The idea is to put up a credible performance - enough to be taken seriously as a party that has spread its wings beyond just Delhi. Unfortunately, however, the Aam Aadmi Party is choosing the path that has now become jaded and a go-to favourite for most Opposition parties who want to beat Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party. Modi and Shah have successfully changed the conversation of Indian politics so definitively towards

religion and nationalism that Opposition parties have felt compelled to speak the same language instead of finding an alternative. From Rahul Gandhi's declared status as 'janeudhari Brahmin' to Mamata Banerjee chanting shlokas - the Opposition has ranged from flirting with soft-Hindutva to brandishing an overt version of it. The BJP, however, has mastered the Hindutva-nationalism recipe, and anybody else trying the trope is merely playing catch-up. Arvind Kejriwal's AAP, however, can do much better. Even in Delhi, the 'Deshbhakti curriculum' and earmarking an impressive budget to install flags across the city reeked of the chief minister's attempts to blindly ape the BJP, as did his declaration last year of being a "devout Hindu". Recall how the party burst onto the scene to top the charts in Delhi and hasn't allowed Modi's popularity or Amit Shah's might to dislodge it ever since. Kejriwal clung to a voter sentiment that was wide but untapped, and made anti-corruption, clean governance and people's movement his hall-mark, becoming arguably the biggest success story in Indian politics in the last decade. Voters love Arvind Kejriwal not because he is a 'good Hindu', but because he has brought something new and different to the table, the idea of an 'aam aadmi' fed-up of the system, taking up brooms, and ushering in a new era. There has been a freshness in his style of politics, even if AAP's governance remains amateurish. Masses outside Delhi have a better chance of lapping Kejriwal up for a unique idea he espouses, or for spreading the message of an 'aam aadmi' government, than of buying his 'main-bhi-Hindu-hoon' approach. For a party that has displayed such courageous political innovation in the past, it's a pity that a predictable twin path of nationalism and Hindutva is what it needs to resort to. BJP may have changed the grammar of politics, but Kejriwal surely has it in him to counter that in his own style. It is his uniqueness that will make a real difference, and give the Aam Aadmi Party a much-needed fillip to truly catapult it into the national scene.

iPhone13 pre-book with an assured gift worth of 3559



Guwahati, Sept 16: The wait is over! Curtains raised and the much awaited Apple's next-generation flagship smartphone, iPhone 13 launched. After launching Apple's new iPhone 13 in a special event at California on Tuesday night, Very soon it will be available in India as well as Guwahati and for Pre booking of this Premium smartphone, just step into InTouch outlet

situated at Ulubari and Paltan Bazar. For Pre-Bookers of iPhone 13 InTouch gives an opportunity to grab an assured exciting gift. Proprietor of the leading mobile retail chain, Pankaj Surana said on every Pre-booking of iPhone 13 any model customer will get a gift worth Rupee 3559. Along with this on the day of delivery. So grab this opportunity and

book your new iPhone 13 today and get a gift only at InTouch. The newly launched iPhone models are iPhone 13, iPhone 13 mini, iPhone 13 Pro and iPhone 13 Pro Max. The iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini will be available in 128 GB, 256 GB and 512 GB variants at a starting MRP of Rs. 69,900 in India. The iPhone 13 Pro and iPhone 13 Pro Max will be available in 128 GB, 256 GB, 512 GB and 1 TB variants at a starting MRP of Rs. 1,19,900. All these models are available in various colours such as Pink, Blue, Midnight and Red. The new iPhone 13 lineup will be available in India as well as at InTouch from September 24th 2021. So hurry, book your new iPhone 13 and get lots of exciting prizes only at InTouch. Recently InTouch has been awarded as "Leading Mobile Store" by Times Groups.

Dating 101 in 2021-Bumble reveals dating trends observed in 2021

Delhi, September 16 : As India slowly starts to open up post the second wave of the pandemic, Bumble, the women-first dating app, revealed interesting trends emerging in the Indian dating landscape. Intentional dating is on the rise: Indian daters now have a renewed sense of clarity and confidence in taking control of their dating lives as they meet new people. Through Bumble's recent nationwide research, we found that people are now dating more intentionally than before the pandemic - they're being more honest about what they're looking for in a relationship: * One in two (46%) single Indians are looking for a commit-

ted, serious relationship in 2021, post the second wave of the pandemic. * One in five people are looking to get married (New Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad rank the highest). * More than one in three (33%) are feeling hopeful about dating right now as lockdown restrictions lift across India. * 33% of single Indians are using video dates to really get to know each other better before meeting IRL. Dating habits adopted during the pandemic are here to stay: Bumble observed shifts in dating priorities and preferences, predicting that the behaviors we've developed won't disappear overnight.

Britannia launches Marie Gold My Startup Season 3.0: democratizing entrepreneurship for India's Homemakers. Participants to benefit from Google's digital skilling resources

Guwahati, September 16 : Britannia Marie Gold's My Startup campaign has successfully run across two seasons, providing funds and skill development for Indian homemakers to embark on their entrepreneurial journeys. In 2020, a partnership with NSDC helped the campaign provide 10,000 homemakers with basic communication skills, financial literacy through access to information and communication technology (ICT), along with micro entrepreneurial skills for social and economic self-reliance. In its Season 3, the Britannia Marie Gold My Startup campaign has been broadened to help homemakers leverage the internet to grow their businesses. 77% of homemakers who desire to set up their own ventures, consider technology as an enabler in this journey - as noted in the survey by Britannia and Momspresso. Indian Homemakers' Entrepreneurship Report 2021-Key Highlights- " 62% of homemakers have dreams & aspira-

tions to startup a business of their own " The primary drivers for these homemakers who aspire to set up their own business are the desire to be financially independent (60%) and the ability to contribute financially to the family (53%) " Lack of time due to home responsibilities (73%), lack of guidance (53%) & insufficient funds (50%) have acted as the main barriers that prevented them from setting up their own business. 77% of homemakers who desire to set up their own venture consider technology can also aid them in this journey. They feel technology can help them in: Enhancing their knowledge & know-how of how to run a business (80%), provide ease of doing business (73%), more access to markets (72%) " Some of the popular businesses of interest are running a boutique (16%), home tutoring (10%), re-selling of apparel, jewelry (7%), running a beauty parlor (6%) among others " Starting a business of their own, would



make these homemakers feel more self-confident (81%), empowered (78%) and feel more respected in the society (63%) To support these aspirations, participants will be able to access a set of digital skilling resources from Google. These digital resources are available in six languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Bengali and English. Bringing to light the season highlights and launch of the Britannia Marie Gold My Startup contest 2021, Vinay Subramanyam, Vice-President, Marketing, Britannia Industries Limited said, "Britannia Marie Gold is a brand that has intimate connections with India's

homemakers. We laud them for being the emotional anchor and an all-time go-to person in every family. We firmly believe that the progress the country has made sits on the bedrock of contributions and sacrifices made by the homemaker. Britannia Marie Gold recognizes the growing, inner aspirations of homemakers to do more with their potential and is committed to be the 'everyday fuel' for homemakers in this bid. That's why we are happy to launch the third edition of Britannia Marie Gold My Startup. We are delighted this time to collaborate with Google to help skill homemakers in the use of technology to

gain better market access, expand customer base, access finance and other resources. Together, we really hope to be the wind behind the wings of every 'homepreneur' out there." Commenting on the association with Britannia, Sapna Chadha, Senior Marketing Director, India & South-East Asia, Google, said, "Opportunity and inclusion are at the core of everything we do at Google. Through our products and programs, we have supported millions of women in India to leverage digital tools to generate income and livelihood, and we know that helping women to embrace entrepreneurship opportunities through digital has a transformative impact on them and their families, the community, and the local economy. We are pleased to provide our digital skilling resources to aspiring women entrepreneurs participating in Britannia's important program and wish every one of them success."

Mahindra launches the All New FURIO 7 range of LCV Trucks



Guwahati, Sept 16: Mahindra's Truck and Bus Division (MTB), a part of the Mahindra Group, today announced the commercial launch of the new Mahindra FURIO7, its latest, modern range of Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) with an unprecedented double guarantee of "More Mileage or Truck Back" and "Guaranteed Resale Value" after five years. Mahindra Truck and Bus has extended its existing FURIO - an Intermediate Commercial Vehicle brand launched in 2019 - to an all-new Light Commercial Vehicle range, the Mahindra FURIO7. This range will be available across three product platforms: 4-Tyre Cargo, 6-Tyre Cargo HD and 6-Tyre Tipper. The range will cover every application of business needs in Light Commercial Vehicle segments,

delivering the FURIO brand promise of Higher Profitability along with Best-in-Class Mileage, Higher Payload and a Benchmark Cabin offering optimum comfort, convenience and safety. It also boasts of the Most Advanced Telematics technology: Mahindra iMAXX. Mahindra FURIO7 Light Commercial Vehicle range is part of the FURIO LCV product range development, which is the culmination of focused efforts over the past six years of over 500 Mahindra engineers and 180 suppliers, and an investment of Rs. 650 crore. The introduction of the FURIO range follows MTB's launch of the BLAZO X range of Heavy Commercial Vehicles with the hugely successful and popular 'Mileage Guarantee', which subsequently

helped BLAZO X establish itself as the most fuel-efficient truck in the HCV segment. Speaking on the occasion, Veejay Nakra, Chief Executive Officer, Automotive Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, said, "The launch of the new FURIO7 range of LCV trucks with an unprecedented customer value proposition of 'more mileage or return the truck and guaranteed resale value after five years', is a landmark in the industry. It will set new benchmarks of excellence and customer-cen-

tricity while reflecting our serious commitment to the segment and confidence in our products." According to Jalaj Gupta, Business Head, Commercial Vehicles, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, "Mahindra FURIO7 range is designed around the unmet needs of LCV customers. Our customer insights for the category revealed that they are looking for a truck that can deliver higher earnings, lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), best warranty offer, lowest maintenance, safety and comfort - all these lead-

Yamaha Announces Exciting Festive offers for September 2021

Chennai, September 16 : Yamaha Motor India group of companies, one of the leading two-wheeler companies in India, today announced special offers, in lieu of the upcoming festivities, which are valid till 30th September 21. The offers are currently valid on Yamaha's scooter range available in India, which includes the newly launched Fascino 125 Fi Hybrid, followed by the Ray ZR 125 Fi, Ray ZR Street Rally 125 Fi and the non-Hybrid version of the Fascino 125 Fi. The Pan India offer details on Yamaha scooter models are as follows: 1. Offers on Fascino 125 Fi (Non-Hybrid) | Ray ZR 125 Fi (non-Hybrid) Rest of India: Insurance benefits of Rs. 3,876 or down payment of Rs. 999 and Scratch & Win offer with minimum Assured gift of Rs. 2,999/- (Excluding TN) and Bumper prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- For Tamil Nadu: Insurance benefits of Rs. 3,876 or down payment of as low as Rs. 999 and

Assured gift of Rs. 2,999/- 2. Offers on New Fascino 125 Fi Hybrid Rest of India: Cash back Rs. 5,000/- or down payment of Rs. 999 or Exchange Benefits of Rs. 6,000/- and Scratch & Win offer with Assured gift of Rs. 2,999/- (Excluding TN) and Bumper prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- For Tamil Nadu: Cash back Rs. 5,000/- or down payment of Rs. 999 or Exchange Benefits of Rs. 6,000/- and Assured gift of Rs. 2,999/- Yamaha's current product portfolio includes YZF-R15 version 3.0 (155cc) with ABS, MT-15 (155cc) with ABS; Blue-Core Technology-enabled models such as FZ 25 (249cc) with ABS, FZS 25 (249cc) with ABS, FZ-S Fi (149cc) with ABS, FZ Fi (149cc) with ABS, FZ-X (149cc) with ABS and UBS enabled scooters like Fascino 125 Fi Hybrid (125cc), Fascino 125 Fi (125cc), Ray ZR 125 Fi (125cc) and Street Rally 125 Fi (125cc).

Neem-Nature's gift to Mankind

Guwahati, Sept 16: Neem is an omnipotent tree and a sacred gift of nature. It is an incredible plant that has been declared the 'Tree of the 21st century' by the United Nations. Old Indian literature like Vedas, Upanishads etc., refers to Neem as 'Sarva Roga Nivardini' which means it's a medicine to cure all diseases. Neem has been extensively used in Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathic medicines. Neem has powerful pest controlling activities and medicinal properties. More importantly, pesticides made from the divine tree are much safer compared to synthetic pesticides due to its biodegradable, non-toxic properties for animals as well as humans. The leaves of this miraculous tree are known to have antibacterial, antifungal properties.

against germs. With a heritage of over 20 years, Nimyle is a chlorine-free product designed to effectively kill germs and clean your floors and conforms to the quality, performance



and safety expectations from an eco-friendly product. The Nimyle range of products is designed with several naturally derived ingredients and completely excludes any chlorine based active systems in the formulation which remains safe for both children and kids. Nimyle not only holds the promise of the goodness of Neem but also stands as a testimony to the natural cleaning properties of the plant. Dr. Nandakishore Dukkkipati, MD, Livlife hospitals, advanced Laparoscopy and Gastroenterology with a special interest in Neem says, "Neem acts as an analgesic, Neem bark has been used from centuries in India as a pain killer, it also helps in cur-

ing fever. In Ayurvedic medicine system, Neem is used to treat malarial fevers, which is a common occurrence during monsoons. Recent experiments have shown that one of the Neem's components, gedunin is as effective as Quinine against malaria. Neem twigs can also be used to cure common cold and cough, asthma and bronchitis as well as urinary tract infection. Neem also has antihistamine properties that help inhibit allergic reactions when applied externally or consumed as a decoction. Skin care - Changes in the weather during monsoons are often known to cause breakouts and other skin problems. Neem has an almost magical effect on chronic skin conditions that often fail to respond with classical treatments. Acne, psoriasis, eczema, itching, rosacea, shingles, ringworm, athlete's foot, herpes, fungal infections, cold sores, dry skin, hemorrhoids, rash, skin ulcers, rheumatism, sprains, pain, warts, wrinkles are among the conditions that clear up consistently when an organic chemical-free, zero harm Neem product is used. Hair care - When high quality, wild-crafted Neem extract and in some cases cold pressed Neem oil from the kernels of the olive shaped fruit is added to health and beauty preparations, it provides many benefits.

Billions blown as Macau casino investors fold amid gambling review



Hong Kong, Sept 16: Shares of Macau casino operators shed as much as a third of their value, losing about \$18 billion, as the government kicked off

gambling hub. With Macau's lucrative casino licences up for rebidding next year, the plan spooked a Hong Kong market already deep in the red after

Beijing's regulatory crackdown on sectors from technology to education and property that sliced hundreds of billions of dollars off asset values. Wynn Macau (1128.HK) led the plunge, falling as much as 34% to a record low, followed by a 28% tumble for Sands China (1928.HK). Peers MGM China (2282.HK), Galaxy Entertainment (0027.HK), SJM (0880.HK) and Melco Entertainment (0200.HK) all fell heavily, taking the drop to

HK\$143 billion (\$18 billion). U.S. casino companies also fell for the second straight day, losing as much as \$4 billion in market capitalization on Wednesday, with Las Vegas Sands Corp (LVS.N) slumping to more than a year low, Wynn Resorts Ltd (WYNN.O) and MGM Resorts International (MGM.N), dropping 8% and 5%, respectively. The slump came after Lei Wai Nong, Macau's secretary for economy and finance, gave notice on Tuesday of a 45-

day consultation period on the gambling industry to begin from the following day, pointing to deficiencies in industry supervision. Beijing, increasingly wary of Macau's acute reliance on gambling, has not yet said how the licence rebidding process will be judged. "Margins will be crushed at the gambling capital of the world and that will drag down all the big casinos," said Edward Moya, senior market analyst at OANDA in New York.

Contd. From Page 1

Assam to destroy nearly 2,500

be preserved for exhibition or educational purposes. The cabinet today decided that the remaining 2,479 horns will be destroyed," forest and environment minister Parimal Suklabaidya said in Guwahati. "In past weeks, experts have been verifying the horns using scientific methods. Ninety-four horns will be kept at a natural history museum to be set up near Kaziranga National Park, the cabinet decided. The museum will also have other wildlife exhibits from Assam," he said. The forest and environment department is planning to destroy nearly 2,500 rhino horns. Though no date for destroying the horns have been announced yet, a formal event is expected on September 22, which is celebrated as World Rhino Day. Though there is no scientific basis, rhino horns are part of traditional medicine in some Asian countries such as China and Vietnam. Each horn, which is made up of keratin (found in hair, nails), is valued over thousands of US dollars, leading to rampant killing of rhinos in Asia and Africa. Assam is home to the world's largest population of one-horned rhinos. According to a 2018 census, there are nearly 2,650 rhinos in the state with around 2,400 of them concentrated in Kaziranga National Park. Rhinos are listed in Schedule 1 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as an endangered animal and there is an international ban on trade of rhino horns under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna). Wildlife experts have welcomed the government's move to destroy the horns as they believe preserving them might send the message that they are indeed very valuable, which in turn could lead to more poaching of rhinos. "Scientifically, rhino horns don't have any value, but it has a price in some markets based on superstitions about its medicinal properties. If we preserve them, it will convey the message that we believe in such superstitions. The horns stored in Assam should be destroyed," Rathin Barman, joint director, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) said.

Union AYUSH Minister attends

pertaining to the AYUSH sector and demanded the establishment of AYUSH Research Centre in the district. She also urged to disseminate awareness in remote and rural areas and said that information among the masses is the only viable option to yield its benefits. Complimenting the participants who attended the seminar, the Union Minister highlighted the significance of AYUSH medicare services and said that good public health through the intervention of innovative and traditional practices is our top most concern. He said that happiness is the ultimate goal of every being and terms AYUSH more effective for its achievement. The Minister said that institutions of AYUSH are being strengthened at grass root level and every possible step shall be taken in this regard. He added that the Ministry is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to give people a happy and healthy life. The minister further added that special thrust shall be given for establishing a research lab where scientific study on medicinal herbs shall be carried out so as to explore their benefits. Underlining the need of Unity in Diversity for a strong nation, the Minister added that the ambitious 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' initiative is a unifying factor where all sections of the society converge and excel. He said that youth takes keen interest in Yoga as it plays a vital role in changing our life. He also advised to spend at least 05 minutes on Yoga practices as it yields quick and effective results. Stating that J&K owes its special identity in the nation, the Minister said that Union Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a good dream for development of Jammu and Kashmir and adding that the Government of India has been already working on various flagship programmes aimed to develop the socio economic status of the people. Later, the Minister inaugurated a local cricket tournament titled 'Big Bash Tournament Cup' at Shokat Ali Stadium that was organised by Baramulla Cricket Forum in collaboration with District Administration. After kick-starting the tournament, the Minister applauded the young and energetic players for showing their enthusiastic participation. He terms the sports as a viable platform for channelising the potential of our dynamic youth besides keeping them away from wrong pursuits like drug addiction, anti-social activities etc. While emphasizing upon the youth to come forward, the Minister said that several novel measures are being taken as part of a youth engagement programme which aims to empower our youth and direct them towards productive pursuits. He appreciates the efforts of local administration for organising such sports events and assured every support on the part of the union government.

Modi's 71st birthday will see

vaccinations. All CVCs which were made functional on 21st - 23rd June 2021 will be invariably made active for vaccination on 17th Sept. 2021. All those people who got the first dose of Covishield on 21st-23rd June shall be informed and asked specifically to take their 2nd dose on 17th Sep itself at the same place where they took their first dose, as much as practically possible. (District wise minimum target as per Annexure I) DHS FW shall plan in advance & ensure availability of vaccines, syringes, Gauze, etc to match the requirement of 10 lakh vaccination, considering contingency and enhanced requirement as a buffer in regional stores, as per district wise target and deliver up to each district level by 15th Sept itself. Districts shall notify 4000 CVCs (as per June CVC list) by 13th Sep so that concerned ASHA/ ANM can mobilise potential beneficiaries to come on 17th Sept. Sufficient manpower to give taken to the beneficiary, crowd control, verification of beneficiary, COWIN portal entry, vaccination of supervision for AEFI shall 2 be notified in advance by 14th Sept itself so that all CVCs (400 plus) have dedicated HR for that day without fail. Sufficient IEC at the local level through making, home to home visit NGO/ Health workers shall be undertaken village wise on 14th, 15th & 16th Sept, so that all 9 lakh 2nd dose eligible beneficiaries are fully aware & motivated to attend vaccination. This drive for 2nd dose does not limit 1st dose vaccination. It might be prudent to expect that, as we have approx. 70 lakh persons yet to get the first dose, about 2-3 lakh first dose beneficiaries may also turn up for vaccination and therefore sufficient vaccination provide the first dose should also be kept ready.

Assam wetland neighbours

migratory birds. Assam seeks realignment of rail track through sanctuary. A proposed tunnel in the hilly stretch of the Rani Garbhanga Reserve Forest between two railway barriers would also spell doom for the ecology of the area "in the name of preventive measures", the memorandum said. The track realignment will not only go against the views of the NGT but would also undermine the recommendations of the Wildlife Institute of India, the memorandum said. The issue of the garbage dumping ground on the edge of Deepar Beel was also taken up with Mr. Longvah. Seepages from the dump and sewers from Guwahati have made the Deepar Beel toxic, threatening aquatic life and waterfowl. The wetland expands up to 30 sq. km. in summer and reduces to about 10 sq. km. in winter. A 4.1-sq. km. area within it is the Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary. On August 25, the Environment Ministry had notified an area "to an extent varying from 294 metres to 16.32 km" as the eco-sensitive zone around Deepar Beel. The notified area is 148.9767 sq. km. Having experienced a series of traumatic life events, Alicia found it difficult to provide a stable environment for her children due to PTSD. She asked for help and a community of respite carers reached out with helping hands. A White backed vulture at the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre in Haryana's Pinjore. 8 critically endangered Oriental white-backed vultures fly towards survival from Haryana. Released into the wild year ago, the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre project brings some hope to conservationists. Rescue operation being carried out after two boats collided in the Brahmaputra river, near Neematighat. Majuli awaits bridge initiated twice in 5 years. Amid criticisms, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma says work to start from November with a four-year completion target.

More than 90 crore deposited

the accounts on freeze and stopped withdrawal. When inquired with the parents of the children, they were also unable to reveal the source of the fund. Now, we are investigating the matter to find out who is the sender," said M.K. Madhukar, the LDM of Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank. However, as per latest reports, Udayan Mishra, Katihar DM said, "Branch Manager said their account statement showed this due to an issue in CBS (Core Banking Solutions) system. No money transferred. Issue resolved." Earlier, Ranjit Das of Bihar's Khagaria district had also received Rs 5.5 lakh in his Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank account. Das refused to return the money saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised every citizen to give Rs 15 lakh in their bank accounts and he has received first instalment. After he did not return the amount, bank officials lodged an FIR against Das and he was arrested by Khagaria police.

Bangladeshi nationals entered

arrested two persons named Maqbool Sheikh (48 years) and his son Basir Sheikh (18 years) both original resident of Kathalbari village in Kurigram district of Bangladesh. Police informed preliminary investigation has revealed that they worked as labourers in brick kilns in different parts of India and Nepal. Maqbool has reportedly been staying in India and Nepal since the last 20 to 30 years. He is married to a woman at Dhubri and got arrested when he came to visit his in-laws. Police also arrested two other Indians, Siddique Sheikh and Asadul of Dhubri in suspicion of giving shelter to the arrested Bangladeshi nationals, informed Rozy Rani Sarma, Additional Superintendent of Police, Dhubri.

Assam TET 2021: Application

submit the online application is 25 September while the e-admit cards will be provided to candidates on 10 October. The Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) will be conducted on 24 October. Check steps to apply for Assam TET 2021: Step 1: Visit the official website - <http://ssa.assam.gov.in> Step 2: Search and click the 'Teachers Eligibility Test' section that is available on the homepage Step 3: As a new page opens, hit on 'Click here to apply Online' link which will take the candidate to the external site cetcell.net/TET_2021/ Step 4: Then, click on 'Registration' and an instructions page opens. Kindly read all the instructions given and click on 'Next' Step 5: After clicking on next, the application form will open. Following this, candidates need to enter all details and upload the required documents as mentioned Step 6: Finally, pay the application fee and submit the form. Check the direct link here: https://cetcell.net/TET_2021/ For the unversed, the TET is a state-level exam which is conducted by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Assam. This exam will have two papers, Paper-I for Lower Primary (LP) and Paper-II: Upper Primary (UP). The duration will be for 2 hours and 30 minutes for each Paper, however, additional 20 minutes of time will be given to visually impaired candidates.

Union Minister of Jal Shakti Chairs Conference Of PHED Ministers Of North-Eastern States on Jal Jeevan Mission

Rs. 9,800 Crore allocated as Central grant to NE States under JJM this year



Guwahati, September 16 : The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat chaired a one-day Conference of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Ministers of North-Eastern States on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) here today. The conference was attended by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and Ministers-in-charge of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) from North-Eastern States along with senior officials from each State. Shri Shekhawat in his address said that the success of Jal Jeevan Mission depends on the dedication of all the employees of the department. This Mission will help to improve the quality of life and enhance the ease of living of crores of people in the North eastern region, he said. Talking about the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the country the Minister said that despite Covid-19 pandemic and disruptions the government has provided 4.87 crore new tap water connections in last 22-23 months compared to 3.23 crore connections in 70 years after independence. Shri Shekhawat informed that with Union government's undivided focus on the development of North eastern region of the country, this year Rs 9800 crore has been allocated as central grant for NE states under Jal Jeevan Mission. This enhanced allocation to provide tap water connections to households in NE states, is expected to boost the development of the region, he said. This mission is not only a programme to provide connections, as the primary aim of it is functionality and regular operation and maintenance to achieve assured water supply with quality, quantity and regularity, he added. Reiterating Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for the development of North Eastern States the Ministers said that North East is progressing speedily than the other parts of the country. Shri Shekhawat informed that JJM will help in bridging the gap in urban and rural areas taking forward the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', Jal Jeevan Mission is marching ahead to realize the vision of reaching every home with tap water supply, thereby ending the drudgery faced by women and girls. Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam in his speech said that Jal Jeevan Mission is a very important scheme and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is

putting lot of emphasis for providing clean drinking water to every household of this country. The vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji to ensure potable tap water supply to every rural household and public institutions under Jal Jeevan Mission is a big opportunity for the North Eastern states and we are committed to achieve 100% coverage of the targeted households and public institutions within the stipulated time frame, he said. Shri Sarma also said that for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in the State Central government is providing all the required fund and assistance. Shri Sarma also extended his gratitude towards Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat for holding this conference in Guwahati and said that it has provided a good platform to discuss in detail all key issues and way forward in speedy implementation



of Village Action Plans (VAPs) which will have the components of drinking water source strengthening/ augmentation, water supply infrastructure, grey water treatment & reuse, and operation & maintenance of in-village water supply systems. The States are organizing intensive training and skilling programmes, especially for 5 persons mostly women in every village on water quality surveillance and local persons as masons, plumbers, electricians, motor mechanics, fitter, pump operators, etc, he informed.

CM Dr. Sarma pays rich tributes to Gomdhar Konwar

Announces Rs. 1 crore for Gomdhar Konwar Memorial Committee

STAFF REPORTER

Guwahati, Sept 16: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today paid rich tributes to the statue of Gomdhar Konwar, the Ahom prince who started the first revolt against the British at Gomdhar Konwar Memorial Garden at Mariani in Jorhat today. Speaking at a programme organised by Gomdhar Konwar Memorial Committee, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that Gomdhar Konwar led the state in putting up its first resistance against the British Raj in Assam. Starting a revolt against the British, Gomdhar Konwar showed his love for independence vis a vis his mother land. However, people in the country hardly know about him. Therefore, the State government has taken a resolve to take appropriate steps for due national recognition for this unsung hero. Gomdhar Konwar Memorial

Committee also submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister enlisting their demands. Receiving the memorandum, Chief Minister Sarma for promotion and preservation of some of the actions of the Memorial Committee, announced Rs. 1 crore. Moreover, the State government under Asom Mala scheme would rebuild 'Dhodorali' which is the life line of Mariani. Dr. Sarma also announced that the State government would do the needful for the treatment of Dr. Jintu Hazarika, the eminent dramatist, academician and the founder secretary of Gomdhar Konwar Memorial Committee who is suffering from acute illness. Education Minister Dr. Ranuj Pegu, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Jogen Mohan, MPs Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Topon Kumar Gogoi, former MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi were also present on the occasion.

CM Dr. Sarma lays foundation of Jorhat Govt. Law College

STAFF REPORTER

Guwahati, Sept 16:

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma during his visit to Jorhat laid the foundation of Jorhat Government Law College at Kaliapani in Jorhat district today. It may be noted that the college will be set up with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 14.74 crore with a completion period of 24 months. Speaking at the programme organised on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that true to its commitment to develop the academic landscape of the state, his government has decided to set up law colleges at Dibrugarh, North Lakhimpur, Rangia, Dhubri, Diphu, Silchar, Tezpur, Nalbari and Nagaon. He also said that all the colleges will have all modern facilities to impart law education to the students of the state. He also said that as against the involvement of private organisations in setting up and running law colleges in the past, the government is now taking steps to set up Government Law Colleges which according to him can provide quality law education to the students at comparatively low cost. He said that in the coming days, the State government will set up many more law colleges across the state. The Chief Minister also said that in the wake of National Education Policy 2020, the State government has decided to implement the provisions of the policy across the state to bring about a paradigm shift in the delivery of quality education in the state. He also said that as a part of NEP 2020, three thousand high schools in the state will be upgraded to senior secondary schools within 2022. Dr. Sarma said that the State Government would also increase the number of universities in the state and informed that the government has set a goal to establish one college in each development block to spread higher education among all sections of the youth of the state. Education Minister Dr. Ranuj Pegu also spoke on the occasion. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Jogen Mohan, MPs Tapan Kr. Gogoi and Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLA Renukoma Rajkhowa and former MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi were also present on the occasion.



Flying Finn Ruusuvuori biggest threat for India in Davis Cup tie



London, September 16 : Austria led Finland 2-1 in a Davis Cup World Group Playoff tie in 2019 when Dominic Thiem stepped on court. The World No. 5 was the biggest name in the tie - a two-time French Open finalist at the time - as he prepared to face a little-known player named Emil Ruusuvuori. This was the first time the youngster was up against a top 10 player. But that made little difference to him as he pulled off a 6-3, 6-2 upset. On paper, Austria was expected to run away with the tie. They eventually won 3-2, but only after a deciding set tie-breaker in the fifth match. And it reached that far only because of Ruusuvuori's heroics. "That was a long day, and I didn't expect it," Austrian captain Stefan

Koubek was quoted as saying, Ruusuvuori had already been turning heads through his progress up the charts. He started 2019 ranked 402 and finished it at 121. But it was at the Espoo Metro Areena - a facility used mainly for ice hockey - where he picked up his career's biggest win. On Friday, now ranked 74, he will take to the same court when he leads the Finnish charge against the travelling Indians for a Davis Cup playoff spot. The 22-year-old was just five when he started playing tennis. He was introduced to the sport when a local coach spotted him playing badminton with his mother near their home in Helsinki. Now he is the highest-ranked singles player that will feature in the tie this weekend. The match-

up was originally scheduled for September last year but was delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the interim, Finland's spearhead managed to break into the top 100 for the first time in his career and has never fallen back into three digits for over a week. And there's no surprise in his upward trajectory. Ruusuvuori reached the semi-finals of the Nur Sultan ATP event last year, and also made the last-four stage of ATP events in Winston-Salem and Atlanta in the past few months. And Thiem has not been his only top-10 scalp. In March, competing in his first-ever ATP 1000 Masters, he came from behind to upset then World No. 7 Alexander Zverev in Miami. It was a match that saw the Finn's ability to seamlessly change strategy. In the first set, he tried to redirect Zverev's firepower. When that didn't work, he started to vary his game. His made liberal use of topspin, slice and drop shots. He started to strike the ball early as well, giving Zverev less time to react, and came to the net often to finish off points.

Jordan Henderson fires Liverpool to comeback win after Milan scare

London, September 16 : The Kop reminded Milan of Istanbul before kick-off with a banner that read: "25/05/05 - There are places I remember." Their torment did not cease there. Liverpool rekindled 16-year-old memories on the pitch too with three goals, another comeback and another rollercoaster Champions League win. There were lofty expectations for Group B from the moment a heavyweight draw was made. A high-octane, high quality opener at Anfield exceeded them. Milan initially received a brutal lesson in how elite European football has developed in the seven years since they were last in the Champions League as Jürgen Klopp's side threatened to overwhelm Stefano Pioli's team. Once the visitors adapted, however, they delivered a clinical lesson of their own by capitalising on sloppy Liverpool defending to score twice in three dramatic minutes at the end of the first half. As in the 2005 final, Liverpool headed for half-time shellshocked, trailing and in need of a rethink. Again they found the answers. Jordan Henderson sealed a merited and important win with a fine half volley, the captain's first Champions League goal for 2,485 days, and ultimately the greater European experience in the Liverpool ranks told. Mohamed Salah missed a penalty shortly after Fikayo Tomori's unfortunate own goal but his influence and menace never waned. Salah went on to mark his 100th appearance at Anfield with his 72nd goal on home soil and from that moment on, despite Milan's prevailing threat and growing confidence, the hosts were firmly back in control of an absorbing contest. Anfield was served a treat. The respective managers enjoyed it too. Klopp and Pioli were engaged in a lengthy conversation long after the final whistle, along with the Milan legend Paolo Maldini, and shared a warm embrace before starting their post-match media duties. Liverpool

flew into Milan from Salah's kick-off, feeding off the Anfield atmosphere that was sorely missed during last season's forgettable Champions League campaign behind closed doors. Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson caused all manner of problems with trademark runs from full-back and met surprisingly little resistance from the visitors' compact defence. Salah was another prominent thorn in Milan's side. One ingredient in Liverpool's commanding return before exiting in the second half with cramp. Alexander-Arnold instigated the breakthrough when exchanging passes with Salah and surging into the Milan area. The former Chelsea defender Tomori flew in to intercept Alexander-Arnold's attempted delivery across the face of goal only to deflect the effort up and over his already committed goalkeeper. Liverpool were presented with a glorious



opportunity to double their advantage when Robertson's volley struck the raised arm of Ismaël Bennacer inside the area. The Polish referee immediately pointed to the spot, booked the impressive Milan midfielder and ignored the angry protests that followed. Salah drove his penalty down the centre of the goal, too close to Mike Maignan who pushed the effort away and also foiled Diogo Jota from the follow-up. Mohamed Salah had an eventful night, missing a penalty and then scoring an equaliser. Liverpool were so dominant and dangerous - racking up 13 shots in the opening half hour alone - that the miss felt almost inconsequential. A second would surely come. Yet it assumed an unlikely significance when Milan struck twice in the closing minutes of a half in which they had barely constructed an attack of note. Sharp, incisive passing opened up the right of Liverpool's defence on both occasions. The equaliser arrived from a flowing move out of

defence that ended with Rafael Leão's first-time ball finding Ante Rebic unmarked inside the Liverpool area. The Milan striker instantly tucked his shot beyond the exposed Alisson. Within three minutes the visitors were ahead. Leão weaved his way down the Milan left before finding Rebic in a similar position to his goal. This time Rebic drew Alisson and squared to Theo Hernández, who had joined the attack from left back and saw his anticipated tap-in stopped on the line by Robertson. Brahim Díaz, however, followed up for a simple finish. The look of incredulity across the Liverpool bench was understandable, and shared by everyone else inside the stadium bar the joyous corner from Milan. Simon Kjær thought he had added a third shortly after the restart when Henderson missed an attempted clearance at the near post and the Denmark captain converted at the back. A correct offside flag curtailed the celebrations.

Simone Biles says 'burdens' of Nassar abuse remained with her at Olympics

London, September 16 : Simone Biles offered emotional testimony on Tuesday at a US senate hearing into the Larry Nassar abuse scandal, an episode that rocked the world of gymnastics and involved some of the most famous young athletes in America. Nassar, a former USA Gymnastics team doctor, is serving an effective life sentence after abusing dozens of athletes under his care. Biles and other Olympic gold medalists such as Aly Raisman and McKayla Maroney are among the survivors of the abuse. On Tuesday, they appeared in front of a senate committee to give searing testimony at the hearing into the FBI's failed 2015 investigation into the case. Biles began her testimony with a quote from Nelson Mandela that: "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." She briefly had to pause after becoming overcome with emotion, before she continued. "To be clear, I blame Larry Nassar and I



also blame an entire system that enabled and perpetrated his abuse," she said. "USA Gymnastics and the United States, Olympic and Paralympic Committee knew that I was abused by their official team doctor long before I was ever made aware of their knowledge." The FBI is accused of failing to properly investigate allegations that Nassar was abusing athletes in his care. "Children suffered needlessly because multiple agents in multiple offices at the FBI neglected to share the Nassar allegations with their law enforcement counterparts at state and local agencies," Republican senator Chuck Grassley said in prepared remarks before Tuesday's hearing. Biles, widely regarded as the greatest gymnast of all time, withdrew from several events at this summer's Olympics to maintain her mental health. She acknowledged on Tuesday that the legacy of Nassar's abuse had affected her. "The scars of this horrific abuse continue to live with all of us ... I worked incredibly hard to make sure that my presence

could help maintain a connection between the failures [around the Nassar case] and the competition at Tokyo 2020," she said. "That has proven to be an exceptionally difficult burden for me to carry, particularly when required to travel to Tokyo without the support of any of my family. I am a strong individual and I will persevere, but I never should have been left alone to suffer the abuse of Larry Nassar. And the only reason I did, was because of the failures that lie at the heart of the abuse that you are now asked to investigate." The 24-year-old added that she fears similar cases could arise if proper action is not taken. "Nassar is where he belongs. Those who enabled him deserve to be held accountable. If they are not, I am convinced that this will continue to happen to others across Olympic sports," she said. Meanwhile, Maroney and Raisman described how the FBI had failed to investigate their complaints against Nassar properly. "After telling my entire story of abuse to the FBI in the summer of 2015,

not only did the FBI not report my abuse, but when they eventually documented my report, 17 months later, they made entirely false claims about what I said," Maroney testified. "They chose to fabricate. They chose to lie about what I said and protect a serial child molester rather than protect not only me, but countless others." A US justice department investigation found that Nassar was able to abuse up to 70 athletes between the time the FBI first learned of the allegations and September 2016 when he was fired by his main employer, Michigan State University, after a police report was filed against him. Raisman said that it was not just the FBI that had failed her. "My reports of abuse were not only buried by [USA Gymnastics and the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee], but they were also mishandled by federal law enforcement officers who failed to follow their most basic duties." Raisman described how Nassar's abuse continues to affect her. "I don't think people realize how much it affects us, how much the PTSD, how much the trauma impacts us ... There are times where I feel like I forget what I'm saying. I feel like my mind isn't working. I feel like I have no energy at all. I'm 27 years old and my 80-year-old grandfather has more energy than I do," she said. FBI director Christopher Wray appeared at the hearing and admitted his agency

had failed the survivors of Nassar's abuse. "I want to be crystal clear: The actions and inaction of the FBI employees detailed in this report are totally unacceptable," he said. W. Jay Abbott, the FBI agent in charge of the initial Nassar investigation, retired in 2018 and was not disciplined over his handling of the case. The US Department of Justice inspector general Michael Horowitz said on Tuesday that Abbott had given false information during the investigation. "It is troubling to me to see that an FBI agent who lied, broke the law, knew he was breaking the law - and nothing happens," Vermont senator Patrick Leahy said during the hearing, his voice rising in anger. "I understand the procedure but it bothers me greatly that failures by the FBI field office in Indianapolis delayed the start of the investigation of Larry Nassar's widespread sexual assaults of over 100 victims. And everybody, I don't care where they are on the political spectrum or anything else, had to be torn apart listening to the testimony of these victims this morning." USA Gymnastics has announced a plan to pay a \$215m (£164m) settlement to the athletes abused by Nassar. In February, Li Li Leung, the chief executive of USA Gymnastics, told CBS the organisation recognises "how deeply we have broken the trust of our athletes and community, and are working hard to build that trust back".

Now, I get to bat regularly in the nets, which shows the team trusts me: Shardul Thakur

Mumbai, September 16 : Shardul Thakur has been in good form, continuing his run in Australia to ending the England tour with two half-centuries in the fourth Test win at The Oval. In a chat with The Indian Express, the 29-year-old pacer talks about his rapid improvement with the bat, the Indian team and the atmosphere in the camp when a support staff member tested positive for Covid-19. After the Australia's tour, I was confident that I will do well in England too. Unfortunately, I didn't get to play in the World Test Championship (against New Zealand), but I had been preparing for playing against England since then. I played the first Test in Trent Bridge, did well with the ball but got out early while batting. It can happen to anyone. I was practicing in the nets and putting in the effort with both batting and bowling.

Then I had niggle and knew I won't be playing next game. Overall though it was a good tour for me. When I injured my ankle two years ago, it was decided that I need to take my batting seriously. I had the ability in me and going ahead I wanted to contribute in the lower order. I told myself, kuch bhi ho jaye, batting mein acha karna he padega. In the past, there were opportunities which came with the bat too but somehow, I couldn't make an impact. I told myself 'aisa nahi chalega'. Lower order batsman contributing always helps, and there have been many instances where 40-50 runs make a huge difference. When I made my comeback in the Indian team, I practiced with our throw down specialists Raghu and Nuwan - they are very quick. Initially, I wasn't able to play them. I tried



to improve my footwork when I faced them and slowly-slowly my batting improved. The more I played them the more I got adjusted to the pace. Whatever runs I have scored so far, there has been a process that I have followed, it's not a coincidence or stroke of luck. There have been people from the Indian team management, Virat, Rohit, who kept on motivating me. They all said that whenever I bat, I should think the way batsman think. Once I was in Mahi bhai's (Mahendra Singh Dhoni) room and

holding his bat. He told me that my batting grip is too high and I need to hold it lower to get better control over the shot. Now I hold my bat there and it helps. Were there any instructions for Raghu and Nuwan when you faced them? No. They normally throw quick, sometime it could go over 150 kmph. When I started to face them, they used to start with normal speed and the more I faced them, they used to increase their throw down speed gradually. I just got used to of playing that speed.

'Sreeshankar and I are being singled out for criticism ... but ready to collaborate with experienced coach'



New Delhi, September 16 : One of the country's young track and field stars, long jumper M

Sreeshankar's failure to cross 8 metres at the Tokyo Olympics has cost his coach his job. The Athletics

Federation of India (AFI) has said they had 'changed' his coach S. Murali, who is also the 22-year-old's father. With the AFI scouting for foreign coaches for the next Olympic cycle in events with Indian medal prospects, including the long jump, the father-son association is set to be disbanded. The federation has labelled Murali's coaching methods as 'not professional' and 'not scientific', making clear the

personal coach will be replaced by a national coach for jumps. Murali believes he and his son, the national record holder, are being singled out for criticism despite the latter not being the only Indian athlete missing the final at the Tokyo Olympics. "The AFI's criticism of Sreeshankar's training programme not being professional is unjustified and it hurts to hear such things. He jumped 8.26 metres and set

a new national record this year. He is the country's best prospect for a medal (in long jump) at a major competition. I agree he could not perform up to expectations at the Olympics but there are other reasons for that," Murali told. "To perform with deteriorating health was a tough challenge for him. When an athlete does not do well, the athlete does not suddenly become a bad athlete from a national record holder. In such times, the least

we can expect is support from the federation." AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said on Monday that coach Murali had given it in writing that he would stop coaching Sreeshankar if he did not cross 8 metres at the Tokyo Games. The written undertaking was given after Sreeshankar appeared for trials in the third week of July just before travelling to the Japanese capital. Sreeshankar jumped 7.48 metres at the

trials, which was below his personal best and national record of 8.26 metres set at the Federation Cup in March. At the Olympics, he finished 24th overall with 7.69 metres and did not progress to the final. Sreeshankar training with his father, a former triple jumper, has been a longstanding issue for the AFI, which wants him to move out of his training base in Palghat, Kerala.

Steph Gilmore falls short in record surf title bid as shark halts men's WSL final

London, September 16 :

Carissa Moore clinched her fifth world title leaving Stephanie Gilmore stranded on seven, while Gabriel Medina has won a third men's crown with victory at the World Surf League Finals in California. The world champions were decided for the first time in an epic one-day session at Lower Trestles, California, that featured the top five ranked surfers of the year, with Hawaiian Moore and Brazilian Medina living up to their top billing. Advancing directly to the final as No 1 seeds, Moore overcame Brazilian Tatiana Weston-Webb to defend her title while Medina downed compatriot Felipe Toledo. Gilmore was aiming for a record eighth title to move ahead of Layne Beachley but was a shock elimination in her opening round clash with France's



Johanne Defay. Sally Fitzgibbons missed advancing to the title decider in further heartbreak for Australia, while fifth-seeded rookie Morgan Cibilic was a men's first-round casualty. Gilmore had beaten Defay in their previous three meetings and had high hopes after winning the most recent event in Mexico. She won at Lowers in 2014,

posting a perfect 10 as well as a 9.5 in the final against Fitzgibbons, but was unable to find any waves of that calibre at the famed point break. The 33-year-old's top score was a mere 3.5 for a combined best-two score of 6.7. "It's not my finest moment, that's for sure," a shattered Gilmore said. "It was really tough to pick a great

wave out there - there was like a rip running through the left and it created some ribs on the right and my whole plan was to stick to the rights and try to pick off a clean one. "Fitzgibbons eliminated Defay to book a clash with second-ranked Weston-Webb. A three-time runner-up for the world title who narrowly missed an Olympic

medal in Tokyo, Fitzgibbons had the edge before the Brazilian pulled out a late 8.00 ride to take the win. Hawaii-raised Weston-Webb, who switched her allegiance in 2018, shocked Moore to win the first final in the best-of-three clash. But Olympic champion Moore stormed back with two big scores of 8.93 and 8.33 to level in the second and then got the better of her rival in the deciding heat. "It was a crazy back and forth battle and it didn't really go how I wanted it to at the beginning so I was really happy to fight back," Moore said. "I would not be where I am today without my team, especially my husband who was telling me, 'I believe in you; if anyone can do this you can.' "I was about to have a full meltdown but I was feeling the love and support. "Relishing the high quality conditions which improved through the day, Medina only needed two championship heats to take his title. No 3

seed Toledo earlier ousted reigning world champion Italo Ferreira, who was seeded second. Surfing was paused for 15 minutes during their second heat while an eight foot shark was cleared from the competition area. "A shark has breached the side of the line-up and it's about six to eight foot so we're going to search the line-up and make sure it's gone," WSL head of competition Jessie Miley-Dyer said. Coincidentally Mick Fanning was in commentary at time; the retired Australian three-time world champion famously encountered a shark during competition at Jeffreys Bay in South Africa. Fanning was rattled by the attack, which miraculously left him uninjured, but could now joke about it from the broadcast booth. "They're probably looking for my phone number to light me up - it's your fault," he said of the finalists.

Pro volley league set to resume after a two-year break and in new 'avatar'

London, September 16 :

The Prime Volleyball League (PVL) is expected to resume soon after a two-year hiatus and will be a six-team affair. The PVL follows the National Basketball Association (NBA) model in which franchise owners are also

(www.pistondessport.com) to register and be part of the auction. "We have talent in the country and PVL will be the right kind of platform to grow. This kind of structure, where franchises are committed for the long term gives the game an opportunity to grow in a sustained



stakeholders Bengaluru Torpedoes will be a new franchise and join Calicut Heroes, Kochi Blue Spikers, Ahmedabad Defenders, Hyderabad Black Hawks and Chennai Blitz who changed their names from Chennai Spartans in 2019 and were the champions. The dates for the auction and the schedule for the season will be announced by the PVL soon. To provide opportunities for both upcoming players and coaching staff, the PVL has tied up with Piston Des Sports to create a portal

manner, and that is the best thing possible for Indian volleyball," said Joy Bhattacharya, CEO, PVL. "Our first association began in 2019 was very successful. This is a win-win for both franchises and the players," said Thomas Muthoot, owner of Kochi Blue Spikers. In 2019, Pro Volleyball League with six teams was well accepted by fans. Instead of Bengaluru Torpedoes, U Mumba were the sixth team then and played on a single round-robin basis consisting of 15 five-set matches but was restricted to two centres, Kochi and Chennai, instead of home and away format. Chennai Spartans emerged champions. In 2011, Indian Volleyball League with six teams was launched in a humble way but folded up soon.

Tactical blunder impacted Ash Barty at US Open, says tennis world No 1's coach

London, September 16 :

Ash Barty's coach has revealed how he made a tactical and technical change that impacted the world No 1's serving before her shock third-round loss at last week's US Open. But Craig Tyzzer stressed the change-up did not cost his star charge the match against inspired American Shelby Rogers and that there were no excuses from Team Barty. With player and coach finding the conditions at Flushing



Meadows vastly different to where the Australian won her fifth title of the season in Cincinnati, Tyzzer opted to change the top seed's racket strings before playing Rogers. "Look, it was super different conditions," Tyzzer told AAP. "The men use a different ball to the women at the US Open and the women's ball is really light and it gets faster. All the stats show that most of the girls, when the ball got older, their actual shots got faster." "It was super tough to control the ball and to keep it in the court and I actually, for her third-round match, took the gut out of her racket because she was struggling in the first two rounds to keep the ball in court." "I mean, she did a great job getting through. She literally could not get the ball up and down with any sort of spin. So we put full poly in her racket for her third-round match in the hope that she could just get a little bit more feel. It took a bit of weight off her serve, which is not ideal for her, just to give her that confidence in being able to hit off the ground and play." "With Barty making a raft of unforced errors in dropping the opening set 6-2 to Rogers, the tinker may have affected the title favourite's rhythm. But while he took full responsibility, Tyzzer said neither he nor Barty blamed the change for her defeat.

Dozens more female footballers and family members escape Afghanistan

Kabul, September 16 :

More than 96 female footballers and their family members have fled across the border of Afghanistan to Pakistan with the help of the Pakistan football federation. The evacuation comes just over two weeks after the final US flights left Kabul airport, ending 20 years of military involvement in the country. The group includes a number of national team players unable to escape in the first round of evacuations, members of the youth



team and members of the Herat team that won the Afghan Women's Premier League in October 2020. The team from the Herat

province in north-west Afghanistan had been displaced after some had houses burned down and family members were caught by the Taliban. They hid in Kabul while awaiting help in getting out. According to the former national team captain Khalida Popal, part of the team that helped get between 100 and 200 athletes out of the country on planes last month, three days ago a small group of the players' fathers and brothers in hiding were caught by the Taliban as they

waited to escape. "It was the toughest thing to tell the players to not look back," she said. "They were crying, they are still crying. It was very difficult to get them to the border." The CEO of the RokiT Foundation, Siu-Anne Marie Gill, who helped the efforts, said: "Waiting for the news that they had crossed the border after getting stuck in no man's land was one of the hardest emotional hours of my life." The entire team went silent while we waited to see any calls coming in

to say they were safe. I'm truly humbled by these young girls' and their families' show of strength and courage to fight for life. It gave us all strength. "The group was able to get out with the support of the former Pakistan football federation vice-president Sardar Naveed and the Pakistan embassy, which granted temporary visas. Last week, the Taliban announced that women would be banned from participating in all sports.

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১৭ ছেপ্টেম্বৰ, ২০২১



আজি ভাদ মাহৰ শুক্লা একাদশী তিথিত অসমৰ চাহ জনজাতি আদিবাসী প্রমুখ্যে
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সঞ্জয় কিষণ

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