

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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'Dangerous game': Labor accuses Scott Morrison of wanting to...

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Depay on spot as Xavi's Barcelona era starts with win over...



NEWS IN BRIEF

Parag Kumar Das Memorial Debate

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 21 :

Parag Kumar Das Memorial Debate competition is being held every year since 1997, in memory of late journalist, Parag Kumar Das who was assassinated in broad daylight in 1996. The Parag Kumar Das Memorial Debate Competition was held for the final time today at Guwahati's Rabindra Bhawan. The competition was held on the Silver Jubilee year of the competition that was started in 1997. Around 500 debaters from different parts of the world took part in the competition which was also held online on 'Zoom' platform. Prashant Kumar Deka, former High Court judge presided over the competition.

Mother, Daughter Commit Suicide

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 21 :

Mother, Daughter Commit Suicide in the tea estate area in Assam and the police have detained the husband, Pritil Ekka for questioning in the matter. In a shocking incident, a mother and a daughter were found dead inside a room in their house in Mariani's Naginjan tea estate in Assam. Mystery surrounds the incident that occurred on Saturday night as the two reportedly committed suicide. The bodies of the woman, identified as Sunita Ekka, wife of Pritil Ekka, and their three-year-old daughter, were reportedly recovered by the police from a room in their house.

Mountaineering training

Assam Rising, Reporter Golaghat, November 21 :

The Assam Mountaineering Association (AMA) announced plans to organise a training program for the youth, commencing from November 28. The AMA, a pioneer organisation in the field of promoting mountaineering and adventure sports in the northeast, announced a five-day course starting November 28 for the youth. The course will be conducted for those between 14 years to 45 years of age.

Navy inducts INS Visakhapatnam, India's first stealth guided-missile destroyer

New Delhi, November 21 :

The Indian Navy's firepower got a major boost with the induction of INS Visakhapatnam, one of the



CM Dr. Sarma lays foundation stone of Auniati University

Inaugurates auditorium at JEC

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 21 :

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today inaugurated the newly built auditorium at Jorhat Engineering College. The state-of-the-art modern auditorium was constructed with Rs 4.65 crore donated by Oil India Ltd under CSR. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that engineering colleges of the state must strive for achieving excellence of the IIT level while continuously engaging in research and innovation. He called on the young engineers to take up the challenge of breaking free from traditional practices while endeavoring to bring innovation to every-



day life. He announced that Rs. 25 crore would be provided to JEC for research, innovation and incubation. Saying that technology has advanced so much that the new age engineers in the state must try to adapt themselves in tune with latest

technologies while continuously trying to upgrade their skills and knowledge. He said that in construction of roads, bridges and houses traditional practices are still being followed and he called on the engineers to make technology cost effective

and explore ways of utilizing local resources like bamboo in various construction purposes. He said the engineers in the state must strive towards bringing the latest technologies while intellectually contributing to India's journey of growth. The Chief

Minister also informed that from next year the process of faculty recruitment in engineering colleges and technical institutes would be streamlined for filling up the vacancies every year. He thanked JEC and OIL for naming the auditorium after ex-student of JEC and an OIL employee Arnab Kishore Bordoloi who lost his life in

Union Cabinet may meet on Nov. 24 to approve repeal of farm laws

New Delhi, November 21 :

The Union Cabinet is likely to discuss the withdrawal of the three contentious farm laws at a meeting on Wednesday, people familiar with the development told national media. They also hinted that the Cabinet is expected to discuss the introduction of a new bill during the Winter Session to repeal the three laws. During his address to the nation on the occasion of Guru Parab on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra



Modi announced his government's decision to withdraw the three farm bills. The government intro-

duced the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, the Farmers (Empower-

ment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance, and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 during Parliament's Monsoon Session in 2020. Soon after the introduction of the laws, hundreds and thousands of farmers gathered at Delhi's border from neighbouring Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for almost a year demanding the repeal of these laws. In a meeting held earlier

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AASU demands for repealing of Citizenship Amendment Act like the three farms law

Assam Rising, Reporter Golaghat, November 21 :

The decision of the Central government to repeal the three farm laws after year-long protests may revive the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) movement once again in Assam with the powerful All Assam Students Union (Aasu) asserting that like the three farm laws, the Central government will have to repeal the "anti-people CAA". The Aasu reiterated that its movement against the "black law" which has been imposed forcefully would continue. Pointing out that repeal of the three farm laws was a victory of farmers and their democratic protest, the students union which was in the forefront of the anti-CAA



movement in the state, said that the entire episode of imposing and repealing the farm laws has once again exposed the "arrogant and fascist" nature of the BJP government. "With the Prime Minister's announcement on three farm laws, it is clear that the Central government was compelled to bow its head before the resolute farmers and their continuous protests. The anti-CAA move-

ment in Assam will also continue till the Act is repealed," Aasu adviser Samujjal Bhattacharyya told reporters. "The CAA was passed in 2019. Several north-eastern states were excluded from the purview of the act. In Assam also, Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) and other 6th schedule areas don't fall under the ambit of CAA. However if the Act is forced on the people of

other districts of the state, it is obviously not only extreme injustice but would also affect the other north-eastern states adversely," said Aasu president Dipanka Kumar Nath. Aasu general secretary Sankor Jyoti Baruah said, "The CAA is not just anti-people, it is also unconstitutional and communal. It is a threat to indigenous culture and ethnicity. There is not a single valid reason for the government to remain adamant on enforcing this law." Meanwhile, the Coordination Committee Against Citizenship Amendment Act, Assam, has also reiterated that it would intensify stir against CAA. The committee has already announced to hold a massive protest against CAA on December 12 which coincides

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Assam-Nagaland border dispute

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma met Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio at Jorhat

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 21 :

Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday met his Nagaland counterpart Neiphiu Rio at Jorhat, Assam to discuss several issues of mutual interest in order to strengthen the age-old ties and friendly relation between the two states. Taking to his Twitter CM Sarma wrote, "Glad to have met HCM Nagaland Sri @Neiphiu_Rio at Jorhat today, along with MP Sri @KamakhyaTasa. Discussed several issues of mutual interest in order to strengthen the age-old ties & bonhomie b/w two states. We strive towards building an ever united & stronger #NorthEast." Earlier on July 31, The Chief Secretaries of Assam and Nagaland on signed an agreement to de-escalate the tense situation



prevailing at two locations in the Desso valley forest/ Tsurangkong valley by simultaneously withdrawing security forces within the next 24 hours. Both sides agreed that in order to maintain peace and tranquility in the areas around Ao Senden village and Vikuto village as they are known in Nagaland and called as Jankhona Nala / Nagajankha and Compartment No. 12 respectively in Assam, urgent and effective steps are required for defusing the standoff between the security forces of Nagaland and Assam.

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15 Ministers To Join Team Ashok Gehlot Today In Rajasthan Balancing Act

Jaipur, November 21 :

Five Sachin Pilot loyalists will be among the 30 ministers in Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's refreshed cabinet, it was revealed Saturday night. Mr Gehlot's new-look cabinet also have 15 new faces, four of whom will be junior ministers. Of the five MLAs loyal to former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot - whose rebellion last year almost cost the Congress its government - Hemaram Choudhary,



Vishvendra Singh and Ramesh Meena will be sworn in as ministers. Brijendra Singh Ola and Murari Lal Meena will be sworn in as Ministers of State. Vishvendra Singh - a two-

time MLA from Deeg-Kumher - and Ramesh Meena - the MLA from Sapotra - make a triumphant return to the Rajasthan cabi

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Students from Bhutan will get Quota in Assam medical colleges

Assam Rising, Reporter Golaghat, November 21 :

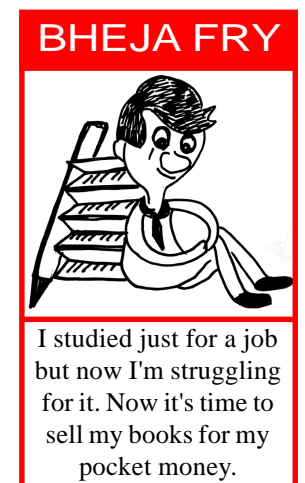
The Assam government has reserved two seats for students of Bhutan in the state medical colleges from this academic year to foster ties between the two countries. Ruchira Kamboj, India's Ambassador to Bhutan announced the same via Twitter. "The Assam Government has allocated two MBBS seats for #Bhutan from this academic year, to foster the vibrant people-to-people ties between our two countries # Mesmerising Assam #Bhutan," Kamboj tweeted. An Assam govern-



ment official had said that the request for the reservation of seats for the students of Bhutan was placed before the Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma by the Consul General of Bhutan in Guwahati Phub Tshering a

couple of months ago, reported PTI. The Consul Gen

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Swachh Survekshan - 2021 : Tezpur Wins Cleanest City

Assam Rising, Reporter Golaghat, November 21 :

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India declared the results of the Swachh Survekshan-2021 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The results of the survey were declared during an award ceremony, Swachh Amrit Mahotsav. From Assam, a total of 96 Urban Local

Bodies actively participated in the cleanliness survey for sustaining the gains under Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM - U). The results for the 6th edition of the world's largest urban cleanliness survey were announced by President Ram Nath Kovind. The "Swachh Survekshan", a cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs every year, ranks cities/towns on cleanliness parameters. A

total of 4320 cities, 62 cantonment boards, and 97 Ganga towns were surveyed under the program with participation from 4.2 crore citizens. From Assam, a total of 96 Urban Local Bodies actively participated in the cleanliness survey for sustaining the gains under Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM - U). The concept of Swachh was also institutionalised while amongst the local

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Fox News to interview Kyle Rittenhouse amid protests over not guilty verdict

London, November 21 : Kyle Rittenhouse, the teenager acquitted of murdering two men during anti-racism protests, is set to appear next week on Fox News's Tucker Carlson show amid fears that the not guilty verdict in the Kenosha killings might encourage militia violence. Rittenhouse's shooting of three people, including two he killed, during demonstrations in the Wisconsin city split the US. For some it made him a vigilante out to make trouble while for others he was a gun-toting hero defending property from a mob. Rittenhouse became a heroic figure for conservatives during his trial as many rightwing figures raised money for his legal defense. His coming interview by Carlson - one of Fox's most



controversial and extreme hosts - is likely to cement that popularity. The Monday night sit down is already being heavily promoted by the conservative channel. Carlson has risen to prominence as the most influential media figure for conservatives, even amid numerous controversies. Carlson has advocated for

multiple baseless conspiracy theories on his show and been condemned for dog-whistling racism. The Fox News host is releasing a series that argues that the 6 January Capitol insurrection was orchestrated by leftist Antifa group. He has also bemoaned the Democratic party for trying to "replace the current electorate" with

"voters from the third world" through immigration policies: what is known as the "great replacement theory" that has originated in the far right. The Fox News host appears to not only have interviewed Rittenhouse for the show, but has also filmed a short documentary on Rittenhouse during his trial. A clip of Rittenhouse in the backseat of a car, seemingly right after his not guilty verdict, was previewed on Carlson's show Friday night. "The jury reached the correct verdict. Self defense is not illegal," Rittenhouse says in the clip. Mark Richards, an attorney for Rittenhouse, told CNN's Chris Cuomo that a Fox film crew was embedded with the defense team for the duration of the trial, which Richards did not approve of. "I threw them out of the room several times," Richards said.

"I don't think a film crew is appropriate for something like this," Richards told Cuomo that the people who fundraised for Rittenhouse's defense were "trying to raise money" and that Rittenhouse's family and his advisers approved of the film crew being there during the trial. In the aftermath of the Rittenhouse verdict and the success of his self-defense argument, some experts have raised concerns that Rittenhouse's verdict will empower extremist movements and provoke violence in the name of vigilantism. "It has never taken more than a whisper of approval to fan the flames of militant right action, and the Kenosha acquittal is a shout," wrote Kathleen Belwe, a historian who studies the white power movement, on Twitter.



Palestinians are seen inside al-Maldives restaurant rebuilt after it was destroyed in Israeli airstrikes last May, in Gaza City

'Dangerous game': Labor accuses Scott Morrison of wanting to 'embrace' views of anti-vaccine protests

Melbourn, November 21 : Labor's shadow treasurer Jim Chalmers has blasted prime minister Scott Morrison for wanting to "embrace" the violent politics of anti-vaccine protests, accusing him of trying to divide the country for political gain. After mass "freedom" rallies held across the country on Saturday, Chalmers said Morrison's failure to strongly condemn the violent threats seen in Victoria last week was a "dangerous game with dangerous consequences". "What the prime minister is doing is he's trying to divide us and he's trying to diminish that collective effort and undermine all of the good and all of the progress that Australians have made together," Chalmers told the ABC's Insiders program on Sunday. "He does that with this dangerous, dog-whistling doublespeak that we see from him. He does it by claiming credit for high vaccination rates without taking responsibility for the measures that are necessary

to get those rates up." And I think what's especially troubling to mainstream Australia is the rest of us see the kind of violent politics



that has emerged in the United States in the last couple of years and we want to reject it, and the prime minister seems to want to embrace those kind of violent views and violent threats. If he wants to keep playing this

dangerous game with dangerous consequences, then the country doesn't just have an opportunity to throw him out of the election, they've got an obligation to do that." Chalmers said he condemned "without reservation, without qualification" the threats being made in the anti-government protests, which have included calls for premiers to be hanged and protesters in Melbourne parading with gallows and nooses. But the broadside from Chalmers came as the employment minister, Stuart Robert, doubled down on remarks made by Morrison last week. Morrison's comments were seen as siding with the protesters, saying governments should not be "telling Australians what to do". "The Doherty modelling makes it clear - and it's locked in place with the national plan - that at 80% we want freedoms to open up," Robert told Sky News. "Let business determine their own risks and let's get governments out of their lives."

Planned Virginia Woolf statue challenged as insensitive

Paris, November 21 : Concerns have been raised about a planned statue of Virginia Woolf overlooking the Thames, which has been called insensitive because of the way she killed herself. The memorial the author, designed by Laury Dizengremel, would be positioned on a park bench overlooking the river on

chair of the Richmond Society, said the group had suggested three alternative locations in Richmond where she lived until 1924, when she moved to Tavistock Square in central London. Woolf was part of the influential Bloomsbury Group and is considered one of the 20th century's most important



Richmond riverside in south-west London, where she lived for about a decade from 1914. Woolf killed herself by drowning in the River Ouse near Lewes in East Sussex in March 1941 aged 59. Richmond council's environment, sustainability, culture and sports committee approved plans for the statue on Thursday, but a local conservation group said it feared its positioning was in poor taste given the nature of her death. Barry May, the

authors, pioneering a non-linear approach to narrative. She and her husband, Leonard Woolf, founded Hogarth Press in 1917. She had problems with mental illness throughout her life. "Given the manner of her illness and eventually the way that she died... it struck us as a little bit insensitive to have this statue and figure of Virginia Woolf seated on a bench gazing over the water," May said. "We support proposals for a

statue for her somewhere, we thought she should be commemorated somewhere, nothing wrong with that. It's just when it overlooks the river. "The only current memorial to Woolf in Richmond is an English Heritage blue plaque on Hogarth House where she and Leonard founded their publishing house. Aurora Metro, the south-west London publishing house campaigning and fundraising for the statue, received a slew of donations after the controversial unveiling of a statue honouring Mary Wollstonecraft in Newington Green, north London in 2020. It has raised £35,000 of the £50,000 needed for the bronze since 2017. An audit of statues in London in October found there were more depictions of animals than named women on the capital's streets. Only 4% of the 1,500 monuments are dedicated to women. Charlotte Banks, from Aurora Metro, told the meeting at Richmond council: "Efforts by the Richmond Society to change the location of the statue which has been chosen for many practical reasons ... comes across as an attempt to push people like her out of sight."

App outage locks hundreds of Tesla drivers out of cars

London, November 21 : Hundreds of Tesla drivers were locked out of their cars at the start of the weekend after the manufacturer's mobile app suffered an outage - and dozens voiced their complaints on social media. Elon Musk, Tesla's chief executive, said on Friday that the company's mobile application was coming back online after the app server outage. Musk was responding to a Tesla owner's tweet, who said that he was experiencing a "500 server error" to connect his Model 3 through the iOS app in Seoul, South Korea. Should be coming back online now.

Looks like we may have accidentally increased verbosity of network traffic. "Should be coming back online now. Looks like we may have accidentally increased verbosity of network traffic," Musk said. The outage was first reported by specialist electric vehicle website Electrek, which started receiving reports from Tesla owners in the US and Canada, then from Europe and Asia. About 500 users reported they faced an error at about 4.40pm ET (9.40pm GMT), according to outage monitoring website Downdetector, which tracks outages by collating status

reports from a series of sources, including user-submitted errors on its platform. There were just over 60 reports by about 9.20pm ET. "Apologies, we will take measures to ensure this doesn't happen again," Musk said on Twitter. According to Electrek, Tesla's systems rarely have outages, though the website said that, in September 2020, the company had experienced a complete outage of both its customer-facing servers and internal system for several hours. Stuart Masson, editor of the Car Expert website, told the BBC that Tesla drivers were not entirely reliant on the app.



The scenery at Wadi Degla natural protectorate in Cairo, Egypt

India witnesses slight increase in COVID-19 infections, records 10,488 new cases, 313 deaths

New Delhi, November 21 : India recorded 10,488 new COVID-19 cases, 313 deaths in the last 24 hours, pushing the overall caseload to 3,45,10,413 and the total death toll to 4,65,662, as per data released by the Ministry of Health on Sunday (November 21, 2021). The country also recorded 12,329 recoveries today taking the total recoveries in the country to 3,39,22,037. The active cases declined to 1,22,714, the lowest in 532 days. A decrease of 2,154

cases has been recorded in the active number of COVID-19 cases in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate, at 0.98 percent, remained less than 2 percent for the last 48 days, the health ministry said. Additionally, a total of 63,16,49,378 samples have been tested for COVID-19 infections so far, of which, 10,74,099 were tested on Saturday, the Indian Council of Medical Research said. India has administered as many as 1,16,50,55,210 vaccinations to date.

The diversity report submitted to the FA contains racist comments



London, November 21 : A dossier compiled by match officials, and seen by the Observer, alleges that racism in the Football Association's refereeing system is undermining efforts by black and Asian people to reach the highest

levels of the game. The diversity report submitted to the FA contains racist comments allegedly made by the observers who assess referees for promotion to the higher leagues. The FA is now facing calls for an urgent

inquiry. Tony Burnett, chief executive of the anti-racism charity Kick It Out, said: "The lack of diversity in refereeing is our biggest failure in football. Black and Asian people are not getting through to elite refereeing." A report

presented to the FA highlights allegations of racism among observers who mark referees for promotion. One observer is alleged to have told one referee: "You lot can all run fast, but that's all you are good for." The lower levels of the refereeing system have been dubbed by some referees from ethnic minorities the "black man's graveyard" because of allegations they are blocked by a small number of white assessors from reaching the highest levels. There are no black or Asian referees officiating in the Premier League or Championship. There are just four referees from ethnic minorities officiating in the country's top seven divisions. The FA's 14-member referee committee, which has the task of improving diversity in the 24,500-strong referee workforce has no black or Asian representatives. A 2015 FA report on diversity in refereeing, Widening the Net, set a target of 10% of its referee workforce being from ethnic minorities. The FA says ethnic minorities among referees has risen

from about 4% in 2015 to about 8%. Joel Mannix, chair of the Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage Ethnicity (BAME) Referee Support Group and one of the highest-ranked black referees in the country, said: "You've got observers who are racist and they are marking down officials on their colour." He said reforms need to focus on representation, recruitment and retention. The group submitted a diversity report last year to the FA that detailed alleged racist comments by observers. It compiled the report from referees from ethnic minorities to show the racial discrimination faced out by some referees. The report set out a road plan for reform. The BAME Referee Support Group now wants the FA to publish a detailed breakdown of the number of referees from ethnic minorities officiating across the various divisions. The Observer understands that referees have also compiled evidence on one observer, including video footage seen by the newspaper, who is alleged to have made racist comments.

Western Canada braces for new 'atmospheric river', as three more bodies recovered from mudslides

Toronto, November 21: More rain is forecast for British Columbia, where a state of emergency has been declared after record downpours. A house surrounded by floodwaters in Chilliwack after record rainfall across the Canadian province of British Columbia. Searchers located three bodies swept away by landslides in British Columbia, officials said on Saturday, after record rainfall that paralysed parts of the province and led to food and fuel shortages. Canada's westernmost province declared a state of emergency after a phenomenon known as an "atmospheric river" brought a month's worth of rain in two days. The rainfall

washed out roads and railways, cutting off Vancouver and the lower mainland region from the rest of the country, and blocking access to some towns entirely. Another similar weather system is forecast to hit northern British Columbia on Sunday and bring heavy rains to the lower mainland, according to Environment Canada. In this aerial photo, damage caused by heavy rains and mudslides earlier in the week is pictured along the Coquihalla Highway near Hope, British Columbia. The province imposed temporary restrictions on fuel and non-essential travel on Friday to ease supply chain disruptions and aid recovery work. Three

more bodies were found, in addition to one located on Monday, and efforts to reach a fifth person caught in a mudslide have been unsuccessful, the province's chief coroner said on Saturday. "This has been an incredibly difficult year for all of us in BC, and my heart goes out to the many families and communities who have suffered tragic losses," Lisa Lapointe said in a statement. The storms, which started last Sunday, forced the closure of the Trans Mountain pipeline and cut two critical east-west rail lines leading to Canada's busiest port of Vancouver, impeding the supply of fuel and goods.

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Assam Governor addresses valedictory session of NE Education Conclave

Assam Rising, Reporter
Guwahati, November 21 :

Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi said that the New Education Policy 2020 has the potential to help India rediscover its old glory besides providing high-quality educational opportunities to the youths to determine the future of the country. Speaking at the valedictory session of the North East Education Conclave on NEP 2020 at GMCH auditorium here today, Governor Prof. Mukhi said, "India has the reputation of developing apart from philosophy and mathematics, science and technology of a very high order, which had attracted scholars from all over the world." He moreover said that the NEP 2020 has been envisioned to help the country to rediscover its old glory. Complementing the NEP 2020 as



the springboard for enabling universal access to quality education, the Governor said that the new education policy will be the key to India's leadership on the global stage in terms of economic growth, social justice and scientific advancement among others. He said that over the next decade or two, India will have the highest population of young people who will achieve working age. He said that the new education policy's inherent quality to help the country to rediscover its old glory. Complementing the NEP 2020 as

determine the future of India. The policy is essentially based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities of higher order but also social, ethical and emotional capacities and disposition. The rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian knowledge and thought has been the guiding light for this Policy, the Governor added. Prof. Mukhi further stated that this Education Policy has been formulated after an unprecedented and extensive process of consulta-

tions. Suggestions were received from all sections of the society. Due to such a nationwide and extensive participation, this Education Policy truly embodies national expectations and solutions. This Education Policy will be able to take the countrymen, especially the youth forward in accordance with the needs and aspirations of the 21st century. It is not only a policy document, but a reflection of the aspirations of the learners and citizens of India. Hailing the State government and Sankardev Education and Research Foundation for organizing the conclave, the Governor said, "It is the duty of all states to make good use of the opportunity and contribute to the success of the NEP 2020. He also said Assam has initiated several steps for implementing National Education Policy

with many key decisions. The State government has notified a High Level Committee which has already submitted its recommendations based on NEP trackers. He exuded confidence that if the right efforts are made, NEP will be a game changer to shape the next generation of students. Education Minister Dr. Ranuj Pegu, Advisor Education Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta, Principal Secretary Education Department, Dr. B Kalyan Chakravarty, Chairman of AICTE Prof. Anil Shahshrabudhe, President of Vidya Bharati Shri Ramakrishna Rao, President Shankardev Education and Research Foundation Prof. Ramananda Das, Secretary Shankardev Education and Research Foundation Prof. Amlanand Das were also present during the valedictory function.

Fresher's Social and Felicitation Ceremony in LTK College

Assam Rising, Correspondent
North Lakhimpur, November 21 :

The Department of Mathematics of Lakhimpur Telahi Kamalaboria (LTK) College, North Lakhimpur, organised the departmental Fresher's Social and Felicitation Ceremony in the college on Saturday. The event, anchored by degree 3rd semester student Sourabhijyoti Phukan, was begun with a chorus. The main meeting was held under the management of the Head of the Mathematics Department Manas Pratim Borah where the Principal of the college Dr. Bubul Kumar Saikia delivered the inauguration speech. In his speech, the Principal told the students about the eight important habits that they should follow to be strong in intellectual and mental aspects. Vice-Principal of the college Dr. Ramesh Kumar Kakati, in his lecture, urged the students not to do any bad work least

in a day. He also urged the students to refrain from the abuses of mobile phones. Attending in the meeting as the eminent guests, IQAC coordinator of the college Biju Kumar Sonowal and Head of the Political Science Department

ment Manas Pratim Borah briefed up on the Mathematics Department of the college. In the Felicitation Ceremony, the 37 students who secured first class in the final degree examination-2021 in the Mathematics (Honours) course from the college were felicitated. Satyajit Borah, a student of LTK College, who



ment of the college Prafulla Nath lectured on several educational topics. As the Head of the Mathematics Department

enlisted his name in the Assam Book of Records by drawing a unique portrait of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika with the names of 195 countries of the world, was also felicitated. Assistant professors of LTK College Badan Kalita, Diganta Saikia and Lopmudra Mahanta also delivered fruitful lectures to the students in the event. Assistant professors of the college Dr. Runali Goswami, Swapnali Borgohain, Archana Borah, Rinku Dutta, Juli Gohain Neog, Prabhat Saikia, Monuj Neog, Sumi Paul and Priyanka Dutta were present in the event, along with about hundred students.

USTM organized talk on NEP-2020 & its implementation

Assam Rising, Reporter
Guwahati, November 21 :

The essence of the new National Education Policy is to groom students as global citizens by providing choice based education with focus on skill development and value based learning in a

ers and staff and lectured on the new education policy. The UGC Chairman appreciated and congratulated the USTM family for the recent accreditation of 'A' grade by NAAC and said, "USTM's commitment for tribal development, promotion of girl child education, rural stu-

wealth for the country." He also appreciated that the Chairman of NAAC peer team has announced that USTM has the potential to be awarded A++ in the next cycle of NAAC inspection in 2026. Prof DP Agrawal also interacted with the students of USTM who are preparing for the UPSC exam. Earlier, welcoming the delegates and participants of the gathering, Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM said that the visits of UGC chairman are remarkable and extraordinary for any higher educational institution. "We aspire to become a world class university and appeal to all the stakeholders to join us in our endeavor to transform this university into a world class institution and participate in the nation-building process. I am happy for the recent award of Grade-A by NAAC to USTM and extend my gratitude to the Government of Meghalaya for supporting us in the creation of USTM. We will further develop the university to make it a centre of excellence", he added. Delivering the vote of thanks, Prof G D Sharma, VC of USTM said that USTM has recently opened an International Affairs Cell for exchange programs of students with other institutions in the country and abroad.



holistic way, and here in the North East India the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) can act as a catalyst to transform the education scenario. This was stated by Prof DP Singh, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) as he delivered a talk on "National Education Policy-2020 and its implementation" here today. Prof Singh also unveiled a statue of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam apart from inaugurating the new Block-I at the university. The programme was organized by USTM and was also participated by Prof D P Agrawal, Former Chairman, UPSC who addressed the students, teach-

dents, its Pay Back policy, free education for the meritorious poor students, scholarships etc. represent the vision of higher education in NE India. The university is expanding its wings of higher education globally through various MOUs with great institutions in the country and abroad." Speaking on the occasion, the former UPSC Chairman Prof D P Agrawal said, "NEP emphasizes that all the education policies in the future will be outcome based. Choice based curriculum will be beneficial for bringing out the quality of the students and inculcate in them a sense of belongingness and create

Luminous distribution center inaugurated

Assam Rising, Correspondent
North Lakhimpur, November 21 :

Luminous, which is under the Schneider company who is continuing the trend of research and development in five countries of the world, opened its 8th distribution center of Assam in North Lakhimpur town today. It is to be mentioned that the popular battery and inverter company named Luminous has launched

another battery and inverter named AMAGE in India along with opening of its distribution centers across Assam. Eminent businessmen of North Lakhimpur Jagdish Bajaj inaugurated the distribution center of this new commodity at Maruti Sales, a commercial institution owned by Pawan Sarda of North Lakhimpur. "AMAGE battery and in-

verter are made by excellent technology and it has already captured the market. This battery and inverter which have maximum five years warranty will challenge to any kind of branded company imminently," attending in the launching event Luminous Power Technology Private Limited Regional Head Dipak Kumar told on behalf of the AMAGE.

Covid Awareness programme at Silapathar

Assam Rising, Correspondent
Dhemaji, November 21 :

The TMPK initiative was held at Namoni Sissitongani in Silapathar area today at a focused seminar on 'Educational Issues and Possibilities in The Civil Situation'. Eminent social activist Harinath Pegu conducted the seminar held at the TMPK office and in col-



laboration with the brother's association. Retired head-

attended the meeting to explain the objectives of regional president Lakhminath Pegu and secretary Tilen Pegu at the Namoni TMPK's Sissitongani. In the presence of teachers, school management committees, social workers and community leader activists of various schools in the area, the content persons spent a lot of time on the subject matter and offered a focused discussion.

24th Loum Bango Culture Sports & Cultural Festival

Assam Rising, Reporter
Yomcha, November 21 :

The 24th Loum Bango Sports & Cultural festival got off to flying start after its inauguration by West Siang Deputy Commissioner Panga Tato at General Ground Yomcha on November 21 last.



The six day long event will open up wide range of cultural and sports competition among villages falling under Loum Bango under ADC headquarters Yomcha. Unfurling the Festival Flag and administering the oath to participants as the Chief Guest, the DC lauded the effort of

the Loum Bango people for hosting the meet for 24 times to hunt sports and cultural talents from the areas. Games and sports are of paramount importance today and age old culture emits distinct identity for us. He urged the GBs to keep alive the institution of GB through fair delivery of

justice so that poor people do not hanker after courts to settle even petty issues and public to take up development issues in the right perspective for over all development of the area. He urged all participants to take up the six day event without with sportsmanship spirit without creating law and order problem. Gijum Tali. DIPRO who attended the Festival as Guest of Honour also spoke on values of games and sports in life, inculcate values of life and maintain that beautiful age old culture that offers striking features of unity in diversity in our state. The Chairman LBS & CF cum ADC Yomcha Shri Hento Karga said that such event drawing mass participation is effort toward searching the talents in the interior areas and promote unity and oneness among the people. The Organizing Secretary LBS & CF Ligom Yomgam and Kartum Yomcha highlighted the various games, sports and cultural competition to be showcased in the six day event and expressed their gratitude to all for making the day colorful. Football for men and volleyball for women were organized on the inaugural day.

FORM G INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor	Cyflife Retail Private Limited
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	17/10/2006
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC-Kolkata
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U52100WB2008PTC111555
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Present Address: K.M.C Premises No. 14, Congress Exhibition Road, Kolkata 70017, West Bengal Old Address: Express Tower, 42A Shakespeare Square, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700017 31st May 2021
6. Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	22nd November, 2021
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest	22nd November, 2021
8. Eligibility criteria for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	The eligibility criteria is mentioned in the detailed Expression of Interest process document, any of which can be sought by email to corp.chyflife@gmail.com Available on the website of IBSI (https://ibsi.gov.in/legal-framework/) or request by email to corp.chyflife@gmail.com
9. Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 28A are available at:	
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	07th December, 2021
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	13th December, 2021
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	18th December, 2021
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	18th December, 2021
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	14th December, 2021
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Will be shared in electronic form with eligible prospective resolution applicant
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans	13th January, 2022
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	In a sealed envelope by post/hand as well as Digitally scanned Copy
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	31st January, 2022 (Subject to the Extension and Extension to be granted by the Hon'ble NCLT Kolkata Bench)
19. Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Anneel Sarangi Regn. No: IBBI/PA-001/HP-01/2020/18 19/12/2009
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	P-1, Hyde Lane, Suite No-7B, 7th Floor Kolkata-700073 Email ID: anneelsarangi@gmail.com
21. Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Klass Insolvency Resolution Professionals Pvt. Ltd. 2/F, Sarat Bose Road Vasundhara Apartment 2nd Floor Kolkata - 700020, West Bengal Email ID: corp.chyflife@gmail.com
22. Further Details are available at or with	Other details can be sought by email to corp.chyflife@gmail.com
23. Date of publication of Form G	22nd November, 2021

Date: 22.11.2021
Place: Kolkata

ANNEEL SARANGI
Resolution Professional
Cyflife Retail Private Limited
IBBI/PA-001/HP-01/2020/18 19/12/2009

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank / Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) and guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Description of the Immovable properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name [mortgagors of property(ies)]	A) Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as per above notice C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic / Physical / Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) EMD (last date of deposit of EMD) C) Bid Increase Amount	Date/Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1	PNB Boiragimath (E-UNI)	PANKAJ SHARMA	Land measuring 08 - 2K - 10L and building thereon, covered by Dag No. 275, covered by Kheraj Periodic Patta No. 40 situated at Borbari, Bongali Gaon, Mouza-Bondung, P.S. and Revenue Circle Chahua, District-Dibrugarh, Assam in the name of Mr. Bhaskar Borpuzari.	A) 16.10.2019 B) Rs. 20,82,277.00 plus further interest & cost C) 21.01.2020 D) Symbolic	A) Rs. 28.98 Lakh B) Rs. 2,89,800/- (07.12.2021) C) Rs. 50,000/-	09.12.2021 10:30 AM to 03:30 PM	NIL
2	PNB Lepetkata (E-UNI)	PAPU BARUAH	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of plot of land measuring 08 - 2K - 10L and building thereon covered by Dag No. 279, Periodic Patta No. 85 situated at Baligaon Mouza Larua Dist. Dibrugarh, Assam in the name of Mr. Papu Baruah, S/o Late Deba Baruah.	A) 02.09.2019 B) Rs. 11,93,731.75 plus further interest & cost C) 04.01.2020 D) Symbolic	A) Rs. 5.50 Lakh B) Rs. 55,000/- (07.12.2021) C) Rs. 50,000/-	09.12.2021 10:30 AM to 03:30 PM	NIL
3	PNB Dholia (E-UNI)	SHIBO KR CHETRY	Equitable mortgage of land and building standing in the name of (1) Shri Shibo Kumar Chetry, (2) Gopal Chetry, (3) Rajib Chetry, (4) Sanjib Chetry covering Dag no. 355 of Patta no. 57 measuring 2 Bighas 1 Katha 3 Lessas or equivalent to 32112 sqft situated at Bormura Miripathar, PO Saikhowaghat, Dist-Tinsukia, Assam-786154.	A) 21.11.2019 B) Rs. 7,99,192.37 plus further interest & cost C) 29.01.2021 D) Symbolic	A) Rs. 27.32 Lakh B) Rs. 2,73,200/- (07.12.2021) C) Rs. 50,000/-	09.12.2021 10:30 AM to 03:30 PM	NIL

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:

- The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> on 09.12.2021 @ 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM.
- For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.mstcecommerce.com, <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> & www.pnbindia.in.

Date: 22.11.2021
Place: Dibrugarh

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THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VI, ISSUE NO. 275 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Racism in cricket

Azeem Rafiq, a former England under-19 captain, testified through tears at a parliamentary hearing on Tuesday about his experiences of racism and bullying while playing for Yorkshire. The England and Wales Cricket Board has suspended Yorkshire from hosting international matches over its "wholly unacceptable" response to the racism faced by Azeem Rafiq, while some of the club's sponsors are ending deals. Azeem Rafiq went into detail about his relationship with Gary Ballance, who released a lengthy statement apologizing for using racist comments. He also discussed how, in his view, the club's attitude towards him changed following an accusation of bullying levelled at Tim Bresnan, a former England all-rounder who moved from Yorkshire to Warwickshire ahead of the 2020 season. If, in the coming days, some player is found to have had a passion for monkey chants or white hoods, then I think we could safely say there is absolutely no point discussing the subject of racism in cricket and beyond for one second more. If "they're all at it", then we don't have a problem with "it" at all. Azeem Rafiq addressed a DCMS select committee about his experiences of racism as a player at Yorkshire County Cricket Club. Huddleston said Rafiq's testimony was "alarming and harrowing", adding he believes Yorkshire is an "institutionally racist" club. "What we all want is for cricket to get its house in order and get its act together and sort this problem out," he said. "Problems in the past have not been adequately acted upon and the speed Yorkshire responded to Rafiq's concerns was extraordinarily slow, so it raises questions how seriously sport takes the issues raised. Except, of course, we really do. On Thursday, two days after detailing his horrible and depressing treatment at Yorkshire, it emerged that Rafiq had himself exchanged horrible and depressing antisemitic messages on Facebook 10 years ago. Meanwhile, Moeen Ali isn't surprised to hear about the recent racism instance. However, Moeen Ali is glad it came out, sending a message to people to think twice before discriminating against anyone. Azeem Rafiq came out in September of 2020 with the allegation that he was 'bullied', 'targeted', and 'ridiculed' because of his ethnic background. He revealed that the players of Asian origin were often referred to as 'Pakis' or 'elephant washers'. Racism in sports has been a prevalent issue throughout the world, and in particular racism towards African Americans has been especially severe over the course of the history of sports in the United States and around the world. Australian spectators allegedly directed racist remarks at two Indian cricketers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj during the third test of India against Australia in Sydney. Such kind of behaviour is dangerous for a calm sports environment.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Denied a state, Palestinians are now denied a say in their own future

Palestinians are not just denied a state of their own, they are largely exiled from a debate about their own future. This was made clear this week in Keir Starmer's address to Labour Friends of Israel. The Labour leader was right to use the speech to condemn the evil of antisemitism, embedded as it is in western culture and society, including among people on the left who - however unrepresentative - have caused hurt and distress to Britain's Jews. This is one reason, after all, why many Jews see Israel as a lifeboat; across millennia, supposed social acceptance has given way to renewed persecution. Rightly condemning antisemitism is not incompatible with a passionate critique of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine - Starmer addressed both subjects in his speech. He dismissed a "Manichean view of the conflict", saying he is a "friend of Israel and of Palestine". This would make sense, given both Labour's long history of supporting a two-state solution (even if that has too often been in word not deed) and the loss of trust in the Labour party among many British Jews. Starmer is trying to build bridges, but his strategy is misguided. His position may sound eminently reasonable, but there is a huge gulf in power between an impoverished, besieged and militarily occupied territory and a powerful state with a hi-tech military that is backed by a superpower. By trying to find equivalence, he downplayed the human rights issues at hand. He mentioned the killing of Israeli citizens in terror

attacks, but only the "daily humiliations, constraints and restrictions" endured by Palestinians, even though 22 times as many Palestinians were killed between 2008 and 2020. The 54-year-old occupation was only fleetingly mentioned. He quoted a previous Labour leader, Harold Wilson, lauding the "social democrats who made the desert flower" - but did not mention that the "desert" was the home of Palestinians, 700,000 of whom were ethnically cleansed in the Nakba of 1948. Starmer also stated his opposition to the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement. His predecessor, Jeremy Corbyn, did not support it either, but his condemnation of the global campaign for "targeting alone the world's sole Jewish state" should be challenged, echoing as it does claims from Benjamin Netanyahu to the Trump administration that BDS is antisemitic. BDS is a strategy called for by Palestinians that seeks to end the occupation, grant the fifth of Israeli society who are Palestinian equal rights, and achieve justice for Palestinian refugees. This strategy is not unique to Israel, given that Britain has imposed sanctions against multiple human-rights-abusing states from Belarus to Zimbabwe and South Africa. Human Rights Watch and the Israeli human rights organisation B'Tselem recently published landmark reports that affirmed the accuracy of using the term "apartheid" to describe what Israel is doing; boycotting the South African apartheid state played a significant role in

Owen Jones

bringing about change. At the time, detractors asked why similar boycotts were not placed against other repressive states as a way to derail the debate, a position that looks ill-judged with the benefit of hindsight. Starmer suggests Israel is held "to standards to which no other country is subjected", but many condemn British involvement in the crimes committed by Saudi Arabia - not least in plunging Yemen into humanitarian calamity - or indeed Turkey or Egypt. In all cases, British diplomatic support and arms sales render our government complicit, and activists have demanded an end to trade with these states too. BDS is an entirely peaceful strategy and yet it is still dismissed as beyond the pale, raising the question: what exactly is a legitimate form of Palestinian resistance? Moral pressure by western governments has achieved nothing: a 2018 "nation state" law enshrined the inferior rights of Palestinian citizens, while last month the Israeli government approved another 3,000 homes in illegal settlements on the West Bank. The west tuts as the vice around Palestine tightens. Indeed, this refusal to listen to Palestinian voices poses a serious question: if people support a Palestinian homeland, what does the path to it look like? Would a future Labour government tut a little louder about annexations as it continues to arm and back Israel and, if so, what incentive would there be for Israel's rulers to change course? And so the Palestinian tragedy remains: as marginalised in the debate about its future as its people are in their own land.

NEET UG results have a loud and clear message
Dominant castes can't continue old tactics

The results of this year's National Eligibility cum Entrance Test Undergraduate, or NEET UG, for India's medical aspirants have sent a very loud and clear message. Students from the Other Backward Classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are coming in massive numbers to occupy educational institutions in India and the status quoists will have to find some other tactics and strategies to stop this floodgate. Not just NEET, they are staking claim on government jobs as well. Let's begin by checking the results. The Telegraph analysed the results released by the National Testing Agency and found that over 83 per cent of the OBC candidates, more than 80 per cent of the SC candidates and 77 per cent of the ST candidates have scored more than the 50th percentile cut-off meant for the 'General' category. Check this data numerically to understand the "problem." This year, a total of 15.44 lakh candidates appeared for the NEET-UG, of which 8.7 lakh passed the exam. Out of these, almost 1 lakh candidates will get admissions in various MBBS and BDS courses across India. In this exam, 7.71 lakh candidates cleared the cut-off set for the unreserved (UR) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category, that is 50 percentile marks. Now, the surprising part is that out of these "meritorious" candidates, 4.52 lakh or 59 per cent are those from OBC, SC or ST groups. Only 3.18 lakh General category and EWS candidates were able to pass this threshold. Actually, more OBCs (3.29 lakh) cleared the general cut-off mark than the General and EWS category students combined. This busts the widely propagated idea of there being a correlation between caste and merit. Take another data set. In the Civil Services Exam 2020 results, as many as 75 candidates from the OBC, EWS, SC, and ST categories performed better to make their way in the unreserved merit list. This is almost 10 per cent of the total selected candidates. Out of these 75 candidates, 55 were OBCs. Reserve category (especially SC, ST and OBCs) students breaching in the unreserved category is becoming a big "problem" and cause of "anxiety" for the dominant castes, not only with regards to central government jobs and admissions but also at the state level. As in the case of recruitment of basic teachers in Uttar Pradesh, the National Commission of Backward Classes has, in its interim report, said that more than 5,000 OBC candidates cleared the exam in the unreserved category, but their names are appearing in the OBC list, thus denying 5,844 seats to the OBCs. If the correct procedure is followed, then they will cut into the unreserved seats. Breaching or encroachment in the unreserved category happens mainly through three routes. One, where some of the SC, ST and OBC candidates perform well and find a place on the unreserved merit list (as cited in the three cases). Their numbers are substantial in many of the recruitments and admissions. Two, where the OBC creamy layer candidates are



considered unreserved candidates and also make their way into the General category (many see this as Savarna category.) For example, Lipi Singh, daughter of Union steel minister R.C.P. Singh, became an IAS officer after passing the Civil Service exam as an unreserved candidate. She is born in a Kurmi family, but

Dilip Mandal

since she is in the creamy layer, she is considered as an unreserved candidate, and rightly so. And three, when a reserved category candidate applies for a job in some other (non-native or non-domicile) state, they need to apply as an unreserved candidate, enlarging the pool of unreserved aspirants. For example, in Delhi, there is no ST list, so if an ST from any other state applies for a job in Delhi, they have to do so as an unreserved candidate. One may argue that since SCs and STs constitute around 25 per cent and OBCs constitute no less than 52 per cent of India's population, it should not be a matter of any concern if they get some seats in the unreserved category. After all, unreserved seats are by definition, and also by the judgments of the Supreme Court, for everyone. After promulgation of the 103rd Constitution Amendment Act, which gives 10 per cent reservation to non-SC/ST/OBC poor candidates in government jobs and education, all social groups in India are within the ambit of reservation policy. After the amendment, 40.5 per cent of the seats are open and everyone is legally and theoretically entitled to get those seats. General, open or unreserved seats are, as common sense dictates, considered seats for non-SC/ST/OBC candidates. This "common sense" has a historical background. In the British era, government jobs were mainly taken by the 'upper caste' Hindus and Muslims. After Independence, SCs and STs were given a 20 per cent reservation. At that time, SC and ST reservation was carved out without much resistance only because this idea came from a historical arrangement called the Poona Pact and also because these social groups were considered too meek to challenge the hegemony of the oppressor caste groups. The rest of the 80 per cent became "General" seats and, as data proves, most of them were grabbed by the domi-

nant caste candidates. The 2nd Backward Class Commission, popularly known as the Mandal Commission, collected data from all central government ministries and departments and found that the number of OBCs in first-class jobs was only 4.69 per cent. [The Mandal Commission Report, 1980, Chapter 9, clause 48] This also underlines the domination of the 'upper castes' in central government jobs. Implementation of the Mandal Commission report in the early 1990s unsettled the ongoing equilibrium and was grossly unjust. But it was the normative idea of that time. The Mandal Commission took away 27 per cent from the kitty that was considered the exclusive domain of the 'upper castes'. In 2006, this provision was extended to central government educational institutions. These acts were challenged in the courts but failed to elicit the desired results. With some tweaking, like creamy layer and taking Institutions of National Importance out of the ambit of reservation etc, the OBC quota was by and large implemented. If you look at it from the perspective of the dominant castes, 49.5 per cent of central government jobs and seats in the educational institutions became out of bounds for them. Thus, the challenge for the dominant caste power structure was, and is, to save 51.5 per cent of the cake. These are some of the strategies being applied to achieve the goal of saving unreserved seats. The first tactic is to not fill the vacant positions. Let the status quo continue, which is in favour of the oppressor castes. According to the latest reports, around 9 lakh central government posts are vacant. If these are filled, at least half of the posts will go to SC/ST/OBCs. The second is to fill the unreserved seats with mostly dominant caste candidates and if some candi-

date appears for the SC/ST/OBC seats, then find a way to declare them NFS (Not Found Suitable). After a few months or years, mark the seats as unreserved, as there was no one from SC/ST/OBC to fill those seats. Or make that position contractual, and make the provision for reservation ineffective. Third, if a candidate applies as SC/ST/OBC, don't change their category even if they qualify as an unreserved candidate. In many instances, this strategy has resulted in reserved category cut-off going higher than the unreserved category (recruitments in Rajasthan, Railways, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi are some examples). This is happening despite the Supreme Court ruling in 2019 that "every candidate belongs to the General category, irrespective of the fact whether s/he is an SC, ST or OBC." The fourth strategy is to ensure that the SC/ST/OBC candidates who got selected on open merit go back to their respective categories. NEET and JEE do this by offering better colleges, and UPSC and DoPT do this by offering better services. It is no surprise that JEE and NEET came into the picture only after the OBC reservation in higher education was implemented. The UPSC, on the other hand, maintains a consolidated Reserve List of candidates under Rule 16 (4) & (5) of the Civil Services Examination Rules 2020, which serves this purpose. This rule also came after the implementation of the OBC quota. The fifth is to ensure that if SC/ST/OBC candidates take any relaxation in age or qualification at any stage, then it doesn't matter if they secure the top rank in the final merit list, they will still be regarded as a candidate of the reserved category. This happened in the case of Tina Dabi, who secured top rank in the final merit list of the civil service exam, but was considered an SC candidate for clearing the prelims exam based on the reduced cut-off for SC candidates. Sixth, the EWS quota is also an effort in the same direction as it ensures that at least part of the 51.5 per cent unreserved seats are kept safe for dominant caste groups. The "anxiety" is that if SC/ST/OBCs grab seats in the unreserved category, what will the Savarna kids do? The second argument is that if SC/ST and OBCs are so meritorious that they are grabbing seats in the unreserved category, then why are they availing reservations in the first place? In the coming days, we will see many more such strategies and conspiracies to protect the unreserved category for 'General' candidates.

I lost my children in Uphaar fire
There's no justice if mothers like me are let down

I believe we need a judicial system that provides justice to its people without inordinate delays and the possibility of the system being manipulated by the powerful and wealthy. As an ordinary citizen of this great country, I approached the courts in India 24 years ago when my children Unnati (then 17 years old) and Ujjwal (then 13 years of age) were snatched away from me when they perished in the man-made fire at Uphaar Cinema in New Delhi on 13 June 1997. I was devastated by the loss of my children, but firm in my belief that I would get justice. Twenty four years later, I am still seeking justice. Neither has time healed the grief and pain of loss, nor has the judicial system served its purpose. I can therefore say with complete conviction, backed by personal experience and a deep sense of hurt, that justice can be served only if and when mothers like me are not let down time and again by a judicial system that is

Neelam krishnamoorthy

putty in the hands of powerful, wealthy and corrupt men and women. When I started my journey to get justice for my children, I was dealing with a single court case, namely, the Writ Petition filed by AVUT (Association of the Victims of Uphaar Tragedy) and later the criminal Case filed by the CBI. The criminal case was being heard by the Additional Sessions Judge. The accused challenged the interim orders in the higher court with an intention to delay the trial. The AVUT had to move the high court to get directions to expedite the trial. With the passage of time, the number of cases increased, be it with regard to petition filed by Ansal Theatre & Clubotels (P) Ltd for release of Uphaar Cinema, bail cancellation of the Ansals in the high court and the Supreme Court. Negotiating all these cases and dealing with them meant shuttling between one court to another. Apart from attending the hearings, I also had to have conferences with a team of dedicated lawyers to prepare for the cases. This meant dedicating myself wholly and unequivocally to this task. It amounted to thousands of hours and over two decades of painstaking preparation. This

unending mission took its toll and I had no time to realise that I was ageing and needed some rest. It also meant standing for countless hours in different courts, through weather changes, health issues, abuse and threats hurled at me. I did all this because of a promise I made to my children that I would get justice for them. But all the while, I knew that justice would not bring back the children. It could only benefit other mothers and fathers, and children. All the while I was certain that the judicial system would not fail me. However, it is important to mention that the sections under which the accused were charged was not in my hands at all. And therefore, in the main case, the maximum sentence the Ansals could have got was two years jail as they were charged u/s 304A IPC. Even though they were sentenced to two years, the highest court in the land thought it fit to

let the criminals buy their way out of jail for a price! Is it surprising then that I lost all faith in the system? The advanced age of the Ansals was taken into consideration while letting them buy their way out of a jail sentence, but no one thought of the lives of my 17 and 13 year olds being cut short because of the sheer greed and corruption of the criminals? Today, 24 years after my tragic and irreparable loss, I feel vindicated to some extent by the verdict of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Dr Pankaj Sharma with all five convicts sentenced to seven years' simple imprisonment u/s 120B/409/201 IPC in the evidence tampering case. The court has done all in its power and authority by giving a sentence of seven years. But even as I feel a sense of peace and relief, I know for a fact that I have to be alert and ready for battle again. The loopholes department provided by a system that has not seen review and reform for ages, and the dirty tricks department is at work even as I write this article. Feigning illness is a popular tool used by many convicts, and Sushil Ansal may have wielded the same tool to his benefit.

Yamaha launches YZF-R15S V3.0

Mumbai/Guwahati, Nov 21: India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt Ltd. as a part of its captivating brand campaign "The Call of the Blue", announced an all new 'Unibody seat' variant for the YZF-R15 V3.0 supersport motorcycle, to meet customer demand. The new YZF-R15S V3 (Unibody Seat) variant will be sold alongside the YZF-R15 V4 model across all the authorized Yamaha dealerships in India. The YZF-R15S V3 is priced at Rs. 157,600 (ex-show-room, Delhi) and is available in Racing Blue colour. Yamaha has always been known to innovate and introduce products that have a strong connect with its large customer base. The "YZF-R15" brand has been a significant milestone in the company's history; the product being the torchbearer to introduce racing culture in India. The YZF-R15 V3 has seen huge success for its spectacular engineering prowess and technological advancements, and the new variant will continue to carry the baton to strengthen that position in the premium su-



per sports segment. The R15S V3 variant is powered by a 155cc, 4-stroke, liquid-cooled, SOHC, 4-valve engine that produces maximum power of 18.6 PS at 10,000rpm, with a torque output of 14.1 Nm at 8,500rpm. The fuel-injected motor with Variable Valve Actuation (VVA) is mated to a 6-speed gearbox. It will continue to feature a Multi Function LCD Instrument Cluster with Gear Shift Indicator, Dual Channel ABS, Assist & Slipper Clutch, Side stand with engine cut-off Switch, Delta box Frame, Aluminum Swingarm, and a Super Wide 140/70-R17 Radial Rear Tyre. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Motofumi Shitara, Chairman, Yamaha Motor India

Group, said, "The YZF-R15 in its Version 3.0 was a huge success as it proved to be the most exhilarating model in the 150cc supersport segment with advanced technology and features. While the YZF-R15 V4 is being highly appreciated by customers across India, our research has shown that customers are also looking for a more viable option to commute with a pillion, without having to compromise on the Racing DNA of the R15. At Yamaha we are always listening to what our customers' demand and make every possible attempt to meet those demands. Hence, the R15S V3 with a Unibody Seat was evident." He further added, "After the introduc-

tion of the brand Campaign 'The Call of the Blue' in 2018, the R15 model range witnessed a staggering growth in sales. Considering the period between January 2018 to October 2021, we have garnered a total sale of 276,445 units, which is a remarkable accomplishment. This clearly states the success of 'The Call of the Blue' campaign, which was launched to testify the company's commitment of offering two wheelers that add up to the global spirit of Yamaha Racing and the brand's global image of 'Excitement, Stylish and Sporty'." Yamaha Motor made its initial foray into India in 1985 as a joint venture. In August 2001, it became a 100% subsidiary of Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd., Japan (YMC). In 2008, Mitsui & Co., Ltd. entered into an agreement with YMC to become a joint investor in India Yamaha Motor Private Limited (IYM). IYM's manufacturing facilities comprise State-of-the-art plants at Surajpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu). The infrastructure at these

plants supports the production of motorcycles and parts for the domestic as well as overseas markets. YMC has established its subsidiaries - Yamaha Motor Research and Development India Pvt Ltd. (YMRI), Yamaha Motor India Sales Pvt Ltd. (YMIS) and Yamaha Motor India Pvt Ltd. (YMI) in India to independently support IYM in the development, sales & marketing of its products and overall business planning & regional control respectively. Presently, its product portfolio includes YZF-R15 version 4.0 (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, AEROX (155cc) with ABS and UBS enabled scooters like Fascino 125 FI Hybrid (125cc), Fascino 125 FI (125cc), RayZR 125 FI Hybrid (125cc), RayZR 125 FI (125cc) and Street Rally 125 FI (125cc), Street Rally 125 FI Hybrid (125cc).

Shark Tank India announces 'Ashneer Grover'

Guwahati, Nov 21: The wait is finally over as the World's No.1 Business Reality show - Shark Tank is gearing up for its very first season in India that will reinvigorate the Indian entrepreneur ecosystem. Shark Tank India will provide an opportunity and a platform to entrepreneurs with interesting business ideas, business prototypes or active businesses that will be evaluated by experienced investors & business experts. k.a The Sharks on the show. Taking the excitement, a notch higher and finally answering the most asked question i.e. 'Who are the Sharks' of Shark Tank India, Sony Entertainment Television unveiled the first Shark - Mr. Ashneer Grover, Founder and MD of BharatPe, one of India's early unicorn start-ups. An alumnus of IIT Delhi and IIM Ahmedabad, Ashneer Grover, Founder and Managing Director of BharatPe is a seasoned professional with



strong strategic vision and proven expertise across domains in both start-ups and top-tier organizations. He has been a part of renowned companies like Kotak Investment Bank and American Express before starting his own venture - BharatPe. Ashneer is an active investor with 55 investments in

startups. He is also a LP (Investor) in 2 USA based funds - Ribbit Capital and Left Lane Partners. Ashneer will invest in disruptive ideas and mentor India's budding entrepreneurs. Produced by StudioNEXT, Shark Tank India will soon premiere on Sony Entertainment Television!

Reebok introduces Floatride Energy & Liquifect 180

New Delhi/ Guwahati, Nov 21: Reebok, India's leading fitness and lifestyle brand, introduces new upgrades to its running footwear portfolio with the new Floatride En-

ergy & Liquifect 180 provide an unprecedented level of comfort and performance for runners. Key Features of the new silhouettes include:

3.0 offers a modern silhouette with a quilted deco stitch that creates a 360-movement visual from upper to outsole. The injected polyurethane in the heel provides a cushioned ride with the FuelFoam midsole offering a responsive feel. A perfect combination of street and gym wear, the new Liquifect 180 is designed to provide all-day comfort. The attractive prices of the all new Floatride Energy and Liquifect 180 are a testament to Reebok's commitment to make fitness accessible for everyone, keeping the high-performance standards intact. Check out the complete collection at shop4reebok.com, select retail stores, Amazon, Flipkart, Mynt and Ajo. Reebok International Ltd., headquartered in Boston, MA, USA, is a leading worldwide designer, marketer and distributor of fitness and lifestyle footwear, apparel and equipment. An American-inspired global brand, Reebok is a pioneer in the sporting goods industry with a rich and storied fitness heritage. Reebok develops products, technologies and programming that enable movement so people can fulfill their potential. Reebok connects with the fitness consumer wherever they are and however they choose to stay fit - whether it's functional training, running, combat training, walking, dance, yoga or aerobics. Reebok Classics leverages the brand's fitness heritage and represents the roots of the brand in the sports lifestyle market.



ergy & the new Liquifect 180. With people looking to reignite their outdoor fitness routine, the brand aims to ensure runners have the right gear to explore their fitness journeys. Backed by performance, accessibility, and sustainability, the newly launched shoes feature enhanced attributes, creating a high-performance running shoe that is perfect for any type of run. With versatility

Floatride Energy 3.0 (INR 8,999): The latest iteration of the award-winning Floatride franchise, the new Floatride Energy features a midsole that delivers a lightweight feel and a smooth, responsive ride. A breathable square knit upper helps keep feet cool. The shoe further enhances flexibility and provides traction and durability. Liquifect 180 (INR 6,599): The newly launched Liquifect 180

MSME Min. Rane laid foundation stone of flattened factory complex

Guwahati, Nov 21: Minister for MSME, Govt. of India, Shri Narayan Rane, in presence of Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Minister for Transport, Industries & Commerce, Skill Development, Govt. of Assam and Shri B.B. Swain, IAS, Secretary to the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India laid the foundation stone for the flattened factory complex on Friday the 19th November, 2021 at a solemn function held at Patgaon, Rani, Kamrup (M). Flattened factory concept is a new concept. Its high rise building with common utilities hous-

It may be mentioned that the flattened factory complex is the first of its kind in India, funded under the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise scheme of ministry of MSME, Govt. of India. The project is being set up at Patgaon, Rani with a built-up area of 4500 sq ft. at a total cost of Rs. 21.96 crores. Govt. of India's assistance towards the project is 9.74 crores. Once set up the flattened factory complex will house 47 micro and small industrial units. Besides the industrial units, the complex will have the following facilities, wa-



ing many industrial units. Flattened factories are designed for clean and light industrial units. An industrial building of more than one storey, usually with two or more goods lifts, and constructed or converted for multiple occupation. The building is subdivided into small, separately occupied units which are used for manufacturing, assembly and associated storage.

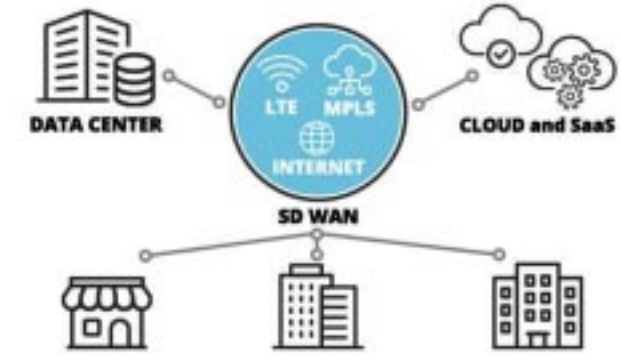
ter supply, drainage, power substation, administrative complex, weigh bridge, common effluent treatment plant, road side greenery and rain water harvesting facility. The project of Flattened Factory Complex will be implemented by Assam Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (AIIDC). The project is scheduled to be completed within two years.

Versa networks supports make in India initiative with Jabil

Guwahati, Nov 21: Versa Networks, the leader in Secure Access Service Edge (SASE), announced its partnership with global manufacturing solutions provider Jabil to manufacture its leading SD-WAN appliances in support of the national Make in India initiative. The Make in India initiative was launched by the Prime Minister in September 2014 as part of a wider set of nation-building initiatives. Devised to transform India into a global design and manufacturing hub, the "Make in India" initiative seeks to position the country as a nation of innovation and aims to provide more job opportunities to the Indian community as the technology landscape in the country continues to evolve. As part of the initiative global companies are incentivised to move or open-up part of their product manufacturing locally in India. Versa Networks' Secure SD-WAN is a transformative technology that simplifies the IT infrastructure control and management by delivering a virtual WAN architecture that securely connects users to their applications. An SD-WAN solution includes a controller and a branch device that is operated from the data centre or cloud where the controller is deployed. Jabil is focused on the manufacturing of the branch devices - specifically universal branch CPE (customer premise equipment) appliances - that hosts Secure SD-WAN software and sup-

port third-party VNFs as part of Versa's solution. Although Versa branded, these devices are sold by Jabil directly to distributors for partners and customers to purchase. "With India as the second biggest market for Versa, coupled with the Government's initiative, deploying a manufacturer in the region this year has been

an important move," said Abhishek Jain, Regional Sales Director, India & SAARC at Versa Networks. "What's more, we're proud to be involved in an initiative that gives back to the community with the offer of jobs and upskilling opportunities, as well as doing our part to enhance India's economy." With production starting at the beginning of August and three product families having been produced so far, Jabil's manufacturing plants in Pune, India are currently providing more than 80 jobs for locals. Every academic year Jabil hires apprentices and graduate trainees from various institutions, providing various skills enhancement training programs to support skills development in



Director at Jabil Pune. "Versa's Secure SD-WAN technology is giving businesses the solution to these challenges and having the opportunity to be a part of that solution by manufacturing the CPE appliances on behalf of Versa whilst simultaneously being involved in an initiative like 'Make in India' is really exciting." Versa Networks, the leader in SASE, combines extensive security, advanced networking, industry leading SD-WAN, genuine multi-tenancy, and sophisticated analytics via the cloud, on-premises, or as a blended combination of both to meet SASE requirements for small to extremely large enterprises and Service Providers, and via the simplified Versa Titan cloud service designed for Lean IT. Thousands of customers globally with hundreds of thousands of sites trust Versa with their networks, security, and clouds. Versa Networks is privately held and funded by Sequoia Capital, Mayfield, Artis Ventures, Verizon Ventures, Comcast Ventures, Liberty Global Ventures, Princeville Capital, RPS Ventures and Triangle Peak Partners. For more information, visit <https://www.versa-networks.com> or follow Versa Networks on Twitter @versanetworks. Jabil (NYSE: JBL) is a manufacturing solutions provider with over 260,000 employees across 100 locations in 30 countries. The world's leading brands rely on Jabil's unmatched breadth and depth of end-market experience, technical and design capabilities, manufacturing know-how, supply chain insights and global product management expertise.

APU announces early round admissions for Vivid Programmes

Guwahati, Nov 21: Azim Premji University announces admissions to its full-time, residential Undergraduate program. The applications are available in the website and the last date for the Early Admission process is December 7, 2021. The classes for the batch will commence from July 2022. The programmes offered by the university are 3-year B.Sc. degree in Physics, Biology or Mathematics and B.A. degree in Economics, English, Philosophy or History and 4-year B.Sc. B.Ed. Dual degree in Science and Education with specialization in streams Physics, Biology or Mathematics & Education. The curriculum at Azim Premji University emphasizes disciplinary depth

and broader skills of analysis, reasoning and problem-solving skills over conventional mode of learning. Students will work on a common curriculum to strengthen their key skills and capabilities to help them become active and self-motivated learners. Azim Premji University offers a diverse student cohort; need based scholarships (full or partial waiver) and extensive academic support. With accomplished faculty members, a mix of teaching, research and field experience, combined with innovative teaching-learning methods and close mentoring of students, this is an opportunity for aspirants to explore India's complex social and political reality and become responsible citizens of the 21st century. Under-

graduate students can also conduct research through Honours projects. The admission process will be conducted in 2 windows. Early admissions and regular admissions. Students can apply online on the University website. Applicants will be selected based on a written test following which personal interview will be conducted for the shortlisted students. The University also considers SAT and KYPY scores for Admissions. The classes will be conducted at the University's permanent residential campus at Sarjapur-Attibele Road on the outskirts of Bangalore. Spread over 80 acres, the campus will offer 2.7 million sq.ft. of space after the first phase of construction, capable of

accommodating 3800 students and 700 faculty plus administration staff. It will be a self-contained learning and living space with hostel accommodation for students, residential facilities for faculty and staff, guest stay, library, auditorium, amphitheatre, and sports complex with outdoor and indoor games. Azim Premji University was established under the Azim Premji University Act 2010 of the Government of Karnataka. Azim Premji Foundation, the sponsoring body set up the University as a fully philanthropic and not-for-profit entity, with a clear social purpose; to contribute to the realization of a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society.

No stranger to turmoil, Dutch dealmaker Wynaendts set for Deutsche chair

Frankfurt, Nov 21: As head of Dutch insurer Aegon, Alexander Wynaendts led a complex European financial institution with staff around the world and a large U.S. presence during a turbulent decade, experience that should serve him well as the next chair of Germany's Deutsche Bank (DBKGn.DE). On Friday, a committee of Deutsche Bank's supervisory board nominated Wynaendts to oversee Germany's largest lender from next year. The board is expected to debate his role this weekend with shareholders voting on his appointment in May. If elected, the position will catapult Wynaendts, who is relatively unknown in Germany, into a role as one of the country's top bankers at a time when Deutsche is also steadying itself after a rocky



decade with a view to a possible future merger. "It is my strong belief that Deutsche Bank is well placed to address the growing needs of its global client base," Wynaendts said. "I am committed to support the leadership team and all employees in continuing with the successful execution of its strategy." Just months into his tenure at Aegon (AEGN.NAS), a company that in the mid 19th century helped

the Dutch pay for funerals, Wynaendts, 61, navigated a 3 billion euro (\$3.39 billion) state bailout and restructuring as the 2008 financial crisis took its toll. Deutsche has lost billions of euros and faced huge fines, leaving regulators fearing it was on the brink of collapse five years ago. Although it has started reaping small profits under new leadership, there remains plenty of unfinished business.

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CM Dr. Sarma lays foundation

Baghjan oilfield blowout incident. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone of the alumni association office at JEC campus which is going to be built by ex-student Anupam Sarma. MLAs Hitendra Nath Goswami, Renupama Rajkhowa, Rupjyoti Kurmi, Bhaskariyoti Baruah, DC Jorhat Ashok Barman, Principal JEC Rita Sarma, Basin Manager of Oil Manash Sarma were also present on the occasion among other dignitaries. Earlier the Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone of Auniati University at the Auniati Sakha Satra at Kaliapani, Teok in Jorhat. Speaking on the occasion the Chief Minister said that the Auniati Satra has a glorious legacy of spiritualism and moral teachings and the new university would be able to produce morally and spiritually strong citizens for the society. He said that Indian civilization has always been nurtured by the inquisitiveness for knowledge and he expressed optimism that this university will sustain that urge for finding knowledge. Highlighting that there is a high rate of dropout of students going into higher education, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that more universities and institutes of higher education must be set up for minimizing dropout. He informed that the state government has decided to upgrade several colleges into universities to fill the gap and Auniati University will be able to contribute in furthering the cause of higher education in the state. The future society depends on able citizens with high moral and humanistic values and Auniati University will be able to produce such citizens for the society, he opined. The Chief Minister also announced an amount of Rs. 5 crore from the state government for the university and assured of more help in the future. Rajyasabha MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLAs Renupama Rajkhowa, Rupjyoti Kurmi, Bhaskariyoti Baruah, Satradhikar of Auniati Satra Pitambar Dev Goswami were also present on the occasion. The Chief Minister also paid a visit to Lachit Borphukan's Maidam at Jorhat and offered his tributes. He announced Rs. 1 crore for preservation and development of the maidam. Earlier in the morning, the Chief Minister held a meeting with his Nagaland counterpart Neiphiu Rio at Jorhat Circuit House. Both the Chief Minister's discussed several issues of mutual interest.

Union Cabinet may meet on Nov

in the day at Delhi's Tikri border, the farmers' unions said the protests would continue along with the scheduled programmes, such as the Kisan Mahapanchayat in Lucknow on November 22 and the tractor march to Parliament on the opening day of the Winter Session on November 29. The farmer leaders at Singhu border also said the demand for a minimum support price (MSP) committee, withdrawal of cases and the waiver of pending electricity bills will continue. "We'll write open letter to PM. Pending demands will be mentioned in it - MSP committee, its rights, it's time frame, its duties; Electricity Bill 2020 and withdrawal of cases against farmers. We'll also write to him to sack the minister related to the Lakhimpur Kheri incident," farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal was quoted as saying by news agency ANI following the completion of the meeting.

15 Ministers To Join Team Ashok

net after being sacked by Chief Minister Gehlot in July last year, along with Sachin Pilot. Mr Singh held the Tourism and Devasthan ministries and Mr Meena the Food and Consumer Affairs departments. Hemaram Choudhary is a six-term MLA from Gudamalani, and former Revenue Minister. The other new faces will be Mahendrajit Singh Malviya, Ramlal Jat, Mahesh Joshi, Mamta Bhupesh, Tikaram Julie, Bhajan Lal Jatav, Govind Ram Meghwal and Shakuntala Rawat. Zahida Khan and Rajendra Singh Gudha will be made Ministers of State. It is unclear what role Sachin Pilot will be given after the cabinet reshuffle. Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra reportedly want Mr Pilot to take charge of party affairs in Gujarat, ahead of elections in Prime Minister Modi's home state next year. However, sources said Mr Pilot remains focused on Rajasthan, where he hopes to be made Chief Minister. The countdown to today's reshuffle began with meetings between Mr Pilot and senior Congress leaders in Delhi, including Mr Gandhi, Mrs Gandhi Vadra and party chief Sonia Gandhi. Earlier this week Mr Pilot said he would like to see a mix of youth and experience - in the government and party leadership. Asked about his ambitions, he said he would do what the party asked. Meetings were also held between Chief Minister Gehlot and the party's senior leaders. Mrs Gandhi Vadra was present at a meeting last week (Mr Gandhi was not) and the issue of a cabinet reshuffle and appointments to state corporations was high on the agenda, sources said. Mr Pilot - who led the rebellion against Mr Gehlot - has been waiting since then for the Chief Minister to accommodate his supporters in a revised cabinet. This was part of the deal struck by the Congress to avoid losing yet another state. Ahead of the announcement of the new names, three ministers set the ball rolling by submitting their resignations to Mr Gehlot. They were Harish Chaudhary, Raghu Sharma and Govind Dotsara. All three held cabinet posts and had organizational duties. All three quit citing the Congress' 'ek pad, ek vyakti', or 'one position, one person', rule. Mr Chaudhary was Revenue minister and had been made party-in-charge for Punjab. Mr Sharma held multiple ministerial posts and had been made Gujarat-in-charge. Mr Dotsara was the Education Minister as well as the party's state unit chief. Sachin Pilot - seen as leading the party's revival in Rajasthan - was a contender for the Chief Minister's post after the Congress' 2018 win. But he was persuaded by Rahul Gandhi to take the job of Mr Gehlot's deputy instead. The friction has continued since, and exploded last year after Mr Pilot and 18 MLAs broke ranks and camped out in Delhi.

Students from Bhutan will get

eral had met the CM for the same. Sarma had asked Tshering to place the request in a written form. Thereafter, the Consul General wrote to the CM with the request for reservation, which was then pursued by Sarma, an official said. The Assam government took the decision to allocate two seats to Bhutan students a fortnight ago, another official told the news agency. A decision will be also be taken regarding a full scholarship for the students subject to necessary approval by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs, Government of India, as well as clearance from the External Affairs Ministry. As per the Assam government's proposal, both the seats are to be allocated from the All India Quota (AIQ) seats in the medical colleges in the state, the official added. Following the meeting, Sarma tweeted, "Delighted to meet Mr. Phub Tshering, Consul General of Bhutan, in Guwahati. We stand committed to upholding the bonhomie between Assam and Bhutan. He added that several issues of mutual interest were discussed to carry forward the long-cherished bilateral relationship between the two sides." The NEET 2021 results were announced on November 1. The MCC is yet to announce the schedule for the counselling process. While 85 per cent of the seats are reserved under the state quota, 15 per cent of seats are reserved under the AIQ.

Swachh Survekshan - 2021 : Tezpur

bodies while taking part in the survey. The nine towns of Assam that have secured a rank in the North East Zone Category in the Swachh Survekshan-2021 are: 1. Tezpur: Cleanest City, 50K - 1 Lakh Population 2. Jorhat: Best Self-Sustainable City, 50K - 1 Lakh Population 3. Bongaigaon: Best City in Innovation & Best Practices, 50K - 1 Lakh Population 4. Tinsukia: Fastest Mover City, 50K - 1 Lakh Population 5. Kokrajhar: Best Self-Sustainable City, 25K - 50K Population 6. Golaghat: Cleanest City, 25k - 50K Population 7. Haflong: Fastest Mover City, 25K - 50K Population 8. Hailakandi: Best City in Innovation & Best Practices, 25K - 50K Population 9. Lakhimpur (Cachar): Best Self-Sustainable City, Below 25K Population.

AASU demands for repealing of

with the anniversary of the anti-CAA movement in the state. "Just as this government has shed its arrogance in the case of the farm laws, we urge them to take a similar approach towards the anti-CAA movement and repeal the undemocratic act at the earliest," said chief coordinator of the committee Deben Tamuli. The new regional political party Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) said that victory of farmers would give a much needed impetus to the anti-CAA movement in the state.

Navy inducts INS Visakhapatnam

Mumbai on Sunday. Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh along with top naval commanders was in attendance at the induction ceremony of the indigenously built Visakhapatnam, seen as another Atmanirbhar success story in the field of defence manufacturing. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailed INS Visakhapatnam as a symbol of the growing maritime prowess of the country and a major milestone in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World'. Singh defined the warship as one of the most technologically advanced guided missile destroyers in the world which will cater to the present and future requirements of the Armed Forces and the nation as a whole. "Today, as INS Visakhapatnam manufactured by MDSL is successfully commissioned, there is no doubt that in the coming times, we will be shipbuilding not only for our own needs, but also for the needs of the entire world. I'm confident that INS Visakhapatnam will live up to her name and strengthen our maritime security," he said at the induction ceremony. Visakhapatnam is packed with an array of weapons and sensors, which include supersonic surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, medium and short-range guns, anti-submarine rockets and advanced electronic warfare and communication suites. The ship is also equipped to fight under nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) warfare conditions, an official said. Amongst the largest destroyers constructed in India with an overall length of 163 metres and displacement of over 7400 tons, the warship is a potent platform capable of undertaking multifarious task and missions spanning the full spectrum of maritime warfare. Designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, the Directorate of Naval Design, and constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited, INS Visakhapatnam has the capability of embarking two integrated helicopters and boasts of a very high level of automation with sophisticated digital networks, combat management systems and integrated platform management systems. It is the first stealth guided-missile destroyer of the Rs 35,000 crore Project 15B under which a total of four warships are being built. The next ship is set to be commissioned in 2023 while the other two are planned to be inducted by 2025. With the changing power dynamics in the Indian Ocean region, Visakhapatnam will augment the Indian Navy's mobility, reach and flexibility towards the accomplishment of its role and tasks. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasised on the need to keep the Indo-Pacific region open, safe and secure, terming it as the primary objective of the Indian Navy. He asserted that India's interests are directly linked with the Indian Ocean and the region is crucial for the world economy. "Challenges such as piracy, terrorism, illegal smuggling of arms and narcotics, human trafficking, illegal fishing and damage to the environment are equally responsible for affecting the maritime domain. Therefore, the role of the Indian Navy becomes very important in the entire Indo-Pacific region," he added.

You can't decide Rs 8 lakh limit out of thin air' SC lashes out at Centre over EWS reservation in NEET

New Delhi, November 21 : The Supreme Court on Thursday (November 18) asked the Centre whether it would like to revisit the limit of rupees eight lakh annual income fixed for determining the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category for reservation in NEET admissions for medical courses. The top court clarified that it is not embarking into the policy domain but is only trying to ascertain whether constitutional principles have adhered or not. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Vikram Nath, and BV Nagarathna was annoyed as no affidavits were filed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) and formulated questions to be answered by the Centre in a week. The bench said, Tell us if you want to revisit the criteria or not. If you want us to discharge our duties, then we are ready to do so. We are formulating questions that you need to answer. We may stay the government notification fixing rupees eight lakh criteria for determining the EWS and you can keep filing the affidavits, it added. The top court was hearing a batch of pleas challenging the Centre and Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) July 29 notice providing 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Class (OBC) and 10 per cent for EWS category in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) admissions for medical courses. The top court once again asked searching questions from Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for Centre, and asked whether any exercise was undertaken before fixing a limit of Rs 8 lakh annual income for determining the EWS category. "Whether Major Gen (ret'd) SR Sinho commission report of 2010 was considered before ascertaining the criteria? The report of the commission has to be placed on record before the court, the bench said. Major Gen (ret'd) SR Sinho commission was constituted by the UPA government in 2010 and has recommended welfare measures for the EWS category. Atarajan said that the commission's report was one of the basis for determining the criteria but after that several deliberations were held and other factors were also taken into account. Fixing of criteria of Rs 8 lakh is a pure policy matter and the court should not interfere with it. It was decided after proper application of mind, he said. Natarajan submitted that the draft of the affidavit by concerned departments is ready and they will be filing it in

a day or two. The bench said that it is not going to tell the government as to what should be the limit whether it should be rupees four lakh or rupees six lakh because it is for the executive to decide but all it wants to know is what was the basis for fixing Rs 8 lakh as the limit. For determining creamy layer in Other Backward Classes (OBC) category the limit was fixed as Rs 8 lakh annual income and they were considered progressed class among OBCs and they were excluded from reservation benefits. Here, for the EWS category, the limit is the same Rs 8 lakh annual income but it was for inclusion in the reservation benefits, the bench said. It added, You cannot just pick Rs 8 lakh out of the thin air and fix it as a criteria. There has to be some basis, some study. Tell us whether any demographic study or data was taken into account in fixing the limit. How do you arrive at this exact figure? Can the Supreme Court strike down the criteria, if no study was undertaken? It asked the Centre to respond to a question that since the income limit of determining the creamy layer in OBC category and EWS is the same that is Rs 8 lakh, whether it would be arbitrary to provide a similar income limit for EWS and OBC. The top court also asked whether rural and urban purchasing power was accounted for and on what basis the asset exception was arrived at and why the residential flat criteria do not differentiate between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. The bench said that as per the explanation in the 103rd constitution amendment says that criteria for EWS will be notified by the state governments, then how can the Centre notify a uniform EWS criterion for the whole of the country. The top court then formulated the question and asked the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and DOPT to file their replies by October 28. On October 7, the top court had posed searching questions to the Centre on its decision to fix a limit of rupees eight lakh annual income for determining the EWS category for reservation in NEET admissions. The Centre had then said fixing a limit of Rs eight lakh annual income for the EWS category is a matter of policy based on the National Cost of Living Index. On September 17, the top court has agreed to hear a batch of pleas of students against the July 29 notice providing 27 per cent reservation for OBC and 10 per cent for EWS category in 15 per cent UG and 50 per cent PG All India Quota seats (MBBS/BDS and MD/MS/MDS) with effect from the current academic session 2021-22.

Nilbagan Press Club felicitated Senior Journalists

Assam Rising, Correspondent
Hojai, November 21 :

Nilbagan Press Club felicitated Senior Journalist Ramesh Munda in a felicitation ceremony organised at Monir Chowdhury residence in Nilbagan under Hojai District on Sunday. It is pertinent to mention, the club mem-

journalism." The felicitation ceremony was attended by Muzibur Rahman, Owner, Junaki News Centre, Harun Rashid Chowdhury, Office Secretary, Nilbagan press club, Rayhan Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, New Star Club, Aatur Rahman, Convenor, Yuva Samaj Nilbagan. On the other hand, MLA



bers felicitated Munda, as he bagged glory for the district on being honoured by the State Public Information Department at Guwahati on National Press Day on November 16 for his contribution in the field of Journalism from last two decades. Speaking on the occasion, Nilbagan Press Club President Basit Alom Chowdhury said, "It is a proud moment for us and especially for the journalist fraternity as a much deserving senior journalist Ramesh Munda, who has devoted his time and years in covering stories from all the aspects has been honoured by DIPR, Assam recently at Guwahati." Ramesh Munda said, "Such felicitation encourages us to do more for the Society." He thanked everyone who supported directly or indirectly in his long journey and wished in coming years many more Journalists will definitely bring laurels for the district. Notably, Senior Journalist Anjan Paul was also felicitated here for his contribution in the journalism field. Paul said, "We are thankful to Nilbagan Press Club for recognising our efforts in

Ramkrishna Ghosh, Former MLA and Present All Assam Linguistic Minority Development Board Chairman Shiladitya Dev, Asom Sahitya Sabha Hojai District Committee General Secretary Anup Kumar Barthakur, BJP Leader Pramod Swami Vice Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University Prof. Amalendu Chakraborty, Markazul Ma'arif General Secretary Khalilur Rahman Laskar, Assam Nagarik Mancha General Secretary Bijoy Chakraborty, Educationist Dr. Pijush Nandi, Dr. Manoj Kumar Swami, Dr. Hariprasad Goenka, RK Rath Marwari Samellan Hojai President Pradeep Kumar Sureka, Raju Kejriwal, Marwari Panchayat President Dindyal Pansari, All Assam Minority Students Union leader Munwar Hussain (Bokul), Hojai Press Club President Sanjit Sarkar, Journalist Pranab Sarma, Jamiruddin Talukdar, Kafiluddin Borbhuyan many other organisations and individuals have congratulated Munda on this achievement, they said Munda was deserving such an appreciation.

Dramatist Prafulla Bora memorial meeting held at Sootea

Assam Rising, Correspondent
Biswanath Chariali, November 21 :

The 16th death anniversary of dramatist Prafulla Bora was celebrated at Siporiya; Sootea with a day-long programme under the umbrella of Assam Sahitya Sabha on November 20. The central programme of Sahitya Sabha organized by Siporiya branch of the literary body in association with Biswanath Zila Sahitya Sabha began with cleanliness drive carried out by Prayash; an NGO that followed hoisting of the insignia by Golap Bora; president of Biswanath Zila Sahitya Sabha. A group of elite members planted saplings followed by the inauguration of the entrance gate by Trishna Devi; principal of Siporiya HS School. Biswanath MLA Pramod Borthakur lit up earthen lamps and offered floral tribute in front of the portrait of dramatist



Prafulla Bora. Mrinalini Devi; vice president of Assam Sahitya Sabha inaugurated the cultural exhibition and addressed the gathering citing examples of cultural heritage of Assam. A mixed glimpse of varied culture including Bihu, Karbi dance, Naw Khel, Deusi-Voili, Jhumur, Bodo dance were performed before the gathering. The main session began with the title song of Assam Sahitya Sabha that followed a borgeet performed by Harshita Kashyap. Sootea MLA Padma Hazarika, paid rich tribute to dramatist Prafulla Bora who later recalled some dialogues from his evergreen dramas and fondly recalled the contributions of the dramatist. MLA Hazarika inaugurated the stage. The open session that began with Kuladhar Saikia, president of Assam Sahitya Sabha in the chair, was inaugurated by Jyoti Kamal

Edhari Mala written by Nayanmoni Das, Hepah written by Jintimoni Neog, Pathya-Opahay written by Mala Bordoloi, Hridoi Binor Sur written by Jamaluddin Seikh etc. were unveiled by dignitaries. The open session was attended by Namam Tarang; eminent artist from Arunachal Pradesh, Nurjamaal Sarkar; former minister, Lina Doley; SP Biswanath, Pragyan Bhuyan; organizing secretary of AASU, Dilip Gajurel; vice president of AAGSU, Saifuddin Ahmed, vice president of AAMSU along with other dignitaries. Moti Kumar Newar; working president of the reception committee offered vote of thanks while Jadab Sarma; chief secretary of the literary body conducted the proceedings of the open session in collaboration with Abidur Rahman; secretary of the reception committee and Anjan Bora. The day-long programme came to an end after performing Jatiya Sangeet.

Eddie Jones warns England hero Marcus Smith to avoid 'poison' from media

London, November 21 : Marcus Smith paid tribute to England's World Cup-winning fly-half Jonny Wilkinson after his last-minute penalty clinched a famous one-point win over South Africa in fairytale fashion. Smith was given a masterclass in training by Wilkinson this week before going on to nail the 80th-minute kick to steer England to a dramatic 27-26 victory, avenging the 2019 World Cup final defeat. Smith, 22, was making only his fourth England start and Jones has tipped the mercurial fly-half for big things, provided he doesn't get "too much poison poured into his head". It was a statement that echoed Jones's recent warning about the pitfalls of fame, using the example of Emma Raducanu to do so. Smith finished the match



with 12 points, assuming kicking duties with Owen Farrell sidelined after ankle surgery. He revealed that the captain has been in regular contact this week but reserved special praise for Wilkinson, who has worked on consultancy basis with England in the

past and made his first trip of the autumn into camp on Wednesday. "It's all down to him," said Smith. "He's been working hard with me and, again, putting his arm around me and allowing me to explore at the weekend. I appreciated it, big time. We said four weeks ago

this was the game we wanted to target. The boys bought into the last four weeks. We got extremely close as a group. It was a massive, massive part of our journey as a young group of players and to beat the world champions in front of 82,000 at home

was special. It's a day I'll never forget. "I hit the kick and it was like slow-motion watching it sail through the posts. But we still had a job to do retrieving that kick-off. To win the penalty and properly celebrate at the end was amazing. This group will never forget that day." With Farrell a fitness doubt for the start of the Six Nations Smith is set to continue in his role as the spearhead of England's attack when they return to the field at Scotland next February. Jones said: "Look, he's going to be good, mate. As long as you blokes don't pour too much poison in his head. He's a work in progress and each game he's going to get a little bit better. I thought he did a great job but I know he's going to be better in the Six Nations."

Dominant Hamilton storms to Qatar F1 GP pole to keep pressure on Verstappen

London, November 21: Lewis Hamilton has been struggling with a stomach bug but in claiming pole for the Qatar Grand Prix the world champion proved he is very much fighting fit. Moreover, having comprehensively beaten his title rival, Max Verstappen, into second, the world champion made no

he had been suffering with a stomach ache earlier in the week. Verstappen however may yet face further difficulties. Several hours after qualifying he was summoned to the stewards for allegedly failing to slow under double-waved yellow flags on his final run in Q3. Pierre Gasly's AlphaTauri

Sunday this morning. Hamilton holds the advantage but, after the politicking of the previous days, he was explicit that he would show no quarter if wheel to wheel with Verstappen. On Friday the stewards rejected Mercedes' request for a review of the incident in Brazil where the Dutchman squeezed Hamilton off track as he attempted to overtake. Hamilton noted that he had learned a specific lesson from that decision when asked if it meant he felt he could be more aggressive when overtaking. "I would assume so, yes," he said. "[The mindset] in this race is what happened in the last race is OK." His opinion was backed by his teammate, Valtteri Bottas, who finished third. Hamilton then emphasised that even a long drivers' briefing on Friday had not made the rules around overtaking any more coherent and consequently they would use Verstappen's driving as a precedent.

Rhys Priestland strikes at the last to give Wales victory over 14-man Australia

London, November 21: It is a win and such is the number of caps missing from this outfit, Wales will take it. A young side found redemption with a winning penalty from the veteran Rhys Priestland at the death. And so a mixed autumn has been salvaged with consecutive wins. But they have been achieved against teams reduced to 14 by early red cards. This time Australia's No 8, Rob Valetini, was the man sent off for an upright tackle in which his head clashed with Adam Beard's. The Wallabies' autumn thus does not find the redemption of a single win against their European opponents. One would have to say they have themselves to blame: a clearly talented outfit but missing key personnel, they could not quite make it tell. Wales's typically vociferous home crowd provided the edge. For Wales, any excitement will be tempered by the realisation they scored one try when Australia were down to 13 and the other from an interception. The concession of three tries will also grate.

reasonable return for a side missing so much experience. Taine Basham has emerged to add to Wales's riches in the back row and, perhaps best of all, Ellis Jenkins has confirmed his return. Strangely he was replaced despite being captain for the 10 minutes of the second half when Wales were reduced to 14 after Gareth Thomas's yellow card. Coincidentally or not, that was the period when Wales started to lose control of the match. But the key development was that red card in the 15th minute. Valetini thumped into Beard with upright posture. The clash of heads was violent and, in different ways, did for both men's further involvement. Beard was replaced by Ben Carter, the 20-year-old lock, while Valetini's technique was subject to an unsympathetic review by the referee and the crowd. Annoying, too, for Australia, of course. All the more so, given they were a try up at that point. From the kick-off they put together a punishing series of phases: Nic White's chip set Len Ikitau away and



bones that he would display this combative spirit again if required in Sunday's race. Hamilton took pole for this first Qatar Grand Prix after a dominant display under the floodlights of the Losail circuit. On top throughout, the Mercedes driver left Verstappen languishing four-tenths back despite revealing

had suffered a puncture so he had slowed on the start-finish straight as Verstappen finished his lap. The flags were briefly waved but Verstappen went through and improved his time. If he is found to have breached the rules he will face a grid penalty for the race. He will see the stewards on

Novak Djokovic ducks Australian Open questions after ATP Finals loss to Zverev

Melbourn, November 21: Novak Djokovic refused to say whether he will compete at the Australian Open after it was confirmed that players will have to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to enter the tournament. The world No 1 was asked whether he would play in

criticised vaccine mandates, saying earlier this week: "The freedom of choice is essential for everyone, whether it's me or somebody else. Doesn't really matter whether it's vaccination or anything else in life. You should have the freedom to

another country. This is not about tennis. This is about the virus that is going on. We need to follow the rules and follow the guidelines." "I hope he's able to play. I'm No 3 in the world so, if he doesn't play, it's easier to win the tournament. This is obvious!" the German added. "Also he's No 1 in the world so he should be there. Hopefully the Australian government will make an exemption... for him to be able to participate there." Zverev, who ended Djokovic's hopes of a golden slam by beating him at the Tokyo Olympics in the summer, produced another fine display to win 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-3 and set up a final against last year's winner, Daniil Medvedev. The Russian sealed his place with a more straightforward 6-4, 6-2 victory against the Norwegian debutant Casper Ruud. Medvedev defeated Zverev in the group stages earlier this week in a match that went right to the wire, and will be the favourite having won their last five meetings. Victory in Tokyo has given Zverev belief that he can beat Djokovic, and that confidence shone through as he saved a set point at 6-5 down in the opener before prevailing in an exceptional tie-break.



"We can talk about red cards and yellow cards," said Wayne Pivac. "But pressure creates cards, and we're good enough to create it." Two wins - and a narrow defeat against the world champions - is a

the mighty Taniela Tupou scattered a few with another carry before Hunter Paisami put in a second chip behind the Welsh defence, to which Andrew Kellaway won the race.

France stand firm to seal first victory over New Zealand for 12 years

Paris, November 21: France held off a second-half fightback from New Zealand to claim a 40-25 victory in Paris and end a 14-match losing streak against the All Blacks. New Zealand, who made seven changes as they looked for an immediate response to last weekend's 29-20 loss to Ireland, trailed 24-6 at half-time as a rampant home side took complete control at the Stade de France. However, three tries in 12 minutes after the interval - from Jordie Barrett, Rieko Ioane and Ardie Savea - saw New Zealand close to within two points of their hosts at 27-25, as well as becoming the first team in Test match

history to score 100 tries in a single season. At that point French hopes of a first win over the three-time World Cup winners since 2009 - and first on home soil since a 42-33 triumph in Marseille in 2000 - looked to be fading fast, but an incident in the 63rd minute saw the pendulum swing back their way. Savea was sent to the sin-bin to reduce New Zealand to 14 men and France took full advantage with Melvyn Jaminet slotting over the resulting

Sadio Mané leads Liverpool's 4-0 thrashing to end Arsenal's unbeaten run

London, November 21 : Mikel Arteta went toe-to-toe with Jürgen Klopp on the touchline but a chasm remains between their teams on the pitch. The youthful revival of Arsenal was halted emphatically by Liverpool, who inflicted familiar torment on their visitors with a stirring and necessary recovery of their own. Anfield has been home to recurring nightmares for Arsenal in recent times and, despite the confidence generated by an unbeaten run with bold young talent to the fore, this was no exception. Liverpool made it six successive Premier League home wins over Arsenal and maintained their record of scoring at least three goals in every one. Sadio Mané opened the scoring in a competitive first half. The second was completely one-sided, however, and goals from Diogo Jota, Mohamed Salah and substitute Takumi Minamino reflected the heights Arteta's team must aspire to, and still have to reach, before their development troubles the established elite of the Premier League. The one place and two points that separated the sides prior to

kick-off appeared an illusion as Liverpool comfortably ascended to second in the table. "When we had to grow momentum at the start of the second half we gave the game away," Arteta lamented. "We gave the ball away under no pressure and were punished. They had all of the momentum. They were the better team and that is the level. They have been

between the two managers to spark a flat contest into life. Klopp took exception to the Arsenal bench demanding a card for Mané when he was penalised for a foul on Takehiro Tomiyasu as they challenged for a header. Arteta erupted in fury, racing down the touchline and squaring up to the Liverpool manager before being held back by his assistant head



together for six years. We haven't. That is the difference. "It was a reflection of Liverpool's superiority that Aaron Ramsdale, the visiting goalkeeper, produced a fine display yet still conceded four times. The breakthrough had been coming when Mané headed past the new England international but it took a 32nd-minute flare-up

coach, Steve Round. Arteta continued to try to reach Klopp, who was kept back by his own coaching staff, and both managers were booked once the melee died down. The Kop made its feelings clear to the former Everton midfielder. They should have thanked him, as Liverpool immediately upped the tempo and seized control.

Depay on spot as Xavi's Barcelona era starts with win over Espanyol



London, November 21: This would have to do for now but cannot do for much longer. Twice as many people were at the Camp Nou than the last time Barcelona played here in La Liga, 74,000 fans hoping to witness a brave new world. Instead, they watched as their side needed a Memphis Depay penalty to win the derby and begin the Xavi Hernández era with a victory the new coach described as "vital". Just if the opening night started well enough, it ended in nerves and a feeling of déjà vu. Relief too. There was youth, optimism and in the first half signs of something good, but reality intervened and Barcelona had to hang on against Espanyol, familiar flaws revealed. To repeat Gerard Piqué's now famous phrase, "it is what it is", and it is too

early for Barcelona to be anything other than a team with issues to address. "In general, I'm very happy but there are things to improve," Xavi conceded after a game in which Espanyol deserved more, wasting three clear chances to have equalised. With five minutes left and the home side having lost the thing their new manager most treasures - the ball - Raúl de Tomás headed the last of those against the post. This wasn't the way it was supposed to be. The sound of a new era came with Xavi's name chanted throughout, optimism returning, while a vision of it came with his first XI. There was a debut for 17-year-old winger Ilias Akhomach, one of eight La Masia graduates and three teenagers, which was part conviction, part



Melbourne following his ATP Finals defeat to Alexander Zverev. "We'll see," Djokovic replied. When pressed further, the Serbian added: "I haven't been talking to them [the organisers]. I was just waiting to hear what the news is going to be. Now that I know, we'll just have to wait and see." The nine-time Australian Open winner has previously

choose - in this particular case, what you want to put in your body." Zverev, who defeated Djokovic 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-3 in their Turin semi-final, hopes the reigning champion will be able to play at Melbourne Park but respects the state of Victoria's right to set its own requirements. "This is a very tough one because it's very political," Zverev said. "But we are visiting



penalty before Damian Penaud broke away for an interception try. At 37-25 down, there was no way back for New Zealand and France, who had seen Peato

Mauvaka score twice either side of Romain Ntamack's try in a dominant first-half display, wrapped up a memorable win with Jaminet's late penalty. The

home side's stunning performance completed a perfect series for France after wins against Argentina and Georgia, and gave them their first victory in Paris against the All Blacks since 1973, two years before they host the World Cup. France coach Fabien Galthie said: "We had this game in mind as a moment of truth. The team lived up to what we promised ourselves." "That's not the way we wanted to finish our year," said New Zealand's captain, Samuel Whitelock. "No excuses at all - they were better than us. It hurts to say that but we've got to hold on to that feeling because we don't want to feel it again."

Of all England's bright young things, the multi-role **Phil Foden** stands out

Liverpool, November 21:

It seems remarkable that there was a time, not so long ago, when the Premier League was seen as holding England back. Only about a third of its players were England-qualified, the argument went, and so opportunities for English youth were restricted. The Premier League has many problems and causes many problems, and for the vast majority of young players perhaps it is difficult to secure game time. But for those at elite level it can be a useful finishing school, offering the most promising young players regular high-class opposition and the very best teachers. These are extraordinary times for English football. Imagine you are picking the squad for next year's World Cup. Assuming the 3-4-2-1 Gareth Southgate fielded against Albania and San Marino is the default, there are perhaps five spaces available for the two inside-forward roles to operate either side of Harry Kane - which, along with right-back, is the area of real strength. When was the last time that was true? English football has traditionally produced centre-backs and centre-forwards, hard-grafting midfielders and reliable goalkeepers. It has



not really done position-defying craft and creativity. Raheem Sterling is the man in possession, and was probably England's best attacking player at the Euros. Mason Mount is loved by coaches for his tactical intelligence. Then there's Jack Grealish, Bukayo Saka, Emile Smith Rowe, Marcus Rashford, Mason Greenwood, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Jadon Sancho, none of them older than 26. But it feels increasingly as though this season may be witnessing the emergence of the greatest of them all: Phil Foden. The fretting over whether he was getting enough pitch time is ebbing. Pep Guardiola's panegyrics to his ability sound increas-

ingly sincere. The excitement at an emerging talent and the lust to see him as often as possible shouldn't occlude the desirability of patience, of the benefits of letting him develop at his own pace. Guardiola may turn out to have got it just right; certainly it's easy to see his influence on the player Foden is becoming. Discomfort at where the money comes from is reasonable, and there probably should be a moral reckoning: English football undoubtedly benefits from the fact the Premier League can afford to recruit the best coaches in the world. It's not only Foden's poise and vision, his 87.6% pass completion rate and average of 1.4

key passes a game, his work rate and his positioning: it's his versatility. He may have scored only three goals this season and registered one assist (although in six league starts, that's a perfectly reasonable strike rate), and he may not top any charts for chance creation or for dispossessing opponents, but that's largely because his range has been so varied. This season, he has been used in at least five different roles. Role A: Chelsea 0 Manchester City 1, Premier League, 25 September 2021. City set up, as so often, in a 4-3-3, with Foden the central forward between Gabriel Jesus and Grealish. His role was very much as a false 9.

He had only 32 touches in the game and didn't register a shot, but made 27 pressures and was a key factor in the way City smothered Chelsea - although he also created four shooting opportunities. This was the centre-forward as midfielder. Role B: Liverpool 2 Manchester City 2, Premier League, 3 October 2021. That James Milner, usually such an unflappable emblem of calm efficiency, should have been fortunate not to be sent off said everything about how Foden, playing on the left of a front three, tormented him. He went past him on the inside, he went past him on the outside, and he effectively neutralised Liverpool's right-back as an attacking threat by constantly hitting the space behind him. His goal capped a complete performance that included 19 pressures and 30 carries, seven of them of more than five metres. Role C: Andorra 0 England 5, World Cup qualifier, 9 October 2021. England started in a 4-3-3, with Foden not as one of the three forwards but on the left side of midfield, sitting deep and measuring passes into the narrow space behind the Andorra defence, a ploy that was undeniably effective. Against better opposition, perhaps Foden would be less successful in that more with-

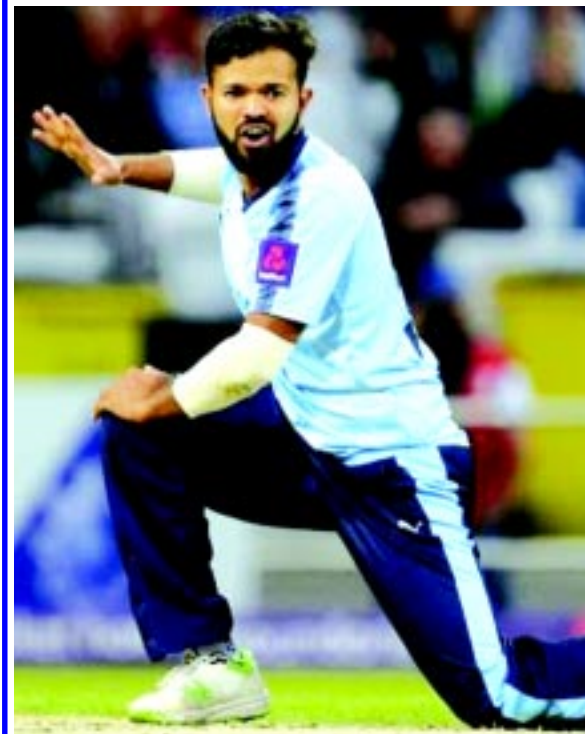
drawn role, his creative instincts compromised by the hurly-burly, but against a deep-lying defence his ability to calibrate a pass was hugely important. Role D: Brighton 1 Manchester City 4, Premier League, 23 October 2021. Foden played in the middle of a front three and while there were occasions on which he dropped deep, he operated almost as an orthodox centre-forward, harrying the Brighton defence and scoring twice. It helped that Brighton played with a high line, but he repeatedly made dangerous runs in behind. He had eight shots in that game, four of them on target. Role E: England 5 Albania 0, World Cup qualifier, 12 November 2021. Foden started as the right-sided forward in a 3-4-3 and linked well with Reece James as England pulled Albania apart before half-time, transforming what could have been an awkward game into a stroll. It was his corner that brought the fifth goal, but more significant was the intelligence of his movement and passing, the way he kept the ball moving, never letting Albania settle. At the Euros he had looked out of sorts on the right but here, and then in the first half against San Marino, he was running games from that flank.

Azeem Rafiq accused of sending "vulgar" messages to teenage girl six years ago

London, November 21:

Former Yorkshire spinner Azeem Rafiq, who is at the centre of the racism controversy in English cricket, has been accused of sending "vulgar" messages to a teenage girl six years ago, the 'Yorkshire Post' reported. Gayathri Ajith was only 16 when she met Rafiq but said she told him she was 17 in order to appear a "bit older". She said, accord-

who is now 22 and lives in Yorkshire, questioned some bit of Rafiq's allegations of racism against his former club. "I'm not disputing any of his racism claims, because I'm sure they're very true experiences. But certain aspects of what he said just don't really sit right with me." If he was being forced to drink by his teammates, then surely that wouldn't then mean



ing to the report, that the cricketer sent the inappropriate whatsapp messages to her in December 2015, three months after they met on a flight from Manchester to Dubai. Besides, she also turned down an invitation from Rafiq for dinner in Dubai. Screenshots of messages from a number belonging to Rafiq, sent in December 2015, read: "u know what I wanted to do on the plane?" and "I want to grab you push u up against wall and kiss you". "I was just kind of shocked by the crudity of those messages. They were just so vulgar," she told the 'Yorkshire Post', describing the messages as "creepy". Responding to the allegations, a spokesman for Rafiq told the English daily: "This was put to us late on a Friday evening. We need to look into this, so cannot comment further for now." The allegations came right after Rafiq was accused of making anti-Semitic remarks during a text exchange with a fellow Asian player back in 2011, for which he has apologised. The woman,

he would be drinking alone on a flight and encouraging a 17-year-old girl to be drinking with him." She added: "His behaviour towards me was a direct contradiction really of what he said in his testimony. 'He's calling for equality and respect, but why is he not embodying that in all aspects? Especially in his tone towards women. It's hypocrisy.' "He is being put on this pedestal for inciting systemic change, but he's really contributing to the problem of the vulgar attitudes towards women. The whole nature of that doesn't sit right with me." A teary-eyed Rafiq told British lawmakers on Tuesday that he believed he lost his career due to racism. Rafiq said racism in English cricket was institutional, recalling the "humiliating treatment" he received at the club. An independent report found the Pakistan-born player was a victim of "racial harassment and bullying" while Rafiq himself said he had been driven to thoughts of suicide over the way he was treated.

Mikaela Shiffrin edged by rival Petra Vlhova in first slalom of Olympic season

New York, November 21:

Practice made perfect for Petra Vlhova on Saturday, beating Mikaela Shiffrin in the first World Cup slalom of the season. The Slovakian overall champion had been training for three weeks in Finnish Lapland and skipped a parallel event in



Austria last week to get ready for the first race in her strongest discipline. Vlhova posted the fastest time in both runs. She initially lost a few hundredths from her slim lead of .11 over Shiffrin but accelerated near the end of her final run to win by .31 as the pair continued their dominance in the annual event in Finnish Lapland. Lena Dürr finished .84 be-

hind in third for the German skier's second career podium result, nearly nine years after winning a city event in Moscow. No skier other than Vlhova or Shiffrin has won the traditional season-opening slalom since then-overall champion Tina Maze triumphed in 2014. Shiffrin and

and the Italian helped her become the first overall champion from Slovakia, but he was forced to leave following unflattering remarks on Vlhova's style of skiing reportedly made by him in an interview with an Italian newspaper. "I feel more happy, more free. That's it," Vlhova said about working with Pini. Having dealt with a back issue that hampered her training over the last few weeks, Shiffrin was made to wait at least one more day in her bid to match the 32-year-old record for most World Cup victories in a single discipline. Currently on 45 slalom wins, the American is one short of Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark's best mark in giant slalom. Another slalom is scheduled for Sunday. The American three-time overall champion was gracious in defeat. "I think it was clear that Petra had, all together, better skiing and better consistency," said Shiffrin, who regained the lead in the overall standings.

Premier League : Steven Gerrard makes winning start as Villa beats Brighton 2-0

Birmingham, November 21:

Steven Gerrard made a winning start as Aston Villa manager with a 2-0 victory over Brighton on Saturday in the Premier League. Gerrard left Rangers during the international break to replace Dean Smith, who was fired following five successive Premier League defeats. And the former Liverpool captain got Villa Park bouncing again after two late goals secured the win. Ollie Watkins broke the deadlock with a curling effort after 84 minutes before Tyrone Mings lashed home a second goal two minutes from time. That a Gerrard the

first Villa manager to win his first Premier League game in charge since John Gregory in



February 1998, and immediately put a four-point gap between Villa and the relegation places. Raul Jimenez scored the only goal as Wolverhampton ended West Ham's winning run with a 1-0 home victory

in the Premier League on Saturday. Jimenez netted his third goal of the season in the 58th minute having been teed up by Daniel Podence, who had twice been denied by goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski earlier in the second half. It was West Ham's first away loss in the league since April and ended a run of four straight wins. For Bruno Lage's Wolves it was a fifth win in seven games and lifted them up to sixth in the table, while David Moyes' Hammers remained third ahead of Liverpool's clash with Arsenal later on Saturday.

Paris erupts in joy as Lionel Messi scores maiden Ligue 1 goal for PSG

Paris, November 21:

Lionel Messi scored his first Ligue 1 goal as Paris St Germain opened a 13-point lead in Ligue 1 despite playing almost half an hour with 10 men in a 3-1 home win against Nantes on Saturday. Messi found the back of the net with a curled left-footed

effort from outside the box three minutes from time, adding to Dennis Appiah's own goal after Randal Kolo Muani had cancelled out Kylian Mbappe's first-half opener. The result left PSG with 37 points from 14 games ahead of a Champions League trip to Manchester City on

Wednesday, while Nantes are 11th on 18 points. Messi has scored three goals in the Champions League since joining from Barcelona during the close season but the Argentine forward had not found the back of the net in his five previous appearances in Ligue 1.

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